

**MINUTES OF THE CAUCUS AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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 Barr, Bulakowski, Morey, Pierson (Virtual) and Desiderio (5)

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 General Pierson

PRESENTATIONS: Bond Sale-Leon Costello, CPA, Ford-Scott and Associates, LLC and Brittany Smith, CFO

Ms. Smith greeted the Board and informed them she was speaking today regarding the proposed resolution on today’s agenda for the sale of \$96 million of general obligation bonds. Earlier in the year she met with Leon Costello to discuss the County’s budget and debt and the desire to permanently finance as much of that debt as possible this year. Encompassed in the \$96 million of unfunded ordinances are road and bridge improvements from 2018, the government services building, the municipal initiative, current road and bridge improvements, the front entrance to Cape May Tech High School for \$2.2 million (the County will receive 40% funding from the State of NJ), Tech Village expansion project, and various roadway and drainage improvements. In 2025, the County will have a \$3.2 million drop in debt service which will help keep the debt service in a good pattern. The Commissioners were given a packet providing an overview of what the debt service looks like prior to the sale. Additionally, the County had their Moody’s call on August 23, 2023, and remains ranked AA1.

Mr. Costello commented that for a period of time, capital projects were started but not much was being done with them. There have been many meetings with the Board discussing that it is time to get moving on these projects. He assured the Commissioners that all the ordinances scheduled for the bond sale are for projects that have already been approved. Nothing new is being approved. The projects have all been committed and worked on. The action being approved today is to formally fund them and to start to pay them back as nothing has been paid back yet. It’s taking care of what has been authorized since 2018. The reason to proceed this way is because bond sales are not expensive and can be done every few years. Another reason for the bond sale is to protect the funding for the bridges as time goes on. The resolution today is simply authorizing the CFO to borrow the money for ordinances that have all been authorized in the past and now fund them permanently. Mr. Costello informed the Board there was a bond sale two weeks ago in Cape May and the rate was 3.27%. The County is looking at the same number of years so the rate should roughly be the same. He hopes to get good news on September 20th regarding

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the rates. He assured the Commissioners this fits into the schedule for the debt service plan discussed during budget time.

Commissioner Morey inquired as to the maturity schedule and Mr. Costello advised the ordinances dictate this in paragraph 5. He also reminded him the interest rate will rise if the terms are too long, i.e., 20 years. However, with the bridge ordinances, the term will be 25 years plus because they need to last more than 25 years. Mr. Morey also asked in terms of the underway projects, the government services building for example, if they will be able to be done without bond anticipation notes. Mr. Costello confirmed they will.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSIONS:

Commissioner Morey initiated a conversation regarding Cooper University Hospital System's pending acquisition of Cape Regional Medical Center. He said through his working relationship with the DRBA, a connection was made with Philip Norcross, Chairman of the Cooper Foundation Board of Trustees and member of the hospital's finance committee. Mr. Norcross asked to meet to get a sense of the interests of the community and gauge their support of the hospital. Commissioner Morey and Jim Hogan, Vice Chair of the DRBA, are scheduled to meet again with Mr. Norcross to get an update as to how things are moving along. Commissioner Morey believes the County should have a strong interest in the merger which should be completed sometime in the first quarter of 2024. He noted the affiliation with Penn has been removed from the exterior façade of the medical center. Of note from the initial meeting is that Cooper's focus is on enhancing services and enhancing the facility. Their medical center in Camden is a first rate health system and his hope is that Cape Regional will follow a similar suit. Mr. Morey will report back to the Commissioners after the next meeting with Cooper's representatives.

Director Desiderio commented he looks forward to hearing the plans Cooper has for the medical center here. For years the County has supported Cape Regional and enjoyed what they have done for Cape May County but believes that Cooper can bring more to the table, which will be good for both the residents and visitors of the County. He looks forward to working with them to make sure the transition is successful.

Commissioner Bulakowski mentioned the need for maternity and women's health care in the community. He hopes that Cooper will be bringing these services back to the County. He also remarked on the hospital's campus in Camden and how amazing it is to see the magnitude of the campus. He credits both Cooper Hospital and Rutgers University for turning that part of the city of Camden around.

