

**UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**MAY 26, 2005**

Chairman Rick Proctor presided. Roll call showed Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Adrian O. Mapp, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Daniel P. Sullivan, and Freeholder Nancy Ward in attendance. Freeholder Chester Holmes and Freeholder Deborah P. Scanlon were absent.

Also in attendance were County Manager George Devaney, County Counsel Robert Barry and Clerk of the Board Nicole L. Tedeschi.

**PRAYER AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG** were led by the Clerk of the Board.

Freeholder Holmes and Freeholder Scanlon entered the meeting at this point.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT** was read by the Clerk of the Board.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes. On a motion by Freeholder Holmes, seconded by Estrada, roll call showed six members of the Board voted in the affirmative on the Executive Session Minutes of April 21, 2005, with three members of the Board, Freeholders Scanlon, Sullivan and Ward abstaining; eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative on the minutes of the May 12, 2005, Regular Meeting, with one member of the Board, Freehold Ward abstaining; seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative on the Agenda Meeting and Executive Session Minutes of May 19, 2005 with two members of the Board, Vice Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Mapp abstaining.

**APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: April 21, 2005 – Executive Meeting; May 12, 2005, Regular Meeting; May 19, 2005 – Agenda Meeting and May 19, 2005 – Executive Meeting.**

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The Chairman called for a motion to approve the communications. On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**C O M M U N I C A T I O N S:**

**OATHS OF OFFICE: (Note & file)**

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The Chairman called upon Freeholder Estrada to make a presentation. Freeholder Estrada called upon Humberto Leal, presenting him with a Resolution in honor of his 20 years of service to the residents of Union County with the Union County Senior Lunch Program. Freeholder Estrada related how he had visited the Lunch Program and witnessed Mr. Leal's deep concern for the seniors, and the Freeholder read part of the resolution. Mr. Leal thanked the Board for the recognition and spoke about the many activities taking place at the senior center.

The Chairman called upon Freeholder Kowalski, who presented Resolutions to Gail Driscoll and employees of Merck & Co., for their efforts at Rahway River Parkway, Rahway Section on May 3, 2005, during the Adopt A Park Clean Up Day. Freeholder Kowalski read part of the Resolution and talked about the amount of work that was done.

The Chairman then called upon Freeholder Mapp who presented a Resolution to Helen Clark of Plainfield commending her for her many years of outstanding and dedicated service to the community. The Freeholder read the resolution, which highlighted Ms. Clark's work with the Lake Street Block Association, the help she gave to her elderly neighbors, her long-time membership in Shiloh Baptist Church and her role as the unofficial neighborhood historian. Ms. Clark thanked the residents of Plainfield and her neighbors for honoring her and thanked Freeholder Mapp and the Board for the Resolution.

**The first order of business was the Final Reading of Ordinance No. 612-2005.**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 612-2005**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CODIFICATION OF THE LAWS, ORDINANCES, POLICIES AND RESOLUTION OF UNION COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; PROVIDING FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SAID CODE; AND SAVING FROM REPEAL CERTAIN LEGISLATION NOT INCLUDED THEREIN" ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION ON AUGUST 19, 1993.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE "ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF UNION COUNTY", TO PROHIBIT THE SPILLING, DUMPING, OR DISPOSAL OF MATERIALS OTHER THAN STORMWATER TO THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) AT COUNTY HIGHWAYS AND PROPERTY.

*BE IT ORDAINED* by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union that the Administrative Code of the County of Union is hereby amended to add the following sections:

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**ARTICLE IV – Improper Disposal into Storm Sewers**

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**§ 131-10 Purpose**

An ordinance to prohibit the spilling, dumping, or disposal of materials other than stormwater to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) at county highways and property, so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for the failure to comply.

**§ 131-11 Definitions**

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use for the purpose of this ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory.

- a. County highway – any highway or other thoroughfare operated by the COUNTY OF UNION (including a maintenance facility or rest area for such a thoroughfare).
- b. Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)– a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains) that is owned or operated by the COUNTY OF UNION or other public body, and is designed and used for collecting and conveying stormwater.
- c. Stormwater – water resulting from precipitation (including rain and snow) that runs off the land’s surface, is transmitted to the subsurface, is captured by separate storm sewers or other sewerage or drainage facilities, or is conveyed by snow removal equipment.
- d. Person – any individual (including but not limited to a County employee, officer or agent), corporation company, partnership, firm, association or political subdivision of this State whose conduct on County property or highways is subject to ordinance by the County.
- e. County - COUNTY OF UNION
- f. County property – lands and buildings owned or controlled by the COUNTY OF UNION

## § 131-12 Prohibited Conduct

All persons are prohibited from:

- a. Spilling, dumping, or disposing of materials other than stormwater to the municipal separate storm sewer system located at county highways and property.
- b. Spilling, dumping, or disposing of materials other than stormwater in such a manner as to cause the discharge of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system located at county highways and property.

