

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 9, 2006

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

Also in attendance were Deputy County Manager M. Elizabeth Genievich, 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.

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

Freeholder Scanlon arrives at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 16, 2006 – Regular & Executive Meetings; February 22, 2006 – Agenda & Regular Meetings.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the Minutes of February 16, 2006 Regular and Executive Meetings and February 22, 2006 Agenda and Regular Meetings. On a Motion by Freeholder Scanlon and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative. Freeholder Proctor abstaining the Minutes of February 22, 2006 Regular and Agenda Meetings and Freeholder Ward abstaining on the Minutes of February 16, 2006 Regular and Executive Meetings. Freeholder Holmes was absent.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

OATHS OF OFFICE: (Note & file)

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Sullivan and seconded by Vice Chair Kowalski, roll call showed eight members in the Board voted in the affirmative, Freeholder Holmes was absent.

Freeholder Holmes arrives at this time.

County Manager George Devanny arrives at this time.

The Chairman called upon Vice Chair Kowalski and Freeholder Proctor to present resolutions to honored guests.

Vice Chair Kowalski and Freeholder Proctor called upon Dr. Karen Ensle, Ph.D., the Department Head of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County, to present a resolution for Living Well Week.

Dr. Ensle thanked the Freeholders for the resolution and their support with the childhood obesity project.

Vice Chair Kowalski stated the importance of educating people in health care.

The Chairman then asked the entire Board of Freeholders to join him in presenting long time Union County resident and Union County worker Marie Oakie with a resolution of sympathy from the Board of Chosen Freeholders on the passing of her husband, Edward Oakie.

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The first order of business is the First Reading of Bond Ordinance No. 624-2006. Reading done by Clerk of the Board Nicole L. Tedeschi.

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 624-2006

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK FOR OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES IN, BY AND FOR THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$6,500,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

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Freeholder Scanlon moved Bond Ordinance No. 624-2006 for First Reading and authorizing the Clerk of the Board to advertise the same in accordance with the law. {Final Reading: 3/30/2006}

The Chairman asks Freeholder Scanlon for the motion, seconded by Freeholder Estrada. Roll call showed nine in the affirmative.

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

Jerry Goldman, Elizabeth, N.J. asks who is it that we are purchasing land from and was it being purchased from Hazelwood Cemetery. Mr. Goldman also asked the Freeholders if they had thought about doing a payment plan, for installments, he believed that it might have an effect on the taxes.

County Manager George Devanny said that the county was able to get a better price for the property, below appraised value, because of the one time payment.

Bruce Patterson, 325 Willow Avenue, Garwood, N.J. comments on resolution 2006-275 and would like to know what a temporary budget is for. Lawrence Caroselli, Director of the Department of Finance, said that the temporary budget is a requirement of the New Jersey Division Local Government Services until the budget is passed. The budget is put in place temporarily until the budget is passed. It can fluctuate based on money coming in from budgets, or other items. Chairman Mirabella added that this temporary budget would only stay in place until the budget is passed.

Mr. Patterson asked what the increase in the umbrella policy was for. M. Elizabeth Genievich, Director of the Department of Administrative Services, explained that the umbrella policy is for additional staff, when people visit the building, and people that work here and to keep all the people safe. Union County has to protect the people.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED

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The Chairman asked for a motion to move Resolutions 2006-274 through 2006-311. On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR ADOPTION:

2006-274 **FREEHOLDER ESTRADA**, an Amendment to the **Temporary 2006 Budget** in the amount of **\$121,966,704.33** as a result of notification received from the following agencies:

- a. US Department of Housing and Urban Development for a program entitled: **“McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance”** in an amount of **\$3,726,466.**

- b. New Jersey Department of Environment Protection for a program entitled: **“County Environmental Health Act (CEHA)”** in an amount of **\$183,750.**
- c. New Jersey Department of Transportation for a program entitled: **“Signs and Markings”** in an amount of **\$1,014,000.**
- d. County of Union – Match for a program entitled: **“Match – Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant”** in an amount of **\$30,000.**

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-275 FREEHOLDER ESTRADA, an amendment to the **2006 Temporary Budget** in the total amount of **\$170,755,337.37**, pursuant to the provisions of **Ch. 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20).**

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-276 FREEHOLDER ESTRADA, transfer Resolution for the **2005 appropriations**, pursuant to **N.J.S.A.40A:4-59.**

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-277 FREEHOLDER ESTRADA, adopting the **2006 Temporary Capital Budget** in the amount of **\$6,500,000.**

