

MINUTES OF A CAUCUS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 4 MOORE ROAD, CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, NEW JERSEY ON TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.

Deputy Clerk Doyle called the meeting to order. The following members answered roll call:

Commissioners Desiderio, Hayes, Morey and Thornton -Present (4)
Commissioner Pierson - Absent (1)

Statement of the 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 Wednesday, January 6, 2021.”

Moment of Silence

Flag Salute- Led by Commissioner Director Thornton

Agenda Items

Discussion:

1. Allison Hansen-Purchasing Report

Ms. Hansen detailed awards, extensions, or changes to contracts, and competitive contracting of the following resolutions: Res. Nos. 243-21, 244-21, 248-21, 254-21, 255-21, and 263-21.

Res. 243-21 awarding Contract No. C1-64 to Penn Power Group, LLC d/b/a Penn Power Systems to provide Preventative Maintenance, Testing and as Needed Repairs & Parts for Generators for the Department of Facilities & Services.

Res. 244-21 authorizing Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. C9-169 with LGB Mechanical, Inc. to Furnish and Install Four (4) New HVAC Units at the Cape May County Superior Court House Building in the amount of \$9,090.71.

Res. 248-21 awarding Contracts No. C1-63 to Belleplain Emergency Corporation and No. C1-65 to Tricare Medical Transportation, LLC to Provide Medical Transportation Services for Crest Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Res. 254-21 awarding Contract No. C1-68 to DNP Imagingcomm America Corporation D/B/A Innovative FOTO to Furnish, Deliver, and Service Portable Digital Imaging Photo Kiosk for the Cape May County Park & Zoo.

Res. 255-21 authorizing Change Order No. 4 to Contract No. C0-70 with R. Wilkinson & Sons Construction for Safari Café in the amount of \$42,061.30.

Res. 263-21 awarding Contract No. C1-70 to MJJ Construction, LLC for Construction of Middle Thorofare Toll Booth Rehabilitation for Cape May County Bridge Commission in the amount of \$163,000.00.

April 13, 2021, (Continued)

2. Robert Church-Engineer's Update

The following resolutions on the agenda to be authorized during the Regular Meeting of Board tonight were acknowledged or discussed by Mr. Church.

Res. 258-21 authorizing renewal of expansion of pedestrian access for a portion of Beach Avenue.

Res. 265-21 approving modification of bridge operations for Ocean Drive (CR619) across Great Channel Bridge (No. 0500-028), Township of Middle and Borough of Stone Harbor.

Res. 267-21 authorizing Change Order No. 1-Final in the amount of \$17,955.67 to South State, Inc. for Webster Avenue (CR638) Improvements from Washington Avenue to Commodore Road, Borough of Woodbine.

Res. 268-21 accepting the work and closing the contract of South State, Inc. for Corsons Tavern Road (CR628) Resurfacing Improvements Phase II, Townships of Dennis and Upper.

Res. 269-21 accepting the work and closing the contract of Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for Professional Traffic and Roadside Safety Engineering Services for Ocean Drive (CR621) Speed Reduction and Speed Zone Adjustment Study, Township of Lower.

Res. 270-21 accepting the work and closing the contract of Stantec Consulting Services Inc for Professional Traffic and Roadside Safety Engineering Services for Reeds Beach Road (CR655) Speed Reduction Study, Township of Middle.

Res. 271-21 authorizing Tuckahoe Volunteer Fire Company to solicit contributions along Woodbine-Marshallville Road (CR617), Township of Upper.

3. Kevin Lare-Administrator Update

Mr. Lare spoke on the American Recovery Act funding. New information had not been forthcoming or guidance about how it would play into the final budget figures for 2021. Probably, he stated the budget would be adopted at the April 27, 2021 meeting with additional resolutions authorized, related to the need to increase the temporary budget during the interim.

He commented on the plan and cost to build a Child Advocacy Center for the Prosecutor's Office. A second round of funding would be sought to finance the project due to bids coming in over budget. The idea to move the lab from the Prosecutor's Office to the Health Department had been abandoned.

4. Dr. Gaba-Atlantic Cape Community College Update

Dr. Gaba described this years' annual commencement exercises, consisting of a drive through ceremony followed by a virtual ceremony, which would be available on Atlantic Cape YouTube Channel. Dr. Natasha Corbitt, the first black pediatric surgeon to also hold a PhD. was to be the keynote speaker for the event. She began her higher education at A.C.C.C. at the age 15.