## § 131-13 Exceptions to Prohibition

- a. Water line flushing and discharges from potable water sources;
- b. Uncontaminated ground water (e.g., infiltration, crawl space or basement sump pumps, foundation or footing drains, rising ground waters);
- c. Air conditioning condensate (excluding contact and non-contact cooling water);
- d. Irrigation water (including landscape and lawn watering runoff);
- e. Flows from springs, riparian habitats and wetlands, water reservoir discharges and diverted stream flows;
- f. Residential car washing water, and residential swimming pool discharges;
- g. Sidewalk, driveway and street wash water;
- h. Flows from fire fighting activities;
- i. Flows from rinsing of the following equipment with clean water:
  1. Equipment used in the application of salt and de-icing materials immediately following salt and de-icing material applications. Prior to rinsing with clean water, all residual salt and de-icing materials must be removed from equipment and vehicles to the maximum extent practicable using dry cleaning methods (e.g., shoveling and sweeping). Recovered materials are to be returned to storage for reuse or properly discarded. Rinsing of equipment in the above situations is limited to exterior,

undercarriage, and exposed parts and does not apply to engines or other enclosed machinery.

§ 131-14 Violations:

- a. Any County officer, staff member, employee, or agent who is found to be in violation of this ordinance in addition to the penalties set forth below may be subject to dismissal, removal, reduction of salary, suspension, demotion, or other disciplinary action in accordance with applicable New Jersey statutes and relevant contracts or agreements.
- b. Any person who has entered into a contract or agreement with the County to provide equipment, materials, supplies, or services on County property, and who is found to be in violation of this ordinance, shall in addition to any sanctions set forth below shall also be subject to sanctions in accordance with the contract or agreement.
- c. Any other person or entity who violates this ordinance shall upon conviction thereof, be liable to fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$500 for each violation. Each day that a violation continues beyond a given deadline shall constitute a separate and distinct offense and additional penalties may be imposed, including 90 days imprisonment or 90 days community service, or both fines and penalties, at the discretion of any municipal or Superior Court Judge.
- d. Any person who continues to be in violation of this ordinance, after being duly notified, is subject to ejection from County property and if the person refuses to leave after being asked to leave, to prosecution for criminal trespass under N.J.S. §2C:18-3.
- e. Any person who violates this ordinance may also be subject to prosecution under applicable Federal or New Jersey statutes.

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF COMMENTING  
ON ORDINANCE NO. 612-2005 ONLY**

Vincent Lehotsky, 2311 Knapp Drive, Rahway, commented with a question on the Ordinance regarding the penalties for dumping something into a storm sewer for a public employee, versus the penalty for a non-employee.

Bruce Patterson, Willow Avenue, Garwood, commented on the Ordinance, with a question about the County's interaction with the municipalities in regard to fulfilling the state laws regarding storm water. The Chairman responded to his question.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED**

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Freeholder Scanlon moved Ordinance No. 612-2005 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise the same in accordance with the law. Seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

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**The next order of business was the Final Reading of Ordinance No. 613-2005.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 613-2005**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CODIFICATION OF THE LAWS, ORDINANCES, POLICIES AND RESOLUTION OF UNION COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; PROVIDING FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SAID CODE; AND SAVING FROM REPEAL CERTAIN LEGISLATION NOT INCLUDED THEREIN” ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION ON AUGUST 19, 1993.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE “ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF UNION COUNTY”, TO PROHIBIT ILLICIT CONNECTIONS TO THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS OPERATED BY THE COUNTY OF UNION.

*BE IT ORDAINED* by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union that the Administrative Code of the County of Union is hereby amended to add the following sections:

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CHAPTER 131- Streets and Sidewalks

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ARTICLE III - Storm Sewers

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§ 131-5. Purpose:

An ordinance to prohibit illicit connections to the municipal separate storm sewer system(s) operated by the COUNTY OF UNION, so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for the failure to comply.

§ 131-6 Definitions:

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word “shall” is always mandatory and not merely directory. Most of the definitions below are the same as or based on corresponding definitions in the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) rules at N.J.A.C. 7:14A-1.2.