Commissioner Barr stated he had the pleasure of attending his first Women's Commission Meeting the other night and their first topic of discussion for him was the lack of maternity services here in the County. They have been corresponding with the CEO of Cooper and hope to meet with him in person to discuss this issue.

DIRECTOR'S CALL OF MEETING TO ORDER

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

Commissioners Barr, Bulakowski, Morey, Pierson (Virtual) and Desiderio (5)

FLAG SALUTE- led by General Pierson

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE 08/22/2023 MEETINGS

Commissioner Bulakowski moved/ Commissioner Barr seconded.

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

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COMMUNICATIONS: None.

REPORTS:

- 1) ENGINEER: Mr. Church reported the Fishing Creek Pump Station project began 2 weeks ago and is progressing. Now that the summer is over, the Lafayette Street and Beach Avenue projects in Cape May will be resuming. A pre-construction meeting regarding Church Road in Upper Township was held on Monday. This project is slated to start in 30 days, with a completion date of February 14, 2024. Bids will be accepted on the Fishing Creek Road resurfacing improvements and Mr. Church hopes the project will be completed by Christmas. Finally, on resolution today is the authorization to advertise for Third Avenue, Stone Harbor improvements. This advertisement will be placed either the end of September or the beginning of October. This project includes a federal grant in the amount of \$5.5 million.
- 2) COUNTY COUNSEL: Mr. Lindsey again advised the Board to take the public comments regarding the RFP for the privatization of Crest Haven into consideration but not to respond to the public at this time. He will once again be documenting the names and questions/concerns for appropriate response. His advice is based on the same two principles he mentioned at the last meeting, which are the pending RFP and that there has been no consultation with the Union to date.
- 3) COUNTY TREASURER: No report.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

- 1) COMMISSIONER MOREY: No report.
- 2) COMMISSIONER PIERSON: General Pierson informed everyone of the County's Annual Flu Vaccine Clinic being held on October 12, 2023, at both County Commons and the County Health Department beginning at 10 a.m.
- 3) COMMISSIONER BARR: No Report.
- 4) COMMISSIONER BULAKOWSKI: No report.
- 5) COMMISSIONER DESIDERIO: Statement on Prostate Cancer Awareness Month-It is safe to say everyone sitting here today had or has a loved one who has battled one of the many forms of cancer. Prostate cancer is specifically one of the most common forms of cancer affecting men worldwide. Today the Commissioners join more than 100 municipalities and 9 County governments in proclaiming September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, in honor of those who have lost their battle with prostate cancer and to promote early detection methods that may increase the potential for survival. Awareness saves lives and Cape May County Government is proud to support this noble cause.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to open Public Comment for Consent Agenda

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

Motion to close public comment for Consent Agenda and approve Resolution Nos. 586-23 through 633-23

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

RESOLUTIONS:

- 586-23 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).)
- 587-23 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.)
- 588-23 Resolution authorizing execution of Indemnification Agreement with NASW Foundation for the AirFest Festival scheduled on September 3, 2023 and September 4, 2023.
(This Resolution authorizes an Indemnification Agreement with NASW for the County's provision of a shuttle bus to transport guests to an Event.)
- 589-23 Resolution appointing Donna Doyle to the Pollution Control Financing Authority.
(This Resolution authorizes the appointment of Donna Doyle to the Pollution Control Financing Authority. Term to expire 2/1/28.)
- 590-23 Resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Board of Education of the Special Services School District and Technical School District of the County of Cape May.
(This Resolution authorizes a Memorandum of Agreement for 12th grade students from the Cape May County Technical School to participate in a Pilot Program and be sent to a department of the County of Cape May to gain practical application and skill-development relevant to their learning.)
- 591-23 Resolution authorizing Application and Indemnification Agreement with Wildwood Catholic Academy to Conduct a Big 5 Cross Country Meet at the Cape May County Park, Cape May Court House location.
(This Resolution permits use of a portion of the Cape May County Park, Cape May Court House location, by Wildwood Catholic Academy on September 15, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. through a time yet to be determined)
- 592-23 Resolution authorizing Application and Indemnification Agreement with Ocean City High School Cross Country to conduct Cape May County Cross Country Championship at the Cape May County Park, Cape May Court House location.
(This Resolution permits use of the Cape May County Park, Cape May Court House location, by Ocean City High School Cross Country on October 12, 2023, between 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.)
- 593-23 Resolution authorizing Application and Indemnification Agreement with Lower Cape May Regional High School to conduct a Big 5 Cross Country Meet at the Cape May County Park, Cape May Court House location.
(This Resolution permits use of a portion of the Cape May County Park, Cape May Court House location, by Lower Cape May Regional High School on September 15, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- 594-23 Resolution authorizing an Indemnification Agreement among NJ Run for the Fallen, Inc., Cape May County Bridge Commission and the County for a group run on September 21, 2023.