April 13, 2021, (Continued)

The president informed the board that this was the third straight semester of remote instruction since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March of 2020.

Initiatives implemented to support students and the community over the past year due to the pandemic:

- a) A.C.C.C. provided millions of dollars in emergency financial aid.
- b) They spent 65,000 to provide students textbooks in the spring of 2020.
- c) A.C.C.C. Foundation awarded 513 scholarships totaling over \$650,000 in 2020.
- d) They started a laptop loaner program and additional academic support was/is available.
- e) Online tutoring was offered 24/7.
- f) Food insecurity initiatives were implemented with foodbank and gift card donations provided students and their families.
- g) The Health Sciences Department donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to frontline workers at Cape Regional Medical Center and Atlantic Regional Medical Center.
- h) Nursing students worked at the mega site in Atlantic City giving vaccinations or registering and assisting disabled individuals with wheelchairs.
- i) A.C.C.C. and Caring for Kids co-hosted a “Trunk or Treat” event on the Cape May Campus parking lot for 500 people.
- j) Four hundred individuals attended a Christmas parade held on the Cape May Campus in December.
- k) People in the local communities were supported by the provision of free workforce training and development for displaced workers.
- l) The college held a free “Strengthen your Potential Series” which included sessions on preparing for interviews and writing resumes. Also, they offered free on-line training webinars on such topics as interviewing skills, job searches and personal finance. One thousand participants took advantage of the sessions.
- m) Free workforce training was provided to unemployed individuals and displaced workers. These programs included certified medical assistant, EMT, paramedic, culinary cooking professionals to name a few.
- n) The Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) and free tuition program was signed into law in February and made permanent by Governor Murphy, like the NJ Stars and TAG Programs. A marketing campaign was planned, which would target individuals or families with a combined income less than \$55,000.00 to let them know of the opportunity and funding that was available for them to attend college.
- o) Last fall, the USDA awarded a Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) in the amount of \$40,000.00 to the school. With the award, a small business development & entrepreneur resource center in Cape May County (Biz Hub) would be implemented to identify and train small businesses with special outreach to women, minorities and veterans. Additional funding would be provided by Crest Savings Bank. Many of the details to this initiative had been accomplished and were already in place.

Future initiatives:

April 13, 2021, (Continued)

1. Later this month, Stockton and A.C.C.C. together would be submitting a grant application to the New Jersey Offshore Wind Safety Training Challenge Grant. Up to \$3 million could be awarded to assist local wind organizations with safety and sea travel training. Union workers doing any construction and maintenance to wind farms were required to have this training and renew every 2 years.
2. In fall 2021, the drone program would be relocated to the Cape May Campus with an initial cohort of 18 students. Other courses would be added each semester until the full course of study was on the Cape May Campus by spring 2023.
3. A project to revamp the baseball field on the May's Landing Campus was underway.
4. This years' Restaurant Gala would be held at Harrah's Waterfront Casino outside in the month of June.
5. Registration for summer and fall courses began last week. By fall, in person classes would resume with strict guidelines in place.

5. Commissioner Discussions

Commissioner Morey- Mr. Morey talked about the planned concept development study for the Townsends Inlet Bridge and a sample RFP and memo that was sent to fellow board members to inform them of the process/progress of the project. The sample RFP to go out would be discussed at the next commissioner meeting. Bob Church added to the discussion by providing the background information and logic behind the decision to move forward if authorized.

Commissioner Hayes-Ms. Hayes thanked Bob Church and commented on Res. 258-21 which allowed for expansion of the pedestrian access in the City of Cape May on designated streets.

Commissioner Desiderio-No discussion.

Commissioner Thornton-The director made comments, which prompted a brief dialogue regarding the proposed offshore wind farm coming to Cape May County. He stated he had been in contact with local fisherman regarding the installation of the turbines, which he opposed. He asked the board to support opposition until they had a chance to investigate further the ramifications. He detailed his concerns and the issue to which he was strongly opposed. Protecting commercial fisherman and the fishing industry was his main concern, he stated. He instructed Kevin Lare to invite the fisherman to the next caucus to present and explain their position.

Moved by Mr. Desiderio seconded by Ms. Hayes to adjourn the caucus. Roll call: Commissioners Desiderio, Hayes, Morey and Thornton (AYE-4) (NAYE-None) (ABSTAIN-None) (ABSENT-One). Carried.

Caucus adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Administrator/Clerk of the Board