

**MINUTES OF THE CAUCUS AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023
AT 2:00 AND 3:00 P.M. RESPECTIVELY
IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
4 MOORE ROAD
CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, NEW JERSEY**

CAUCUS

The meeting convened with Director Desiderio presiding and the following members answering roll call:

Commissioners Bulakowski, Hayes, Morey and Desiderio (4)

STATEMENT OF DIRECTOR

“This is a notice read pursuant to the requirements of the “Open Public Meetings Act.” At least 48 hours advance notice of this meeting has been provided by posting of the same in writing on the bulletin boards in the County Administration Building, and the County Clerk’s Office and mailing a copy of the notice to the Cape May County Herald and the Atlantic City Press and filing the same with the County Clerk, all being done on Thursday, January 5, 2023.”

MOMENT OF SILENCE

FLAG SALUTE-Led by Director Desiderio

Board of School Estimate

Jamie Moscony, Superintendent, gave a brief overview of programs, projects and construction updates with a 2023-2024 budget synopsis for the district. A PowerPoint presentation of each school was also shown.

1. Board of School Estimate-The Special Services School

Ms. Kathy Allen on behalf of the Cape May County Special Services School stated, BE IT RESOLVED that there should be raised for General Funds \$4,135,400.00 for 2023/2024 academic year.

Moved by Ms. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Morey, to approve the 2023/2024 Budget for the Special Services School District. Roll call: Commissioner Director Desiderio, Commissioner Vice Director Hayes, Commissioner Morey, Board President Alan Gould and Board Vice President Christopher Kobik. (AYE-5) (NAYE-None) (ABSENT-None) (ABSTAIN-None) Carried.

2. Board of School Estimate-The Technical High School

Ms. Lauren Flynn on behalf of the Cape May County Technical School stated, BE IT RESOLVED, that there should be raised for General Funds \$8,553,827.00 for 2023/2024 academic year.

Moved by Mr. Morey, seconded by Ms. Hayes, to approve the 2023/2024 Budget for the Technical School District. Roll call: Commissioner Director Desiderio, Commissioner Vice Director Hayes, Commissioner Morey, Board President Alan Gould, Board Vice President Christopher Kobik. (AYE-5) (NAYE-None) (ABSENT-None) (ABSTAIN-None) Carried.

Both members of the Board of County Commissioners and the School District expressed their mutual gratitude regarding the cooperation between the Board and School District. Mr. Desiderio, Ms. Hayes and Mr. Morey all expressed their gratitude to the representatives of the School District for the work they do for the children in the County.

PRESENTATION ON 2023 COUNTY BUDGET AND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

MINUTES OF CAUCUS AND REGULAR MEETINGS HELD MARCH 28, 2023 (CONTINUED)

Brittany Smith, Chief Financial Officer, presented a slideshow and overview of the 2023 County Budget for the County of Cape May, detailing the total projected budget to be in the amount of \$215,442,004.61. Copies of the budget are available in the office of the Board of County Commissioners located at 4 Moore Road, Cape May Court House, NJ, during the hours of 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Jeffrey Lindsay, County Counsel, provided an overview of the County's health insurance plan and assured the Board that the County's plan is comprehensive and cost-effective. Mr. Lindsay detailed the different components of the plan, including the Wellness Program, and provided an explanation of why remaining self-insured should be the County's continued policy in light of rising health care costs.

The Commissioners were pleased with both presentations offered as well as the responses to their questions.

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Lewis M. Ostrander - A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mr. Ostrander from Director Desiderio on behalf of the entire Board in recognition of Mr. Ostrander's retirement on December 31, 2022, from the Fire Academy and Fire Marshal's Office. Mr. Ostrander was hired in 1986, and over the course of his long career taught dozens of classes at the Academy, investigated hundreds of fires and served with honor and distinction throughout his tenure. Mr. Ostrander was also very active in the community as a volunteer in youth sports and various organizations. Cape May County Fire Marshal Conrad Johnson offered his remarks as to Mr. Ostrander's contributions to the Academy and Fire Marshal's Office stating he was an integral part of expanding the services as well as the accreditation of the department. Mr. Ostrander acknowledged his family and others in the audience while reflecting on his career. Pictures followed as well as the presentation of a plaque on behalf of the Cape May County Fire Chiefs Association.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

