

**MINUTES OF THE
UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
REGULAR MEETING**

MAY 24, 2007

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

Also present were County Counsel Robert E. Barry, County Manager George W. Devanney and Clerk of the Board Nicole L. DiRado.

Prayer and Salute to the Flag were led by the Clerk of the Board.

Freeholder Sullivan entered the meeting at this point.

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by the Clerk of the Board.

Chairwoman Kowalski announced that she would be making a presentation and called upon Barbara Fuller of the Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board.

Chairwoman Kowalski called upon Mr. Tim Williams, Manager of Community Outreach of the Elizabeth Gas Company. She presented him with a Resolution for hosting two receptions at the Gas Company acknowledging the talents and contributions of individual visual artists of Union County. Mr. Williams accepted the Resolution and thanked the Board on behalf of the Elizabeth Gas Company.

Mr. Williams called upon Tony Pugliese, Union County Division leader for the Elizabethtown Gas. Mr. Pugliese stated that he looks forward to working with Union County in the future.

Chairwoman Kowalski stated that the exhibit will remain until June 11th, followed by the Senior Art Show, which will be held until July 23rd. She stated that Elizabethtown Gas is a beautiful place to have the exhibit.

Chairwoman Kowalski called upon Freeholder Mirabella to present a Resolution to Nicholas Milici of Roselle Park for being named 1 out of 10 outstanding bowlers in the State of New Jersey, while keeping a grade point average of 3.8. Nicholas thanked the Board for the recognition and Freeholder Mirabella for his support and stated that bowling has become a fast growing sport.

Freeholder Ward entered the meeting at this point.

Chairwoman Kowalski called upon Freeholder Proctor to present a Resolution to Dr. Karen Ensle, Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension on recognizing the week of April 15, 2007 through April 21, 2007 as Volunteer Work Week. Dr. Ensle thanked the Board for its recognition and for the support the Board has given all year. The following volunteers accompanied Dr. Ensle and thanked the Board:

Madeline DiNardo – Agricultural Agent with the Master Gardner Volunteers
President Cindy Coppa – President of the Master Gardner
Mary Beth Craig – Union County 4-H Club Volunteer Leader
Peggy Lore - Union County 4-H Club who serves 30 children
Jim Nichnadowicz – Union County 4-H Agent, who thanked the Board and the volunteers.

Chairwoman Kowalski called for a motion to approve the minutes of **May 3, 2007 – Agenda Meeting, May 10, 2007 – Regular Meeting and May 17, 2007 Agenda Meeting.**

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Holmes, roll call showed six members voted in the affirmative on the Agenda Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2007 Ward abstaining and Freeholder Scanlon absent. Eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative on the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2007 with Freeholder Scanlon absent and seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative on the Agenda Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2007 with Freeholder Proctor abstaining and Freeholder Scanlon absent.

Chairwoman Kowalski asked Freeholder Mirabella if he would like to make a comment relative to the pending budget amendment. Freeholder Mirabella stated that Union County 2007 Budget will be reduced by \$800,000. This money has been held in escrow by Horizon Blue Cross & Blue Shield of New Jersey and has been returned to the County, which will inturn decrease the tax levy.

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE
PURPOSE OF COMMENTING ON
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2007-519,
THE 2007 UNION COUNTY BUDGET ONLY**

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, commented that he is opposed to the 2007 Union County Budget and made recommendations on how to cut the budget.

Tina Renna, Cranford, commented on the budget and stated she was opposed of the seemingly duplicative services within county government.

Mary Ellen Taylor, Berkeley Heights, commented on the budget and the qualifications of County employees, salary increases and tax increases.

George DeCarlo, Berkeley Heights, stated that there should be more information posted on the Union County website, is opposed to fees charged for OPRA requests and is opposed to double services.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED

Chairwoman Kowalski called for a motion to Suspend the Rules. On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative and Freeholder Scanlon absent.

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**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE
PURPOSE OF COMMENTING ON
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2007-518,
AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2007 UNION COUNTY BUDGET ONLY**

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, thanked the Board for the explanation of the \$800,000 reduction and the savings to the 2007 budget.

Tina Renna, Cranford, stated that she was confused. She said she thought the \$800,000 was held in escrow.

Chairwoman Kowalski called upon Lawrence Caroselli, Director of Finance to explain the \$800,000 in savings.

Director Caroselli stated that in talking with Horizon Blue Cross & Blue Shield of New Jersey, the money dates back a few years. This money is free to be used and is free of any encumbrances.

Freeholder Sullivan interjected and stated that it will reduce the tax levy only and will not be spent on anything.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED

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THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS OFFERED FOR ADOPTION FROM THE FLOOR:

2007-518 **FREEHOLDER MIRABELLA**, an amendment to the 2007 Union County Budget.