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-278 FREEHOLDER ESTRADA, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** and accept the 2005 McKinney-Vento Act Homeless Assistance competitive grant award funds in the amount of **\$3,726,466** for seven (7) projects with various program durations ranging from one (1) to three (3) years, effective immediately upon execution of the HUD grant agreements.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-279 FREEHOLDER ESTRADA, authorizing the County Manager to do all things necessary to enter an agreement and accept funding from the **New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services** for the **2006 Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)** to provide operating

support to the Human Services Advisory Council and the Commission on Missing & Abused Children for the contract period of January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006 in an amount of **\$66,008**, with a required **\$15,900** County Match for a total amount of **\$81,908**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-280 **FREEHOLDER HOLMES**, sponsoring the **Strike Merchants Bowling Club** with the sum of **\$2,000**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-281 **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with **Edwards & Kelcey, Inc., Morristown, New Jersey**, to provide professional services for the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) grant funded transportation planning study entitled: “Union County Freight Access Study between Port Elizabeth and Tremeley Point” for the contract period of March 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 in an amount not to exceed **\$200,000**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-282 **VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI**, amending **Resolution No. 757-2005 (BA No. 49)** for the purpose of changing budgetary appropriations and account numbers with **Bayway Lumber, Linden, New Jersey and The Viva Group, Inc., Berkeley Heights, New Jersey**, for the Division of Facilities Management portion **ONLY** for a twenty-four (24) month contractual term.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-283 **VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI**, approving **Change Order No. 1 (Final)** to the contract with **Voice Print International, Camarillo, California**, in the amount of **\$171,020.20** for the purpose of providing a Logging Recording system for the Union County Communications Center, (New Police Headquarters and Forensic Laboratory) Westfield, New Jersey. This change order will **decrease** the original contract amount by **\$10,054** for a new contract amount of **\$160,966.20**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-284 **VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI**, approving **Change Order No. 1 (Final)** to the contract with **Sprint Communications Company, LP, Overland Park, Kansas**,

for the purpose of integrating the GIS/Mapping System with the Emergency and 9-1-1- Call-Center Phone System for the Union County Communications Center, Westfield, New Jersey in an amount of **\$9,849.78** for a new total contract amount of **\$184,448.49**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-285 **VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI**, sponsoring the **Union County Baseball Association, Elizabeth, New Jersey**, to provide support for the programs and services for the youth of Union County in an amount not to exceed **\$2,000**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-286 **VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement **Somerset County Technology Institute, School of Practical Nursing, Bridgewater, New Jersey**, for the purpose of providing educational experience in clinical area for students enrolled in the School of Practical Nursing for the contract period of March 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006 at no cost to the County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-287 **VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to change the **Nursing Facility Private Fee Structure** rate for private pay Long Term Care residents at Runnells Specialized Hospital from the current per diem rate of **\$255 per day to \$265 per day. {Effective upon approval}**

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-288 **VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Arjo, Inc., Roselle, Illinois**, to purchase eleven (11) patient lifts with scales, fifty three (53) slings for the lifts and two (2) hygiene chairs for Runnells Specialized Hospital for the contract period of March 1, 2006 – July 31, 2006 in an amount of **\$84,082.96**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-289 **VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI**, appointing **Jeff Tandul, Linden, New Jersey**, to the Parks Advisory Board for a term commencing immediately and terminating December 31, 2008.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-290 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to renew the following **Policies** as recommended by the **Citizens Insurance Review Committee (CIRC) dated February 16, 2006:**

- a. Renewing the **Excess Worker's Compensation Policy** with the **PMA Insurance Group, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey**, from March 1, 2006 – February 28, 2007 in an amount not to exceed **\$555,573. {13% increase due to Domestic Terrorism Surcharge, \$500,000 self insured retention limit and an increase in County payroll}**
- b. Renewing the **Auto Insurance Policy** on the fleet of vehicles with the **PMA Insurance Group, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey**, from March 1, 2006 – February 28, 2007 in an amount not to exceed **\$899,618. {1% increase from last year}**
- c. Renewing the **Special Excess Liability Policy** with **Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania (AIG) c/o Continental Marmorstein & Malone, Paramus, New Jersey**, from March 1, 2006 – February 28, 2007 in an amount not to exceed **\$507,122. {the expiring premium was \$504, 472 almost exactly the same}**

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-291 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, 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 OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES: PC Mall Gov, Inc., Chantilly, Virginia**, to furnish and deliver different types of Data Processing Cables and accessories for twenty-four (24) consecutive months in an amount not to exceed **\$2,882.40.**
- b. **DIVISION OF POLICE: Life Fitness Inc., Schiller Park, Illinois**, to furnish and deliver equipment in an amount of **\$35,891.16.**

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-292 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, concurring with the **City of Linden** granting permission to **Care Station, Linden, New Jersey**, to hang a banner across North Wood Avenue and Elizabeth Avenue, Linden, New Jersey, from Thursday, April

13, 2006 to Monday, May 1, 2006, to publicize a Health Fair to be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006 (rain date Sunday, April 30, 2006).

