



COUNTY OF MERCER
McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EBONY WITHERSPOON
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FORMAL MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2023

MINUTES

Chair Walter called the Formal Meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. on January 26, 2023, in Room 211 of the Joyce L. McDade Administration Building, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board answered the Roll Call of the Clerk to the Board:

Present – Commissioners Cimino, Frisby, Lewis, McLaughlin, Stokes, Walter and Melker

The Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

Chair Walter led the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.

The Clerk to the Board announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, notice of this Formal Meeting had been mailed to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian and The Princeton Packet newspapers as well as having been posted in both the County Administration Building and Courthouse at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

2023 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

Mercer County Executive, Brian M. Hughes, presented the 2023 State of the County Address to the Mercer County Board of Commissioners and public attendees. (See Schedule A, attached hereto, and made a part of hereof)

COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, Purchasing Agent, dated January 11, 2023, RE: Minutes and Bid/RFP Results for the week of December 26, 2022.

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, Purchasing Agent, dated January 11, 2023, RE: Minutes and Bid Results for the Week of January 2, 2023.

A communication was received from Lillian L. Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator, dated January 24, 2023, RE: Commissioner Questions for January 24, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

Clerk to the Board called for a Motion to Vote in Block on the following Resolutions listed on the Agenda.

Commissioner McLaughlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Frisby, that:

RESOLUTIONS NO. R-1 THROUGH R-51 ON THE AGENDA "BE VOTED ON IN BLOCK"

VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes – 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -0.

Ayes – Commissioners Cimino, Frisby, Lewis, McLaughlin, Melker, Stokes, and Walter

The Commissioner Board, discussed in length Resolution R-1, authorizing the 2023 Emergency Temporary Budget Additional Appropriations and their desire to have a Forensic Audit.

The Commissioner Board discussed with the Administration the importance and necessity of a forensic audit to which the Administration supported and agreed with. The Board presented a Resolution and requested it be added to the Agenda. At this time, the Clerk to the Board called for a Motion to “Add to Agenda” the following proposed Resolution.

Commissioner Cimino moved, seconded by Commissioner Frisby, that:

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS CALL FOR A FULL INDEPENDENT
FORENSIC AUDIT INTO MERCER COUNTY
FINANCES “**BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA**”

VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes - 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -0.

Ayes – Commissioners Cimino, Frisby, Lewis, McLaughlin, Melker, Stokes, and Walter

Commissioner Walter in addition requested that Forensic Audit be added as number five to “On-Going Business.

Board concurred.

The Commissioners and Administration discussed discrepancies with amounts in penalties and fines being disclosed to the Board. Commissioner Walter requested Board and County Counsel listen to the Executive Session tapes to gain a better understanding of what amounts were disclosed in those sessions.

Mercer County Temporary Chief Financial Officer, Sharon Sharpe E.D.d., was in attendance to answer any questions the Commissioners had about the 2023 Emergency Temporary Budget and the state of the County finances. She discussed with the Board all the steps she had taken to get the Finance Department in order. She also discussed with the Board the challenges her Department faced all while making all the necessary changes and corrections to the Finance Department.

Commissioner McLaughlin offered the following Resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Frisby:

- NO. 2023-26** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH PKF O'CONNOR DAVIES, LLP TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER. PERIOD: JANUARY 23,2023 THROUGH JANUARY 22,2024 WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ONE (1) YEAR PERIODS. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$230,000.00 (CC2022-16)
- NO. 2023-27** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD ARE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH CONTACT OF MERCER COUNTY, NJ, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR. AMOUNT: \$21,500.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2023-28** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH NAMI MERCER NJ, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF THE SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND CONSUMERS PROGRAM. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) YEAR. AMOUNT: \$56,000.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-29

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH OAKS INTEGRATED CARE, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S DAY TREATMENT SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR. AMOUNT: \$20,000.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-30

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH OAKS INTEGRATED CARE, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF HOUSING FIRST SERVICES FOR CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. AMOUNT: \$65,000.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-31

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH OAKS INTEGRATED CARE, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND BRIEF TREATMENT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR. AMOUNT: \$112,000.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-32 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH OAKS INTEGRATED CARE, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE STABILIZATION SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR. AMOUNT: \$112,000.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-33 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH OAKS INTEGRATED CARE FOR SENIOR CARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR. AMOUNT: \$11,035.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-34 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH OAKS INTEGRATED CARE, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OBTAINING INDEPENDENT PERMANENT HOUSING. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. AMOUNT: \$65,000.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-35 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH THE RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON FOR THE PROVISION OF IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO SHELTER BEDS SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023 (WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR). AMOUNT: \$92,000.00 (STATE FUNDS)