Chairwoman Kowalski called for a motion to adopt Resolution 2007-518. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Mapp abstaining and Freeholder Scanlon absent.

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THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS OFFERED FOR ADOPTION

2007-519 FREEHOLDER MIRABELLA, adopting the 2007 Union County Budget as amended.

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed seven members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Mapp abstaining and Freeholder Scanlon absent.

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The next order of business was the First Reading of Bond Ordinance No. 650-2007. The Clerk of the Board read the ordinance by title.

BOND ORDINANCE 650-2007

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK FOR OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION PURPOSES IN, BY AND FOR THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$8,300,000 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.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The County of Union, State of New Jersey (the "County") is hereby authorized to acquire real property located at 332 Madison Hill Road in the Township of Clark, New Jersey (the "Township"), for open space conservation and recreation purposes. Said property to be acquired is designated as Block 52, Lot 11 on the Tax Assessment Map of the Township. Said improvement shall include real estate transaction expenses and all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefore

Section 2. The sum of \$8,300,000 is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvement described in Section 1 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purpose"). Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized and the down payment appropriated by this ordinance. Said improvement shall be made as a general improvement and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that (1) said purpose is not a current expense of said County, and (2) it is necessary to finance said purpose by the issuance of obligations of said County pursuant to the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended; the "Local Bond Law"), and (3) the estimated cost of said purpose is \$8,300,000, and (4)

\$415,000 of said sum is to be provided by the down payment hereinafter appropriated to finance said purpose, and (5) the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes necessary to be issued for said purpose is \$7,885,000, and (6) the cost of such purpose, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$300,000 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purpose, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law.

Section 4. It is hereby determined and stated that the sum of county of Union Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund is now available to serve as the down payment on said purpose. The sum of \$415,000 is hereby appropriated from such moneys to the payment of the cost of said purpose.

Section 5. To finance said purpose, bonds of said County of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$7,885,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 6. To finance said purpose, bond anticipation notes of said County of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$7,885,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 7. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, by the County Manager and by the County Treasurer and shall be under the seal of said County and attested by the Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is hereby delegated to the County Treasurer who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 8. It is hereby determined and declared that the period of usefulness of said purpose, according to its reasonable life, is a period of forty years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 9. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen

Freeholders of said County, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said County, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$7,885,000 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 10. Any funds received from private parties, the State of New Jersey or any of their agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purpose, shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purpose, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purpose shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 11. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and is available for public inspection.

Section 12. The County intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvement described in Section 1 of this bond ordinance. If the County incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the County hereby states its reasonable expectation to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 13. The full faith and credit of the County are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the County, and the County shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the County for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 14. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

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Freeholder Mirabella moved Bond Ordinance No. 650-2007 for First Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise the same in accordance with the law. Final Reading is scheduled for June 21, 2007. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

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The next order of business was the First Reading of Bond Ordinance 651-2007. The Clerk of the Board read the ordinance by title.

BOND ORDINANCE 651-2007

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED PARTLY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK AND PARTLY IN THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD FOR OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION PURPOSES IN, BY AND FOR THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$3,700,000 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.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The County of Union, State of New Jersey (the "County") is hereby authorized to acquire real property located off of Old Raritan Road, partly in the Township of Clark, New Jersey ("Clark") and partly in the Town of Westfield, New Jersey ("Westfield"), for open space conservation and recreation purposes. Said property to be acquired is known as the "Schwartz Farm" and is designated as (A) Block 57, Lot 1 on the Tax Assessment Map of Clark and (B) Block 5405, Lots 2 and 3 on the Tax Assessment Map of Westfield. Said improvement shall include real estate transaction expenses and all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefore.

Section 2. The sum of \$3,700,000 is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvement described in Section 1 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purpose"). Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized and the down payment appropriated by this ordinance. Said improvement shall be made as a general improvement and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that (1) said purpose is not a current expense of said County, and (2) it is necessary to finance said purpose by the issuance of obligations of said County pursuant to the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended; the "Local Bond Law"), and (3) the estimated cost of said purpose is \$3,700,000, and (4) \$185,000 of said sum is to be provided by the down payment hereinafter appropriated to finance said purpose, and (5) the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes necessary to be issued for said purpose is \$3,515,000, and (6) the cost of such purpose, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$100,000 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purpose, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law.

Section 4. It is hereby determined and stated that the sum of \$185,000 in the County of Union Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund is now available to serve as the down payment on said purpose. The sum of \$185,000 is hereby appropriated from such moneys to the payment of the cost of said purpose.

