



MINUTES

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

September 3, 2024

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

II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Resolution entering into executive session.

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

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 thanked everyone involved in the planning and execution of this year's annual 4-H Fair. The fair was well attended and offered many unique opportunities for individuals and families and to learn more about Hunterdon County's rich agricultural heritage. Commissioner Rich stated he has been advised by the Department of Planning and Land Use Staff that to date, 487 farms covering 36,920 acres have been preserved throughout Hunterdon County. Farmland preservation continues to be an important public policy matter for the Commissioner Board because it directly contributes to the residents' high quality of life. As liaison to Hunterdon County Polytech, Commissioner Rich shared that the first day of classes started on Wednesday, August 28. He added, he is looking forward to learning about the many accomplishments of the students this year. Hunterdon County has one of the strongest vocational programs in the State of New Jersey that will only get better once the new, full-day vocational school opens its doors to students.

Commissioner Van Doren shared several updates as liaison to the Department of Human Services. The Senior Center is hosting two *Understanding Medicare* presentations on September 18th and October 2nd. Both presentations will be held at the Senior Center located at 4 Gauntt Place in Raritan Township. The Senior Center will be welcoming a local Certified Financial Planner to present options and challenges in retirement and estate planning to help seniors plan for life's transitions. The K-Street Group will be returning to the Senior Center for another Personal Safety and Self-Defense Workshop. Seniors can call the Senior Center to get more information or to register for these programs.

Commissioner Lanza shared important information regarding the November General Election. The voter registration deadline is Tuesday, October 15. Early voting begins on Saturday, October 26 and runs through Sunday, November 3, 2024. To increase voter participation and knowledge, County Clerk Mary Melfi and Supervisor of Elections Beth Thompson are partnering with the ARC of Hunterdon County to host a special voter informational session for ARC clients on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. As liaison to the Department of Public Safety, Commissioner Lanza shared that county staff attended a workshop hosted by the New Jersey Division of Elections, NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness/NJCCIC, and CISA, that included a series of exercises focused on election cybersecurity, preparedness, and situational awareness.

Deputy Director Soloway reported that NJ Transit is offering a new promotion to help college students save money on transportation this year. Students who buy their monthly passes through the NJ Transit mobile app in September, October and November will get a free month of travel in December. Deputy Director Soloway shared details regarding this promotion. As liaison to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, she shared that the County's efforts to help promote agritourism in Hunterdon County is working. She was recently advised by our Planning Department that the 2022 census of agriculture, shows Hunterdon agriculture with \$115 million in annual sales, up 25% from 2017. Farm-related income is also up 23% according to that same census data with nursery and greenhouse leading the sales. The Commissioner Board remains dedicated to helping promote Hunterdon County agriculture.

Director Kuhl expressed his sympathy, as well as that of his colleagues, to the family of Sophia Detorres who died because of a three-vehicle crash that occurred on August 22 in Franklin Township. He extended the Board's best wishes for a full recovery to the other individuals injured in the crash. While not knowing all the contributing factors to the accident, Director Kuhl called upon the County Engineer to begin immediately reviewing the intersection of Hogback Road, Route 617, and Lower Landsdown Road. He added, anytime there is an accident, or the County becomes aware that a roadway or intersection poses a potential risk to the public, the County investigates whether or not that is the case, and if so, identifies what can be done to reduce or eliminate the potential for injury. After careful consideration by the Office of the Hunterdon County Engineer, a recommendation has been made to implement a new traffic pattern to include an All-Way Stop at the intersection to create a safer road environment for drivers of all ages at this intersection. The recommendation is being made using criteria for installing All-Way Stops contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as well as multiple engineering factors including sight distances, crash data, and the

average age and respective driving experience of individuals involved in accidents at this location were evaluated by the Office of the Hunterdon County Engineer. This proposed change was shared in advance of tonight's meeting with Franklin Township officials, and the County has worked directly with the local police department to obtain accident statistics over the last three years. Director Kuhl added while some may suggest other solutions for this intersection, this immediate change is grounded in an approved engineering review process that includes using criteria for installing All-Way Stops contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Director Kuhl has further directed the County Engineer to take any additional steps necessary to increase the visibility of this proposed All-Way Stop including purchasing electronic traffic safety beacons. He reiterated his condolences to the Detorres family. In closing, Director Kuhl advised he is going to change the order of this evening's agenda. Item VIII: Public Comment, will take place before Item VII: Discussion of proposed changes to intersection at County Route 617, Landsdown Road, and Hogback Road in the Township of Franklin.

