



## MINUTES

### HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

**February 17, 2026**

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

II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Resolution Entering into Executive Session.

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

**Yes:** John Lanza, Jeff Kuhl, Zachary Rich, 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 Rich reported that Hunterdon County Polytech Culinary Arts students will participate in the 16th Annual Hunterdon County Rotary Club Soup Cook-Off on February 23, 2026, at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, supporting the "Hunger in Hunterdon" initiative and local food pantries through this longstanding community fundraiser, which raises nearly \$10,000 annually. Additionally, students in the Future Health Professionals program demonstrated community spirit by creating 76 Valentine's Day cards for residents of a local assisted living facility near the Bartles Campus. Commissioner Rich stated that Polytech celebrated National FCCLA Week during Career and Technical Education Month, recognizing the impact of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America in promoting leadership, service, and career readiness. He highlighted the continued excellence, compassion, and community engagement of Polytech students.

As liaison to the Hunterdon County Health Department, Commissioner Van Doren

reported that the county remains at the peak of respiratory virus season, with health educators, nurses, and epidemiology staff actively supporting schools and facilities experiencing outbreaks and providing handwashing education in elementary schools. COVID-19 vaccinations, biometric screenings, monthly vision screenings, and the Dental Access Program continue to be offered to support community health. Residents may contact the Public Health Nursing Office or visit the Department's Facebook page for additional information. As liaison to the Department of Human Services, Commissioner Van Doren highlighted several upcoming programs, including a HealthEASE Heart Health workshop on February 24th, free monthly blood pressure screenings beginning March 3rd, and an "Understanding Medicare" SHIP session on March 11th at the Senior Services Annex. Additionally, Commissioner Van Doren shared he recently attended a musical performance at Copper Hill School, sponsored by Young Audiences Arts for Learning. He recognized the organization's role in enriching students' educational and creative experiences.

Commissioner Soloway, liaison to the IT Department, reported that the County has completed the ePlus onboarding process, providing 24/7 network lifecycle management and proactive cybersecurity monitoring, and has activated Microsoft Intune Endpoint Management on all County computers to improve centralized patching, maintenance, and troubleshooting. Multi-year enterprise licensing agreements with Cisco and Microsoft 365 have been finalized and fully implemented, ensuring cost stability and enhanced integration. She added progress continues on the County website redesign and transition to a .GOV domain, with a stakeholder kickoff meeting scheduled, and plans are in place to begin conduit and fiber optic replacement at the Route 12 County Complex once weather permits. As liaison to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Commissioner Soloway noted that rail service into New York will be reduced from February 15 through March 14 due to Amtrak's transition from the Portal Bridge to the new Portal North Bridge, temporarily limiting service between Newark and Secaucus and reducing certain NJ Transit weekday trains into Penn Station. Lastly, Commissioner Soloway shared she recently viewed "The Head That Wears the Crown: Black Women's Headwear from Slavery to Freedom," display at the Historic Courthouse through February 25, was shared, with encouragement for the public to attend.

Deputy Director Kuhl, liaison to the Department of Planning & Land Use, reported that a public meeting on the Hunterdon County Bicycle Plan will be held on February 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main County Library to review route opportunities and gather input on developing a safe, accessible, and interconnected countywide bicycle network. The Planning Board's Transportation Subcommittee recently met to discuss current and upcoming transportation projects, fostering coordination among goHunterdon, County Engineering, Planning staff, and Board members. Deputy Director Kuhl also shared that at the County Board of Agriculture meeting, New Jersey Farm Bureau President Liz Thompson and Board President Dave DeFrangé emphasized farm viability as a top priority and welcomed feedback to support the agricultural community. Deputy Director Kuhl welcomed Christina Piparo, 2026 New Jersey Agricultural Fair Ambassador, and Autumn Hayes, 2026 Hunterdon County Junior Agricultural Fair Ambassador, recognizing their leadership. Lastly, Deputy Director Kuhl shared he attended the Senior Center's annual Valentine's Day Music and Lunch celebration, and added it was a well-attended and festive event.