Section 5. To finance said purpose, bonds of said County of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$3,515,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 6. To finance said purpose, bond anticipation notes of said County of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$3,515,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, to not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 7. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, by the County Manager and by the County Treasurer and shall be under the seal of said County and attested by the Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is hereby delegated to the County Treasurer who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 8. It is hereby determined and declared that the period of usefulness of said purpose, according to its reasonable life, is a period of forty years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 9. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of said County, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said County, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$3,515,000 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 10. Any funds received from private parties, the State of New Jersey or any of their agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purpose, shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purpose, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purpose shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 11. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance

Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and is available for public inspection.

Section 12. The County intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvement described in Section 1 of this bond ordinance. If the County incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the County hereby states its reasonable expectation to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 13. The full faith and credit of the County are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the County, and the County shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the County for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 14. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

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Freeholder Mirabella moved Bond Ordinance No. 651-2007 for First Reading and authorized the Clerk of the Board to advertise the same in accordance with the law. Final Reading is scheduled for June 21, 2007. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Sullivan; roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

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

Tina Renna, Cranford, commented on Resolution 2007-531 and 2007-532. She stated that the public is not informed of County relatives working for The PMK Group.

George DeCarlo, Berkeley Heights, commented on Resolution 2007-540 stating that there was an article on faith-based monies in the New York Times Newspaper. He asked if the tax dollars are being used to finance faith-based initiatives.

Chairwoman Kowalski called upon Frank Guzzo, Director of Human Services to respond.

Director Guzzo stated that Congregate (not congregation) means seniors. It has nothing to do with religion.

Bruce Paterson, Garwood, commented on 2007-523, the "amendment" to the 2007 Temporary Budget and Resolution 2007-524, "cancelling funds" he stated that he did not understand the

wording for both of these Resolutions and asked for an explanation. He also added that on Resolution 2007-525, he thought there was only a parade being held. He commented on Resolutions 2007-528,531 and 532 regarding contracts between Union County and Joseph Jingoli & Sons and The PMK Group. He stated that these are political party donors being awarded the contracts. Bruce Paterson also commented on Resolution 2007-529, he said that .06 acres of land at the cost of \$417,000 sounded high, but stated that it was a good idea that the money was coming from the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund account.

Chairwoman Kowalski called upon Director Caroselli to respond in regard to the 2007 Budget questions and comments. Director Caroselli explained that Resolution 2007-523 was added to the Agenda as a precaution only, in case the budget did not get adopted this evening. In regards to Resolution 2007-524, "the cancellation of funds," these funds were authorized for two projects from the capital budget instead, the money came from the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund account and other costs came from the Green Lane project, the Elizabeth River Flood Control project and the Morris Avenue Bridge project in Springfield and Union.

County Manager Devanney explained Resolution 2007-529. He stated that land that is acquired by the County is typically 5 acres or more unless it is adjacent to parkland and and become part of a park system. This acquisition is adjacent to a County park and the Elizabeth River Park. Further, Union Township residents were against it, because of the proposed housing development, therefore, the County purchased it.

Bruce Paterson thanked the Board and the Directors for their explanations.

Mary Ellen Taylor, Berkeley Heights, commented on Resolution 2007-531 and 2007-532. She stated that she had a friend who lived in another County who lost 74 acres of farmland. She said that she thought The PMK Group was involved and stated that they are involved in too many Open Space projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED

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Freeholder Mapp interjected in regard to Resolution 2007-523. He stated that since the 2007 Budget was adopted, he asked that this Resolution be Tabled.

Director Caroselli stated that he wanted to withdraw Resolution 2007-523 since a permanent budget was in place.

Freeholder Mapp moved for a motion to table Resolution 2007-523. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative and Freeholder Scanlon absent.

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THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR ADOPTION:

2007-520 FREEHOLDER HOLMES, urging **Congress** to amend necessary federal regulations On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent to allow federal financial participation for medical benefits to incarcerated individuals until convicted and sentenced to secure detention.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-521 FREEHOLDER MIRABELLA, amending **Resolution No. 2176-2002**, a contract with **The Hartford Life Insurance Company**, to administer the Union County Deferred Compensation Plan for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-522 FREEHOLDER MIRABELLA, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a professional service contract with **CBIZ Valuation Group, LLC, Chicago, Illinois**, for updates to the Asset Valuation Report for the County of Union for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 in an amount not to exceed **\$4,900**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

TABLED

2007-523 FREEHOLDER MIRABELLA, an amendment to the **2007 Temporary Budget** pursuant to the provisions of Ch.96, P.L.1951 (N.J.S.A.40A:4-20).