REPORTS:

- 1) ENGINEER: Mr. Church reported that most projects are on schedule with no major issues. Pacific Avenue in Lower Township and Wildwood Crest, Ocean Drive in Avalon, and County Route 610 in Dennis Township are all being base paved within the next week. 96th Street Bridge is progressing with minimal mitigation requirements. Phase I of the Lafayette Street project is being shortened due to emergency sewer line repairs the City of Cape May needs to undertake. Phase II will be ramped up for completion in the fall.
- 2) COUNTY COUNSEL: No report.
- 3) COUNTY TREASURER: No report.
- 4) COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: No report.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

- 1) COMMISSIONER MOREY: No report.
- 2) COMMISSIONER PIERSON: Absent.
- 3) COMMISSISONER BULAKOWSKI: Mr. Bulakowski attended the South Jersey Commissioners Association meeting in Gloucester County with Commissioners Hayes and Pierson, where a major topic of discussion was the rising health insurance costs. He said many counties are experiencing tax hikes due to this and expressed his appreciation to Jeff Lindsay and his team for the work they do for our program. He also attended the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization's meeting with Director Desiderio. Federal funding for infrastructure improvements was discussed but there is no definitive answer as to when those funds will trickle down to the County. Additionally, he said he is awaiting results of a

MINUTES OF CAUCUS AND REGULAR MEETINGS HELD MARCH 28, 2023 (CONTINUED)

study done by the SJTA regarding the needed adjustments to the Fare Free Program. Mr. Bulakowski thanked Kevin Lare and Ron Simone for getting him up to speed on the departments he oversees and reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt taking place at the County Park & Zoo on April 1, 2023.

- 4) COMMISSIONER HAYES: Vice Director Hayes attended the South Jersey Commissioners Association meeting as well and informed the Board that Commissioner Bulakowski was sworn in as Secretary of the association. She stated the County is well represented as Commissioner Pierson serves as Vice Chair. She also thanked Jeff Lindsay and team for their foresight in developing and maintaining our health insurance plan. She advised other counties and municipalities are forming a coalition to see what alternatives they can pursue because they are being hard hit with the cost increase. She stated it felt good to be able to tell the Executive Director of the SJCA that Cape May County is not feeling the effects since we are self-insured and remarked there was friendly competition at the meeting with the few other counties whose tax rates went down to see whose decreased the most. Lastly, Ms. Hayes attended the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce meeting with the other commissioners.

- 5) COMMISSIONER DESIDERIO: In addition to the usual meetings he attends as Commissioner, Director Desiderio attended the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization’s meeting in Vineland and gave the “State of the County” address to the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce the week prior at the Deauville Inn in Strathmere. He again offered his compliments to Brittany Smith and Jeff Lindsay for their presentations today.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE 03/28/23 MEETINGS
 Commissioner Hayes moved/ Commissioner Bulakowski seconded.

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X					X
Ms. Hayes	X				X	
Mr. Morey			X			
Mr. Pierson				X		
Mr. Desiderio	X					

Commissioner Pierson joins the meeting via telephone.

Motion to open Public Comment for Consent Agenda

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X				X	
Ms. Hayes	X					X
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

Public Comment: None

Motion to close Public Comment for Consent Agenda

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X					X
Ms. Hayes	X				X	
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Resolution Nos. 191-23 through 223-23

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X				X	
Ms. Hayes	X					X
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

RESOLUTIONS:

- 191-23 Resolution urging for an Immediate Moratorium on the development of Offshore Wind Farms until further study of the impacts to marine mammals.
(This Resolution urges for an immediate moratorium of Ocean Wind 1 and other offshore wind farms until further study of the impact to marine mammals can be completed.)
- 192-23 Resolution granting and amending various Leaves of Absence to County Employees.
(This Resolution authorizes County Employees to be placed on a Leave of Absence in accordance with the County Leave of Absence Policy and the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).)
- 193-23 Resolution approving the monthly disbursements from the Department of Human Services for the TANF, General Assistance and Clearing Accounts.
(This Resolution accepts and approves the monthly disbursements for the TANF, General Assistance and Clearing Accounts as submitted by the Fiscal Department for the Department of Human Services.)
- 194-23 Resolution supplementing the 2023 Salary Resolution and approving appointments and salaries.
(This Resolution authorizes the hiring of new County employees, temporary assignment pay, salary changes or corrections, title changes and promotions of County employees when applicable.)
- 195-23 Resolution authorizing the write-off of certain accounts receivable at Cape May County Department of Health.
(This Resolution authorizes the Cape May County Department of Health to write-off uncollectible accounts receivable originating from Environmental Health Services and Family Planning Clinic dating back from 2019-2022.)
- 196-23 Resolution approving contract documents for Drainage Improvements along Landis Avenue (CR619) at 55th Street, Sea Isle City and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise for bids for same.
(This Resolution approves contract documents and authorizes advertisement.)
- 197-23 Resolution authorizing an Indemnification Agreement with ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter for its ALS Express Bike Ride on June 10, 2023.
(This Resolution gives permission to ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter to utilize portions of County roads for a bike ride.)
- 198-23 Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$62,987.50 to South State, Inc. for Ocean Drive (CR619) 62nd Street to 80th Street Resurfacing Improvements, Borough of Avalon.
(This Resolution authorizes a change order to adjust various pay items in the contract to reflect as-built conditions.)
- 199-23 Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 3-Final in the amount of \$130,010.78 to South State, Inc. for Roadway and Infrastructure Improvements at the Cape May County Airport.
(This Resolution authorizes a change order to adjust various pay items in the contract to reflect as-built conditions.)
- 200-23 Resolution designating new members to the Cumberland/Salem/Cape May Workforce Development Board and establishing terms of appointment, per the New Jersey State Employment Commission "Policy on Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Member Appointments and Process".
(This Resolution appoints a member representing Cape May County on the Cumberland/Salem/Cape May Workforce Development Board and establishes the term of appointment.)
- 201-23 Resolution authorizing an Indemnification Agreement among Police Unity Tour Chapter II, Cape May County Bridge Commission and the County for a group bicycle ride May 10, 2023.
(This Resolution authorizes an organization to conduct an event involving the use of bridges and roads owned by the Bridge Commission and the County, respectively.)

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- 202-23 Resolution authorizing payment to The Travelers Insurance Company for various claims in the total amount of \$9,698.75.
(This Resolution authorizes payment to the Travelers Insurance Company, Property-Casualty Department, for various claims.)
- 203-23 Resolution authorizing renewal with National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA for Group Accident Coverage in the amount of \$1,547.00.
(This Resolution authorizes renewal of coverage for Community Service (SLAP Program), Fire Hawk Program, OEM and County Volunteers Group Accident Insurance for the term of February 1, 2023 through February 1, 2024.)
- 204-23 Resolution authorizing the execution of a Second Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Township of Lower and the County of Cape May regarding Code Blue Warming Centers.
(This Resolution authorizes the execution of a Second Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Township of Lower and the County of Cape May regarding Code Blue Warming Centers.)
- 205-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award No. 23SRBNJ005 from the Corporation for National and Community Service for the FY2023 Retired Senior Volunteer Program in the amount of \$103,415.00 for the period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2026.
(This Resolution accepts a grant award for the FY2023 Retired Senior Volunteer Program for the period 4/1/23 to 3/31/26 in the amount of Federal \$62,523.00, Local Cash Match \$40,892.00, and Excess Amount of \$13,891.00.)
- 206-23 Resolution applying to New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Highway Traffic Safety for Underage Alcohol Enforcement Project Grant for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$43,000.00.
(This Resolution applies for grant funds for underage alcohol enforcement and investigative expenses for the period of 10/01/23 to 09/30/24.)
- 207-23 Resolution applying to New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for the FY23 Homeland Security Grant Program for a total amount of \$193,124.04 for the period September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026.
(This Resolution authorizes an application to the State of New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness in the total amount of \$193,124.04 to provide funding to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to and recover from threats.)
- 208-23 Resolution authorizing Agreement with New Jersey Transit Corporation for the 2023 Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program (SCDRTAP) from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$660,628.19.
(This Resolution authorizes an agreement with the New Jersey Transit Corporation from 01/01/23 through 12/31/23 in the amount of \$660,628.19 to provide available and accessible transportation to senior citizens so they may obtain the necessities of life.)
- 209-23 Resolution amending Resolution No. 55-23 applying to State of New Jersey for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) No. JAG 1-5TF-19 administered by The Department of Law and Public Safety in the amount of \$47,553.00 for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
(This Resolution approves submission of an application to New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety for funds to support the Multi-Jurisdictional Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force Program and authorizes to accept grant funds for purpose described in application.)
- 210-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award from New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety for Edward Byrne Memorial FY19 Justice Assistance Program for Multi-Jurisdictional Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force Grant No. JAG 1-5TF-19 in the amount of \$47,553.00.
(This Resolution authorizes acceptance of a grant award for the period of 7/1/20 through 6/30/21 in the amount of \$47,553.00.)
- 211-23 Resolution applying to State of New Jersey Division of Administration Department of Law and Public Safety for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant #V-35-21 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$590,576.00.
(This Resolution is applying to State of New Jersey Division of Administration Department of Law and Safety for funding in the amount of \$590,576.00 (\$362,547.00 of the Federal and \$228,029.00 of the In-Kind Match funds) through the Victims of