NO. 2023-36

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH THE RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON FOR THE PROVISION OF RETURNING CITIZENS COMMUNITY PROGRAM (RCCP) CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023 (WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR). AMOUNT: \$111,000.00 (STATE FUNDS)

NO. 2023-37

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH THE TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN (TASK) FOR THE PROVISION OF ID SERVICES FOR HOMELESS MERCER COUNTY INDIVIDUALS-MERCER COUNTY ID PROJECT. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. AMOUNT: \$120,000.00 (\$65,000 – STATE FUNDS) (\$55,000.00 – FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-38

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PRINCETON DEPARTMENT OF CORNER HOUSE FOR THE PROVISION OF BILINGUAL CLINICAL SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. AMOUNT: \$65,000.00 (FY2023 COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-39

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A GRANT AWARD FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS (SSH) CONTRACT, WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (NJ DHS), DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT (DFD). PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. AMOUNT: \$1,205,160.00 (\$818,560.00 [STATE SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS (SSH) FUNDS]; \$131,600.00 [TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) FUNDS]; \$110,000.00 [INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT (ICM) FUNDS]; AND \$145,000.00 [CODE BLUE PASS THROUGH FUNDS]) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-40

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS (NACCHO) FOR THE IMPLEMENTING OVERDOSE PREVENTION STRATEGIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL (IOPSL) GRANT. PERIOD: NOVEMBER 1, 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2024. AMOUNT: \$300,000.00 (FEDERAL FUNDS)

NO. 2023-41 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (NJDOLWD) FOR THE USE OF SPACE AT STATION PLAZA 4, 26 YARD AVENUE, TRENTON NJ, 08609, BY THE MERCER COUNTY OFFICE OF TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER). PERIOD: JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022. TOTAL: \$354,687.00 (FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS-NO COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-42 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO ALLOW THE COUNTY OF MERCER TO HIRE MURALIST TO PAINT A NEW MURAL ON THE CASS STREET SIDE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON. PERIOD: COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT. PROJECT EXPENSE: \$100,000.00

NO. 2023-43 MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVES THE DISBURSEMENT OF \$30,000.00 TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY FROM THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST ACCOUNT ("CLETA" - FORFEITURE) FUNDS TO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING FOR THE ATHLETES AS WELL AS THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023, TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

NO. 2023-44

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE D&R GREENWAY LAND TRUST FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE PURCHASE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE FORRESTER PROPERTY FOR OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION, KNOWN AS BLOCK 23 LOT 6.04 LOCATED AT 115 MARSHALLS CORNER, HOPEWELL, NEW JERSEY. COUNTY COST NOT TO EXCEED \$268,815.00.

NO. 2023-45

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH FENNELLY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES LLC FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SAMPLE COLLECTION AND ANALYSES AND ENGINEERING SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00 (RFP2022-04)

NO. 2023-46

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTS ADVANCING THE ARENA DRIVE (CR 620) AND SOUTH BROAD STREET (CR 524) MULTIMODAL SAFETY PROJECT WITH FEDERAL FUNDS.

NO. 2023-47

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTS ADVANCING THE CALHOUN STREET EXTENSION (CR 653) PROJECT WITH FEDERAL FUNDS.

- NO. 2023-48** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTS ADVANCING THE NETWORK CONGESTION MANAGEMENT IN THE TRENTON URBANIZED AREA PROJECT WITH FEDERAL FUNDS.
- NO. 2023-49** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE FOR FOREST RESTORATION EFFORTS AT BALDPATE MOUNTAIN AND CADWALADER PARK. UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE AMOUNT: \$625,000.00; COUNTY OF MERCER MATCH AMOUNT: \$625,351.00; TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$1,250,351.00. PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2022 THROUGH MARCH 30, 2027
- NO. 2023-50** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (DVRPC) FOR DVRPC FY 2023 TO REIMBURSE DVRPC FOR NON-FEDERALLY FUNDED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SERVICES CONDUCTED TO BENEFIT MERCER COUNTY. AMOUNT \$40,845.00. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023.
- NO. 2023-51** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH CMS CONSTRUCTION INC., FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MERCER COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 415.2 CARRYING LOWER FERRY ROAD OVER GOLD RUN, EWING, NEW JERSEY. INCREASE THE AMOUNT BY \$116,820.00 (+5.22%) REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$2,354,823.00

