



MINUTES

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

July 18, 2023

I. **5:00 p.m. CONVENE:**

II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

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

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 this past Saturday, the County sponsored a veteran headstone cleaning event at Cemetery of Mount Pleasant located in Alexandria Township. The county will be sponsoring two more veteran headstone cleaning events on September 23rd and October 14th, additional details will be forthcoming. As co-liaison to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Commissioner Soloway recently joined Commissioner Van Doren and Director Marc Saluk, on a tour of several local farms including: *Cabbage Throw Farm* in Bethlehem Township, *Blue Moon Farm* in Holland Township, and *Old Village Farm* also located in Holland Township. She encouraged everyone to continue to support our local farms and farmers markets. Commissioner Soloway reported she joined Prosecutor Robeson, Division Head of Buildings & Maintenance, Justin Tibbetts, and members of Girl Scout Troop 80174 to celebrate the Troop's upgrades at the Off Leash Dog Area located at the Route 12 complex. She thanked Buildings & Maintenance and the Girl Scout Troop 80174 for completion of this project.

Commissioner Van Doren shared several updates regarding infrastructure work in the

county. Work has been completed on Culverts R-48 and R-49 in the Township of Readington, and County Route 620, is now reopened. Bethlehem Township has two projects underway on County Route 635. The continued rehabilitation work on the historic covered bridge in Delaware Township is proceeding well and remains on schedule. The County's Road and Bridge Divisions have been busy repairing damages from the torrential rain that occurred on July 9th. Commissioner Van Doren added the Prescott Bridge linking Echo Hill Park to the County Arboretum was officially opened to the public last Thursday. The Public Works Department will be installing Wild & Scenic River signs on the bridge located on Riegelsville-Milford Road. Commissioner Van Doren recognized Amanda Norman who will be speaking later in the agenda. He thanked Marc Saluk, Director of Economic Development & Tourism for setting up the recent farm tour.

Commissioner Lanza reported that work is progressing as scheduled on the new office space that will house the Board of Elections. He thanked the Buildings & Maintenance Division for their continued efforts at helping to foster a timely transition for the Board of Elections to their new space. As liaison to the Department of Public Safety, Commissioner Lanza shared that Hunterdon County is assisting the residents of Warren County, in their ongoing recovery from the devastation flooding that occurred last week. Commissioner Lanza reported that USDA New Jersey State Director, Jane Asselta will be joining us for the USDA grant workshop that Hunterdon County is hosting on August 8th for municipal officials and local farmers. He added the USDA has been a steadfast partner in numerous projects throughout the County, and we are excited to offer this important grant workshop.

Deputy Director Kuhl shared several upcoming programs that will be offered at the Senior Center. He added that the Senior Center has a number of Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers available for eligible residents. As co-liaison to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Deputy Director Kuhl echoed Commissioner Lanza's comments earlier about the USDA Grant Workshop on August 8th. This unique opportunity is not only open to municipal officials, but also to our local farmers. Lastly, he expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in making the Prescott Bridge a reality. He added it is a beautiful structure that will be enjoyed by residents for many years to come.

Director Rich reiterated what he mentioned at the previous Board meeting regarding the potential sale of the County Transfer Station. He stated to supplement the information that he shared publicly on this issue, residents can now find a "Frequently Asked Questions Document" on the bottom of the homepage of the Hunterdon County website under "County News." Director Rich stated this past Saturday, he joined Prosecutor Robeson, members our county staff, and residents for a veterans headstone cleaning event in Alexandria Township. Director Rich accompanied by his daughters, visited Bastille Day in Frenchtown. They enjoyed visiting and meeting with local business owners, having lunch at the Frenchtown Café, and eating some ice cream from Sandy's Scoops. Director Rich thanked Commissioner Lanza, Public Safety Director Fahey, DPW Director Mathews, Division Head Justin Tibbetts and his entire team at B&G for working swiftly to help out our neighbors in Warren County as they recover from the recent devastating flash flooding.

