



MINUTES

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Meeting Room
71 Main Street, Building 1, Second Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

February 21, 2023

- I. **5:00 p.m. CONVENE:**
- II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- III. **5:30 p.m. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- V. **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNSEL ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VI. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Soloway reported she attended the 2023 NACO Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. While there, she attended several policy sessions which could have positive impacts on Hunterdon County. The conference was a great experience and Commissioner Soloway stated she has brought back many new policy ideas which she will be sharing with County department and division heads in the coming weeks. As co-liaison to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, she reminded the public that the new Beer Trail Passport program will be kicking off in March. For additional information on the Beer Trail, please visit official website at <https://hunterdonbeertrail.com/>

Commissioner Van Doren provided several updates he received from Department Director and County Engineer, Tom Mathews regarding the truss bridge on Cider Mill Road, Culvert U-19, Culvert Q-37 and the stone resurfacing of Landsdown and Columbia trails. As liaison to the Department of Health, Commissioner Van Doren announced the state of New Jersey will be awarding the Health Department a \$1.2 million Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure grant which the Department recently sought out. Additional details about this grant will be shared at our March 7th meeting. He added that the budget committee is actively working to balance a variety of issues including dealing with rising costs brought about by inflation, rising pension

and health care costs, and making needed investments in parks, open space, and infrastructure.

Commissioner Lanza stated in light of the recent train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, Public Safety Director Brayden Fahey will be hosting an information session for OEM and municipal officials from the seven municipalities with jurisdiction in which the Norfolk Southern Leigh Line traverses. Health officials advise that Inhalation of vinyl chloride can cause respiratory symptoms like shortness of breath, along with neurological symptoms like headaches and dizziness. Chronic exposure to high levels of vinyl chloride has been associated with liver damage and cancer, [according to the CDC](#). Commissioner Lanza stated Public Safety Director, Brayden Fahey, advises that Hunterdon County has a detailed plan to deal with a potential train derailment and will be updating the appropriate local OEM and municipal officials about the highlights of that plan. Commissioner Lanza acknowledged Sheriff Fred Brown who will be presenting later in the agenda.

Deputy Director Kuhl remind everyone that the Grand Opening celebration for the newly renovated Main Branch Library will take place on Saturday, March 25th 10:00 a.m. Deputy Director Kuhl shared interesting statistics from the Senior Center for 2022 and shared details regarding two upcoming programs the Senior Center will be hosting in the upcoming weeks. He advised on the consent agenda, there is an application for transportation funding. If approved by New Jersey Transit, this funding would support an expansion of services to medical appointments for Seniors and people with disabilities. Deputy Director Kuhl stated he is hopeful New Jersey Transit looks favorably upon the County's request.

Director Rich recognized Hunterdon County VSO Rich Booth who recently attended the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers conference in Washington, D.C. Director Rich advised he will be leading the department and division heads meeting along with County Administrator Brad Myhre. They will be discussing a host of issues including implementation of best practices within county government and the continued commitment of this Board toward ongoing training and leadership development of our staff. As liaison to the IT Department, Director Rich reflected on highlights from 2022 that were provided by Department Director Jim McAlister. He thanked Jim and the entire IT Department staff for their continued work and dedication.

VII. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing the Hunterdon County Rotary Clubs for their 118th Anniversary.
Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** Susan Soloway
Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**
2. Recognizing February 2023 as Canned Food Month in the County of Hunterdon.
Motion: By: Jeff Kuhl **Seconded:** John Lanza
Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

3. Recognizing Mr. Nemanja Nikitovic and Ms. Menuka Udas for being recognized as Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award recipients

Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** Susan Soloway

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

4. Recognizing Janet Previte upon her retirement.

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT, Limited to 2 minutes per person.**

(Comments exceeding 2 minutes will be entertained later in the agenda

No public comment.

IX. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE, Brayden Fahey, Director**

1. Supporting Bills S2946 and A4505, which increase the EMS Medicaid transportation rate in the County of Hunterdon.

Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

2. Approving the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and adopting the Hunterdon County Emergency Response Plan (ERP).

Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** John Lanza

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

3. Authorizing a letter of support from the Commissioner Director for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant, a grant program facilitated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Motion: By: Jeff Kuhl **Seconded:** John Lanza

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

4. Authorizing the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management Director to enter into an Intercounty Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement.

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Susan Soloway

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

X. **UPDATE FROM SHERIFF BROWN**

1. Authorizing the Commissioner Director or Deputy Director to sign on behalf of the County, a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Warren, for the provision of adult inmate facilities, for a one-year period.