- a. Domestic sewage - waste and wastewater from humans or household operations.
- b. Illicit connection – any physical or non-physical connection that discharges domestic sewage, non-contact cooling water, process wastewater, or other industrial waste (other than stormwater) to the municipal separate storm sewer system operated by the COUNTY OF UNION, unless that discharge is authorized under a NJPDES permit other than the Public Complex Stormwater General Permit (NJPDES Permit Number NJ0141879) or the Highway Agency Municipal Stormwater General Permit (NJPDES Permit Number NJ0141887). Non-physical connections may include, but are not limited to, leaks, flows, or overflows into the municipal separate storm sewer system.
- c. Industrial waste - non-domestic waste, including, but not limited to, those pollutants regulated under Section 307(a), (b), or (c) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1317(a), (b), or (c)).
- d. Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) – a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains) that is owned or operated by the COUNTY OF UNION or other public body, and is designed and used for collecting and conveying stormwater.
- e. NJPDES permit – a permit issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to implement the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) rules at N.J.A.C. 7:14A
- f. Non-contact cooling water - water used to reduce temperature for the purpose of cooling. Such waters do not come into direct contact with any raw material, intermediate product (other than heat) or finished product. Non-contact cooling water may however contain

algaecides, or biocides to control fouling of equipment such as heat exchangers, and/or corrosion inhibitors.

- g. Person – any individual (including but not limited to a COUNTY OF UNION officer, agent, professional staff member and other employee), corporation, company, partnership, firm, association, or political subdivision of this State, whose conduct on County property is subject to ordinance by the COUNTY OF UNION.
- h. Process wastewater - any water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product. Process wastewater includes, but is not limited to, leachate and cooling water other than non-contact cooling water.
- i. Stormwater – water resulting from precipitation (including rain and snow) that runs off the land’s surface, is transmitted to the subsurface, is captured by separate storm sewers or other sewerage or drainage facilities, or is conveyed by snow removal equipment.
- j. County - COUNTY OF UNION
- k. County property – lands and buildings owned or controlled by the COUNTY OF UNION.
- l. County highway - any highway or thoroughfare operated by the COUNTY OF UNION (including a maintenance facility or rest area for such a thoroughfare).

#### § 131-7 Prohibited Conduct:

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged, through an illicit connection to the municipal separate storm sewer system operated by the COUNTY OF UNION, any domestic sewage, non-contact cooling water, process wastewater, or other industrial waste (other than stormwater).

#### § 131-8 Enforcement

For the purposes of this ordinance, the employees of the following COUNTY OF UNION Divisions and Bureaus shall be designated as enforcement officers:

- a. Division of Police
- b. Bureau of Inspections
- c. Bureau of Environmental Enforcement

§ 131-9 Violations:

- f. Any County officer, staff member, employee, or agent who is found to be in violation of this ordinance in addition to the penalties set forth below may be subject to dismissal, removal, reduction of salary, suspension, demotion, or other disciplinary action in accordance with applicable New Jersey statutes and relevant contracts or agreements.
- g. Any person who has entered into a contract or agreement with the County to provide equipment, materials, supplies, or services on County property, and who is found to be in violation of this ordinance, shall in addition to any sanctions set forth below shall also be subject to sanctions in accordance with the contract or agreement.
- h. Any other person or entity who violates this ordinance shall upon conviction thereof, be liable to fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$500 for each violation. Each day that a violation continues beyond a given deadline shall constitute a separate and distinct offense and additional penalties may be imposed, including 90 days imprisonment or 90 days community service, or both fines and penalties, at the discretion of any municipal or Superior Court Judge.
- i. Any person who violates this ordinance may also be subject to prosecution under applicable Federal or New Jersey statutes.

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF COMMENTING  
ON ORDINANCE NO. 613-2005 ONLY**

There were no comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED**

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Freeholder Scanlon moved Ordinance No. 613-2005 for Final Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise the same in accordance with the law. Seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

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The next order of business was a Public Hearing and Final Adoption on the 2005 Union County Budget.

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF COMMENTING  
ON THE 2005 UNION COUNTY BUDGET ONLY**

Vincent Lehotsky, 2311 Knapp Drive, Rahway, commented in support of the budget regarding the legal notice for the budget hearing. He also commented on various expenditures outlined in the budget including corrections and juvenile detention.

Bruce Patterson, 325 Willow Ave., Garwood, commented objecting to various aspects of the budget and submitted a written statement to the Clerk of the Board. Mr. Patterson was admonished by the County Counsel for the personal nature of some of his remarks. Mr. Patterson completed his statement discussing bond and debt service and comparing this budget to those of previous years.

Tina Renna, 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford commented on the budget regarding the Office of Public Information's operating budget and asked what the cost of this department is to the tax payers. Ms. Renna also inquired about where the costs for commercials and mailings appear in the budget.

Jerry Goldman, 996 Kipling Road, Elizabeth, commented on the budget regarding the operations of the County Oakridge Golf Course, suggesting that some more efforts be made to increase revenues, such as advertising for leagues.