VII. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing Hobson Rodenbaugh upon his 100th Birthday.
Motion: By: Jeff Kuhl **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren
Yes: Zachary Rich, Jeff Kuhl, John Lanza, Susan Soloway, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**
2. Recognizing Girl Scout Troop 80174 upon the ribbon cutting of their Bronze Award Project at the Hunterdon County Off Leash Dog Park.
Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** John Lanza
Yes: Zachary Rich, Jeff Kuhl, John Lanza, Susan Soloway, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**
3. Recognizing Pia Rey Doklan upon her retirement from the County of Hunterdon after 30 years of service.
Deputy Director Commissioner, Jeff Kuhl shared the following comments, "As liaison to the Department of Human Services, I have received many compliments about Pia over the past year, and everything has been very positive. She will be missed by everyone involved, and I wish her the best of luck."

Commissioner John Lanza offered his congratulations, "Pia, I've only been here about 10 years, which is a third of the time that you have been here and I think of any member of our organization, you have been at more of our meetings than anybody else. There are some people in every job and when the clock strikes 4:30 or 5:00 o'clock, they run out of the place like it's on fire. Not you. We appreciate all of the effort that you have given to this county and to this organization over the years. We'll miss you. Thank you for all that you have done for us over the years."

Commissioner Susan Soloway stated, "I would like to add that I got to know Pia when I was the Department of Human Services liaison and she has her hand in everything and she does it excellently. I think the seniors are going to miss you. I know we are going to miss you, and I want to wish you all the best in your retirement."

Motion: By: Jeff Kuhl **Seconded:** John Lanza
Yes: Zachary Rich, Jeff Kuhl, John Lanza, Susan Soloway, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

4. Recognizing William Powell upon his retirement from the County of Hunterdon.
Commissioner John Lanza stated after the kind words that were shared by Director of Department of Public Safety, Brayden Fahey, "It is well deserved! We appreciate your time with this organization. Lives have been saved, lives are better because you have been here. By the nature of the path you have chosen, there were a lot of nights, a lot of weekends, a lot of odd hours that you were taken away from your family in the service of other people that you had never met. This county owes you a debt of gratitude, so thank you Bill. We will miss you."
Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl
Yes: Zachary Rich, Jeff Kuhl, John Lanza, Susan Soloway, 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)

Barbara Sachau shared during public comment with regard to Resolution #15: Approving the 2023-2024 Controlled Hunting Program as submitted by the Division of Parks and Recreation. She strongly opposed the programs initiative as the "murder" of wildlife in Hunterdon County. She feels strongly that it is a program that should not be facilitated in the County. Reminded us to have a "bit of compassion" for these animals, and find a way to coexist. She asked that commissioners vote "no" to Resolution #15.

Marianne and Doug Mathewson, of 6 Cherry Street, in Lebanon Borough, concerns were stated with respect to the access road that was opened along Cherry Street. Currently, there is too much large truck traffic and speeding. Ms. Mathewson shared photos with the Board, to show the size of trucks and construction vehicles on the road. It has become a safety hazard and inconvenience to residents. County Administrator, Brad Myhre stated that after conversations with Tom Matthews, NJSP was supposed to become more involved with monitoring truck traffic. Administrator Brad Mhyre offered to follow up with NJSP and local officials. Deputy Director Kuhl questioned if there was a weight limit for this road? Commissioner Susan Soloway wondered if something could be "hung from the bridge" to restrict large trucks from using the access road. Director Rich said that they would look further into this matter and try getting some answers.

IX. **Health Department Update on Free Eye Screening Events**

Amanda Norman, a nurse from the Public Health Department, provided an update on the success of the Free Eye Screening Event. The program was organized through a partnership with the County Health Department and the "Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired", and began in May 2023. Services are provided for residents without health insurance for eye screenings on the 4th Thursday of each month, to be held at public health facilities. An overwhelming number of residents have registered for these screenings, and the program is booked through September 2023. Spanish speaking nurses/assistants are available. Additionally, blood pressure and biometric screenings, along with the option for cholesterol and hemoglobin screenings are available while residents wait. In May, (28) clients were screened; In June, (26) clients were screened; Referrals to specialists and prescription glasses were provided.

