



MINUTES

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

June 18, 2024

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

II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Resolution entering into executive session.

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

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, 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 Rich announced the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) has approved the Planning and Land Use Department's application for a Green Acres matching grant of \$1,00,000 towards the creation of a barrier-free all-inclusive playground for the South County Fairgrounds. In the coming weeks and months, the County will begin the planning process. Commissioner Rich added there will be no outdoor lighting installed, which was a preliminary concern raised by neighbors in close proximity of the park location. Additionally, Commissioner Rich stated the County received a notice from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs that Hunterdon County will receive a Local Recreational Improvement grant of \$68,000. This grant award will provide funds to construct an inclusive outdoor fitness pavilion at Deer Path Park, complete with stationary exercise equipment. This new fitness pavilion will build upon the nearly \$2 million in investments that has already been made at Deer Path Park, including the installation of the County's first all-inclusive-barrier-free playground.

Commissioner Van Doren shared several updates as liaison to the Department of Human Services. Commissioner Van Doren shared information about the first-ever Senior Prom, the annual Senior Art Show, and the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program. Seniors are encouraged to call or stop by the Senior Center for more information or visiting their webpage. Commissioner Van Doren addressed a resolution on the agenda expressing the Board's opposition to Senate Bill No. 1224, that was introduced by Senator James Beach. As drafted, this legislation would amend the definition of public highways under the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) to include boardwalks and would further amend the local aid program formula for the distribution of county and municipal aid to include boardwalk mileage. Commissioner Van Doren stated this bill is opposed by NJAC, and he hopes his colleagues join him in opposing this legislation.

Commissioner Lanza stated at the last meeting, it was approved to send a formal letter to Congressman Tom Kean, and U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez requesting their collective support in establishing a Veteran Center Community Access Point (CAP) in Hunterdon County. Replies were received from Congressman Kean and Senator Booker's office that they are actively working with the VA on the County's request. To help build additional public support for the creation of a CAP in Hunterdon County, Commissioner Lanza asked for support from his colleagues to send a letter to each Hunterdon County municipality asking for their governing bodies to adopt resolutions in support of creating a Veteran Center Community Access Point in our county and to share their community's support with our federal representatives. Commissioner Lanza acknowledged OEM Director, Brayden Fahey, who will be speaking later in the agenda for the procurement of an updated Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD). The upgrading of the County's CAD system represents a major investment by the Board and the public safety of county residents.

Deputy Director Soloway stated she is pleased at how quickly everyone is working to advocate for the Veterans Community Access Point for Hunterdon County. Deputy Director Soloway thanked Director Kuhl for attending and leading the successful veterans' headstone cleaning event at Flemington Baptist Church. She shared details for the next headstone cleaning event that will take place at Spruce Run Cemetery on June 29th. Deputy Director Soloway thanked county staff members who donated items for the second annual woman veterans' baby shower drive. The items collected were recently dropped off at the VA Lyons Campus, where they will be distributed to expecting mothers enrolled in the Women's Health Maternity Care in their 2nd and 3rd trimesters of pregnancy. Lastly, Deputy Director Soloway congratulated the students and teachers involved in Readington Middle School's Project Citizen Showcase that she recently attended with County Clerk, Mary Melfi; Prosecutor, Renée Robeson; and Committee Member, Juergen Huelsebusch. Project Citizen Showcase is the ultimate lesson of learning by doing. These students are gaining knowledge and perspective on government topics that could never be achieved by just reading a book.

Director Kuhl reported earlier today, he had the opportunity to address members of the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce as part of their annual *State of the County* program. He reported the state of Hunterdon County is exceptional, as evidenced by the \$5.2 billion increase in property valuation throughout the county over the last four years. He noted the county continues to be debt-free for the 10th consecutive year, and

the Commissioner Board was able to cut the 2024 county tax rate to the 2015 level, after freezing the tax rate for six consecutive years. Director Kuhl also shared the success the county staff has had with procuring grants and important investments that the board is making. As liaison to the Hunterdon County Library, Director Kuhl added, a resource list of books and videos have been created through the Kanopy subscription about Juneteenth and slavery. In closing, Director Kuhl invited the public to a ribbon-cutting event that is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate the recently renovated Historic Hunterdon County Courthouse.

VII. **HUNTERDON COUNTY SHERIFF UPDATE, Sheriff Frederick Brown**

1. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director of the Board of County Commissioners and the Hunterdon County Sheriff, to sign on behalf of the county, an Interlocal Agreement for School Class III Law Enforcement Officers with Union Township School District.

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

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

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

2. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director of the Board of County Commissioners and the Hunterdon County Sheriff, to sign on behalf of the county, an interlocal Agreement for School Class III Law Enforcement Officers with the Board of Education of Alexandria Township School District.

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

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

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

VIII. **PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION**

1. Recognizing United Way of Hunterdon County's Volunteer of the Year, Bill Hamilton. Director Kuhl shared he will be presenting Mr. Hamilton with this proclamation at United Way's annual meeting on Thursday evening.