On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative to Table Resolution 2007-523 with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-524 FREEHOLDER MIRABELLA, canceling **\$4,736,923** of funded, unfunded and grant receivables appropriations.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-525 FREEHOLDER MIRABELLA, authorizing the County Manager to make available to the **Haitian Flag Day Planning Committee**, the sum of **\$4,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-526 **FREEHOLDER SCANLON**, amending **Resolution No. 681-99**, Donated Leave Program (POLICY) to include additional guidelines.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-527 **FREEHOLDER SCANLON**, authorizing the County Manager to renew the following policies as recommended by the **Citizens Insurance Review Committee (CIRC) dated May 2, 2007**:

- **Renewing the Risk Control Consulting Agreement Policy with Hale Insurance Brokerage, LLC, Cranford, New Jersey, for the period of June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$32,400. (No Increase)**
- **Renewing the Bond for Lawrence Caroselli with the Hartford Bond Center, Rockaway, New Jersey, for the period of June 28, 2007 through June 27, 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$1,664. (No Increase)**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-528 **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, amending **Resolution No. 388-2004**, a contract with **Joseph Jingoli & Sons, Inc., Lawrenceville, New Jersey**, for the pre-construction design phase of the Union County Arts Center, Rahway, New Jersey, for an additional amount of **\$65,800** for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$377,800**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-529 **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, authorizing the County Manager to take all actions necessary and execute any and all documents to complete the acquisition of approximately .60 acres of land located at 1287 Wildwood Terrace, Union, New Jersey by the County of Union and the costs, for acquisition and related expenses, in an amount not to exceed **\$417,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-530 **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, authorizing the County Manager to take all actions necessary and execute any and all documents to complete the acquisition of approximately 4.25 acres of land located off of Old Raritan Road, in the Township of Clark and the Township of Westfield, New Jersey, and designated as part of Lot

1, Block 57 on the tax map in Clark and Lots 2 and 3, Block 5405 on the Westfield tax map by the County of Union and the costs, for acquisition and related expenses, in an amount not to exceed **\$3,600,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-531 **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, amending **Resolution No. 2006-1255**, a contract with **The PMK Group, Cranford, New Jersey**, to provide additional on-call engineering services. This is in conjunction with and for the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for an additional amount of **\$150,000** for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$375,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-520 **FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN**, amending **Resolution No. 2006-808**, a contract with **The PMK Group, Cranford, New Jersey**, to provide construction administration services relative to the renovations and construction at the Glenside Avenue field, Summit, New Jersey. This is in conjunction with and for the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for an additional amount of **\$35,000** for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$90,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-532 **FREEHOLDER WARD**, appointing **Alexander Sharpe, Jr. (Delegate), Elizabeth, New Jersey, Marian Dudis (Alternate), Elizabeth, New Jersey, Lynn Brown (Delegate), Fanwood, New Jersey, Lorraine Seidel (Delegate), Springfield, New Jersey and Frederick Obrock (Delegate), Winfield, New Jersey**, to the Union County Air Traffic & Noise Advisory Board for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-533 **VICE CHAIRMAN ESTRADA**, authorizing the expenditure of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the H.O.M.E. Program, American Dream Down-Payment Initiative (ADDI), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding as designated in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development approved **2007-2008 Consolidated Action Plan** in the amount of **\$8,087,854**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-534 **VICE CHAIRMAN ESTRADA**, amending **Resolution No. 2007-381** to include **Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Union County** to provide the

necessary services under the Older Americans Act in the additional amount of **\$67,098.**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-535 **VICE CHAIRMAN ESTRADA,** authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with **NJ Transit** to secure funds in the amount of **\$1,997,201** funded by FY 2008 Casino Tax Revenue Fund for the purpose of transporting elderly (60+) and disabled residents of the County.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-536 **VICE CHAIRMAN ESTRADA,** authorizing the County Manager to provide a variety of social services to County residents in need through the approval of the 2007-2008 Peer Grouping spending plan for the period of June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008 in the amount of **\$375,000.**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-537 **VICE CHAIRMAN ESTRADA,** authorizing the County Manager to award contracts to various agencies for the period of June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008 under the State/Community Partnership, Family Court and State Incentive Program Grant Funds in the amount of **\$273,102.70.**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-538 **VICE CHAIRMAN ESTRADA,** amending **Resolution No. 2006-811,** to extend the contract period to the **Union County Work First New Jersey Program Grant Awards** recipients to provide continual work readiness activities through December 31, 2007 in an additional amount of **\$130,000** for a new total contract amount of **\$1,896,910.**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-539 **VICE CHAIRMAN ESTRADA,** authorizing the County Manager to into a contract with the **YM-YWHA, Union New Jersey,** for the purpose of providing HealthEase/Physical Fitness activities for congregate site participants for the period of May 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 in the amount of **\$2,500.**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