Director Lanza reported that during the recent extreme cold, county staff mobilized to open a Code Blue Warming Center at the Route 12 County Complex beginning February 6, with operations extended through the morning of February 10, and he expressed appreciation to staff who volunteered to cover all shifts. Seven individuals utilized the center, which supplemented motel placements and other housing arrangements, and services included meals, water, Wi-Fi access, and support from the County Library, with coordination and information shared among municipalities and OEM officials. Director Lanza stated the Board intends to continue this pop-up model during future extreme cold events identified by the National Weather Service, despite Code Blue operations not being a county responsibility, while state-level coordination continues through the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Human Services. Efforts remain underway to identify a long-term community partner for a permanent solution. Lastly, Director Lanza announced that the Commissioner Board will host a Municipal Collaboration Breakfast on March 27 at Razberry's Banquet Center in Kingwood Township to convene municipal officials and business leaders to discuss economic development, tourism, Senior Center resources, and the new municipal lending program through the Hunterdon County Improvement Authority.

## VII. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing the 2026 New Jersey Agricultural Fair Ambassador, Christina Piparo, of Pittstown.

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

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

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

2. Recognizing the 2026 Hunterdon County Junior Agricultural Fair Ambassador, Autumn Hayes, of Raritan Township.

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

**Yes:** John Lanza, Jeff Kuhl, Zachary Rich, 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)**

Commissioner Director Lanza shared a statement addressing questions about how county government interacts with federal immigration enforcement. Director Lanza then asked County Counsel to explain how her office would respond if a situation involving federal immigration enforcement were to arise on County property. County Counsel shared the procedure.

## IX. PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE, Ryan Preston, Division Head

1. Ordinance 2026-01; Heron Glen Golf Rates for 2026.

**Motion:** To Open the Public Hearing

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

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

**No:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Zach Rich

There were no public comments.

**Motion:** To Close the Public Hearing

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

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

**No:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Zach Rich

The public hearing closed.

2. Adoption of Hunterdon County Ordinance 2026-01; Heron Glen Golf Rates for 2026.

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

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

**No:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Zach Rich

#### X. **FINANCE, Andrew Bernath, CFO**

1. Approving the 2026 Temporary Budget Extension.

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

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

**No:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Zach Rich

#### XI. **PLANNING & LAND USE**

1. Authorizing final cost share approval for the acquisition of a development easement on the property owned by John and Chelsea Malavasi, designated as Block 12, Lot 20 in the Township of Raritan, totaling approximately 32.75 acres.

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

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

**No:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Zach Rich

#### XII. **PURCHASING, Ray Rule, QPA**

1. Approving contract amendment #1 with Pennoni Associates Inc., for professional engineering services for the NJDEP Permit Applications for Three (3) County Bridges, in an amount not to exceed \$77,900.00.

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

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

**No:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Zach Rich

2. Approving contract amendment #1, with French & Parrello Associates, for County RFP 0038-2022, Professional Engineering Design Services for the Replacement of Hunterdon County Bridge WE-74, in an amount not to exceed \$70,036.60.

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

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

**No:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Zach Rich

3. Approving a contract award for County Bid 2026-02, with Radiac Research Corporation, for Household Hazardous Waste Clean Up Days, in an amount not to exceed \$133,170.00.