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:**

2. Recognizing Deborah Rizzo and Jaime Myers, *In Love And Song* Organization. Ms. Deborah Rizzo shared information about In Love and Song, an organization focused on improving the quality of life for brain tumor and brain cancer patients. Ms. Rizzo thanked the Board for recognizing In Love and Song with a proclamation. Ms. Jaime Myers invited the Board to In Love and Song's event, The Quarter Mile, that will be held on Friday, June 28th. The money raised will go towards sponsoring a service dog for brain tumor or brain cancer patient.

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

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

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

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

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

No public comment.

X. GRANTS, Michael Franchini, Deputy CFO

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

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

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

1. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2024 County Budget, for the Highlands Council Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$18,050.00.
2. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2024 County Budget, for the FY 2024 Clean Communities Grant in the amount of \$109,091.00.
3. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2024 County Budget, for the 2024 Highlands Council Tourism Advertising Campaign Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00.
4. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2024 County Budget, for the 2023 Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Grant in the amount of \$160,157.00.
5. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2024 County Budget, for the 2024 SHIP Grant in the amount of \$34,000.00.
6. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2024 County Budget, for the FFY 2022 Emergency Management Agency Assistance (EMAA) Grant in the amount of \$55,000.00.

XI. PLANNING & LAND USE

1. Approving an Open Space Acquisition Assistance Grant to Hunterdon Land Trust, for the acquisition of the Langdo property, Block 43, Lot 1.01 in Raritan Township, estimated 16 acres, in an amount not to exceed \$100,450.00, upon the recommendation of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee.

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

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

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

XII. PURCHASING, Ray Rule, QPA

1. Approving a contract award with Dan Swayze & Son, Inc., for County Bid 2024-11 Application of Traffic Stripes on Various County Roads, total amount not to exceed \$309,398.64.

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

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

2. Approving Requisition #R24-4362, with Asphalt Paving Systems, for slurry seal (micro-surfacing) of County Route 579 (Turkey Hill Road to County Route 614) in the Township of Bethlehem, in an amount not to exceed \$344,944.62.

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

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

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

3. Approving Requisition #R24-4321, with Insight Public Sector Sled Inc., for the 9-1-1 Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD), in an amount not to exceed \$2,364,006.80.

Department of Public Safety Director, Brayden Fahey, thanked the Commissioner Board, County Administration, the Purchasing Division, and IT Department for working together on this 9-1-1 Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) project. Mr. Fahey reported a CAD committee was appointed in 2022, comprised of OEM staff, IT Department staff, and representatives from Police, Fire, and EMS Chiefs Associations, to select the best CAD software. The current system being used by county dispatchers is from 2011, and has not functioned as intended for quite some time. The Office of Emergency Management has shopped numerous vendors and reviewed several demos before selecting Insight Public Sector Sled Inc.'s system. The system is more modern and more reflective to 2024. Mr. Fahey shared additional information about the CAD system. In closing, he added this is not just a CAD system, it is an emergency services management platform.

Deputy Director Soloway asked what the timeline is for this system once approved. Mr. Fahey responded approximately 12 to 18 months.

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

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

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

XIII. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Brad Myhre

1. Opposing Senate Bill No. 1224, which would amend the definition of a public highway to include boardwalks and promenades.

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. Authorizing the creation of the Hunterdon County Municipal Park and Recreational Grant Program and appropriating \$1 million from the Open Space Trust Fund.

Administrator Brad Myhre stated the proposed grant program will assist in maintaining and investing in the County's high quality of life, helping local municipalities with offsetting costs associated with improving local infrastructure. Grant awards will range from a minimum of \$25,000.00, to a maximum of \$100,000.00, to support investment in local facilities, roadways, traffic and pedestrian

safety improvements, removal of hazardous trees and canopy restoration on municipal owned property, promote energy efficiency improvements, clean water projects and the acquisition of public safety equipment.

Mr. Millette stated that with this program, the county is aiming to aid municipalities, bolstering outdoor recreation, and activities at the forefront of what Hunterdon County residents and visitors enjoy.

Director Kuhl thanked everyone involved in this process.

Commissioner Lanza told Director Kuhl this was a great idea and that he has heard a lot of positive feelings from several municipalities.

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

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

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

3. Confirming the action of Deputy Director Soloway and Commissioner Lanza to send an official request to Congressman Tom Kean and U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez to encourage the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a Community Access Point (CAP) in Hunterdon County.

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

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

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

XIV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Van Doren advised he would like Resolution #25 listed under the consent agenda removed for discussion.