2007-540 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, amending **Resolution No. 2006-994** to designate the **Boys & Girls Club of Union County**, in coordination with the County of Union, as the provider of the Project Vision Program for the remainder of the program period, specifically, September 1, 2007 in an amount not to exceed **\$17,909**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent

- 2007-541** CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contracts obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with **Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq:**
- a. Department of Engineering and Public Works: **Watertrol, Inc., Cranford, New Jersey**, to provide exterior site work including but not limited to new curbing, paving, retaining walls, landscaping, site lighting and temporary construction to maintain secure access to portions of the site still occupied by County departments in the amount of **\$1,306,720**.
 - b. Department of Engineering and Public Works: **Schifano Construction Corporation, Middlesex, New Jersey**, to perform milling, resurfacing and handicap ramp construction of various County roads in the amount of **\$3,465,797.05**.
 - c. Department of Engineering and Public Works: **Plaza Ford/Motors Fleet, Red Bank, New Jersey**, to provide one (1) 2008 Ford F350XL truck w/custom body in the amount of **\$41,139.25**.
 - d. Division of Facilities Management: **Gateway Building Services, Stony Point, New York**, to provide window cleaning services for various County buildings for an additional twenty-four (24) month extension in the amount of **\$74,160**.
 - e. Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, Division of Golf Operations, **Tri-Lift NJ, Inc., North Brunswick, New Jersey**, to provide and deliver one Lift Caterpillar 5500 lbs. truck in the amount of **\$35,304**.
 - f. Runnells Specialized Hospital: **2K's Commercial Kitchen, Jobstown, New Jersey**, to provide maintenance and repair of kitchen equipment for an additional twenty-four (24) month extension in an amount not to exceed **\$65,880**.
 - g. Runnells Specialized Hospital: **Central Jersey Supply Co., Perth Amboy, New Jersey**, to provide various plumbing supplies in an amount not to exceed **\$12,061.80**.
 - h. Runnells Specialized Hospital: **Feldman Lumber, Brooklyn, New York**, to provide various lumber and building materials in the amount of **\$17,347.05**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-542 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(3), to **Access to Money, Whippany, New Jersey**, for the placement of ATM's at various locations throughout the County for a period of twenty-four consecutive months with the option to extend the contract for an additional twenty-four (24) months.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-543 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, approving **Change Order No. 1 (final)** to a contract with **Tiffany Electric, Inc., Fairfield, New Jersey**, for intersection improvements in Westfield, New Jersey, reducing the original contract amount by **\$53,294.20 (7.8%)** for a new total contract amount of **\$622,715.15**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-544 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, concurring with the **Township of Springfield, New Jersey**, granting permission to Temple Sha'arey Shalom to limit traffic to one way on South Springfield Avenue between Mountain Avenue and Shunpike Road on Sunday, June 3, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-545 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, granting permission to the **Township of Springfield, New Jersey**, to close Mountain Avenue from the intersection of Shunpike Road to North Trivett Avenue; Shunpike Road from the intersection of South Springfield Avenue to the intersection of Mountain Avenue, except for emergency vehicles, on Monday, May 28th between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for the annual Memorial Day Parade.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-546 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, concurring with the **Township of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey**, granting permission to the Berkeley Heights Rotary Club to hang a banner from June 4, 2007 through July 1, 2007, across Springfield Avenue advertising the Yellow Ducky Race to be held on June 23, 2007.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-547 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a lease agreement for the premises known as the **Parking Authority of the City of Elizabeth, Elizabeth, New Jersey**, Lots numbered 17 (Employee Parking – County Lot #2) for 96 spaces at a cost of **\$4.00** per day for a sum of **\$92,160** annually and #6 (Jury and Probation Parking – Jefferson Avenue) for approximately 300 spaces at a cost of **\$4.00** per day estimated at **\$345,000** annually for the contract period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, for a total contract amount not to exceed **\$437,160 annually**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-548 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Voice Print International, Inc., Camarillo, California**, for maintenance and service on the Voice Print Logging System for all Union County radios and Union County Police telephones, in an amount not to exceed **\$19,700**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-549 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Mid-Atlantic Rescue Systems, Frederick, Maryland**, to provide water rescue training to the County's fire services in the amount of **\$88,993.93**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-550 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, authorizing the County Manager to sign any and all documents necessary to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the **Assistant Prosecutors' Association** for the period of January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2010.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-551 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Record Management Services, LLC, Vineland, New Jersey**, to provide assistance to the City of Plainfield with a document mold remediation project through the PARIS Grant Program through December 31, 2007 in the amount of **\$68,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-552 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Education and Health Centers of America, Inc., Roseland, New Jersey**, for the purposes of providing comprehensive inmate substance abuse treatment and residential correctional facility services for up to 225 Union County