X. **GRANTS, Michael Franchini, Deputy CFO**

1. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2023 County Budget, for the 2023 CEHA Grant in the amount of \$160,429.00.

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

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

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

XI. **FINANCE, Andrew Bernath, CFO**

1. Introduction and first reading of the amendment of Capital Ordinance 2023-05.

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

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

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

Amendment of Capital ordinance 2023-05 was introduced and adopted for the purchase of a truck for the Vehicle Services Department Capital ordinance carries no debt.

Resolution to provide additional funding in the amount of \$67,300, increasing the amount of the original approved amount of \$805,620 for a total of, \$872,920.

Ordinance to be considered at the September 5, 2023 Board meeting, during the public hearing.

XII. PURCHASING, Ray Rule, QPA

1. Approving a contract award for County Bid 2023-15, with United Painters, Inc., for Painting of Various Bridges. In an amount not to exceed \$257,000.00.

Ray Rule presented Resolution to update the painting of various bridges.

Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** Zachary Rich

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

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

2. Approving requisition #R3-04305 for the purchase of a shared service commercial grade color copier production unit, in an amount not to exceed \$71,951.05.

Ray Rule provided an update on the purchase of a shared service, commercial grade, high production color copier unit for central services. Previously approved in the capital budget.

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

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

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

3. Approving the purchase of commodity(s)/service(s), requisition(s), #R3-04433 with Cherry Valley Tractor Sales, for a lowboy heavy equipment trailer for the Department of Public Works, in an amount not to exceed \$78,151.82.

Ray Rule summarized purchase of a Lowboy Heavy Equipment Trailer for the DPW. Previously approved in the capital budget.

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

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

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

XIII. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Brad Myhre

1. Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for the following project: Rehabilitation of Echo Hill Sluiceway and Pond.

Administrator Brad Myhre provided a summary of approval of the contract to solicit bids for Rehabilitation of Echo Hill Sluiceway and Pond.

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

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

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

2. Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for the following project: Heron Glen Bunker Rehabilitation.

Administrator Brad Myhre gave a summary of permission for County Purchasing Agents to solicit bids for the repair of damages caused by Tropical Storm Ida, for rehabilitation of Heron Glen Bunkers. FEMA has approved project to repair damage.

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

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

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

3. Approving Requisition #R3-04639 for slurry seal (micro-surfacing) of County Route 518 in the Township of West Amwell and the City of Lambertville with Asphalt Paving Systems, in an amount not to exceed \$811,622.84.00.

Commissioner Shaun Van Doren shared, "Pavement preservation, especially slurry seal, extends the life of existing roadways for a fraction of the cost of traditional milling and resurfacing. Experts advise that slurry seal will add a minimum of 5 to 8 years of useful life to an existing roadway, delaying the need for more costly reconstruction, and ultimately reducing the overall impact on the environment. Over time, by preserving roads in good to fair condition, Hunterdon County will be freeing up existing capital funds for future projects, allowing the County to get more investment from their existing capital dollars. I look forward to supporting these resolutions as they represent another example of this Commissioners' Board looking to utilize taxpayer's dollars in the most efficient manner possible."

Commissioner Director Rich added, "As noted, pavement preservation, especially slurry seal, extends the life of existing roadways in both a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner. Slurry seal is being utilized by several counties and the State of New Jersey to extend the useful life of existing infrastructure. I know that Commissioner Van Doren and Commissioner Lanza have studied the topic of pavement preservation at length, and I thank both of you for working to ensure that pavement preservation was considered and funded in the FY23 budget. Pavement preservation is another tool to assist this Board in keeping our roadways among the best in the State of New Jersey."

Commissioner Soloway commented, "I am really happy about the application of the Slurry Seal. This is a better program than "Chip & Seal", which often results in damaged windshields. I am pleased to be moving forward with this Slurry Seal project."

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

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

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

4. Approving Requisition #R3-04638 for slurry seal (micro-surfacing) of County Route 617 (Thatchers Hill Road) in the Township of Raritan, with Asphalt Paving Systems, in the amount not to exceed \$358,195.85.

