

**HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

**May 19, 2020**

**Dial-In Number:** 720-399-1558 or 877-658-5107

**Passcode:** 403752

**4:30 p.m. CONVENE:** "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before January 07, 2020, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News, TAPinto (online) and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – 5:30 p.m.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNSEL ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**FREEHOLDER REPORTS**

**Mr. Rich** – provided an update on the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board and the economic the impact from COVID-19. There have been 9,743 unemployment claims filed from within Hunterdon County since beginning of shutdown. Mr. Rich provided an update on the County Library and complimented the library staff's creativity in continuing to offer remote services despite the shutdown. The library is also offering curbside pickup with no direct contact made between the library patron and staff.

**Mr. Lanza** – provided an update on County Parks and complimented residents for practicing distancing. Mr. Lanza noted that restrooms can be reopened but an aggressive daily cleaning schedule must be implemented. Commended parks and recreation division staff. Mr. Lanza also provided an update on work of the County Clerk and Board of Elections – Mr. Lanza thanked both offices for their work on vote by mail ballots. July election will be done by vote by mail according to the Governor of New Jersey. Mr. Lanza also disagreed with how the Governor's office was reporting COVID-19 cases in Hunterdon County.

**Mr. Holt** – Provided an update on public safety and newly negotiated scheduling for the 9-1-1 communications operators. Mr. Holt expressed his thanks to the Public Safety Director George Wagner, Communications Division Director James Curry, and the communication operators' along with the CWA negotiation team for working together on the new schedule.

**Ms. Soloway** – held comments till the end

**Mr. Van Doren** – Noted that bulk waste drop off at the Transfer Station will resume on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> at Petticoat Lane. KOBO Products donated 160 one-gallon jugs of hand sanitizer to Hunterdon County. Thanked Sheriff Brown and his team along with County Park Rangers for ensuring safety at the parks. Mr. Van Doren also noted the recent letter sent by the Freeholders to Governor Murphy calling for curbside pickup at small businesses which was recently enacted. Mr. Van Doren noted the need to safely reopen New Jersey's economy and spoke of a regional plan to reopen. RVCC has tested over 1,000 residents in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties.

**PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITION**

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-1A**

**PROCLAMATION**

**PROCLAMATION #2020-17** - Recognizing the month of May 2020 as Older Americans Month in Hunterdon County.

**Moved:** Mr. Rich

**Seconded:** Ms. Soloway

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-2A**

**PROCLAMATION**

**PROCLAMATION #2020-18** - Recognizing May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup> as National Nurses Week in Hunterdon County.

**Moved:** Mr. Lanza

**Seconded:** Mr. Rich

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-2B**

**PROCLAMATION**

**PROCLAMATION #2020-19** - Recognizing May 15, 2020, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 10 through May 16, 2020 as Police Week in Hunterdon County.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Rich

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-2C**

**PROCLAMATION**

**PROCLAMATION #2020-20** - Recognizing May 17 through May 23, 2020 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**FINANCE: Janet Previte, CFO**

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-2D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-318** - Authorizing the County Budget to be read by title only.

**Moved:** Ms. Soloway

**Seconded:** Mr. Holt

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

**PUBLIC HEARING** - Establishment of a Cap Bank for 2020 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14.

**Moved:** Mr. Rich

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

Followed by voice carry

**Close Public Hearing**

**Moved:** Mr. Lanza

**Seconded:** Mr. Holt

Followed by voice carry.

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-2E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-319** - Approval of the Cap Bank for 2020.

**Moved:** Mr. Rich

**Seconded:** Ms. Soloway

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Van Doren

**PUBLIC HEARING** - 2020 County Budget

**Mr. Van Doren** – commented on Ms. Previte’s work done to the budget. Tax rate 31%, same as 2018 and 2019, holding it flat. Thanked all department heads for their work on their department budgets.

**Moved:** Mr. Lanza

**Seconded:** Ms. Soloway

Followed by voice carry.

**Close Public Hearing:**

**Moved:** Mr. Rich

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

Followed by voice carry.