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-293 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing an **Inter-Local Agreement** with the **County of Morris** for the replacement of Central Avenue Bridge (Ne62) over the Passaic River, Borough of New Providence and Township of Chatham, New Jersey.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-294 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending **Resolution No. 1229-2005** to increase the appropriation to **Palumbo & Renaud, Cranford, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled: **Sinclair v. County of Union, et als.** for an additional sum of **\$10,000** for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$25,000**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-295 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending **Resolution No. 949-2005** to increase the appropriation to **John Demassi, Esq., Scotch Plains, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled: **Baptiste v. County of Union, et als.** for an additional sum of **\$5,000** for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$10,000**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-296 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending **Resolution No. 970-2004** to increase the appropriation to **Carpenter, Bennett & Morrissey, Newark, Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled: **Espinosa v. County of Union, et als.** for an additional sum of **\$10,000** for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$90,000**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-297 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending **Resolution No. 1080-2005** to increase the appropriation to **Booker, Rabinowitz, Trenk, Lubetkin, Tully, Dispasquale, Webster, West Orange, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled: **Sinclair v. County of Union, et als.** for an additional sum of **\$10,000** for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$20,000**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-298 CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA, amending **Resolution No. 1234-2005** to increase the appropriation to **Schenk, Price, Smith & King, Morristown, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled: **Butler v. County of Union, et als.** for an additional sum of **\$10,000** for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$25,000**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-299 CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA, approving the settlement of pending litigation entitled **Weinstock, Ficacci & Testa**, as recommended by the Department of Law.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-300 CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA, approving a pre-qualified provision for **Engineering Services**.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE LAUDATORY IN CONTENT:

2006-301 FREEHOLDER HOLMES, congratulating **Detective Gertha M. Murrell, Jersey City, New Jersey**, upon the occasion of her retirement from the Jersey City Police Department.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-302 FREEHOLDER MAPP, congratulating **Lieutenant Donald Moye, Plainfield, New Jersey**, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Plainfield Police Department after twenty five (25) years of services.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-303 FREEHOLDER MAPP, recognizing the contributions of former **Councilwoman Joanne Hollis**, to the City of Plainfield, New Jersey.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-304 FREEHOLDER MAPP, congratulating **Reginald Dixon, Plainfield High School** for winning the 55-meter dash at the Princeton University at the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Championship.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-305 FREEHOLDER WARD, opposing the **Federal Aviation Administration's Metro Airspace Redesign** proposals; specifically as it relates to the Newark Liberty International Airport.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-306 VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI, proclaiming the month of March, 2006 as **"National Professional Social Workers Month"** in Union County, this year's theme is: **"Life's Journey, Help Starts Here."**

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-307 VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI, declaring the month of March 2006 as **"National Nutrition Month"** in Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-308 VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI, declaring March 30, 2006 as **"National Doctors' Day"** in Union County.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-309 CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA AND VICE CHAIR KOWALSKI, congratulating **Benjamin S. Chewey, Cranford, New Jersey, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75**, on attaining his Eagle Scout Award.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-310 CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA, congratulating **Christine Ring, Summit, New Jersey**, for being named a Top Youth Volunteer in New Jersey for 2006.

On a motion made by Freeholder Holmes and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-311 CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA, AND THE ENTIRE BOARD, extending deepest condolences to the family of **Edward (Eddie) Oakie, Hillside, New Jersey**, in this, their time of sorrow.

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

There were no comments made.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED

Chairman Mirabella asked for a motion to suspend the rules. On a motion made by Freeholder Proctor and seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, the roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

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Chairman Mirabella's asked for a motion to move Resolutions from the floor. On a motion made by Freeholder Sullivan and seconded by freeholder Holmes, the roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative for resolution 2006-312. Seven members voted in the affirmative on Resolution 2006-313, with Freeholder Proctor abstaining and Freeholder Scanlon voting in the negative.