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

XI. GRANTS, Michael Franchini, Deputy CFO

1. Approving an amendment to resolution 2023-141, authorizing the Commissioner Director or Deputy Director to sign an agreement between the New Jersey Transit Corporation and the County of Hunterdon for the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act (SCDRTAP) funding in the amount of \$610,436.73 (\$574,338.00 - 2023 Allocation, plus \$36,098.73 closeout balance) for the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

XII. FINANCE, Andrew Bernath, CFO

1. Approval of a second temporary budget appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023.
2. Bond Ordinance 2023-01, Bond ordinance providing for the construction of a new building for the Hunterdon County Vocational School District located within the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey; appropriating \$3,000,000.00 therefor (to advance and be repaid monies associated with the State of New Jersey's securing our children's future bond act program) and authorizing the issuance of \$3,000,000.00 bonds or notes to finance part of the cost thereof

Motion: By: Jeff Kuhl **Seconded:** John Lanza

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

XIII. PLANNING & LAND USE

1. Approving a Municipal Grant Program Application for the City of Lambertville for hiking trail improvements, in the amount of \$180,000.00 for property known as the Buchanan Tract, upon recommendation by the Hunterdon County Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee.

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

XIV. PURCHASING, Ray Rule, QPA

1. Approving a contract award for County Bid 2023-01 with Capital Paving & Contracting, LLC., for the resurfacing of Columbia and Landsdown Trails in various Boroughs and Townships in the County of Hunterdon, in an amount not to exceed \$486,183.00.

Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

2. Authorizing the rejection of County Bid 2022-20, for landscape maintenance and mowing services for the County of Hunterdon.

Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

XV. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Brad Myhre

1. Resolution banning access to the Tik Tok video based social media platform on all Hunterdon County owned electronic devices and networks.

Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

XVI. APPOINTMENTS

1. Approving the reappointment of Mary B. Logan as a member to the Hunterdon County Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, with a term to be effective immediately through January 31, 2025.

Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

2. Approving the appointment of Christopher Querry as a volunteer to the Office of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, and as a member of the 2023 Emergency Management Council.

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

XVII. CONSENT AGENDA

Approving the Consent Agenda excluding check #10299 listed on the Claims Register and Resolution #4.

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Susan Soloway

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

Approving check #10299 listed on the Claims Register and Resolution #4

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** Zachary Rich **Absent:**

1. Approving the claims register dated February 21, 2023.
2. Approving the executive session and regular meeting minutes from February 7,

2023.

3. Approving the plan and specifications for the reconstruction of Bridge A-45 on Milford-Frenchtown Road (County Route 619) over Harihokake Creek, in the Township of Alexandria, upon recommendation by the County Engineer, and authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.
4. Approving change order #1-final with Colonnelli Brothers, Inc., for emergency scour repairs to Bridges F-82, H-95, and R-43 damage caused by Tropical Storm Ida, in a decreased amount of \$46,710.82.
5. Approving the temporary hire of Gretchen Rivera as a per diem Graduate Nurse in the Hunterdon County Department of Health, Division of Public Health Preparedness.
6. Acknowledging the action of the Hunterdon County Clerk to appoint Janice Slaby as a Confidential Aide to the Constitutional Officer, in the Office of the Hunterdon County Clerk.
7. Approving the hire and regular appointment of Rachael O'Dell as a Librarian 1 in the Hunterdon County Library.
8. Approving the temporary hire of Christine Bauer as a per diem Public Health Nurse in the Hunterdon County Department of Health, Division of Public Health Preparedness.
9. Designation of Hunterdon County CFO as the Authorized Representative for Hunterdon County for the American Rescue Plan Act Federal Funds.
10. Accepting the donation of two chairs that were used in the Lindbergh Trial.
11. Approving the First Energy request to perform a right-of-way vegetation management at Laport Reserve in the Township of East Amwell.
12. Approving the Trout in the Classroom permit for the Delaware Township School, to release trout in the South Branch Reservation, Sunnyside Section of Hunterdon County Parks in May 2023.
13. Approving a request from the New Jersey Mycological Association to gather information at the Teetertown Preserve on August 6th, 2023, and the information be shared with the Hunterdon County Parks Division for internal use for future educational programming.
14. Approving the First Energy request to perform right-of-way vegetation management

at the Stanton Station section of the South Branch Reservation in the Township of Raritan, at Echo Hill in the Township of Clinton, and at the Arboretum in the Township of Clinton.

15. Approving the First Energy request to supply vegetation management to the South Branch Reservation/ Stanton Station Section and Union Furnace Preserve in Hunterdon County Parks.
16. Authorizing the Hunterdon County Human Services Department to submit the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and American Rescue Plan Act Grant Application to New Jersey Transit, in the amount of \$136,500.00, to enhance the level of service provided for seniors and individuals with disabilities through the County's LINK Transportation System.
17. Authorizing the County's Purchasing Agent to solicit competitive bids to furnish and deliver a cargo van for the Hunterdon County Office of the Prosecutor.
18. Approving a request from High Bridge Fire Department to host a coin toss on Saturday, April 15, 2023, and Saturday, October 14, 2023, in the Borough of High Bridge.

XVIII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No public comment.

XIX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

XX. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Reconvene if necessary)

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned at 6:03 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Lanza and seconded by Commissioner Van Doren, followed by a voice carry.