Jail inmates daily for the contract period of March 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008 with an option to extend for one year in an amount not to exceed **\$6,071,501.25**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE LAUDATORY IN CONTENT:

2007-553 FREEHOLDER SCANLON, congratulating **Michael Cohan, Union, New Jersey**, for receiving the Richard J. Galante, Sr. Humanitarian Award from the Union Chapter UNICO National.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-554 VICE CHAIRMAN ESTRADA, congratulating **Maryann Fulmore, Director of One Stop Operations, Department of Human Services**, on her recognition by the Garden State Employment & Training Association (GSETA) and her selection for the Harry L. Wheeler Professional Service Award.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-555 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI AND FREEHOLDER HOLMES, extending warmest congratulations to **Lieutenant Nelson M. Kelly**, on his retirement from the Union County Police Department, after serving twenty five (25) years of services.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

The Chairwoman called for a motion to suspend the rules. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella, seconded by Vice Chairman Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

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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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Chairwoman Kowalski called for a motion to move the Resolutions 2007-556 through 2007-563 from the floor. On a motion made by Freeholder Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE FROM THE FLOOR:

2007-556 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to execute and sign any and all documents in order to effectuate the receipt of overtime traffic reimbursement grant in the amount of **\$4,000** from the Highway Safety Grant with the **New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety** for a **“Click It or Ticket”** Seat Belt Campaign.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-557 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, supporting the **“Click It or Ticket”** safety belt mobilization both locally and nationally from May 21, 2007 through June 3, 2007 and pledges to increase awareness of the mobilization and the benefits of safety belt use.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-558 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, congratulating **Michael Peter Wojcio, Kenilworth, New Jersey**, who has been chosen by the Kenilworth Centennial Parade Committee to serve as its Grand Marshall.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-559 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, congratulating the Mayor, Council and the residents of the **Borough of Kenilworth, New Jersey**, on celebrating its Centennial Parade on June 16, 2007.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-560 **CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI**, proclaiming the month of April 2007 as **Landscape Architecture Month** in Union County.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-561 FREEHOLDER SCANLON, authorizing the County Manager to renew the following policy as recommended by the **Citizens Insurance Review Committee (CIRC) dated May 23, 2007:**

- **Special Event Weather Insurance for the Rhythm & Blues by the Brook, Plainfield, New Jersey on June 9, 2007 and MusicFest, Mountainside, New Jersey on September 15, 2007, with Travelers Property & Casualty of America c/o CSI, Dallas, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$13,175.**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-562 FREEHOLDER MAPP, congratulating the students of **Maxson Middle School, Plainfield, New Jersey**, on winning the State, We the People Project Citizen Competition 2007.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

2007-563 CHAIRWOMAN KOWALSKI, congratulating **John Truppa and Michael J. Kilroy, Cranford, New Jersey, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 80**, on attaining their Eagle Scout Award.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

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

Jeremy Jaye, Summit, stated that he presented a Terrorism Prevention Strategy Program two weeks ago and asked if the Board read it.

Chairwoman Kowalski stated that it would be discussed at another time, either after the meeting or in the Freeholder comment portion.

Mary Ellen Taylor, Berkeley Heights, read a letter from a disabled resident who worked on the Americans with Disability Act. The letter discussed cuts from Federal Budgets that affect the disabled and noted that most disabled people are poor. She also noted that they may not be able to get health insurance due to their disability. She stated that we are in a worse situation now than in 1990 when ADA became law. Ms. Taylor thanked Mr. Guzzo, Director of Human Services, for

looking into the situation and stated that she would like to be appointed to the Advisory Board on the Disabled. She stated she will try to have a story from a disabled person at every Freeholder meeting.

George DeCarlo, Berkeley Heights, said to look at the ELEC website for donations by firms and look at the information on The PMK Group. He noted that PMK gave a lot of money to whichever party is in power.

Dan Weiss, Director of the Fanwood Public Library together with the Director of the Roselle Park Public Library, Susan Calentone and the Director of the Scotch Plains Public Library, Meg Kolaya thanked the Board for funding the Online Databases that have been made available throughout Union County Public Libraries.

Meg Kolaya, Director of the Scotch Plains Library, thanked the Board for supporting Union County Libraries by funding the On-line databases in public libraries and remotely for citizens at home. She stated that Genealogy classes in Scotch Plains began this spring. She stated that her new young assistant was moved by an experience she had with a member who located her long lost father through the database.

Ken Dick, Scotch Plains, stated he was at the Freeholder meeting one month ago. He inquired about the progress and status of the Model Ordinance, providing a process for appointments to advisory boards.

County Manager Devanney responded by saying the Policy Committee had a meeting and their ideas are being explored with the Law Department and the timeline is difficult to say at this time as the Policy Committee Chairwoman (Freeholder Scanlon) is absent tonight.