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

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

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

5. Resolution opposing the removal of \$200 million for Municipal Health Benefit Cost Relief.

Motion: By: Zachary Rich **Seconded:** Susan Soloway

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

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

6. Authorization to offer DPW services up to one-week to assist Warren County.

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

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

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

XIV. APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointing Clinton Ambs to the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

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

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

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

XV. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

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

1. Approving the claims register dated July 05, 2023.
2. Approving the executive session and regular meeting minutes from July 05, 2023.
3. Approving the hire and regular appointment of Jasmine Marcus as a Human Services Aide in the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services contingent upon the successful outcome of post offer medical evaluations. Filling a Vacancy.
4. Approving the hire and provisional appointment of Ryan Franks as a Senior Engineering Aide in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works, Engineering Division contingent upon the successful outcome of post offer medical evaluations. Filling a Vacancy.
5. Approving the promotion and provisional appointment of Christopher Runge as a Road Repairer 1 in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works, Roads Division upon successful training and receipt of a Commercial Driver's License Class A.
6. Approving the promotion and provisional appointment of Seema Patel as a Senior

Account Clerk in the Hunterdon County Department of Health, Environmental Health Services Division.

7. Approving the action to grant Paige Wernoch a regular appointment as a full time Buyer as of July 18, 2023 in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Purchasing Division.
8. Approving the action to hereby grant Colleen Runge a regular appointment as a full time Keyboarding Clerk 3 as of July 18, 2023 in the Hunterdon County Department of Planning and Land Use.
9. Approving the promotion and provisional appointment of Sam Myhre as a Road Repairer 1 in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works, Roads Division upon successful training and receipt of a Commercial Driver's License Class B.
10. Approving the promotion and provisional appointment of Ryan Preston as a General Supervisor Parks in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Division of Parks and Recreation.
11. Acknowledging the action of Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renee Robeson to appoint Christopher T. Bourque as a County Investigator in the Hunterdon County Office of the Prosecutor contingent upon the outcome of post offer medical and background evaluations.
12. Approving the action to grant Hannah Pitchford a regular appointment as a full time Senior Account Clerk as of July 18, 2023 in the Hunterdon County Department of Finance.
13. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director to sign on behalf of the County of Hunterdon a Public Donor Agreement to Contract #C00192, C00194, C00195 (formerly contract #AHKC) reflecting the provision of \$17,890.00 in cash match funds, as required for State Social Services Block Grant funding. Match funds represent a portion of human service staff salaries and Hunterdon Behavioral Health, School Based Initiatives.
14. Authorizing PSE&G to conduct Right of Way vegetation management of trees located off the right-of-way easement but endanger the reliability of the transmission system.
15. Approving the 2023-2024 Controlled Hunting Program as submitted by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.
16. Authorizing the Commissioner Director or Deputy Director to sign permit documents on behalf of the Hunterdon County Division of Parks in relationship with the annual 2023 4-H & Agricultural Fair.

17. Approving the request of the Garden State Sheep Breeders Association to allow RV's overnight at the South County Park pending an approved permit and COI.
18. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Hunterdon to sign, on behalf of the County, a Licensed Training Provider Agreement with the American Red Cross.
19. Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to advertise for Bids for the Resurfacing of County Routes 519, 579, and 639 situated in Alexandria, Bethlehem, Clinton, and Holland Townships, County of Hunterdon.
20. Approving a request from Oldwick Fire to host a coin toss at the intersection of Rt. 523 517 on Saturday October 7, 2023 with a rain date of October 15, 2023.
21. Approving a coin toss request for Kingwood Township First Aid and Rescue Squad for August 12 & 13, September 16 & 17, October 7 & 8, November 25 & 26; from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the intersection, both North Bound and South Bound, of County Route 519 and US Route 12.

XVI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No public comment.

XVII. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Susan Soloway shared in closing, "I did go to the concert at Deer Path Park last Thursday night, and it was a huge success! I want to encourage the public to go on Thursday nights, and I thank Parks and Recreation for putting this on."

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Reconvene if necessary)

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 6:35 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Lanza, seconded by Deputy Director Kuhl, followed by a voice carry.