Chairman Mirabella called for Freeholder comments on Resolution 2006-313 only. Freeholder Estrada asked whether there would be any pedestrian traffic on this bridge, or if there would be supplied busing services. Phillip Connelly, Vice President Administration and Finance at Kean University responded by saying that the bridge allows for pedestrian traffic, but none from the Main campus to the East Campus. There will be gates installed for vehicle use. Mr. Connelly asked Mr. Wayne Gordon, Project Engineer, KS Engineers, P.C., to comment. Mr. Gordon explained that the roadway was for vans and Kean University patrol calls and no other traffic. The walkway itself was supplied because of Green Acres rules that require the area to have enhancements to the park area. The walkway would be used with-in the park itself for pedestrian traffic. Freeholder Estrada comments on the time between classes being ten minutes and is there a potential for moving people in great numbers with such a short opening of time allowed. Mr. Connelly explains that the bell schedule is being reviewed by committee and there is a possibility that the bell schedule will be lengthened. Freeholder Estrada questions whether it will help students and wants to know more about the costs. Mr. Connelly says that they are discouraging

pedestrian traffic as an incremental approach. They are also looking into various costing options such as having the Army Core of Engineers look at this project as well. Freeholder Estrada asks about the time frame expected for this project. Mr. Connelly responds that it is hopeful to do this project within a two year period. Freeholder Estrada asks what the company does with the land currently, are they giving an easement. Mr. Dan McCarthy, Esq., from Rogut & McCarthy, said that the University transferred land to the County but has an easement that allows Kean University to use, construct and maintain. Freeholder Estrada asked if there were other easements. Mr. Connelly said that the University has transferred land to the County, but has an easement to allow the University to use, construct and maintain, doubling the property.

Freeholder Holmes asks who is responsible for liabilities on the property. Mr. Dan McCarthy, Esq., of Rogut & McCarthy states Kean University is responsible based on the easement agreement.

Vice Chair Kowalski asks if there was a fatality in the last few weeks and was it a pedestrian or a motorist? Mr. Dan McCarthy, Esq. thought that the Freeholder might have been speaking of the accident on December 14th, 2006 where two students were crossing North Avenue to go to the 7-11 and were struck by a car. Mr. Dan McCarthy, Esq., said that this project would not have affected any outcome of that particular incident. Vice Chair Kowalski asked if this project would really assist in traffic flow and the students at Kean University, her concern being that a shortened roadway of any kind would make it tempting for students to want to get on the walkway path to get to classes on East Campus. This gives the Vice Chair Kowalski concerns about pedestrian traffic attempting to cross Morris Avenue and that there should be an added concern for safety. Mr. Connelly replies that the University has a fully staffed police force and will monitor this area.

Chairman Mirabella questions the University's lack of communication with the Township of Union and would like to know if the University also felt they weren't in enough contact with the Township. Mr. Connelly stated that the e-mail network in the community is also sent to the Township, including Minutes, Agendas and updates.

Freeholder Scanlon appreciates both the positions of Kean University and Mery Ellis Court residents. Freeholder Scanlon states that she has not seen the traffic engineering report. The Freeholder asks how many buses will run and how many trips per hour will be made. The Freeholder would also like to know the hours of operation. Mr. Connelly states that there will be a constant circulation from 8 AM to 10:40 PM, during class hours. The average time of the buses will be estimated at approximately 8 minutes during class time, but recognizes that there could be some issues with traffic. During peak times they plan to have two buses available. They are also looking into doing some experimenting using Morris Avenue during peak and off-peak hours in order to not disturb the development. Freeholder Scanlon questions how the police department would protect the students on Morris Avenue, which is not in their jurisdiction. The Freeholder also questions the gate system planned for this project. Mr. Connelly explains that it is to get on the walkway and will be controlled from the bridge only. Freeholder Scanlon also states her discomfort with the lack of communication explaining that she thinks Kean University is great, but asks them to consider communicating more with the Township of Union, meetings should have already taken place between the Township and the

University and does not feel that the Township was well enough informed about this particular project. Freeholder Scanlon also makes mention of the plans to build a Children's Museum on the site of this current project, and feels that they could have given more notice if the plan was for this bridge project connecting Main Campus to East Campus. Freeholder Scanlon expresses her distress over the Children's Museum project. Wayne Gordon, KS Engineers, explains that the roadway could have easily been moved for the project.