Tina Renna, Cranford, stated that the Watchdog Website has a lot of information. She added that Civic training classes have been held and 100 people attended. There were 5,000 people who accessed the website in one month and there are 1,500 people using the information that is not publicized. Ms. Renna also commented on the death of Edward Sinclair, Jr., and the letter that was read by County Manager Devanney at last week's meeting that was received by Director Howard Buyer of the Juvenile Justice Commission. Buyer stated that the detention center is doing well. Ms. Renna also stated that the upcoming weekend is Memorial Day and that we should honor our war heroes.

Charles Shallcross, Elizabeth, stated that he is the past President of the Union County Historical Society and is a life long resident of Elizabeth. He said that he served on the Committee to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Union County and the Courthouse Centennial Committee and has had the pleasure of working in the Elizabeth Public School system for 34 years. He commemorated the Board and especially the excellent leadership of Chairwoman Kowalski for a job well done. He also stated that the rotunda should be restored. He stated that the Essex County Courthouse has recently undergone major renovations. (See letter attached).

PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION CONCLUDED

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FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Freeholder Proctor had no comments.

Freeholder Holmes thanked those who gave positive comments to Mr. Guzzo and the Courthouse Historian and the Librarians. He mentioned the recent collapse of the building located on South Avenue, Fanwood and thanked the Emergency Management group who responded with the County Police. They rescued three people who were trapped. He stated that he was amazed by the swift response by fire companies of all municipalities in Union, Essex and Hudson Counties, the County Government and NJ Transit. He added that it is comforting to have such good neighbors.

Freeholder Ward stated that she concurred with Freeholder Holmes' comments in regards to the quick emergency response in Fanwood, appreciated the comments by the Historian and agreed the County's rotunda should be restored as she had just spent several hours in the Essex County Courthouse and took notice of how beautiful it is and agreed that it would be nice to see our rotunda restored.

Freeholder Ward also commented on the Gang Prevention Program, a partnership with Union County and the Union County School district, which oversees two alternative high schools. She stated that these students are all from Elizabeth and 70 students attend Scotch Plains Public Schools and 80 students attend Westfield Public Schools. They are not special education kids, but slightly academically behind. Freeholder Ward stated that she attended these schools on May 17th and May 18th and spent 3 hours at each school, where she met the teachers and students. She stated that this Gang Prevention program is intense and comprehensive. She also went to the detention center in Union County where there were 30-35 kids. Some of the speakers spent time in detention centers and now are doctors, college professors and mothers who lost their children to violence. She commented that the statistics state that 1 in 3 African American men and 1 out of 17 white males will spend time in a detention center or a correctional facility. This program exposes them to different choices in life by people who have had similar experiences and with whom they can relate, but how making different choices can change your life. Freeholder Ward thanked the Department of Human Services for their hard work arranging the program, especially Director Frank Guzzo and Bonita Herman, Youth Opportunity and Child Advocate Coordinator.

Vice Chairman Estrada, stated he attended the Union County College Graduation with Chairwoman Kowalski and stated it was good to see how many people go back to school and he was happy to hear Dr. Thomas Brown, President of Union County College, comment on Union County's commitment to education excellence.

Freeholder Mapp had no comments.

Freeholder Sullivan congratulated Freeholder Mirabella, Chairman of the Fiscal Committee, the County Manager and staff for working on the 2007 budget. He stated it is a large task. He also stated that many municipalities had tax increases and stated that every town is struggling with the

same issues, such as health benefits, pension payments and rising utility costs. He complimented them on a lower (\$800,000) tax levy. Freeholder Sullivan stated that he was happy to see the Open Space Resolution on tonight's Agenda and was happy to see it is moving forward quickly. He stated that the County's website states that there will be 12 miles of roads paved throughout the County. He complimented Freeholder Mirabella, for advocating for the Online Library databases, whereas it is funded by Union County.

Freeholder Sullivan recognized this weekend, Memorial Day weekend as time to remember those that lost their lives, especially those dying in Iraq now.

Freeholder Scanlon was absent.

Freeholder Mirabella thanked Freeholder Sullivan for his remarks. He also thanked the Finance Committee, especially Director Caroselli and Melinda Zito of the Finance Department and all the Directors and the County Manager for their hard work on the 2007 Budget. He stated that all governments are struggling and we are doing the best to provide savings to residents, while continuing to provide services. Freeholder Mirabella also commented on the 150th Anniversary of Union County and extended his congratulations, especially to Chairwoman Kowalski on her work with the Committee. He stated it was a nice kick off to a series of events. He said that he stopped at the Moving Wall at Liberty Hall. He added that the memorial travels to different sites to raise awareness of the Vietnam Memorial. He stated that we should take time to remember those who sacrificed their lives.