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

1. Mike Kober of 19 Mathew Drive in Franklin Township asked what the timeline is for the Stop signs to be installed? Director Kuhl updated that the County will work with Franklin Township to assist with the implantation of the stop signs. Surveys and other regulations must be followed. The anticipated timeline is a couple of months. Director Kuhl advised that additional signage will be implemented to alert drivers that a stop is ahead. He added that Franklin Township Police Department will need to help enforce. Director Kuhl added the 4-way stop will slow drivers down. The regulations have changed since the last review of this intersection. The new regulations now allow the implementation of the 4-way stop at this intersection.
2. Amy Raley of 1 Lower Landsown Road in Franklin stated her biggest concern is drivers' speed on Sindey Road (County Route 617). Ms. Raley added she supports the implementation of the 4-way stop.
3. Doug, a resident of Franklin Township, agreed with the plan of a 4-way stop for safety concerns. He raised his concern about the increase in noise this will cause due to larger trucks using engine breaks while approaching the stop. He asked if the Board would consider a ban on larger vehicles using engine brakes. County Counsel, Katrina C. Doyle explained that banning Engine Brake zones is illegal. Engine breaking is considered a safety mechanism for vehicles and therefore cannot be enforced legally.

VIII. Discussion of proposed changes to intersection at County Route 617, Lower Landsdown Road, and Hogback Road in the Township of Franklin

There being no additional comments from the public, Director Kuhl reported the Board will now introduce a resolution authorizing the County Engineer to move forward with this recommendation. Administrator Brad Myhre advised the recommendation is to implement an all-way stop at this intersection. County Counsel, Katrina C. Doyle added the draft resolution to be adopted also includes the approval of a yield sign to be installed near Sandhill Road.

Deputy Director Soloway stated she is not opposed to the 4-way stop but asked how drivers will be informed of this new traffic pattern. County Counsel and Administrator Myhre advised Sign Boards will be placed on the side of the road, both directions, as drivers approach the intersection.

County Counsel, Katrina C. Doyle read the Resolution into the public meeting.

Commissioner Van Doren asked if the County is upgrading the signage on municipal roads as well? Or if it will fall to the responsibility of Franklin Township?

County Administrator, Brad Myhre, advised the County offered to help produce signage if needed, and could also help offset the cost of improved signage if Franklin Township would like.

Deputy Director Soloway advised she spoke to the Chief of Police of Franklin Township, and Chief Snyder does not want a 4-way stop. He believes it will create more accidents.

Commissioner Lanza spoke to his experience as prosecutor in Franklin Township, and added that speeding on Sidney Road (County Route 617) is substantial.

1. Approving an "All Way Stop" at the intersection of County Route 612, Hogback Road, and Lower Landsdown Road in the Township of Franklin.
Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Zachary Rich
Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

County Administrator Brad Myhre asked to move the Vector Control Update to after the Consent Agenda because Division Head Tadhgh Rainey was delayed.

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

1. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2024 County Budget, for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00.
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. Requesting the insertion of an item of revenue and the like sum as an appropriation, in the 2024 County Budget, for the 2025 PHILEP Grant in the amount of \$276,491.00.
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:**

X. **PLANNING & LAND USE**

1. Approving an Open Space Acquisition Assistance Grant to D&R Greenway, for the acquisition of the Bowditch property, Block 42, Lot 13 in the East Amwell Township, estimated 4.78 acres, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00, upon the recommendation of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee.
Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Zachary Rich
Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** John Lanza **Absent:**
2. Approving a Municipal Open Space Grant to Raritan Township, for development and improvements to various park properties, in an amount not to exceed \$405,000.00, on 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:**

XI. **PURCHASING, Ray Rule, QPA**

1. Approving a contract award for County Bid 2024-13, with Riverside Construction Materials, for calcium chloride solution for snow and ice control in an amount not to exceed \$43,200.00.
Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** John Lanza
Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** Zachary Rich **Absent:**
2. Approving a contract award for County Bid 2024-16, with Griffith-Allied Trucking LLC, for the furnishing and delivering of 89 octane unleaded gasoline, in an amount not to exceed \$2,458,800.00.
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 R24-5968, with Colorsource Inc., for sample ballots for the 2024 General Election, in an amount not to exceed \$53,000.00.
Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Susan Soloway
Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**
4. Approving Requisition #R24-5979, with Election Systems & Software, for voting equipment software maintenance and licenses, in an amount not to exceed \$103,148.75.
Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Zachary Rich
Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**
5. Approving a Professional Services Agreement with the Musconetcong Watershed Association, for professional planning services for Phase I of the Watershed

Management Plan Development, in an amount not to exceed \$230,268.40.