NO. 2023- 52 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL WITH RENCOR, INC., FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MERCER COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 180.1, ABANDONED RAILROAD TRAIL OVER PARKSIDE AVENUE, CITY OF TRENTON, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. DECREASE AMOUNT BY \$12,476.52(-0.66%) REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT: -\$1,872,800.48

NO. 2023-53 ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT WORK BY RENCOR, INC., FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MERCER COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 180.1, ABANDONED RAILROAD TRAIL OVER PARKSIDE AVENUE, CITY OF TRENTON, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

NO. 2023-54 ACCEPTANCE OF DEED OF DEDICATION FROM PRINCETON JUNCTION STORAGE, LLC TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROAD WIDENING ALONG BLOCK 10, LOT 15.03, WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY FUNDS: \$1.00

NO. 2023-55 ACCEPTANCE OF A PERMANENT SIDEWALK EASEMENT FROM TRENTON MARKET GROWERS COOPERATIVE TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER ALONG BLOCK 201, LOT 27, LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY FUNDS: \$1.00

NO. 2023- 56 ACCEPTANCE OF SIGHT TRIANGLE EASEMENT FROM PRINCETON JUNCTION STORAGE, LLC TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR PERMITTING THE OPERATION OF VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS TO SEE ACROSS SAID LANDS AND TO PROVIDE A CLEAR VIEW OF ROADWAY LOCATED ON BLOCK 10, LOT 15.03 IN WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY FUNDS: \$1.00

NO. 2023-57 ACCEPTANCE OF A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM HALO FARM INC. TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER ALONG BLOCK 201, LOT 40, LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY FUNDS: \$1.00

NO. 2023-58 ACCEPTANCE OF A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM TRENTON MARKET GROWERS COOPERATIVE TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER ALONG BLOCK 201, LOT 27, LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY FUNDS: \$1.00

NO. 2023-59 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION 2023 RAISE GRANT FOR GAP FUNDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MERCER COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 140.9 (STRUCTURE #1100-055), CARRYING LINCOLN AVENUE (C.R. 626) OVER THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR RAIL LINE, AN INACTIVE RAIL YARD AND ASSUNPINK CREEK, CITY OF TRENTON, COUNTY OF MERCER AMOUNT: \$25,000,000.00

NO. 2023-60 AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2018-392, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH GREENMAN PEDERSEN, INC., TO PROVIDE FINAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 140.9 (STRUCTURE #1100-055) CARRYING LINCOLN AVENUE (C.R. 626) OVER THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR RAIL LINE, AN INACTIVE RAIL YARD AND ASSUNPINK CREEK, CITY OF TRENTON, COUNTY OF MERCER. INCREASE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$3,516,155.98 REVISED AMOUNT: \$5,001,999.41

NO. 2023-61

AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH URBAN ENGINEERS, INC., TO PROVIDE MISCELLANEOUS ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (YEAR 4) FOR PROJECTS AT THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT. PERIOD: DECEMBER 10, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2023. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000.00

NO. 2023- 62

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH URBAN ENGINEERS, INC., TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE APPLICATION (YEAR 4) AT THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT. PERIOD: DECEMBER 10, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2023. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00.

NO. 2023- 63

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY WING OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL FOR OCCUPANCY OF OFFICE SPACE AT THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT. TERM: SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2027 AMOUNT: \$100.00 PER ANNUM

NO. 2023-64

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO "EXERCISE AN OPTION TO EXTEND" AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH FAIR AN OPEN PROCESS) TO HFT MANAGEMENT INC. T/A GATEWAY OUTDOOR ADVERTISING TO DEVELOP AND MANAGE ADVERTISEMENT AT THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT. CONCESSION FEE PAID TO THE COUNTY: 50% OF ANNUAL ADVERTISEMENT REVENUE OR THE MINIMUM ANNUAL GUARANTEE PAID TO THE COUNTY \$35,000.00. PERIOD: APRIL 1, 2022 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2023. (CC2021-02)

NO. 2023-65

AWARD OF NEGOTIATED CONTRACT TO EAST COAST SOD & SEED INC., FOR SOD FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING SYSTEM. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$130,000.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024