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda excluding Resolution #25

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

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

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

1. Approving the Claims Register dated June 18, 2024.
2. Approving the executive session and regular meeting minutes from June 04, 2024.
3. Approving the hire and regular appointment of James Bojanowski as a Laborer in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works, Roads Division, contingent upon the successful outcome of a post offer medical evaluation. (Filling a vacancy)
4. Approving the hire and provisional appointment of Jenny Holmes as a Social Worker-Bilingual in the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services. (Filling a vacancy)
5. Approving the hire and regular appointment of Anna Maria Gialias as a full time Library Assistant in the Hunterdon County Library, contingent upon the successful outcome of a post offer medical evaluation. (Filling a vacancy)

6. Approving the hire and regular appointment of Margaret Van De Guchte as a part-time Library Assistant in the Hunterdon County Library, contingent upon the successful outcome of a post offer medical evaluation. (Filling a vacancy)
7. Approving the hire of Kelly Ambrose as a Clerk 1 in the Hunterdon County Superintendent of Schools contingent upon the successful outcome of a post offer medical evaluation. (Filling a vacancy)
8. Approving the provisional promotion of Nicolas Zmuda to the title of Network Administrator in the Information Technology Department.
9. Approving the provisional promotion of Fabiana Rasimowicz to the title Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) in the Hunterdon County Health Department, Division of Environmental Health.
10. Acknowledging the action of Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renee Robeson to promote Katherine Terhune to the title Sergeant in the Hunterdon County Office of the Prosecutor.
11. Acknowledging the action of Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renee Robeson to promote David Petelle to the title Sergeant in the Hunterdon County Office of the Prosecutor.
12. Acknowledging the action of Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renee Robeson to promote Reagan Hronich to the title Supervising Victim Advocate in the Hunterdon County Office of the Prosecutor.
13. Approving the promotion of Deborah Vallone to the title Keyboarding Clerk 4 in the Department of Health.
14. Approving the provisional promotion of Alec Horvath to the title Bridge Repairer in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works, Bridge Division. This promotion is provided per the CWA Local 1036, Rank and File collective bargaining agreement.
15. Approving the hire and seasonal appointment of Trevor McCloughan as a Seasonal Laborer in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Division of Buildings and Maintenance, contingent upon the successful outcome of a post offer medical evaluation.
16. Approving a salary adjustment for Vincent Gambardella, County Investigator, Office of the Prosecutor.
17. Acknowledging the action of Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renee Robeson to increase the salaries of the unclassified/unaffiliated staff of the Hunterdon County

Office of the Prosecutor.

18. Approving an amendment to Resolution #2024-426, to reflect an increase in funding from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to the new amount of \$45,202.00 for the Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program.
19. Approving a request from the ARC of Hunterdon County to use the Echo Hill Lodge. Approvals will be based on the Division of Parks & Recreation's programmatic needs and facility availability commencing in June 2024, and continuing through June 2025.
20. Approving a request from the Northern NJ Square Dancers Association (Flutter Wheels) to use the Echo Hill Lodge. Approvals will be based on the Division of Parks & Recreation's programmatic needs and facility availability commencing June 01, 2024, and concluding July 01, 2025.
21. Approving a request from the Hunterdon Hiking Club to use the Arboretum meeting room. Approvals will be based on the Division of Parks and Recreation programmatic needs and facility availability, commencing June 01, 2024 and concluding July 01, 2025.
22. Approving a request from North West New Jersey Beekeepers Association to use the Echo Hill Lodge and Deer Path Park at Round Mountain to house working beehives outdoors. Approvals will be based on the Division of Parks and Recreation's programmatic needs and facility availability commencing in June 2024 and continuing through June 2025.
23. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director of the Board of County Commissioners to sign permit documents on behalf of the Hunterdon County Division of Parks in relationship with the annual 2024 4-H & Agricultural Fair.
24. Approving a request from the Garden State Sheep Breeders Association to allow RV's and campers overnight at the South County Park on September 12 - 14, 2024, pending an approval permit and certificate of insurance.
26. Approving a request from Kingwood Township First Aid and Rescue Squad to host coin tosses on August 10 & 11, September 21 & 22, October 12 & 13, November 30 & December 1, 2024, at the following locations: County Route 519, 1/8 mile South of State Route 12 and County Route 519, 1/8 mile North of State Route 12.
27. Approving a request from Three Bridges Volunteer Fire Company to host their annual 5-mile road race on Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. using various county roadways beginning and ending at Three Bridges Volunteer Fire Company.

28. Approving a request from Apple Studios LLC, "Wildvale" to use and intermittently close, County Route 604 (Rosemont Ringoes Road), between Kingwood Stockton Road and Upper Creek Road on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for filming.
29. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director of the Board of County Commissioners to sign on behalf of the County, a Public Donor Agreement to Contract #C00192, C00194, C00195 (formerly contract #AHKC) reflecting the provision of \$19,142.00 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 program.
30. Authorizing the Director of the Board of County Commissioners to sign an agreement of conveyance with Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc. for the Hunterdon County Transfer Station.

Commissioner Van Doren asked if Coin Toss Permits have been approved for organizations other than first responders and stated he was concerned about the safety of this organization. Administrator Myhre advised the Delaware Valley Riegel Ridge Jr. Terriers have hosted coin tosses at this location before and the parents are present while the youths perform cheers on the sidewalk.

25. Approving a request from Delaware Valley Riegel Ridge Jr. Terriers to host a coin toss on June 22, and July 27, with rain dates of June 23, and July 28, 2024, at the intersection of County Route 519 and Bridge Street in the Borough of Milford.

Motion: To approve Resolution #25

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

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

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

XV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No public comment.

XVI. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No additional Commissioner comments.

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Reconvene if necessary)

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 6:11 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Lanza, seconded by Commissioner Rich, followed by a voice carry.