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(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.)

- 595-23 Resolution proclaiming the month of September 2023 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Cape May County.
(This Resolution proclaims the month of September 2023 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in Cape May County and encourages the citizens of Cape May County to increase the importance of prostate awareness screenings.)
- 596-23 Resolution approving contract documents for Resurfacing of Third Avenue (CR619) from 99th Street to 80th Street, Borough of Stone Harbor and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise for bids for same.
(This Resolution approves contract documents and authorizes advertisement.)
- 597-23 Resolution authorizing execution of Agreement No. 23-DT-BLA-887 for Resurfacing of Third Avenue (CR619) from 99th Street to 80th Street, Borough of Stone Harbor, County of Cape May.
(This Resolution establishes the terms for cost reimbursement of Federal funds for Third Avenue (CR619) Resurfacing Improvements.)
- 598-23 Resolution accepting proposal of Gibson Associates, P.A. in the amount of \$505,995.52 for Professional Construction Engineering Services for Resurfacing of Third Avenue (CR619) from 99th Street to 80th Street, Borough of Stone Harbor.
(This Resolution accepts the proposal of Gibson Associates, P.A. in the amount of \$505,995.52 to provide professional construction engineering services for the Third Avenue (CR619) Resurfacing Improvements project.)
- 599-23 Resolution approving contract documents for Ocean Drive (CR621) over Mill Creek and Upper Thorofare Bridges Phase 3 Railing and Pedestrian Walkway Repairs, Township of Lower and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise for bids for same.
(This Resolution approves contract documents and authorizes advertisement.)
- 600-23 Resolution authorizing an Indemnification Agreement with Cape May County Coast Guard Community Foundation to close Delaware Avenue (CR640) for their Always Ready 5K on October 14, 2023, City of Cape May.
(This Resolution gives permission to the Cape May County Coast Guard Community Foundation to close a portion of Delaware Avenue (CR640) for their Always Ready 5K on October 14, 2023.)
- 601-23 Resolution amending Resolution No. 9-23 appointing certifying officers for 2023.
(This Resolution changes/clarifies certifying officers for departments for auditing purposes.)
- 602-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award from New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services for 2023 Area Plan Grant No. DOAS23AAA004 in the amount of \$697,239.00 for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.
(This Resolution accepts a Grant Award for Area Plan Mid-Year Allocation funds in the amount of \$697,239.00 for the budget period of 1/1/23 to 12/31/23.)
- 603-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for the 2023 Area Plan Grant in the amount of \$697,239.00.
(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget for the Area Plan Grant in the amount of \$697,239.00 providing funding to further support older adults with services such as home meal delivery, state health insurance assistance, thus allowing them to maintain independence and quality of life.)
- 604-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award from The New Jersey Department of Health for Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (LINCS) Grant No. PHLP24LNC013 for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$371,236.00.

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(This Resolution accepts a Grant Award in the amount of \$371,236.00 for the period 7/1/23 through 6/30/24 to be utilized in the building and enhancing area-wide critical core capacities and expertise needed to plan, coordinate, and respond to any future public health threats and emergencies.)

