



MINUTES

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

March 5, 2024

I. 5:00 p.m. CONVENE:

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board convened in executive session at 5:01 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Lanza, seconded by Deputy Director Soloway, followed by a voice carry.

III. 5:30 p.m. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Director Kuhl asked for a moment of silence this evening to remember Honorable Roger F. Mahon who passed away at the age of 81. Roger served as Hunterdon County Counsel, and later served as Hunterdon County Prosecutor and then Superior Court Judge in Hunterdon.

V. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNSEL ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Lanza reported that Governor Murphy recently unveiled his massive, \$55.9 billion spending plan for FY25. Within that spending plan, is an additional \$900 million for school funding, which many would think would be beneficial to all of our local schools – unfortunately, that is not the case. Several Hunterdon County school districts are slated to have their state aid cut. Commissioner Lanza stated the outrage against these cuts is not only shared by his colleagues, on this Board, it is also shared in a bipartisan manner. He shared a list of six Hunterdon County school districts that are slated to receive state aid cuts in the Governor's proposed budget. He added that many county property taxpayers know the state aid cuts have resulted in local property tax increases as districts aim to protect against layoffs, reductions in programming, and extracurriculars for local school children. The reality is that the existing school funding formula is broken, and it fails students in suburban and rural districts. Commissioner Lanza stated we cannot allow this broke school funding formula to remain in place. He

urged his colleagues to join him in passing a resolution calling for the legislature to act and pass comprehensive reform of the school funding formula.

Commissioner Rich reported about recent efforts by the New Jersey Legislature to overhaul the state's affordable housing laws. He has been advised directly from our county planning staff and municipal officials who are rightfully concerned that Senate Bill No. 50, introduced by Senator Troy Singleton does not adequately address important issues of water quality, especially for municipalities that are primarily served by wells and septic systems like many of our homes here in Hunterdon County. The environmental concerns of rural municipalities like those in Hunterdon County are real and based on science. Commissioner Rich stated, with support of Director Kuhl, he would like to bring forth a resolution that calls upon our legislators from the 15th, 16th, and 23rd Districts that represent Hunterdon County to address water quality and true buildout capacity as part of any final piece of legislation. Commissioner Rich added that planning for the Hunterdon County Teen Arts Festival scheduled for April 17th is underway and is promising to be a great event.

Deputy Director Soloway stated she is pleased to report that the County recently mailed new KIA flags to each of our municipalities. In 2017, the legislature and governor enacted P.L. 2017, chapter 188, which states, "The Killed in Action flag is designated an official State flag for recognizing members of the Armed Forces of the United States who were killed in action in any war or conflict in which the United States has been involved." The law also stated that the flag should be displayed at the principal building in each municipality and county. The flag is dedicated to represent the sorrow and respect our nation owes those who paid the ultimate price. Deputy Director Soloway added that the County will be sponsoring four veteran headstone cleaning events this year and she looks forward to continuing this important program. Lastly, she shared that Director Kuhl and herself had the opportunity to represent the County at an event at Hawk Pointe Golf Club which celebrated the ongoing restoration of the Historic Asbury Mill by the Musconetcong Watershed Association. The Musconetcong Watershed Association does a wonderful job of addressing water quality concerns of the Musconetcong River from Bethlehem Township to the Delaware River confluence in Holland Township.

Director Kuhl stated Commissioners Lanza and Rich spoke about two important topics in Trenton, that he agree that this Board should act upon – Reforming the School Funding Formula and insisting that water quality and environmental protections are included proposed affordable housing legislation. He added it is important that our elected leaders in Trenton understand what their policy decisions mean for local government leaders and residents alike. Director Kuhl stated he looks forward to working with his colleagues to place resolutions on both matters on the March 19th meeting that will be held at the Holland Township municipal building.

VII. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Business Award Recipients. Director Kuhl stated on Thursday, members of this Board will be attending the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Awards Breakfast where businesses and individuals from around the county will be recognized for their accomplishments. He

highlighted that two award recipients are members of the Hunterdon County staff, Greg Martoccio and Karen DeMarco. Director Kuhl added he is very proud of the hard work that our county staff members put in to make Hunterdon one of the best and safest places to live.

Motion: By: Zachary Rich **Seconded:** John Lanza

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Shaun Van Doren

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT, Limited to 2 minutes per person.**
(Comments exceeding 2 minutes will be entertained later in the agenda)

No public comment.

IX. **PLANNING & LAND USE**

1. Authorizing the Executive Director of the Cultural & Heritage Commission to apply for a 2025 New Jersey Historical Commission Project Grant not to exceed \$20,000.00 for the period November 30, 2024, through November 30, 2025.