**MOTION** - Adoption of the 2020 County Budget

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Ms. Soloway

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Ms. Soloway

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-3A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-320** - Approving a sum in the amount of \$6,607,440.84 to be raised by taxation in 2020 for Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation.

**Moved:** Mr. Lanza

**Seconded:** Mr. Rich

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-3B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-321** - Approving a sum in the amount \$6,358,860.79 to be raised by taxation for the 2020 Operating Budget of the Hunterdon County Library.

**Moved:** Ms. Soloway

**Seconded:** Mr. Rich

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Ms. Soloway, Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-3C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-322** - Requesting permission from the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for the Dedication by Rider for a County Sheriff Dedicated Trust as required by 22A:4-8.1.

**Moved:** Mr. Rich

**Seconded:** Mr. Holt

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Rich, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**GRANTS: Janet Previte, CFO**

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-3D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-323** - Authorizing the Hunterdon County Department of Health to file a 2020-2021 LINCS Public Health Preparedness Grant renewal application with the New Jersey Department of Health, in the amount of \$269,673.00, for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

**Moved:** Ms. Soloway

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-3E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-324** - Authorizing the Freeholder Director to sign and accept a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant application with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, on behalf of the Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor, in the total program amount of \$373,832.00 (Federal funds: \$262,870.00; County match: \$110,962.00).

**Moved:** Mr. Rich

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Rich, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**PURCHASING: Ray Rule, Purchasing Agent**

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-3F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-325** – Approving Requisition #R0-02915 with Sky Printing, in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00, for the printing of the 2020 Primary Election Ballots for the Office of the Hunterdon County Clerk.

**Moved:** Mr. Lanza

**Seconded:** Ms. Soloway

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-3G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-326** - Authorizing award of County Bid #2020-01, in the amount of \$6,164,924.57 to Capital Paving & Contracting, LLC for the resurfacing of County Route 513 and County Route 628 in the Townships of Alexandria, Franklin and Lebanon, along with the Borough of Glen Gardner.

**TABLED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Marc Saluk, Director**

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-3H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-327** - Awarding a Professional Services Agreement for legal services with Giordano, Halleran, & Ciesla.

**Moved:** Mr. Lanza

**Seconded:** Mr. Holt

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Karen DeMarco, Department Head** – provided an update on the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency in Hunterdon County. Ms. DeMarco reviewed the numbers in Hunterdon County. Ms. DeMarco also reported on symptomology and how it helps quickly identify the virus. Long-term care facilities are acting quickly on implementing this, along with correction facilities. Infected residents can be asymptomatic making it harder to reduce the spread of COVID-19,

**OEM UPDATE: Brayden Fahey, OEM Director** – provided an update on the virus in Hunterdon County including the ongoing response by Hunterdon County OEM. 748 resource requests have been fulfilled including more than 100 over the past two weeks. 1,000 test kits are coming this week for long-term care facilities in the state including four long-term care facilities in Hunterdon County. Working with schools on graduation ceremonies. NJOEM and FEMA helping with costs in the county. Mr. Fahey noted it's the start of hurricane season and reminded everyone that Hurricane Arthur is coming early this weekend. Public works retrieved food from the food pantry in preparation for residents. Training Center has expanded their online courses. Recognized National EMS week. 375 COVID -19 calls since March 2020.

**HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE: Grace Kelly, Director** – provided an overview on how each department is working and helping during this challenging time. Ms. Kelly noted that staff is available to the public and provided an update on new employee onboarding and ongoing support of retirees. Ms. Kelly also noted that operations like the Senior Center are offering online work out classes along with the library continuing to offer remote story time.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE: Tom Mathews, County Engineer** – provided an update on various projects that are under construction including bridges RT-16 and L-6.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Kevin Davis** – Mentioned the Governor's comments on Hunterdon County and its COVID-19 cases. There are currently 577 positive cases out of 125,000 in Hunterdon County. Hoping to have employees back in the buildings by June but following the rules from the Governor's Office. Mentioned a forthcoming schedule which will be put in place.