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

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

**No:** None **Abstain:** None **Absent:** Zach Rich

### XIII. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Brad Myhre

1. Authorizing County Officials to take actions necessary to support the Hunterdon County Improvement Authority.

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

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

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

### XIV. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

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

1. Approving the Claims Register dated February 17, 2026.
2. Approving the executive session and regular meeting minutes from the February 03, 2026 meeting.
3. Approving the hire and regular appointment of Joseph Opdyke as a Road Repairer 2 in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works, Roads Division. (Filling a vacancy)
4. Approving the regular promotion of Sarah Pike to the title of Librarian 3 in the Hunterdon County Library. (Filling a vacancy)
5. Approving the regular promotion of Maureen Ferretti to the title of Librarian 3 in the Hunterdon County Library.
6. Approving the transfer of Ashton Durborow, Senior Bridge Repairer to the title of Road Repairer 2, to the Department of Public Works, Roads Division. (Filling a vacancy)
7. Approving the transfer and title change of Emily Carrier, Confidential Assistant, to the title of Confidential Assistant-Public Information Officer, Department of Administrative Services. (Filling a vacancy)
8. Approving the action to hereby grant Sandra Janosik a regular appointment as a full-time Librarian 3 as of February 17, 2026, in the Hunterdon County Library. (No change in salary)

9. Approving the action to hereby grant Katie McGann a regular appointment as a full-time Management Specialist as of February 17, 2026, in the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, Division of Human Services. (No change in salary)
10. Approving the action to hereby grant Colin Bailey a regular appointment as a full-time Senior Engineering Aide effective February 17, 2026, in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works, Engineering Division. (No change in salary)
11. Approving the action to hereby grant Alycia K. Wolf a regular appointment as a full-time Program Analyst as of February 17, 2026, in the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, Division of Senior, Disabilities, and Veterans Services. (No change in salary)
12. Approving the action to hereby grant Robert M. Hornby a regular appointment as a full-time Principal Planner as of February 17, 2026, in the Hunterdon County Department of Planning and Land Use, Planning Division. (No change in salary)
13. Approving the action to hereby grant Michelle H. Hendrix a regular appointment as a full-time Keyboarding Clerk 4 as of February 17, 2026, in the Hunterdon County Department of Health, Division of Public Health Nursing. (No change in salary)
14. Approving the regular promotion of Sara Catherine Smith to the title of Assistant Program Analyst in the Department of Planning and Land Use, Division of Culture and Heritage.
15. Approving the regular promotion of Mackenzie Hlasney to the title of Public Safety Telecommunicator in the Department of Public Safety, Division of Communications. This promotion is provided per the CWA Local 1036 Rank & File bargaining agreement.
16. Approving the regular promotion of Nicolle Greer to the title of Public Safety Telecommunicator in the Department of Public Safety, Division of Communications. This promotion is provided per the CWA Local 1036 Rank & File bargaining agreement.
17. Approving the regular promotion of Jessica Wood to the title of Public Safety Telecommunicator in the Department of Public Safety, Division of Communications. This promotion is provided per the CWA Local 1036 Rank & File bargaining agreement.
18. Approving the regular promotion of Joy Allen to the title of Public Safety Telecommunicator in the Department of Public Safety, Division of Communications. This promotion is provided per the CWA Local 1036 Rank & File bargaining agreement.

19. Approving the appointment of Elizabeth Cannizzaro as a part-time, per diem Fitness Instructor in the Department of Human Services, Division of Senior Disability and Veteran Services. (Filling a vacancy)
20. Amending Resolution 2026-63, the hire and appointment of Justin Prandi as a Laborer 1 in the Hunterdon County Department of Public Works, *Roads* Division.
21. Amending Resolution 2026-28; Longevity payments for the employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the CWA Local 1036 Supervisory Unit and the County of Hunterdon.
22. Approving a Right of Way Easement Acquisition from Block 6, Lot 60 in the Township of Holland.
23. Approving a Side Letter of Agreement with CWA for the title of Records Management Analyst in the Division of Central Services.
24. Approving a Side Letter of Agreement with CWA for the title of Recreation Program Coordinator in the Division of Parks.
25. Authorizing the County of Hunterdon to Enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement.
26. Authorizing the Qualified County Purchasing Agent to initiate competitive contracting for the 2026 Explore Hunterdon Tourism Marketing Services, for the Department of Economic Development & Tourism.
27. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director to sign the New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry 2025 Annual Accomplishment Report.
28. Approving a request from Califon First Aid Squad to host a coin toss on May 16, 2026, on County Route 512, in the Borough of Califon.
29. Approving a request from Whitehouse Rescue Squad to host coin toss events on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 & 12, 2026 and Saturday and Sunday, October 3 & 4, 2026, at 269 Main Street, Whitehouse Station.
30. Authorizing the AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador (WMA 8), Hunterdon County Parks, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, and the Raritan Headwaters Association to collaboratively work together to address the ecological challenges facing the stream bank at the Melick's Bridge section of the South Branch Reservation in Clinton Township.