Bob Donovan, Craig Place, Cranford, commented on the County portion of the Cranford tax bill in opposition to the budget, and suggested phasing out the Open Space Trust Fund portion of the tax.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED**

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The Chairman called for a motion to adopt the 2005 Union County Budget. On a motion by Freeholder Sullivan, seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**595-2005      FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN, adopting the 2005 Union County Budget.**

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF COMMENTING  
ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA ONLY**

Vincent Lehotsky, Knapp Drive, Rahway, commented on Resolution 606-2005, noting the lack of pay raises for the persons to be hired.

Tina Renna, 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, commented on the PARIS grant acceptance Resolution, (608-2005) and on document storage rules and procedures, and requested information on storage procedures and regulations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED**

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The Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolutions 596-2005 – 642-2005. On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members voted in the affirmative.

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE BEING OFFERED FOR ADOPTION:**

**596-2005**      **FREEHOLDER ESTRADA**, authorizing the County Manger to enter into a contract with the **Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women**, and accept Rape Prevention Education (RPE) funds in the amount of **\$39,780**, for the Rape Crisis Center to operate a twenty – four (24) hour sexual assault crisis and informational hotline, and reduce sexual violence by developing and conducting prevention education activities for the period of June 30, 2005 – June 29, 2006.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**597-2005**      **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager, through the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, to execute any and all agreements for the **2005 HEART Grant Program 1<sup>st</sup> Round** in an amount not to exceed **\$30,745**:

<b>Mario Lombardo, Cranford</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Morton Weinstein, Mountainside</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Nancy J. Ori, Berkeley Heights</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Regina Brennan-Furlan, Springfield</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Arts Guild of Rahway</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>City of Summit/Outdoor Art Project</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Clark Historical Society</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Elizabeth Avenue Partnership, Inc.</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Free Public Library of Berkeley Heights</b>	<b>\$895.00</b>
<b>Hanson Park Conservancy, Cranford</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Kenilworth Public Library</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Merchants &amp; Drovers Tavern Assoc., Rahway</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Mystic Vision Players, Inc., Linden</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

<b>Occupational Center of UC, Inc., Roselle</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Outreach Center for Multiple Sclerosis, Inc., Roselle</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Playhouse Association, Inc., Summit</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Summit</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Scotch Plains-Fanwood Rotary Frazee House, Inc.</b>	<b>\$850.00</b>
<b>Suburban Chambers of Comm. Foundation, Inc., Summit</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Summit Music Festival</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>The Newark Museum Association</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>The Theater Project/UC College Foundation, Cranford</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>YM-YWHA of Union County</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 598-2005** **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to file an application for a **New Jersey Dam Restoration Loan** through the “Dam, Lake, Stream, Flood Control, Water Resources and Wastewater Treatment Project Bond Act of 2003” for the Upper Echo Lake Dredging project in the amount of **\$1,700,000** and for Cedar Brook Lake Dredging project in the amount of **\$750,000** for a total amount of **\$2,450,000**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 599-2005** **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to apply for and obtain a grant from the **New Jersey Department of Community Affairs-Grant Development Unit**, for a Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Program Grant to provide a variety of recreational activities designed to encourage people with disabilities to make most of their leisure time in the amount of **\$10,000** with a local hard cash match in the amount of **\$2,000** from County and other local sources for a total of **\$12,000**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 600-2005** **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, authorizing payment in an amount not to exceed **\$5,529** to the **City of Elizabeth, Department of Recreation**, to run a summer playground program at Mattano Park for the period of July 5, 2005 – August 26, 2005.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**601-2005**     **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, amending **Resolution No. 182-2005**, to the contract with **Kathleen P. Galop, Esq. of Preservation Possibilities, Summit, New Jersey**, to allow for the continued development of the Archival Preservation Plan for the Union County Parks System, in an amount not to exceed **\$11,000**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**602-2005**     **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, supporting the **State House Commission** application of the **Township of Cranford**, to the **NJDEP Green Acres Program** for Storm Sewer Pipes and outfalls for the Northeast quadrant stormwater management project – Phase 2 and Phase 5.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**603-2005**     **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Joann Duffy, RRT, Springfield, New Jersey**, to provide professional respiratory therapy services for the patients/residents of Runnells Specialized Hospital for the contract period of August 1, 2005 – July 31, 2006, in an amount not to exceed **\$12,000**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**604-2005**     **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manger to enter into a contract with **Jacqueline Napper, PsyD, Plainfield, New Jersey**, to provide professional psychology services to the patients/residents of Runnells Specialized Hospital for the contract period of August 1, 2005 – July 31, 2006, in an amount of **\$2,400**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**605-2005**     **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, authorizing the County Manager, through the Division of Information Technologies, to enter into an agreement with **Vital Communications, Inc., Trenton, New Jersey**, to provide maintenance and technical support for MODIV front end application software for the period of July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006, in an amount not to exceed **\$36,000**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**606-2005**     **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, approving the **Fiscal Year 2005 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and One-Year Action Plan**, to be submitted to the US Department of Housing & Urban Development.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 607-2005** **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, authorizing the County Manager, through the Division of Planning & Community Development, to enter into a contract with **Nicholas J. Netta Architects, Springfield, New Jersey**, to provide architectural services for Phase I, for the Meals on Wheels Facility for the contract period of June 1, 2005 – May 31, 2006, in an amount not to exceed **\$10,200**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 608-2005** **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, accepting the **Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support (PARIS) Grant** from the **NJ Department of State, Division of Archives and Records Management and the State Records Committee**, for grant programs to meet the strategic records management, preservation and storage needs of the County of Union totaling **\$1,010,638.59**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 609-2005** **FREEHOLDER WARD**, re-appointing the following to serve on the Union County Air Traffic Advisory Board commencing January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005: **William Entriken, Union, New Jersey, Warren Henderson, Union, New Jersey and Richard Obrock, Scotch Plains, New Jersey (representing Winfield, NJ)**