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-4A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-328** - Authorizing the County Administrator to establish employee health procedures and protections for the Hunterdon County workforce.

**Moved:** Ms. Soloway

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

**CONSENT AGENDA**

“All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.”

Approval of claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated May 19, 2020.

**Moved:** Ms. Soloway

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren

**Abstain:** Mr. Rich

**Vote on Claims Register with Abstain Motion:**

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**Abstain:** Mr. Rich

Approval of the executive session meeting minutes of April 21, 2020.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

Approval of the regular and executive session meeting minutes of May 05, 2020.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-5A RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-329** - Authorizing a Discharge of Mortgage on a property known as Block 79.02, Lot 9.02 in the Township of Clinton, and recorded in the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office in Mortgage Book 3741, on page 387.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-5B RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-330** - Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to solicit competitive bids for the construction of a Range Building.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-5C RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-331** - Authorizing the conversion of appointment of Zachary T. Fleming to part time Laborer 1, in the Division of Roads of the Department of Public Works.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-5D RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-332** - Authorizing the appointment of Toby Hill to the title of Weights & Measures Apprentice, in the Division of Weights and Measures, of the Department of Health.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-5E RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-333** - Approving the promotion of Kevin Burghardt to the unclassified position of Division Director, in the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, Division of Housing.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-5F RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-334** - Authorizing the Freeholder Director to sign on behalf of the County, a Final Contract of Sale for the Higgins Property, identified as Block 35, Lot 2, in the Township of East Amwell.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-5G RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-335** - Acknowledging the appointment of Acting Prosecutor Michael J. Williams to appoint Julio Casso, as a County Investigator, in the Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**SEE PAGE 05/19/2020-5H RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #2020-336** - Authorizing the Freeholder Director to sign on behalf of the County, a Maintenance, Indemnification, and Hold Harmless Agreement between the Musconetcong Water Association, Inc., and Counties of Hunterdon and Warren for Block 30, Lot 7.01 in the Township of Bethlehem.

**Moved:** Mr. Holt

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Rich, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Stan Prater of JCP&L** – provided an update on JCP&L’s ongoing work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Nonessential employees have been working from home. Those who are working are following social distancing regulations. Trucks and work areas are conducted daily. Temp checks daily. Not canceling services during this time. Returning to work not before June 29<sup>th</sup> and then slowly bring workers back to work after then.

**Barbara Sachau – Raritan Township** asked for clarification on competitive bids being sought for the construction of a range building – asked to have it explained further.

**Mr. Davis** – explained that it is a firearms range in Hunterdon County where law enforcement officers, FBI, the state police and others conduct their required firearms certifications. Mr. Davis noted it will be a prefabricated building without bathrooms.

**Ms. Sachau** – C-1 water issues. Health is important and wants to have the public comment back at the beginning of the meeting and having two public comments. Re-opening the government is important. Thanked the Board for listening.

#### **FREEHOLDER COMMENTS/REPORTS**

**Ms. Soloway** – provided a census update and noted that Hunterdon County has the highest response rate in the State of New Jersey. Ms. Soloway thanked the residents who have completed the census and encourages others to do the same. Thanked the Budget Committee and CFO Janet Previte for the work on completing the 2020 budget with no increase in the tax rate again. Tax rate was held steady for the second year in a row. Ms. Soloway was also pleased to see some efforts to reopen the state’s economy. Ms. Soloway also provided an update on the new C-1 water regulations being put forth by NJDEP. Ms. Soloway thanked the Health Department staff and the Office of Emergency Management for all the work they have and continue to do during this crisis. She also thanked nurses, doctors, police officers, rescue squad volunteers, and all other essential workers.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **ADJOURN**

The Board adjourned at 7:22 PM on a motion by Freeholder Soloway and seconded by Freeholder Holt and carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted.

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**Brad Myhre, Clerk to the Board**

Transcribed by:

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**Lindsay Heller, Secretary to the Board**