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Crime Act (VOCA), Grant #V-35-21 to support victim service projects for the period of 7/1/23 to 6/30/24.)

- 212-23 Resolution amending Resolution No. 672-21 accepting Grant Award from New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Office of Attorney General, Subaward No. TJP-2-18 for the FFY18 Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutor's Grant Program in the amount of \$6,656.00 to change grant period to January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023.
(This Resolution amends Resolution No. 672-21 authorizing the County to accept a grant award in the amount of \$6,656.00 to be used for the Training Needs of Juvenile Prosecutor's Grant Program for the new grant period 1/1/23 to 8/31/23.)
- 213-23 Resolution transferring funds 2022 Budget.
(This Resolution authorizes the transfer of funds from one department to another department.)
- 214-23 Resolution establishing Temporary Emergency Budget 2023.
(This Resolution establishes an emergency temporary budget to enable ongoing payments until the final budget has been adopted.)
- 215-23 Resolution to exceed the County budget appropriation limits and to establish a CAP Bank for Fiscal Year 2023 (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).
(This Resolution establishes a CAP bank for Fiscal Year 2023 and schedules a public hearing for April 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.)
- 216-23 Resolution authorizing Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions under Title VII of the Civil Right Act of 1964".
(This Resolution is a certification of compliance with the United States Equal Opportunity Commission pursuant to P.L. 2017, c.183.)
- 217-23 Resolution awarding Contracts to Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC to provide Broker of Record Services for County of Cape May.
(This Resolution awards two contracts to Marsh & McLennan to provide Broker of Record Services; Contract No. C3-44 for Property, Insurance Brokerage, Consulting and Risk Management Services and Contract No. C3-52 for Health Care Consulting and Risk Management Services, for a term of one (1) year, commencing April 1, 2023, with two (2) one-year options.)
- 218-23 Resolution awarding Contract No. C3-55 to Smeltzer & Sons Feed, Inc., to furnish and deliver animal feed and supplies for various Departments.
(This Resolution awards Contract No. C3-55 to Smeltzer & Sons Feed, Inc., to furnish and deliver animal feed and supplies for the Park & Zoo, Animal Shelter & Adoption Center, and the Sheriff's Canine & Mounted Units, on an as-needed basis, for a term of one (1) year, commencing April 12, 2023, with two (2) one-year options.)
- 219-23 Resolution awarding Contract No. C3-54 to Siemens Industry, Inc., for service, maintenance, and repair of building automation and fire alarm systems at the Cape May County Correctional Center.
(This Resolution awards Contract No. C3-54 to Siemens Industry, Inc., to provide service, maintenance, and repair of building automation and fire alarm systems at the Cape May County Correctional Center on an as-needed basis, for a term of one (1) year, commencing March 29, 2023, with two (2) one-year options.)
- 220-23 Resolution awarding Contract No. C3-53 to Vann Dodge Chrysler, LLC to furnish and deliver two (2) new 2023 4-Door Sport Jeep Wranglers for the Department of Health.
(This Resolution awards Contract No. C3-53 to Vann Dodge Chrysler, LLC to furnish and deliver two (2) new 2023 4-Door Sport Jeep Wranglers to the Department of Health in the amount of \$110,580.00.)
- 221-23 Resolution amending Contract No. C1-50 with Trinity Services Group, Inc. adjusting unit cost per meal at Cape May County Correctional Center.
(This Resolution amends Contract No. C1-50 with Trinity Services Group, Inc. for CPI adjustment per meal for Inmates, to \$2.019, and for Staff, to \$2.83, effective April 1, 2023.)