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

- 610-2005** **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contracts obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with **Local Public Contracts Law 40A:11-1 et seq:**

- a. DIVISION ON AGING: **PNC FLM, LLC, DBA/Princeton Nassau Conover FLM, Princeton, New Jersey**, one (1) 2005 Ford F-150 XL Super Cab with Chassis fitted with a Hot Shot II XL Heated and Refrigerated Food Transport Unit, in an amount of **\$36,625**.
- b. BUREAU OF MOSQUITO CONTROL: **Best Uniform, Westville, New Jersey**, optional 1<sup>st</sup> year extension, to provide uniforms in an amount of **\$3,000**.
- c. DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS: **The Sherwin-Williams Company, Westfield, New Jersey**, to furnish and deliver traffic paint for the County of

Union and the Union County Cooperative Pricing System, for a contract period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months in an amount of **\$76,640**.

- d. BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND FACILITIES: **Seely Equipment & Supply Company, Farmingdale, New Jersey**, to furnish and deliver one (1) Brush Bandit Chipper Model 250XP, in an amount of **\$30,600**.
- e. BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND FACILITIES: **Storr Tractor Company, Somerville, New Jersey**, to furnish and deliver one (1) Buffalo Turbine Blower Model BT-KB10G2, in an amount of **\$5,975**.
- f. BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND FACILITIES: **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc., Hackensack, New Jersey**, to furnish and deliver one (1) Jacobsen Turbo Mower Model HR9016, in an amount of **\$77,497**.
- g. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE: **Iron Mountain, East Brunswick, New Jersey**, optional 2<sup>nd</sup> year extension, for offsite storage, and provision of records management services for various County Departments including storage retrieval, and destruction of County government hard copy records in an amount not to exceed **\$100,000**.
- h. DIVISION OF ENGINEERING: **Cobra Construction Co., Inc., North Arlington, New Jersey**, first floor renovation & security system upgrade Oriscello Correctional Facility for a total amount of **\$6,325,000**.
- i. DIVISION OF ENGINEERING: **Fai-Gon Electric Inc., Piscataway, New Jersey**, intersection improvements – Vauxhall Road with Burnet Avenue and Fire Station No. 2, Township of Union, New Jersey in an amount of **\$449,773.53**.
- j. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK: **Alltech Business Solutions, Whippany, New Jersey**, furnish, deliver, install and maintain four (4) coin operated copy machines for Union County Clerk's Office for twenty-four (24) months with the option for a twenty-four (24) extension and shall start when the County/vendor agreement is executed and upon expiration of the previous contract. This agreement is revenue producing and the County shall realize 66% of the gross proceeds.
- k. OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR: **Absolute Fire Protection Co., Inc., South Plainfield, New Jersey**. Mask Communications System is a battery-powered, self-contained communications unit for use with full-face piece respirators (120). It provides hands-free voice amplification for

local, short-range communication to be used by the Union County Emergency Response Team (UCERT) in an amount of **\$30,361.20**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**611-2005** **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager to renew the following policies as recommended by the **Citizen Insurance Review Committee (CIRC)**:

1. Event Cancellation/Weather Insurance including weather watch service for the following events: **Rhythm & Blues by the Brook, Plainfield, New Jersey, June 11, 2005** and **MusicFest, Mountainside, New Jersey September 17, 2005**. These events will be insured through **AIG – ASU International Agency, Woburn, MA**, in an amount no to exceed **\$13,233.10**.
2. Renewing the **Lawyer’s Professional Liability Policy** for the Prosecutor’s Office with **Lloyd’s of London c/o William Malone, Paramus, New Jersey**, for the period of May 1, 2005 – May 1, 2006, in an amount not to exceed **\$106,736**.
3. Renewing the **Risk Control Consulting Agreement** with **Hale Insurance Brokerage, LLC, Cranford, New Jersey**, for the period of June 1, 2005 – June 1, 2006, in an amount not to exceed **\$32,400**. (Increase of **\$6,900** due to the fact that Loss prevention services now include work that has been previously handled in part by PMA Insurance)
4. Renewing the **Medical Malpractice/Professional Policy** for Part-Time Runnells Hospital Physicians with **Princeton Insurance Company, Princeton, New Jersey**, for the period of July 1, 2005 – July 1, 2006, in an amount not to exceed **\$53,023.72**. (**Decrease of \$270.95**).

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**612-2005** **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, concurring with the **City of Linden**, granting permission to the Special Improvement District of Linden (SID) to hang banners across Wood Avenue at the corner of North Wood Avenue and Elizabeth Avenue and across North Wood Avenue and Curtis Street, Linden, New Jersey, from May 27, 2005 to June 6, 2005 and from July 25, 2005 to August 8, 2005 to promote their Annual Sidewalk Sales.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**613-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, concurring with the **Township of Scotch Plains**, granting permission to the Scotch Plains – Fanwood Chapter of Unico to hang a banner across Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, in the center of town, in front of the monument, from August 1, 2005 to September 6, 2005 to publicize their Annual Labor Day Italian Festival to be held September 2, 2005 through September 5, 2005 in the parking lot of Saint Bartholomew’s Church, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**614-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the **County of Somerset** to obtain Temporary Construction Easements in the City of Plainfield, along Madison Avenue, adjacent to the Duer Street/Madison Avenue Bridge over the Green Brook, for the purpose of constructing a new bridge at this location. (Somerset County is the lead agency for this project).

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**615-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager to accept and sign a **Memorandum of Understanding** between participating Local, State, Federal and Military agencies and the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General to establish policy and procedures for the activation, use and deactivation of an interoperability communication system, known as the **New Jersey Interoperability Communication System (NJICS)**; the contact person appointed to be in charge of the supervision and accountability of the NJICS in the UASI Region is Christopher J. Scaturro, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**616-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager to formerly adopt the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** as the County’s emergency response system as per Homeland Security Presidential Directives (HSPD) 5 & 8.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**617-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the Department of Finance through the County Manager to increase the **Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)**, to fund the Emergency Management Blackberry Project as per the Attorney General’s Office in an amount of **\$7,500**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**618-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager to apply for, accept and expend **\$303,877**, in **Homeland Security/Department of Justice Grant** funding from “**Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program**,” to detect, deter, prevent and respond to acts of terrorism.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**619-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Prosecutor’s Office to extend the service agreement with **Appriss, Louisville, KY**, to continue the VINE system that operates between the Union County Jail and the Union County Prosecutor’s Office to provide statutorily mandated notification of offender release from custody on an automated basis to crime victims for the contract period of April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006, in an amount of **\$33,072**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**620-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager through the Union County Prosecutor’s Office to enter into an agreement with the **Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Investigations, Newark, New Jersey**, for the purpose of receiving reimbursable costs incurred while providing resources to joint operations/task forces.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**621-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, amending **Resolution No. 831-2004**, to increase the appropriation to **Edward Kologi, Linden, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled **Roberts v. County of Union, et als.** in an additional amount of **\$5,000**, for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$10,000**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**622-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, amending **Resolution No. 903-2004**, to increase the appropriation to **Edward Kologi, Linden, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled **Baptiste v. County of Union, et als.** in an additional amount of **\$5,000**, for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$10,000**.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**623-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, amending **Resolution No. 296-2005**, to increase the appropriation to **Schenck, Price, Smith and King, LLP, Morristown, New Jersey**,

special counsel in the matter entitled Scala v. County of Union, et als. in an additional amount of \$5,000, for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$10,000.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**624-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, amending **Resolution No. 907-2004**, to increase the appropriation to **Palumbo & Renaud, Cranford, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled Chambers v. County of Union, et als. in an additional amount of \$5,000, for a new contract amount not to exceed \$10,000.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**625-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, amending **Resolution No. 901-2004**, to increase the appropriation to **Palumbo & Renaud, Cranford, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled Baptiste v. County of Union, et als. in an additional amount of \$5,000, for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$10,000.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**626-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with **Melly Mell Productions, Inc., Elizabeth, New Jersey**, for sponsorship support of the 2005 Elizabeth Waterfront Festival – May 28 & 29, 2005; and Carnival Elizabeth – September 4 & 5, 2005, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**627-2005**      **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, approving a settlement agreement in the matter entitled Chambers vs. County of Union, et als. in an amount of \$17,500 as recommended by the Department of Law, Office of the County Counsel.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

