

MINUTES OF A CAUCUS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 4 MOORE ROAD, CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, NEW JERSEY ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.

Administrator Bozzelli called the meeting to order. The following members answered roll call:

Freeholders Desiderio, Hayes, Morey, Pierson and Thornton were present remotely (5)

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 Friday, April 3, 2020.” This announcement will be made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Moment of Silence

Flag Salute-Led by Freeholder Pierson

1. Freeholder Discussions

Mr. Morey’s comments were barely audible, except for a statement regarding how much he appreciated everyone’s contributions to the reopening proposal being sent to Governor Phil Murphy.

Mr. Pierson stated he had sent an update of the actions list to each board member. He reported sitting in on a teleconference with Atlantic City Electric. They had apprised attendees about their updated equipment and improvements made for response to disasters in the future. Also, he noted that they had contributed to the community by donating \$75,000 to the United Way recently, and were doing a wonderful job.

Ms. Hayes thanked and recognized Mr. Morey, Mr. Desiderio and other members of the Recovery Task Force for putting together the proposal to go up to the governor. She had read the proposal and commented it was comprehensive and complete.

Mr. Desiderio was inaudible.

Mr. Thornton announced they were going to authorize a resolution today, in support of the document going up to the state. Mike Donahue had received input from the Director, and Freeholders Pierson and Desiderio had spoken to him about some of the issues while it was in the process of being written.

He reported he had sat in on the conference call this morning with the County Task Force. The numbers showed that the county seemed to be doing a little better but still positive cases were showing up here.

He related that over the weekend he had travelled throughout the county and was happy with what he witnessed. He hoped everybody continued to maintain the requirements that were in place to protect the public health, he stated.

May 5, 2020, (Continued)

Ms. Bozzelli gave a brief overview of her actions as County Administrator. She continued on the daily calls with the governor's office. A uniform plan to reopen county government was being worked on by all the administrators, she informed. It would be a phased in plan. They were evaluating different precautions that might need to be taken upon return of the workforce. She reported the department heads had been doing a wonderful job delegating tasks and flexing workdays and/or hours so that all tasks were still being done. Opening the county buildings once again to the public still had to be evaluated, she stated. This information would come down from the governor's executive and state police orders.

Director Thornton interjected that he had several conversations with Beth and Sara about the county opening. It's very important that we maintain distancing with our employees and to create a policy which addressed the wearing of masks to keep everybody safe. A Health and Safety Policy was being developed for county employees. The Office of Emergency Management Director, Marty Pagliughi was looking into getting masks for the employees. Initially it was going to be made mandatory with the exception of individuals working outdoors on the lawns, etc.

Freeholder Hayes informed that she would be holding another call for the executive board of NJAC on Friday. She asked if there were any concerns that she could bring forth for discussion. On the previous call, the board was very interested in the county initiative to reopen. Additionally, she asked for collaboration with fellow board members for the May 11th Middle Township Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting. The freeholder had been asked to speak on several topics, some of which she was not as familiar with, as some of the other freeholders, such as the County Commons Project.

Director Thornton advised that at this time he would be hesitant to put out to all the other counties, Cape May County's initiative to re-open, until a response of support was received back from the governor's office.

Ms. Bozzelli offered Freeholder Hayes a file containing the background on the proposed Main and Mechanic Project that was halted due to grant money not coming through to fund it.

Freeholder Pierson thanked Freeholders Desiderio and Morey for taking the initiative with the county reopening proposal. He also recognized Kevin Thomas for his contribution providing facts, figures and statistics for the document. He stated a concern around Memorial Day and whether or not the ceremony should be cancelled this year or possibly done an alternate way so it would still take place. Director Thornton was in agreement to finding something to do in recognition.

Director Thornton asked for a motion and a second on the resolution to go with the proposal.

Clerk of the Board reads the resolution by title:

Resolution supporting the proposal for the safe, thoughtful and progressive reopening of the County of Cape May in the time of COVID-19 and amending County Resolution 250-20.

Moved by Mr. Desiderio seconded by Mr. Pierson to authorize the resolution supporting the proposal. Roll call: Freeholders Desiderio, Hayes, Morey, Pierson and Thornton (AYE-5) (NAYE-None) (ABSTAIN-None) (ABSENT-None). Carried.

May 5, 2020, (Continued)

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

Caucus adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Administrator/Clerk of the Board