31. Approving a request from the Count Basie Racing Association (COBRA) & Lehigh Valley Coursing Club (L.V.C.C.) to host Dog events at South County Park (Case Field) on various dates in 2026.
32. Authorizing the Director of the Board of County Commissioners to sign and accept, on behalf of the County, a County Gangs, Guns & Narcotics (JAG) Application, for the Hunterdon County Gangs, Guns & Narcotics Task Force, with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, Division of Administration, in the amount of \$29,550.00, for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, for the Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor.
33. Authorizing the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services to submit the Section 5310 Grant Application to New Jersey Transit for the purchase of three (3) extended cutaways and two (2) standard cutaways to support the County's LINK Transportation System and for Mobility Management funding in the amount of \$230,400.00.
34. Authorizing the Director of the Board of County Commissioners to execute Contract Modification #2 with Freedom House, Inc. for the Outpatient Services program reflecting an increase in funding of \$5,000.00 for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, and an increase of \$5,000.00 for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with the not-to-exceed figure revised from its original amount of \$30,000 (\$10,000 per year) to reflect the new sum of \$45,000 for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026.
35. Authorizing the Director to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Borough of Flemington in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant CV1 & CV3 for the Flemington Police Station project pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth by the New Jersey Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program and the Department of Human Services 2023 Notice of Available Funding and Application, for the spending period of January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$99,031.00.

**XV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Guy Citron, a resident of Tewksbury Township, stated that he attended the meeting to continue raising concerns being discussed by many Hunterdon County residents and to urge leadership on this matter. He reported hearing accounts of alleged human and civil rights abuses related to ICE activity in and around Flemington. Mr. Citron expressed concern about the potential repurposing of vacant warehouses as federal detention facilities within local communities. He stated that some individuals — including citizens and those in the process of becoming citizens — are afraid to go to work, attend school, appear in court, and participate in public life. Mr. Citron asked what role the County plays in ensuring that civil rights and due process are protected in matters related to law enforcement. Specifically, he inquired about the County's responsibility if constitutional concerns arise in connection with federal enforcement activity in Hunterdon County. In closing, Mr. Citron reiterated his concerns regarding civil rights, due process, and public trust.



**XVI. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

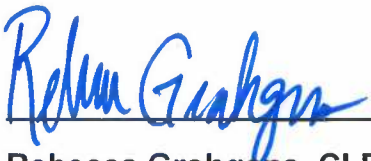
Director Lanza stated that the issues raised had been addressed during his opening remarks and in the statement provided by County Counsel, noting the limited role the County plays with respect to immigration enforcement. He stated that the County is bound by and complies with State law. Regarding immigration detention facilities, Director Lanza stated he has no knowledge of any such facility being planned in Hunterdon County. He further noted that land use decisions fall under municipal jurisdiction. Director Lanza added that while a response to public comment is not required, he chose to respond in order to complete the record. In closing, he stated that the County had addressed Mr. Citron's concerns in prior remarks and reiterated its position.

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

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 6:15 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Van Doren, seconded by Commissioner Soloway, followed by a voice carry.

Respectfully submitted and transcribed by:



Rebecca Grohgans, CLERK