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

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Shaun Van Doren

County Counsel, Katrina Campbell advised Resolution #2 previously listed under Planning & Land Use for Appointments to the Cultural & Heritage Commission will be removed from this agenda.

X. **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Brad Myhre**

1. Authorizing the Hunterdon County Health Department to apply and accept a Hunterdon County Dental Access Program (HCDAP) through Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$30,000.00.

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

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Shaun Van Doren

2. Update on HFA Certified Public Accountants and Advisors review of the Hunterdon County Nonprofit Grant Program.
Administrator Brad Myhre stated there will be a presentation by HFA Certified Public Accountants and Advisors for awardees at the March 19, 2024 Commissioner Board meeting.

XI. **APPOINTMENTS**

1. Approving the re-appointment of Ralph Finelli as a member to the Hunterdon County Construction Board of Appeals, term to be effective immediately through December 31, 2026.

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

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Shaun Van Doren

XII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Zachary Rich

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Shaun Van Doren

1. Approving the Claims Register dated March 05, 2024.
2. Approving the Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2024.
3. Approving the hire and regular appointment of Caitlyn Mazewski as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist Trainee in the Hunterdon County Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health Services, contingent upon the successful outcome of post offer medical evaluation. Filling a vacancy.
4. Approving the hire and provisional appointment of Lynn Altmaier as a Public Health Nurse in the Hunterdon County Department of Health, Division of Public Health Nursing, contingent upon the successful outcome of post offer medical evaluation. Filling a vacancy.
5. Approving the action to hereby grant Rachel Kopp a regular appointment as a part-time Coordinator of Nurse Examiners (Victims of Sexual Assault Program) as of March 5, 2024, in the Hunterdon County Office of the Prosecutor.
6. Approving the action to hereby grant Kenneth Buck a regular appointment as a full time Storekeeper 1 as of March 5, 2024, in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Division of Vehicle Services.
7. Approving the title change of Llesenia Maldonado to the title Housing Assistance Technician - Bilingual in Spanish and English, in the Department of Human Services Housing Division.
8. Approving the status change of Jessie Beekhuysen to per diem Public Safety Telecommunicator in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Safety, Communications Division.
9. Approving the promotion of Holly Deglman to part-time Library Associate in the Hunterdon County Library. Filling a vacancy.
10. Authorizing the renewal with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services of a Cooperative Contract Purchasing System ID# CK13-Hunterdon, known as the Hunterdon County Cooperative Contract Purchasing System with the County of Hunterdon serving as the Lead Agency.

11. Authorizing the renewal with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services of a Cooperative Purchasing System ID# 51HCCPS known as the Hunterdon County Cooperative Pricing System with the County of Hunterdon serving as the Lead Agency.
12. Authorizing the Renewal with the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services of a Joint Purchasing System ID# 277HCJPS known as the Hunterdon County Joint Purchasing System with the County of Hunterdon serving as the Lead Agency.
13. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director of the Board of County Commissioners to sign the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) DEP permit, as Water Body owner at the Sunnyside section of the South Branch Reservation, for the release of 3–5 inch trout into the waterbody as recommended by the State Fisheries Biologist for the maintenance of trout streams.
14. Approving a request from the Hunterdon Hills Kennel Club to park 15 self-contained RVs for camping at the South County Park (Case Farm Area) for a club event on August 2, 2024, through August 4, 2024, pending weather and field conditions.
15. Approving the David Winston's Center for Herbal Studies to utilize a courtesy permit at Point Mountain Reservation on April 27, 2024, with a rain date scheduled on April 28, 2024, to gather information to share with County Naturalist team for future parks and recreation programming.
16. Approving a Hunterdon County Parks courtesy permit to the Flemington Fire Department for a Spring Festival event on May 4, 2024, at Court Street Park from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with a rain date of May 11, 2024.
17. Approving a request from Jerseyman Triathlon, to host a triathlon event on several county roads around Round Valley Reservoir, on May 19, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
18. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director of the Board of Commissioners to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Borough of Glen Garder in accordance with the Community Developmental Block Grant for the Community Outdoor Parks Program for the period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026. Funding for the term shall be in the amount of \$180,000.00.
19. Authorizing the Division of Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services to submit the State Health Insurance Program grant application through SAGE for the anticipated award amount of \$34,000.00 for the period April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

XIII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
No public comment.

XIV. **ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

XV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION (Reconvene if necessary)**

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 5:55 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Lanza and seconded by Commissioner Rich, followed by a voice carry.