

**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, NOVEMBER 10, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.**

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

Freeholders Hayes-Present (1)  
Freeholders Morey, Pierson and Thornton- Virtual access (3)  
Freeholder Desiderio-arrived at 3:13 p.m. (1)

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, January 3, 2020.”

Moment of Silence-Dedicated to Fare Free Transportation Assistant Director, Kathleen Hollenback’s mother, Susan Breon, and Tom Tower, Cape May County businessman, on their recent passing.

Flag Salute- Led by Freeholder Pierson.

Agenda Items

Discussion:

**1. Allison Hansen-Purchasing Report**

Ms. Hansen detailed awards, extensions, or changes to contracts, and competitive contracting of the following resolutions: Res. Nos. 718-20, 719-20, 720-20, 721-20 and 733-20.

Res. 718-20 awarding Contract No. C0-193 to Atlantic Salt, Inc., Contract No. C0-194 to Riverside Construction Materials, Inc. and Contract No. C0-191 to Chemical Equipment Labs Inc. to furnish and deliver rock salt to County of Cape May and participating cooperative agencies (25CMACP 01-37-20).

Res. 719-20 authorizing use of competitive contracting for the provision of Animal Medications for various County Departments.

Res. 720-20 awarding Contract No. C0-206 to Franklin Alarm Company, Inc. to furnish and deliver labor and materials for maintenance of fire and burglar alarm systems.

Res. 721-20 authorizing purchase with ADT Commercial for security cameras at County Commons utilizing County Contract No. C7-259 in the amount of \$108,928.06.

Res. 733-20 authorizing an emergency purchase of recreational vehicle by Department of Health for COVID-19 testing in the amount not to exceed \$95,000.00.

**2. Robert Church-Engineer’s Update**

November 10, 2020, (Continued)

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

Res. 747-20 Prohibiting Parking and Storing Equipment and/or Material Under County Bridges.

Res. 748-20 accepting the work and closing the contract of Gibson Associates, P.A. for Construction Engineering Services required for Avalon Boulevard (CR601) Bridge over Avalon Canal Rehabilitation and Widening, Borough of Avalon.

Res. 749-20 approving contract documents for Countywide Centerline Rumble Strip Improvements and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise for bids for same.

Res. 750-20 approving contract documents for Pacific Avenue (CR621) Resurfacing from Madison Avenue to Rambler Road, Township of Lower and Borough of Wildwood Crest and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise for bids for same.

Res. 751-20 approving contract documents for Seashore Road (CR626) Missing Bicycle Link Improvements, Township of Lower and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise for bids for same.

Res. 752-20 authorizing Modification No. 2 in the amount of \$26,643.60 to the Professional Bridge Engineering Services Agreement with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for Ocean Drive (CR621) over Middle Thorofare Fender Repairs.

Res. 753-20 Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 2-Final in the amount of \$135,087.88 to South State, Inc. for Woodbine-Ocean View Road (CR550) and Dennisville-Petersburg Road (CR610) Roundabout, Borough of Woodbine.

Res. 754-20 authorizing Modification No. 3 in the amount of \$67,110.48 to WSP USA, Inc. for the Professional Bridge Engineering Services for Ocean Drive (CR621) over Middle Thorofare Bridge Railing Replacement.

### **3. New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Virtual Presentation**

The Board was briefed by Shared Services Czars Jordan Glatt and Nicolas W. Platt, who were appointed by Governor Phil Murphy in 2018, to travel around the state meeting with county and other local government officials providing support, guidance, and education on the benefits of shared services. Eileen Brennan with Local Assistance Bureau joined the discussion by providing information on the available programs within the county and municipalities within the county. LEAP Grants comprised of Challenge Grants, Implementation Grants and County Coordinator Fellowship Grants were explained. Common Share Concepts were named as: Facility Sharing, Capital Sharing, Key Position Sharing, Departmental Merger and Contractual Services. Examples of some recent shared services agreements that had been implemented since the program's inception were detailed.

