

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, AUGUST 23, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.

Vice Director Desiderio called the meeting to order. The following members answered roll call:

Present: Commissioners Hayes, Morey, Pierson and Desiderio (4)

Absent: Commissioner Director Thornton

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 Tuesday, January 11, 2022.”

Moment of Silence

Flag Salute-Led by Commissioner Pierson

Discussion:

1. Allison Hansen- Purchasing Report

Ms. Hansen detailed awards, extensions, or changes to contracts, and competitive contracting of the following resolutions: Res. Nos. 549-22, 551-22 and 552-22.

Res. 549-22 acknowledging contract with Constellation New Energy, Inc. to provide electricity to County of Cape May through the South Jersey Power Cooperative.

The contract is comprised of a .02% increase in the kilowatt per hour on the County’s electric bill for the next 12 months. Ms. Hansen anticipates seeing a change in price after 12 months. Ron Simone, Assistant Administrator is working on an RFP for energy savings she informed.

Res. 551-22 awarding Contract No. C2-154 to Olivieri, Shousky & Kiss, PA dba OSK Design Partners, PA for Architectural Services for Prosecutor’s Office Building.

Contract not to exceed \$252,850.00. Notice to proceed issued tomorrow for Task 1 only. Each subsequent task will require approval by the Board.

Res. 552-22 awarding Contract No. C2-134 to Merrell & Garaguso, Inc. for Renovation and Restoration of the Cape May City Library at the Historic Franklin Street School.

Contract not to exceed \$9,114,995.00. Notice to proceed issued tomorrow. Work to begin asap.

Commissioner Hayes questioned Ms. Hansen about the energy contract, Res. 549-22, asking her the probability of the rates going up again in twelve months when the contract expired.

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Commissioner Pierson asked somebody check with Atlantic City Electric regarding the new meter installation on residential homes in the County, to find out if that would include county offices and governmental agencies too.

2. Bob Church-County Engineer

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

Res. 556-22 authorizing the Atlantic County Improvement Authority to procure additional services from Stokes Architectural & Design for the design and construction of Tech Village, Building II.

Res. 558-22 authorizing Shared Services Agreement between the County of Cape May and the Cape May County Bridge Commission.

Res. 561-22 awarding contract to Landberg Construction, LLC in the amount of \$451,265.83 for Traffic Calming Improvements for Cape May Point, Borough of Cape May Point.

Res. 562-22 awarding contract to South State, Inc. in the amount of \$956,405.85 for Stagecoach Road (CR667) Resurfacing Improvements, Township of Upper.

Res. 564-22 authorizing application for Road Opening Permit to South Jersey Gas Company for Landis Avenue (CR619), City of Sea Isle City.

Res. 565-22 authorizing application for Road Opening Permit to South Jersey Gas Company for Pacific Avenue (CR621), Borough of Wildwood Crest.

Res. 566-22 awarding Contract No. C2-161 to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services for Third Avenue (CR619) Resurfacing Improvements Borough of Stone Harbor. (FY 2023 Federal Aid Project).

3. Kevin Lare-County Administrator

The Administrator added to Mr. Church's detail of the Third Avenue Resurfacing Improvements in Stone Harbor. According to Mr. Lare, the Borough was coming to the county to request funding for that as well. The number had grown to a much greater number than they had originally anticipated, upwards of twenty million dollars.

He commented on the addition to the Regular Agenda, Res. No. 568-22. A request from Commissioner Morey was received regarding the appointment of the candidate a few weeks ago and should have been on the agenda already, but was overlooked, he explained.

4. Commissioner Discussions-

Commissioner Hayes informed her fellow board members that a NJ Republican Senate hearing in the Legislature was held today. The hearing included discussions on sex education, state curriculum mandates and improving parental rights in education. On the same subject matter, tomorrow evening the Ocean City School Board would be hearing from parents and anyone else that wished to make a statement. She thanked the Board for the resolution they had authorized at the last meeting, supporting the Parent's Bill of Rights.

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She encouraged everybody to pay attention to the proposed new curriculum they were going to introduce to grades K-12 in the public schools. Someone gave her some information over the weekend, which she had to verify yet, that in addition to withholding funds from the schools that wouldn't comply with the new curriculum, the administrators could lose their certifications.

Expressing his agreement with her point of view, Commissioner Morey responded by stating that after meeting with the County Superintendent of Schools and Counsel Jeff Lindsay for an hour-long discussion, he had left with the impression that much more latitude would be allowed, despite the initial appearance the curriculum being forced upon students and parents. It didn't seem to him to be so black or white, he added.

Counsel Lindsay commented that he left the meeting feeling somewhat relieved after finding out what the county superintendent was advising the school districts, as far as how the curriculum should be implemented by the schools. Oppositely, he was skeptical about the state department. It seemed to him, he said, they were playing both sides of it, pushing the progressive agenda where they could get away with it, to have the standards implemented, but not doing enough, or clarifying what the standards don't mean. He continued to say, the county superintendent legally could only make recommendations to the local school boards about how the information should be taught. Lastly, Commissioner Hayes expressed her indignation regarding the lack of transparency by the State as to exactly what was going on and what was going to be taught.

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

Caucus adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Administrator/Clerk of the Board