

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, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.

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

Present: Commissioners Desiderio, Hayes, Morey, Pierson and Thornton (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 Tuesday, January 11, 2022.”

Moment of Silence- Dedicated in memory of Assemblyman Erik Simonsen’s father, Frank Simonsen of Lower Township.

Flag Salute-Led by General 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. 620-22.

Res. 620-22 awarding Contract No. C2-179 to Coastal Landscaping to furnish, deliver, and install Landscape Services for Child Advocacy Center.

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. 644-22 authorizing execution of an Amended Jurisdictional Agreement between the State of New Jersey and County of Cape May for highway maintenance and control of County Road 661.

Res. 646-22 authorizing Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$797,765.25 to the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with NV5, Inc. for Sunset Boulevard (CR606) Improvements.

Res. 649-22 authorizing execution of Agreement No. 22-DT-BLA-863 for Tyler Road (CR611) Resurfacing Improvements, Township of Dennis and Borough of Woodbine, County of Cape May.

Res. 650-22 approving contract documents for Beach Avenue (CR604) Resurfacing Improvements, City of Cape May and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise for bids for same.

September 27, 2022, (Continued)

Res. 651-22 approving contract documents for Tyler Road (CR611) Resurfacing Improvements, Township of Dennis and Borough of Woodbine and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise for bids for same.

Res. 652-22 awarding contract to South State, Inc. in the amount of \$1,414,117.00 for Mill Creek and Upper Thorofare Bridges Substructure Repairs Phase 2 Improvements along Ocean Drive (CR621), Township of Lower.

Res. 653-22 awarding contract to South State, Inc. in the amount of \$4,974,829.00 for Ocean Drive (CR619) over Great Channel Bridge Superstructure Repairs and Fender Replacement.

Res. 654-22 declaring an emergency condition for the 104th Street Bridge over Great Channel (Str. No. 0500-023) in the Borough of Stone Harbor and to authorize the County to engage a contractor to perform emergency repairs.

3. Kevin Lare-County Administrator

No report.

4. Commissioner Discussions-

Commissioner Morey raised the issue of the unsanctioned arrival of the H20i pop up car rally in Wildwood over the weekend, ultimately resulting in bridge closure, property damage and two deaths due to car accidents. In a supportive effort, Vice-Director Desiderio traveled to Wildwood to assess the situation as it was transpiring. Mr. Morey proposed they follow up with the Prosecutors' Office and Sheriff's Department to plan coordination efforts with the State Police and local law enforcement, taking a proactive approach to potential threats that may transpire in the future. Mr. Desiderio responded although there was an action plan already in place, and law enforcement and Wildwood did their jobs extremely well, this situation was different in that it was not contained to a central location and the behavior exhibited was unprecedented. Members of the group were all over the place. Commissioner Hayes added, it was her understanding, the Chiefs of Police and Prosecutors' Office were going to hold a tabletop discussion to dissect the entire situation from beginning to end in preparation of a repeat scenario. Mr. Morey reminded in addition to two known deaths there were very serious injuries to individuals, that in all probability caused permanent disability. The three commissioners gave assurance that more arrests would be made after careful review of collected video evidence and summons issued.

Moved by Mr. Desiderio seconded by Ms. Hayes 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 3:26 p.m.

Administrator/Clerk of the Board