### **4. Freeholder Discussions**

**Acting County Administrator Donohue-**

November 10, 2020, (Continued)

Mr. Donohue spoke about the COVID-19 pandemic. He reported that although there had been an uptick in the number of cases, Cape May County was in the best shape statewide. There had only been a moderate increase in the number of positives, he stated. Messaging had begun, to remind everybody to reinstitute protocol followed in the spring, so hopefully the county could finish strong. Good news on vaccines and therapies had been released, allowing all of us to look forward to having a vaccine distributed sometime in the next few months, he further stated. First responders and high-risk persons would be first to receive the vaccine, and then everyone else in the months to follow.

The County was well into the budgetary planning process, he informed. Department heads were approaching deadlines as far as submissions to Finance.

A resolution was included on tonight's agenda which dealt with his consultant status with the County, he commented. He would continue in the position through the end of the year. A new permanent administrator was being sought, he finished.

**Freeholder Morey-** Mr. Morey asked for a briefing on the budget as it related to key priorities, budget impacts due to COVID, etc. He was looking for a better sense of the county's standing, prior to meeting with his departments to discuss budget constraints.

Administrator Donohue responded the process was being done the same way as in the past. The department heads gathered the figures, forwarded them to Finance, where they were compiled. The department heads gave the salary and wage stuff to Human Resources, then together they create a snapshot of each department. Nothing had really changed regarding budgeting from department to department. COVID would be dealt with by state and federal assistance or with the fund that was created for that purpose, he stated.

The freeholder questioned what guidance was given in terms of merit increases, and how they would be reviewed. Mr. Donohue replied they were personnel policies and therefore not suited for a public meeting. He advised talking offline with H.R. and Finance.

**Freeholder Pierson-**No report.

**Freeholder Hayes-** Ms. Hayes brought forth the topic of Bill NJ S3030 before the New Jersey Legislature known as the "Reproductive Freedom Act". It goes far beyond the choice a woman should have related to abortion and was a very radical bill, she explained. She asked the Board to support and authorize a resolution to oppose the bill. Freeholder Morey asked Freeholder Hayes' thought process behind them taking this action, which she detailed for the Board. In closing, it was decided that County Counsel, Jeff Lindsay would familiarize himself with the details of the legislation and memo the Board a summary of his findings.

**Freeholder Desiderio-** Mr. Desiderio reported speaking at a chamber meeting earlier today regarding COVID-19, and Governor Murphy's new restrictions. His plan was to reach out to Freeholders Morey and Pierson separately to discuss the County's next step. Suggested at the meeting was that we should get back to where we were in the spring when everyone was a lot more serious, following the protocols more diligently. Now was not the time to let our guard down, he stated. The governor indicated yesterday that he was open to not painting the entire state with one broad stroke, he further stated. Although the jump in cases across the state was concerning to all, Cape May County businesses had a very late start this year, he added. So, a decision had to be made regarding keeping the public informed and what direction to head in moving forward, he finished.

November 10, 2020, (Continued)

**Freeholder Morey**-The freeholder added to his earlier report that he had sent a memo to the Board and to the departments overseen by him, a list of priorities, initiatives, actions and/or goals for 2021.

**Freeholder Thornton**-Mr. Thornton reported he had asked Jeff Lindsay to come up with a resolution for the next meeting on Rt. 55. Unless the governor's office and Department of Transportation take the initiative, this will not go anywhere, he informed. I do not think we should allow it to die.

On the topic of the 2021 budget, he reminded freeholders to sit with all their departments to review their budget proposals. When finalized, go over it again to ensure that it was fair and equitable.

He advised the freeholders; they would have to look at reorganization sometime in the beginning of December. If changes were needed, make it known so it could be accommodated, he advised. Additionally, a date within the first seven days of the year was a requirement for the swearing in of Freeholders Morey and Pierson. Pick a date you are comfortable with he told the men.

He commented on Freeholder Hayes report on NJ S3030 and agreed with her, he informed. He had been pro-life forever but had always opposed any public money be used to fund abortions.

The new COVID procedures were being worked on, he continued. He and Freeholder Pierson held a telephone meeting the other day to discuss how to reinstitute procedures and keep the public abreast of proper protocol, he finished.

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

Caucus adjourned at 4:08p.m.

---

Deputy Clerk of the Board