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

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

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

XII. **APPOINTMENTS**

1. Approving the re-appointment of Jeanne Cassano as a member to the Hunterdon County Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) term to be effective immediately through September 3, 2027.

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:**

XIII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion: 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 September 03, 2024.
2. Approving the executive session and regular meeting minutes from August 20, 2024.
3. Approving the hire and regular appointment of Karen Peterson as a part-time Library Associate in the Hunterdon County Library, contingent upon the successful outcome of post offer medical evaluation. (Filling a vacancy)
4. Approving the hire and regular appointment of Kevin Paustian as a Laborer in the Department of Public Works, Roads Division, contingent upon the successful outcome of a post offer medical evaluation. (Filling a vacancy)
5. Acknowledging the action of the Hunterdon County Board of Elections to hire temporary Early Voting Workers to staff Early Voting sites.
6. Approving the provisional promotion of Summerlea Bruschi to the title of Account Clerk in the Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services. (Filling a vacancy)
7. Approving the provisional promotion of Kimberley Crommelin to the title of Principal Account Clerk in the Department of Planning and Land Use, Rutgers Cooperative Extension.
8. Approving the action to hereby grant Elise M. Ennis a regular appointment as a full-time Public Safety Telecommunicator as of September 3, 2024, in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Safety, Communications Division.

9. Approving the action to hereby grant Danielle G. McGann a regular appointment as a full-time Housing Assistance Technician as of September 3, 2024, in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Safety, Communications Division.
10. Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to solicit proposals for the following services: Medical Director Services
11. Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to solicit proposals for the following services: Various Professional Engineering and Related Services for Hunterdon County for the Year 2025.
12. Authorizing the Clerk of the Board and the Division Head of Vehicle Services to arrange for the sale of surplus equipment and vehicles at an online county surplus auction through Alfred's Auctions LLC.
13. Authorizing the Director or his designee, to sign on behalf of the County, a grant application with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, for the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office (Gangs, Guns, and Narcotics Task Force), the Subrecipient for the grant titled: State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Operation Helping Hand Grant Program, for the period of September 01, 2024 to August 31, 2025.
14. Approving to waive the Hunterdon County Park fees associated with the ShopRite 5K Race of Hunger non-profit event held at Deer Path Park on September 15, 2024.
15. Approving the CEA Community Employment Advocacy, and Johanna Foods to use the Court Street Park for the 32nd Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. Portable restrooms will be placed in the parking lot behind 71 Main Street on November 27th and removed on November 29th, 2024.
16. Authorizing an amended grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation to include the replacement of Hunterdon County Bridge RT-16 located on County Route 523 in the Townships of Readington and Tewksbury, County of Hunterdon.
17. Approving a request from Amwell Valley Ambulance Corp to host a Coin Toss on October 12 & 13, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the intersection of Route 202 and Old York Road (County Route 179).
18. Approving a request from Delaware Valley Regional High School Cheer to host a Coin Toss on September 28, 2024, with a rain date of September 29, 2024, at the intersection of Bridge Street, Water Street, and County Route 519 in the Borough of Milford.

19. Approving to waive the fees and insurance certificate for the use of the Historic Courthouse for the Lindbergh lecture series taking place in September of 2024.

20. Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with the FOP Lodge 94 (Sheriff's Officers).

XIV. **HEALTH DEPARTMENT - VECTOR CONTROL DIVISION UPDATE, Tadhgh Rainey, Division Head**

County Administrator, Brad Myhre, filled in for Division Head, Tadhgh Rainey, and updated the Board on the intergovernmental agreement for Black Fly Suppression with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection. He added a partnership with Warren County is being investigated.

XV. **ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

No additional comments.

XVI. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

No additional comments.

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

County Counsel advised why the Board needed to reconvene for executive session and stated no action will be taken.

The Board re-entered executive session at 6:09 p.m.

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:**

XVIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned from executive session at 6:46 p.m. and adjourned the open public meeting at 6:47 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Lanza seconded by Deputy Director Soloway, followed by a voice carry.