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222-23 Resolution authorizing Consent to Assignment of Contract No. C9-181 with Tracker Software Group to GIS Workshop, LLC dba gWorks effective December 2, 2022.
(This Resolution authorizes County’s consent of assignment of Contract No. C9-181 with Tracker Software Group to GIS Workshop, LLC dba gWorks, effective December 2, 2022.)

223-23 Resolution approving Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Application to Defiant Charters, LLC in the amount of \$260,000.00.
(This Resolution authorizes a commercial fishing loan in the amount of \$260,000.00 to Defiant Charters, LLC for the purchase of a new board, new motors and payoff of a current loan with the Revolving Fishing Loan Program.)

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON CAPITAL ORDINANCE 1-23 COUNTY COMMONS

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X					X
Ms. Hayes	X				X	
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON CAPITAL ORDINANCE 1-23 COUNTY COMMONS

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X				X	
Ms. Hayes	X					X
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

MOTION TO ADOPT CAPITAL ORDINANCE 1-23

Capital Ordinance providing for various improvements to the County Commons (Formerly the Rio Mall), in and for the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey; and appropriating \$1,000,000 therefor from the County’s capital improvement fund to pay for the cost thereof.

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski			X			
Ms. Hayes	X				X	
Mr. Morey	X					X
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR DESIDERIO ’S BUDGET MESSAGE

Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to present my first budget as the Director of the Board and also the Director of Finance to the Cape May County Board of Commissioners. This has been a long process that began in September and is culminating with the introduction of the budget at today's meeting.

I am happy to report to you that our County is doing well, and we should all take pride in the fact that we continue to take the lead in the State in providing fundamental core services to our residents, support to our municipalities, and fiscally responsible government to the people who pay the bills.

The 2023 budget before you for consideration includes a tax rate decrease in the amount of 2.5 cents, which is unprecedented. The amount to be raised by taxes to support the budget is \$161 million which is 75% of the total operating budget - the balance is funded by grants and miscellaneous revenues. As you all know, there has been an explosion in the value of our ratables, but this budget is fiscally responsible and plans for the day when property values level.

Additionally, this budget includes the ability to pay cash for more capital projects, it accelerates our debt payments with an additional \$3 million payment, increases our surplus,

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shrinks our workforce and plans for the future. Our financial health is very strong. We have reinvigorated our emphasis on partnering with all of our 16 municipalities in creating opportunities of support and working together. As demonstrated recently, the County made available to every municipality \$400,000 grants for infrastructure improvements utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds the County received - \$6.4 million in total which will come before the Board at our next meeting for approval.

We continue to pave roads, fix drainage, improve our parks, zoo and recreation, provide services for the elderly and less fortunate, and build bridges. Currently in 2023, we have \$48.2 million of road reconstruction projects in various stages; \$39.3 million in bridge projects underway and \$44.8 million in capital projects including the expansion of parking at our beloved zoo. Included in this 2023 budget is an additional \$7 million of pay-as-you-go capital that will be appropriated in-part to maintenance paving and drainage projects on county roads. We continue to build the fund for our replacement bridge program which is progressing with a soon to be released preliminary engineering RFP for the Ocean Drive bridge project. This massive project will take years in design, permitting and construction, and will require substantial federal and state funding partners.