Freeholder Mapp refers to the earlier public meeting regarding this Resolution and comments on an accident the Sergeant, a speaker at the public meeting, made mention of regarding fatalities. What would the impact be on pedestrian safety the Freeholder would like to know. Mr. Connelly responded in regards to the accident a first and explained that it was an accident on October 22nd, 2002 on Morris Avenue where man riding a bike, a student, was killed. The intent of this project, according to Mr. Connelly, is to prevent pedestrian traffic. The East Campus building is closed except for athletics. There are potentially 3000 students on the East Campus for combined Bachelors and Masters Degree programs; this would help those students specifically to commute better. Freeholder Mapp asks Mr. Connelly what the driving force is. Mr. Connelly explained that the accident mentioned was a driving force to create a better commuting system for these students. The East Campus is dramatically underused and Kean can only enroll 40% of the applicants.

Freeholder Estrada asks how many parking spaces are available. Mr. Connelly responded that there would be no change to the amount of parking spaces and the spaces would remain at a count of three hundred and eighty five. Mr. Connelly believes it would be in the best interest of the students to leave there cars on the Main Campus and commute to the East Campus.

Freeholder Sullivan wants to let Kean University know that he supports the Resolution. Kean University has had a large part in Union County for many years. The Freeholder understands Kean's need to grown. He sees the building trades, a twenty-eight million dollar project, good for the economy, creating jobs, and activity. Freeholder's concern is that this project takes place near to one of the worst intersections in the County is located on an intersection wherein both roadways are State Highways. North Avenue is a major corridor of traffic. Freeholder Sullivan also expresses his concern about the lack of communication with the Township of Union. Mr. Connelly responds by saying that there Board of Trustees has created an External Affairs committee, but has not begun as of yet.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE FROM THE FLOOR:

2006-312 **FREEHOLDER ESTRADA**, an amendment to the Temporary 2006 Budget in the amount of **\$173,311,013.37** as a result of notification received from the following agency:

- a. City of Newark – **“Ryan White Title – I HIV”** in an amount of **\$2,535,676**.

On a Motion made by Freeholder Sullivan and Seconded by Freeholder Holmes, roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

2006-313 **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, supporting the application (**Kean University East Campus Link**) to the State House Commission for the diversion of lands in Elizabeth River Park, Block 101, Lot 5, in the Township of Union, approving the transfer of an easement to Kean University over Block 101, Lot 5 and accepting Block 1601, Lot 7 in the Township of Hillside as compensation for the diversion.

On a motion made by Freeholder Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Holmes, roll called showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon voting in the negative and Freeholder Proctor abstaining.

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

Bruce Patterson, Garwood questioned news of Union County Undersheriff Joseph Cryan. He also mentioned a County car that was allegedly taken to Trenton and damaged due to a break-in.

Robert Barry, County Counsel expressed to Mr. Peterson that Robert's Rules indicate that Mr. Patterson must be courteous and make no personal comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED

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FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Mapp had no comments at this time.

Freeholder Sullivan had no comments at this time.

Freeholder Scanlon wanted to make sure that everyone knew of the St. Patrick's Day parade being held in Union, on Saturday March 11th at 1:00 AM.

Vice Chair Kowalski commended the school staff in Linden and Rahway schools where she participated in Read Across American program, a program that encourages children of all ages to read. The Vice Chair also mentioned letters of commendation that have been coming in to the Board of Chosen Freeholders office commending things like the ice skating rink in Warinanco Park in Elizabeth by a man named George LaForde. There were also letters of commendation for Runnells Hospital for the great care people receive at that facility.

Freeholder Ward spoke of the recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the NACO Annual Legislative Conference on Friday, March 3, 2006 to Monday, March 6th, 2006. She spoke of how excited she was at the prospect of attending a national meeting of legislators to discuss issues such as the sale of the operations of the ports. She was terribly disappointed that the NACO governing body didn't consider the port issues, or issues of this kind, priority enough to host a conversation of this nature. In a time of national conflict, a bi-partisan effort to change the minds of the government officials and protect the people was imperative and thanks to counties like Union County and the people that spoke up regarding the sale of operations to a non-American company of the ports will no longer be taking place.

Freeholder Holmes thanked Freeholder Ward for participating in the NACO Conference he usually attends, but due to the recent eye surgery he underwent he was not able to go.

Freeholder Estrada had no comments at this time.

Freeholder Proctor had no comments at this time.

Chairman Mirabella had no comments at this time.

County Manager George Devanny had no comments at this time.

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The voucher list through **March 1, 2006** 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 **Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 7:00 pm** in the Freeholders Meeting Room, Administration Building, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Chairman Mirabella asks for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Freeholder Mapp and seconded by Freeholder Scanlon. Roll call showed nine members of the Board voted in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

Nicole L. Tedeschi
Clerk of the Board
NLT/je