#### **THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE LAUDATORY IN CONTENT:**

**628-2005**      **FREEHOLDERS ESTRADA AND SULLIVAN**, congratulating **St. Adalbert's Roman Catholic Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey**, who will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 21, 2005.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**629-2005**      **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, recognizing and honoring **Melissa Quinn and many other employees of Martindale-Hubbell of New Providence**, for their help in improving the ecological balance and aesthetic nature of Union County's Passaic River Park, Berkeley Heights through the Union County Adopt-A-Park Program.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**630-2005**      **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI AND CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, recognizing and honoring **Gail Driscoll and many other employees of Merck and Company**, for their efforts to remove invasive plants (ones that compete aggressively with native vegetation) at the Rahway River Parkway, Rahway Section, Michael S. Bezega Wetland Observation Area through the Union County Adopt- A- Park Program.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**631-2005**      **FREEHOLDER MAPP**, congratulating **Pete Jones, Plainfield, New Jersey**, on his retirement as President of Faith, Bricks & Mortar, Plainfield, New Jersey, for his outstanding and dedicated service to the City of Plainfield and the County of Union.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**632-2005**      **FREEHOLDER MAPP**, congratulating **Helen Clark, Plainfield, New Jersey**, on her Relocation Moving Party given by her grateful neighbors in appreciation for her many years of tireless devotion to the City of Plainfield.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**633-2005**      **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, congratulating **James Eddleton, Director, Division of Mental Health Services, Department of Human Services**, upon the occasion of his retirement after 21 years of public service in County government.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**634-2005**      **VICE CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, congratulating **Jillian Cullen, Roselle Park, New Jersey**, who was named the first place winner and received the Raoul Wallenberg Award for Area 4 Finalists (Union and Hudson Counties) for demonstrating a spirit of courage and compassion and community service.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**635-2005 CHAIRMAN PROCTOR AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Brian T. Allen, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 69**, on attaining his Eagle Scout Award.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**636-2005 CHAIRMAN PROCTOR AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Thomas Del Guercio, Union, New Jersey, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 69**, on attaining his Eagle Scout Award.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**637-2005 CHAIRMAN PROCTOR AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Phillip G. Laroche, Union, New Jersey, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 69**, on attaining his Eagle Scout Award.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**638-2005 CHAIRMAN PROCTOR AND THE ENTIRE BOARD** congratulating, **Edward A. Wachter, Union, New Jersey, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 69**, on attaining his Eagle Scout Award.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**639-2005 CHAIRMAN PROCTOR AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, recognizing the month of June as “**National Safety Month**” to encourage injury prevention awareness at the workplace, home, and in our communities.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**640-2005 CHAIRMAN PROCTOR AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, extending deepest condolences to the family of **Doris McGuire, Toms River, New Jersey**, in this, their time of sorrow.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**641-2005 CHAIRMAN PROCTOR AND VICE CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, congratulating the **Fall 2004/Spring 2005** graduates of the Union County Fire Academy.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**642-2005**     **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR AND FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, congratulating **Antonio Pinheiro and Carmenza Hurtado and 29 other outstanding honorees** on being honored at the 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner Meeting of the Mental Health Association which is being held on Wednesday, June 1, 2005 and celebrating persons of special value.

On a motion by Freeholder Estrada, seconded by Vice Chairman Mirabella, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF COMMENTING ON  
RESOLUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR ONLY**

There were no comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED**

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The Chairman called for a motion to suspend the rules. On a motion by Vice Chairman Mirabella seconded by Freeholder Holmes, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the Resolutions from the Floor. On a motion by Vice Chairman Mirabella, seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE FROM THE FLOOR:**

**643-2005**     **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, rescinding **Resolution No. 494-2005**, authorizing the establishment of a **Cap Bank** within the Calendar Year 2005 County Budget pursuant to **N.J.S. § 40A:4-45.15b.**

On a motion by Vice Chairman Mirabella, seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**644-2005**     **CHAIRMAN PROCTOR**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with the **Union County Arts Center, Rahway, New Jersey**, to support arts and educational programs for the period of January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005 in an amount not to exceed **\$75,000.**

On a motion by Vice Chairman Mirabella, seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

**645-2005 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, approving the amendment to the 2005 Temporary Budget, to reflect under **Director's Office, Department of Public Safety** operating expense an appropriation of **\$5,000**.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Mirabella, seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF COMMENTING ON  
ANY MATTER**

Jerry Goldman, 996 Kipling Road, Elizabeth, commented on the Public Comment portions of the Freeholder Meetings, particularly on the issue of the public asking and Freeholders responding to questions.