- 605-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for the Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (LINCS) Grant No. PHLP24LNC013 in the amount of \$371,236.00.
(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget for the Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (LINCS) grant in the amount of \$371,236.00.)
- 606-23 Resolution authorizing application to NJ Transit Corporation and Department of Transportation on behalf of County of Cape May for FTA Section 5311 Grant for a total amount of \$265,154.00.
(This Resolution authorizes the County to apply for funds to aid in the financing of administration, capital and/or operating assistance projects for a mass transportation program. The approximate County local share will be \$62,337.50 with the State share of \$62,337.50 and Federal share of \$140,479.00 (total amount \$265,154); grant period 1/1/24 to 12/31/24.)
- 607-23 Resolution authorizing application to NJ Transit for 2024 Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program Grant under the Federal Transit Act in the amount of \$723,526.00.
(This Resolution authorizes an application for funds to support the 2024 Senior Citizen/Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program from 1/1/24 through 12/31/24.)
- 608-23 Resolution authorizing application and accepting Grant Award from New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services for Innovation Substance Abuse Grant No. 24-670-ADA-1 for the period October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$35,751.00.
(This Resolution authorizes application and acceptance of a Grant Award from the New Jersey Department of Human Services for the period 10/1/23 to 9/30/24 in the amount of \$35,751.00.)
- 609-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for Innovation Substance Abuse Grant in the amount of \$35,751.00.
(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$35,751.00 for Innovation Substance Abuse Grant.)
- 610-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award from United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance for FY2022 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) in the amount to of \$30,391.00.
(This Resolution accepts funding from US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance for State Alien Assistance Program in the amount of \$30,391.00.)
- 611-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for the FY2022 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant in the amount of \$30,391.00.
(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$30,391.00, funding to be used for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program FY2022.)
- 612-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award from the New Jersey Department of Health Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health for the Right to Know Program for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$8,976.00.
(This Resolution accepts a Grant Award for the Right to Know Program for the period of 07/01/23 through 06/30/24 in the amount of \$8,976.00.)
- 613-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for the Right to Know Program No. EPID24RTK18L in the amount of \$8,976.00.
(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$8,976.00, funding to be used for the Right to Know Program.)
- 614-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award extension from the New Jersey

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Department of Health Office of Local Public Health for the 2024 Overdose Fatality Review Teams Grant in the amount of \$75,000.00.

(This Resolution authorizes Grant Award from the New Jersey Department of Health for the period of 7/1/23 through 6/30/24 to support Overdose Fatality support offered to Cape May County residents through the Cape May County Health Department.)

615-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for the 2024 Overdose Fatality Review Teams grant in the amount of \$75,000.00.

(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$75,000.00 for Overdose Fatality Review Teams Grant.)

616-23 Resolution accepting Grant Agreement from the State of New Jersey Department of Health for Special Child Health Case Management Grant No. DFHS24CSE015 for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$88,481.00.

(This Resolution accepts grant funds from the State Department of Health in the amount of \$48,347.00 and \$40,134.00 County Cash Matching funds for the period 7/01/23 through 6/30/24 for case management services.)

617-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for Case Management (Special Child Health) Grant No. DFH24CSE015 in the amount of \$88,481.00.

(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$48,347.00 (with Matching funds of \$40,134.00), thus providing appropriate services and support to children, birth to age three, in need of case management services.)

618-23 Resolution accepting additional Grant Award from the New Jersey Department of Human Services for the 2023 Statewide Respite Care Program #DOAS23SRP003 in the amount of \$38,410.00.

(This Resolution authorizes Grant Agreement for additional funding the 2023 Statewide Respite Care Program funding to support family or other uncompensated caregivers in meeting demands of daily care for the frail elderly and other functionally impaired persons in order to delay, reduce or prevent the need for institutionalization for the budget period 1/1/23 through 12/31/23 in the amount of \$38,410.00 for total award amount of \$145,590.00 with \$3,000.00 program income.)

619-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for the 2023 Statewide Respite Care Program in the amount of \$38,410.00.

(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$38,410.00 for the Statewide Respite Care Program 2023 Grant for the period of 01/01/23 to 12/31/23.)

620-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award from New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General for NJ Cares for SFY 2023 Operation Helping Hands Grant Program No. SFYOH-05-2023 for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 in the amount of \$105,263.15.

(This Resolution authorizes the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office to participate in a State Grant No. SFYOH-05-2023 and accept State funds for Operation Helping Hand.)

621-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$105,263.15 for the SFY23 Operation Helping Hand Grant.

(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$105,263.15 for the SFY 2023 Operation Helping Hand Program.)

622-23 Resolution accepting the submission of an application with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Coc Permanent Supportive Housing Program Grants through the FY 2023 Southern New Jersey Continuum of Care Competition for the period May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 in the amount of \$64,868.00.