NO. 2023-66

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO "EXERCISE AN OPTION TO EXTEND" THE PARTIAL AWARD OF BID CONTRACT WITH MULTIPLE VENDORS FOR COUNTY SYSTEMS AND FACILITIES FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY COOPERATIVE CONTRACT PURCHASING SYSTEM. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$2,289,922.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024. (CK09MERCER2021-14)

- NO. 2023-67** PARTIAL AWARD OF BID RECEIVED NOVEMBER 4, 2022 TO FURNISH OFFICER'S UNIFORMS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF, PROSECUTOR AND MERCER COUNTY CORRECTION CENTER FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY COOPERATIVE CONTRACT PURCHASING SYSTEM. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$352,456.00 (CK09MERCER2022-12B)
- NO. 2023-68** AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2022-70 ADOPTED JANUARY 27, 2022 AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO.1 TO THE AWARD OF BID CONTRACT WITH ACB SERVICES INC., FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES AT 175 SOUTH BROAD STREET, TRENTON NJ. "AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCREASE CONTRACT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$370,000.00 REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$925,423.72 PERIOD: FEBRUARY 1,2022 THROUGH JANUARY 31,2024. ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE CONTRACT SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT (AB2021-45)
- NO. 2023-69** AWARD OF BID RECEIVED DECEMBER 14, 2022 TO DEER CARCASS SERVICES DBA DCRS LLC., FOR DEER CARCASS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING SYSTEM. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$30,000.00; PERIOD: FEBRUARY 1, 2023 TO JANUARY 31, 2025. (CK09MERCER2022-15)
- NO. 2023-70** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY 2023 AS AMERICAN HEART MONTH IN MERCER COUNTY

- NO. 2023-71** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COMMEMORATES FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PAST AND CURRENT HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS
- NO. 2023-72** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION (NO. 2020-02301-0726) TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) – COVID-19 CV1 2020 GRANT. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. AMOUNT: \$450,000.00 (STATE FUNDS) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2023-73** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION (NO. 2020-02302-0714) TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) – COVID-19 CV2 2020 GRANT. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023. AMOUNT: \$1,167,391.00 (STATE FUNDS) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2023-74** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTS ASSEMBLY BILL 2772 WHICH AUTHORIZES SPECIAL OCCASION EVENTS AT CERTAIN FARMS ON PRESERVED FARMLAND, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS
- NO. 2023-75** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CALL FOR A FULL INDEPENDENT FORENSIC AUDIT INTO MERCER COUNTY FINANCES
- NO. 2023-76** COUNTY OF MERCER 2023 TEMPORARY EMERGENCY BUDGET ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS:

Ayes – 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -0.

Ayes – Commissioners Cimino, Frisby, Lewis, McLaughlin, Melker, Stokes, and Walter

ORDINANCES

Commissioner McLaughlin offered the following Ordinance Introduction, seconded by Commissioner Frisby:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SPEED LIMITS ALONG BEAR TAVERN ROAD (CR 579) BETWEEN 1000' NORTH OF MADDOCK ROAD TO WASHINGTON CROSSING-PENNINGTON ROAD (CR 546), TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, COUNTY OF MERCER

VOTE ON ORDINANCE:

Ayes – 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -.

Ayes – Commissioners Cimino, Frisby, Lewis, McLaughlin, Melker, Stokes, and Walter

Commissioner Frisby offered the following Ordinance Introduction, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2013-4, ADOPTED MARCH 14, 2013, TO ESTABLISH THE LOAD LIMITS ON VARIOUS MERCER COUNTY BRIDGES AND CULVERTS
(AMENDMENT NO. 2)

VOTE ON ORDINANCE:

Ayes – 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -0.

Ayes – Commissioners Cimino, Frisby, Lewis, McLaughlin, Melker, Stokes, and Walter

At this time, Chair Walter invited the members of the public to comment on any item listed on the agenda.

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

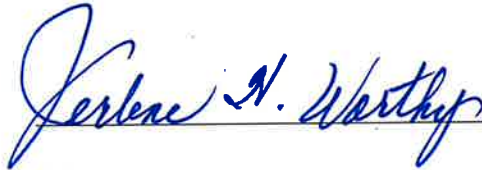
A motion to adjourn the Formal Meeting was offered by Commissioner Walter and seconded by Commissioner Cimino, which was adopted by the unanimous vote of the members of the Mercer County Board of County Commissioners.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Ayes – 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0 Absent -0.