Vincent Lehotsky, 2311 Knapp Drive, Rahway, commented on a forum for open government held at Rutgers University and on the matter of persons found out of order and then being escorted from meetings. He also commented on the recently held Bio Blitz event and on water testing that he performed.

Tina Renna, 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, commented on an award she received for her work pursuing inquiries in government offices. She also commented on an article appearing today in the Star Ledger newspaper regarding an incident at the Juvenile Detention Center. She also commented on a vigil she attended with the mother of the late Edward Sinclair, who had been a detainee at the Center, and on the presence of County officers at the vigil. She also commented on the budget and lawsuit payments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED**

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**REPORTS: STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Freeholder Estrada reported on the Open Space Historic Preservation Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee (PAC) saying that the committee has started to engage citizens on various projects.

Freeholder Holmes had no comments.

Freeholder Kowalski thanked Mr. Lehotsky for his help on the water testing during the Bio Blitz event and commented on the event and on the information that was gained. She also commented on an employee art show held at the Elizabethtown Gas building, and on attending the Union County

College graduation yesterday, noting that many of the graduates had to overcome many obstacles to obtain their degree.

Freeholder Mapp also commented on the graduation, noting that the person with the highest honors was a parent, raising a family, but still managed to attain honors with the degree.

Freeholder Ward reported that she attended an event honoring Margo Newkirk, winner of Linden's 2005 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award. She also viewed the art at the County employee art show, and singled out several individuals whose work was represented.

Freeholder Sullivan commented about on the budget that was adopted this evening and thanked the County Manager, the various department heads and the Freeholders who all participated in the hearings. The budget was reduced \$1 million dollars from the original. He also noted that some positions added were for public safety jobs. He also noted positions added in the Parks and Recreation Department, which are all areas that serve the public directly. He commented that no one is happy when taxes are raised, but increases had to be faced, including pension costs and costs of doing business. He stated they have already started working on the budget for 2006 and are looking for ways to increase revenues. He also commented that he was invited to a forum that will be held on the subject of New Jersey property taxes being hosted by the Westfield Leader and on the proposed constitutional convention on the matter. He stated that this is a state-wide problem that must be reformed on a state-wide basis.

Freeholder Scanlon commended Freeholder Sullivan and the finance committee on their work this year, noting that to be the Chair of that committee is very challenging. She commended the Finance Department on their work, and congratulated Frank Dann and Jeff Sias, the County Engineer on the opening of a bridge recently that facilitates travel much better and she also commented on the Shade Tree Advisory Board's Tree Planting Information Program in the schools.

Vice Chairman Mirabella welcomed the County Manager back at work after a recent illness, and commended him for coming back as quickly as he could. The Vice Chairman echoed Freeholder Sullivan's comments on the budget and noted the challenge of putting together budgets in recent years. The Vice Chairman also endorsed a change in the state constitution in regard to property taxes. He also commented on the Public Comment portions of the meeting and stated that he appreciated the constructive comments that were given by some members of the public in attendance this evening. The Vice Chairman also commented on a visit to Prospect Park in Brooklyn with some staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and Freeholder Kowalski, looking at the public/private partnership which runs Prospect Park. He stated that he hoped the County would be able to move forward with some kind of public/private partnership for the County parks to ease the tax burden. He commended Al Walcoff and Sean Ryan who are always trying to improve the County's parks.

County Manager George Devaney talked about his recovery from hip surgery and thanked everyone on the Board for their good wishes, notes and phone calls and said he was glad to be back at work. He also commended the Deputy County Manager and reiterated his confidence in her ability, noting how she governed so effectively in his absence. He also commented on the wonderful care he received at Runnells Specialized Hospital, and said that the same wonderful care

was extended to every patient there and that the food was pretty good. The County Manager also commented on the property tax issue and on home values. He noted how over the last 5 years home values have risen over 60% on average and that County Government's economic development efforts play a big role in that.

County Counsel had no comments.

Chairman Proctor echoed many of the comments from the Freeholders on the budget and commended those who worked so hard on the budget.

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The Chairman stated that the Board would be entering Executive Session and called for a motion to adjourn to enter it. On a motion by Vice Chairman Mirabella, seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, roll call showed nine members voted in the affirmative.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

\* \* \* \* \*

The Chairman called for a motion to return to the Regular Meeting. On a motion by Vice Chairman Mirabella, seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Freeholder Scanlon, seconded by Freeholder Ward, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

The voucher list through **May 18, 2005** will be available for public perusal in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

The next **Regular Meeting** of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will be held on **June 23, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Freeholders Meeting Room, Administration Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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**Nicole L. Tedeschi**  
**Clerk of the Board**