(This Resolution accepts the submission of application for the CoC Permanent Supportive Housing Program Grants to continue and expand support to the FY23 Continuum of Care by maximizing efforts and leveraging resources in order to prevent and end homelessness for the period 5/1/24 through 4/30/25

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in the amount of \$64,868.00.)

- 623-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award from the WorkFirst New Jersey (WFNJ) 2024 Grant for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$362,530.00.
(This Resolution authorizes acceptance of a grant award in the amount of \$362,530.00 for WFNJ Funds for the period of 07/01/23 to 6/30/24.)
- 624-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for the WorkFirst New Jersey (WFNJ) 2024 Grant in the amount of \$362,530.00.
(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$362,530.00 to support efforts in assisting adults, youth and dislocated workers in finding employment.)
- 625-23 Resolution accepting Grant Award from New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grant for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$1,592,433.00.
(This Resolution authorizes acceptance of a Grant Award in the amount of \$1,592,433.00 for the period of 7/01/23 to 6/30/24.)
- 626-23 Resolution amending the 2023 Budget for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) 2024 Grant in the amount of \$1,592,433.00.
(This Resolution amends the 2023 Budget in the amount of \$1,592,433.00 to support efforts in assisting adults, youth and dislocated workers in finding employment.)
- 627-23 Resolution providing for the combination of certain issues and determining the form and other details of the offering of \$96,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023 of the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey and providing for the sale of such Bonds.
- 628-23 Resolution authorizing extension of Contract No. C8-1 with the Center for Family Services, Inc. through January 31, 2024.
(This Resolution authorizes an extension of Contract No. C8-1 with the Center for Family Services for the administration and operation of a Youth Shelter through January 31, 2024.)
- 629-23 Resolution amending Resolution No. 574-23 authorizing the purchase of pumper fire truck from Lower Township Fire District No. 3 in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the Cape May County Department of Public Safety Training.
(This Resolution corrects the fire district named in Resolution No. 574-23 to reflect Lower Township Fire District No. 3 as the proper selling agency of the Pumper Fire Truck.)
- 630-23 Resolution awarding Contract No. C3-133 to Pacifico Ford, Inc. to furnish and deliver one (1) new box truck with liftgate for the Department of Facilities and Services.
(This Resolution awards Contract No. C3-133 to Pacifico Ford, Inc. to furnish and deliver one (1) new 2024 Ford E-350 DRW Box Truck for the Department of Facilities and Services, in the amount of \$82,420.00.)
- 631-23 Resolution establishing a pool of firms for Professional Construction Engineering Services.
(This Resolution establishes a pool of professional construction engineering firms, to be used on an as-needed basis, commencing September 13, 2023, for a term of one (1) year, with two (2) one-year options.)
- 632-23 Resolution awarding Contract No. C3-135 to General Traffic Equipment Corp. to furnish and deliver traffic signals and component parts to the Department of Public Works.
(This Resolution awards Contract No. C3-135 to General Traffic Equipment Corp., to furnish and deliver traffic signals and component parts, for the Department of Public Works, on an as-needed basis, commencing September 13, 2023, and expiring on August 25, 2024.)

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633-23 Resolution authorizing use of competitive contracting to solicit proposals for the provision of Community Health Services for the Department of Health.
(This Resolution authorizes use of Competitive Contracting for a Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and Strategic Plan for Cape May County Department of Health, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 through 40A:11-4.5 et seq.)

Motion to open public comment on Capital Ordinance 4-23 various improvements to Veterans Cemetery

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

Motion to close public comment and Adopt Capital Ordinance 4-23 various improvements to Veterans Cemetery

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

MOTION TO PAY BILLS AND CHECKS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNTY

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Director Desiderio reminded those in the audience that wish to speak, to raise their hands and when called upon, proceed to the podium, state their name and address for the record, and to please only approach the podium once during the meeting.