The County has engaged a professional planning firm to study ways to expand and enhance passive and active recreational opportunities on county land and available parcels with a goal aimed at enriching our quality-of-life experiences for the young and old.

Our Veteran’s cemetery is also on the list of projects this calendar year as Phase 1 of a multi-year beautification plan is underway and will further enhance the reverence to this sacred ground of our fallen soldiers and their spouses.

As you are aware, tourism remains the number one industry in Cape May County generating \$7 billion in direct tourism spending and more than 10 million annual visitors. Last year we outpaced all other counties in the food and beverage, retail and recreation sales.

We are waiting for the full spending report for 2022 from the state but from Occupancy Tax data collected, Cape May County's tourism industry is expected to have made a full recovery in 2022, ahead of the statewide projections. The Board of County Commissioners helped contribute to the recovery efforts by dedicating an additional \$250,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds for media buys in our key markets. Further, and based on 2022 Occupancy Tax data, Cape May County's growth in the lodging sector alone has increased by 18% over 2021.

One of the most concerning issues facing our County is the potential installation of hundreds of windmills off our beaches by Ocean Wind One and Two and other offshore wind projects. The Board of Commissioners of course supports clean, renewable energy. But we are deeply concerned about the potential impact of windmills along our beaches to tourism, to our fisheries, to the health of the ocean. We think there should be a pause, as witnessed by the passage of Resolution 191-23 today, to see if that stops the whale and dolphin deaths. I was there last week when 8 dolphins died on the beach in Sea Isle City. It is a terrible thing and we need to get to the bottom of it. There have been a lot of questions about what steps we have taken in connection with the efforts of the wind company Orsted. We have been working with the City of Ocean City and 9 other towns in CMC for many months now to challenge the process and the elimination of Home Rule. This process is moving forward quickly and with little to no regard of the impact the windmills will have on Cape May County's economy, environment, and quality of life. The first of several Public Information Sessions was held March 15th in Ocean City and Congressman Van Drew held a congressional hearing in Wildwood.

2023 is filled with a robust agenda for our County with many issues that are important to all of us. We will continue to work vigorously with great respect and admiration for the people we serve. Cape May County is in strong financial health and well positioned to address the issues before us.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023 BUDGET

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X					X
Ms. Hayes	X				X	
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

MINUTES OF CAUCUS AND REGULAR MEETINGS HELD MARCH 28, 2023 (CONTINUED)

MOTION TO PAY BILLS:

Commissioner Hayes moved/Commissioner Bulakowski seconded

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X					X
Ms. Hayes	X				X	
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

Motion to approve Resolution No. 190-23

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X					X
Ms. Hayes	X				X	
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

190-23 Resolution authorizing the Board to enter executive session excluding the public on March 28, 2023.

Matters falling within collective bargaining negotiations, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(4).

(This Resolution authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to conduct a meeting excluding the public at the stated time in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1, et seq.)

Motion to open Public Comment

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X				X	
Ms. Hayes	X					X
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Robert DiOrio of 1 Lexington Court, Seaville, NJ, addressed the Board regarding rising property taxes in Upper Township and suggests a 1 cent on the dollar “Tourism Tax” through the summer months to help stabilize the annual increase to property taxes. He also discussed the recent onslaught of marine life deaths in the area and said the rest of the country needs to be made aware of our plight, that this is a non-partisan issue, and the wind turbines will continue to have a devastating effect on the East Coast. He finished by reading a letter he wrote to President Biden imploring him to stop the project, including testing, now.

Motion to close Public Comment

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X					X
Ms. Hayes	X				X	
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

ADJOURN:

Motion to Adjourn

Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Motion	Second
Mr. Bulakowski	X				X	
Ms. Hayes	X					X
Mr. Morey	X					
Mr. Pierson	X					
Mr. Desiderio	X					

3:59 P.M. TIME

APPROVED

DIRECTOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE BOARD