County Manager Devanney thanked Director Caroselli and the Finance Department on the endless hours spent on the 2007 Budget. He stated he was glad the County was able to return \$800,000 to lower the tax levy. He also stated that they got off to a rough start due to the problems this year with Runnells Specialized Hospital, such as marketing of the hospital, not the management. He said that the budget fully funds Runnells, the Prosecutor's office, Public Safety and Vocational Schools and the Union County College expansion and parks, paving roads and welfare. There was a 50 employee reduction in workforce, which has been eliminated from the budget this year and next year. There is a health benefit savings of \$650,000 from early retirement programs this year and \$1,000,000 per year going forward. Health benefits for life were provided when employees agreed to no increases for two years. He stated that municipalities come to Shared Services conferences. He and Carolyn Sullivan, Coordinator, Community Relations & Special Events made the annual trip to D.C. to lobby our Congressional and Senatorial representatives for funding for County projects as all municipalities suffer from the same problems due to rising costs in benefits, salaries and utility costs. He added that the County has received State grant funding in the amount of \$300,000 for more Shared Services initiatives. He stated that they discussed projects for which Union County is seeking Federal funding. County Manager Devanney thanked Carolyn Sullivan and Director Joseph Graziano, Director of Department of Engineering and Public Works and Director Alfred Faella, Director of Department of Economic Development for all their hard work. County Manager Devanney also announced that he and Carolyn made the annual trip to Washington, D.C. to lobby our Congressional and Senatorial representatives for funding for County projects.

County Counsel Barry stated that he wanted to correct two statements that were made earlier by a public speaker. He said that Howard Beyer is not a political appointment, he was a career State employee, prior to the Whitman Administration and has held several prominent positions. He also stated that Greg Lyons was not a mandatory hire by the State. He went through the interviewing process of Union County. He was hired as an Assistant due to vacancy and was promoted to Director of the Juvenile Detention Center. He added this was not a created position, nor was the County directed to hire Mr. Lyons.

Chairwoman Kowalski thanked everyone that worked on and attended the 150th Anniversary Celebration and thanked Freeholder Mirabella and County Manager Devanney for their prior remarks. She commented on the two top historian speakers who attended, Mark Mappen and Linda Epps. She also commented on the authentic costumes, public safety, parks, the Union County College staff. Finally, she announced the upcoming events such as Casino Night on June 2nd, Rhythm and Blues Concert at Cedar Brook Park on June 9th and Bio-Blitz on June 15th and June 16th.

Chairwoman Kowalski commented on the upcoming Memorial Weekend stating that we will all remember the Veterans and our Fallen Heroes on Memorial Day.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

To the extent known, the following matters will be discussed in Executive Session:
Contract Negotiations with the Westminster Building Lease

Chairwoman Kowalski called upon the County Counsel to make a statement regarding the Executive Session.

County Counsel Barry stated pursuant to provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act a public body may enter into Executive Session for the Purpose of discussing certain enumerated subjects. This Board will now enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations relative to the Westminster Building lease.

The minutes of the Executive Session shall be separated from the minutes of the Open Public Session. The minutes of the Executive Session, redacted as appropriate and necessary, shall be available in approximately 30 days. The Clerk of the Board shall retain the original minutes until such time as the confidential limitations have been removed, at which time they shall be made available.

Upon the Board's return, it will not take formal action on the matters discussed.

The Chairwoman called for a motion to enter Executive Session. On a motion made by Freeholder Proctor and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Scanlon absent.

The Board may now retire to Executive Session

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The Chairwoman called for a motion to re-enter the Regular Meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Mirabella and seconded by Freeholder Sullivan, six members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Holmes, Freeholder Scanlon and Vice Chairman Estrada absent.

The voucher list through **May 16, 2007** will be available for public perusal in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

Chairwoman Kowalski called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Freeholder Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Mirabella, six members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Holmes, Freeholder Scanlon and Vice Chairman Estrada absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Listed below is the schedule for upcoming Freeholders' Meetings. Meetings are generally held on **Thursday at 7:00 pm** in the Meeting Room, Administration Building, 6th Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified.

AGENDA/WORK SESSIONS

7:00 P.M.

June 7 **Summer Session**

July 19 **Summer Session**

August 9 **Summer Session**

September 6*
September 20

October 4
October 18

November 8*
November 29*

REGULAR/PUBLIC MEETINGS

7:00 P.M.

June 21

July 26

August 23

September 6*
September 27

October 11
October 25

November 8*
November 29*

December 6
December 20*

December 13
December 20*

***COMBINED AGENDA SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING**

Nicole L. DiRado, RMC,MPA
Clerk of the Board

NLD:mb