Motion to open Public Comment

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

Steve Tully, Executive Director of AFSCME-AFSCME is adamantly opposed to the privatization of Crest Haven Nursing Home. As time goes on, the union is more convinced this process is rushed. They feel the County needs to take a step back and reconsider. There have been no analysis or studies done about the impact this will have on the residents, workers or the quality of care. There is a roomful of people experiencing a tremendous amount of anxiety. This is a rough time for the staff, the residents and their families. This hit them like a ton of bricks, and they were blindsided by it. In spite of that, the workers still have a positive attitude and a mindset of let's work together toward solutions that will keep Crest Haven as a public entity run by the County. We have heard from members who have talked about how to increase revenue, how to increase admissions and how to improve billing practices. We are asking that the County puts this process on hold for 12 months while we can engage

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in an open, transparent process where we work together, including getting input from the staff, to keep Crest Haven a viable County entity. We look at this as a process that can be proactive, and we are ready to meet with you. There is another issue I have to bring up that I am not happy that I have to do it. While our members are focused on listening to and getting ideas on how to keep Crest Haven viable, 28 members were threatened with disciplinary action yesterday because they were in a picture supporting Crest Haven Nursing Home. 28 members are threatened with discipline because of the pride they take in Crest Haven, the love they have for the residents. These are the people that were on the front lines during COVID and the thanks they are getting is being threatened with discipline. They deserve better. They deserve better. We view this attempt to discipline as just a way to try to silence the workers and intimidate them. It's unacceptable and quite frankly, it's shameful. You may not even know about it as Commissioners, but that happened yesterday. Aren't these workers going through enough each day wondering who they'll be working for in 4 months? Wondering what their benefits will be; what their retirement will be; what will their pay rate be. And then they have to be threatened? We all stood up today and proudly said the Pledge of Allegiance, which is part of our Country's tradition as a freedom of speech and these workers expressed their freedom of speech and now they're being threatened. That's unacceptable. I want to close with this. While there are some in the County it seems that are trying to steamroll this process, some who are interested in silencing the workers, the workers remain, we remain as AFSCME, of the mindset that we need to be proactive and we're thinking of ways to address the issues and concerns that the Commissioners have to keep Crest Haven a viable County entity. Our leaders at the local level and members have been analyzing this situation and we think there are opportunities to fix and address the concerns that the County has. We are asking you to revisit your decision to privatize Crest Haven and put a process in place over the next 12 months that will allow us to collaborate and work together to try and find solutions. This is not a done deal. It should not be a done deal. There is a choice here and we are asking you to engage in that process for the best interests of the residents, the families, the workers and the last thing I will leave you with is if you go to a private sector vendor, they are for profit. They are out to make money and in the nursing home industry the only way to make money is at the expense of the care of the residents. Those are facts. So, we ask you to consider all these things. I ask that these written remarks be added to the record today. Thank you.

Approximately a dozen members of the community, including employees at Crest Haven, family members and union representatives, also spoke during the meeting. Their concerns once again centered around the quality of care provided at Crest Haven and what is in store for the facility once it's privatized. They are also deeply concerned about their livelihoods and futures for themselves and their families. All speakers pleaded with the Commissioners to please reconsider issuing the RFP and to engage in conversations with the union on viable ways to keep Crest Haven as a County-run entity.

Commissioner Morey questioned the status as to meeting with the union to discuss the next steps. County Counsel, Jeff Lindsay, replied he is waiting to hear regarding dates to meet with the union.

Steve Tully-I just want to clarify that the discussions that we are engaging in right now would be as alternatives to privatizing Crest Haven. My understanding has been the discussions that have been proposed have been about negotiating the impact of the employee situation after the privatization. We think that's premature. Until this body votes to take that step, those discussions are premature. So, we stand ready to have the conversations and discuss alternatives but again that would be the framework of the discussion. Thank you.

Terry Boland spoke to the Board regarding a different issue. Terry represents a group of women, who are senior citizens, who have been swimming at CHSS pool for the past 10+ years at 7:30 in the morning, calling themselves the Aqua Divas. They are trying to keep themselves out of the nursing home and healthy but progressively, their time slot has been diminishing and with the latest schedule, they have been relegated to only 2 hours a week in comparison to lap swimmers who have like 10 hours. They

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have been in touch with the Special Services School District with no luck and did not know where else to go. They are asking for consideration for 1 or 2 lanes of the pool in the mornings.

Motion to Close Public Comment and Adjourn

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

4:23 P.M. time

APPROVED

DIRECTOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE BOARD