

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 27, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.

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

Commissioners Hayes, Morey and Thornton - Present (3)
Commissioner Pierson - Virtual (1)
Commissioner Desiderio – Absent (1) arrived 3:42 p.m.

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

Presentations:

1. United Bridge Partners

The Board heard a presentation given by Ryan Dolan, Vice-President of Business Development with the assistance of Lee Whitney, Senior Associate of United Bridge Partners (UBP) based in Colorado. UBP’s objective was to replace and repair bridges in need according to the VP. Their proposal included four of the five CMC Bridge Commission operated toll bridges. The firm maintained they could finance, design, build, own, operate and maintain the bridges with 100% equity financing. All risk would be assumed by UBP. Up till now, they had worked on six bridges in five states.

After hearing the rationale behind partnering with UBP the Commissioners concurred and requested UBP come back again in a month or six weeks with the Bridge Commission and its Board present. Salaries, revenue stream, cost to maintain the bridges, and estimates for repair or replacement already configured would be provided UBP at that time, for a more accurate cost analysis.

2. Representatives from the Fishing Industry on Wind Projects impacts:

Greg DiDomenico-Lund’s Fisheries

Mr. DiDomenico, a commercial fisherman’s advocate from the area, named the different concerns of everyone involved and various reasons wind farms might not be compatible with the fishing industry specifically.

Scot Mackey, Executive Director-Garden State Seafood Association

April 27, 2021, (Continued)

Mr. Mackey detailed the scope of the various ports and fisherman he currently represented in Trenton. He talked about holding the developers accountable and pushing back against the developers to force coexistence.

Jeff Kaelin-Lund's Fisheries

Mr. Kaelin mentioned environmental issues, creating sustainable fisheries, and protecting the habitat. They were looking for the NJDEP to assist them going forward he stated. The fishing industry did not feel their concerns were being recognized in this. He indicated that it was hoped the DEP could create a regional approach designed to identify the concerns of the fishing industry. In summation, he said a better planning process was needed and they could do better.

Commissioner Director Thornton specified the reservations he had about wind turbines being built here.

Commissioner Morey commented on the MOU that was part of an agreement between the DEP, federal agencies, NOAA and the fisheries, that all parties had signed a little over a year ago.

Commissioner Hayes asked about the representatives meeting with the new commissioner of the NJDEP.

Commissioner Pierson suggested the Southern New Jersey County Commissioners might want to write a letter of support for the fishing industry.

Discussion:

1. Allison Hansen-Purchasing Report

Ms. Hansen detailed awards, extensions, or changes to contracts, and competitive contracting of the following resolutions: Res. Nos. 282-21 and 283-21.

Res. 282-21 authorizing the purchase of CodeRED Emergency Notification System for Office of Emergency Management in the amount of \$21,000.00 per year.

Res. 283-21 awarding Contract No. C1-79 to Aliano Brothers General Contractors, Inc. for construction of Children's Advocacy Center in the amount of \$886,081.25.

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. 315-21 authorizing the use of competitive contracting to provide Professional Engineering Services for Concept Development Study of Townsends Inlet Bridge Replacement.

Res. 316-21 amending Resolution No. 229-21 authorizing advancement of preliminary engineering for Alternative 3 of the Local Public Concept Development of the Ocean Drive (CR621) Upgrades and Bridge Improvements.

April 27, 2021, (Continued)

3. Kevin Lare, County Administrator- None

4. Commissioner Discussions-None

Moved by Ms. Hayes seconded by Mr. Desiderio to adjourn the caucus. Roll call: Commissioners Desiderio, Hayes, Morey, Pierson and Thornton (AYE-5) (NAYE-None) (ABSTAIN-None) (ABSENT-None). Carried.

Caucus adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Administrator/Clerk of the Board