Ayes – Commissioners Cimino, Frisby, Lewis, Mclaughlin, Melker, Stokes and Walter

FORMAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:11 PM



JERLENE H. WORTHY
CLERK TO THE BOARD

SO

"Schedule A"

Mercer County State of the County Address Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes, Thursday, Jan. 26,

Commissioner Chair Walter and members of the Board, thank you. Each year I am pleased to come before you to discuss the state of our great county. My past two State of the County addresses focused heavily on the global pandemic that dominated our lives. I'm happy to say that while we continue to monitor community levels and work with our health care partners to offer and promote vaccinations, boosters and test kits to the public, the worst of COVID-19 is behind us. As a County Government, we acted swiftly and comprehensively to meet the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, and now are well positioned to move forward.

Before I go on, I must address a report issued Tuesday by the Office of the State Comptroller. Six months ago, I was made aware of concerning information about the county's Chief Fiscal Officer, even though his and the County's fiscal practices are subject to independent annual audits. The CFO was someone that I, the Commissioners and other County officials trusted and relied upon for many years. He betrayed that trust, and the bottom line is how we respond to that betrayal. We took swift action. We immediately informed the County Commissioners, suspended the CFO, launched an investigation through outside counsel and referred the matter to law enforcement. Integrity matters, and this Administration holds itself to the highest standards. To say we are disappointed in the CFO's actions is an understatement; as the OSC said, the County was a "victim of the CFO." We will take every legal measure available to us to hold the CFO accountable, and to ensure something like this never happens again. We are cooperating fully with law enforcement and have been since the Administration first uncovered the problems in August.

I would also like to take a few moments to speak candidly and personally with you about a "whispering campaign" I have heard as I travel around the county.

I've never shied away from discussing my health condition, trigeminal neuralgia, or TN, which can inflict severe pain to the nerves along my jaw. But recently, some people are making up stories about my illness and saying I'm not up to this job. I have come to accept both the hidden and obvious stigma for having a chronic pain condition, a condition I did not choose and would not want anyone else to experience.

TN has never prevented me from doing the job I was elected to do. If anything, it has steeled me with determination. I am blessed to have the support of my family, friends and caring physicians. I also know I'm not alone. While the whisperers see weakness, I see myself as a symbol of those who face challenges every day and overcome them. When they disparage me, they disparage everyone who faces health and physical challenges. I am regularly inspired by friends and residents right here in Mercer County, people many of you know and have worked with, who have opened up about their own experiences with TN and other serious illnesses that may require medication but do not stop us from doing our jobs and contributing to society. I have been transparent about my battle with TN, as I have been about my more than 40 years of sobriety.

So, yes, I take medication to control the pain, and sometimes I have a bad reaction to that medicine, but how I may present does not affect how I lead. But I know that I'm not alone because people of goodwill often share with me their own experiences of challenges and perseverance.

I'm certain that everyone here would raise a hand if asked whether we ourselves or someone we care about copes with a long-term condition – diabetes, M.S., migraines, Parkinson's, sickle-cell anemia, lupus, seizures...

But their illness doesn't define them, just as my illness doesn't define me. What defines me is my record of making Mercer County a better place for its people. We all have challenges in life, but in our individual journeys, we carry on, as there's more work to do, and I won't be defined by the "whisperers" who hide in the shadows and only want to tear down rather than lift up.

Despite our challenges, the state of our county remains strong. We are pushing ahead with projects that were held up by the pandemic; launching new initiatives; and staying true to our mission by continuing to deliver the programs and services that our residents rely on.

And while there is an abundance of great news about Mercer County, **there's more work to do.** I believe the best days of Mercer County are still ahead of us. Let's go there together.

First, I'd like to provide updates on several major projects that are moving forward:

- **Replacement of the outdated and undersized passenger terminal at Trenton-Mercer Airport in Ewing.** I am thrilled to report that yesterday we signed a Project Labor Agreement for construction to proceed on the proposed Trenton-Mercer Airport Terminal! We've always had a solid relationship with the men and women of the trades. During construction this project will create hundreds of union labor jobs, putting people to work. Once completed, it will help strengthen the regional economy and overall transportation network, which are part of Mercer's appeal as a desirable place to live and work. The pandemic put us and the FAA a little behind, but we are now in phase 2 of design, and we anticipate design completion by the end of 2023 or very early next year. Concurrent to the terminal project is the design and construction of a new 1,000-space parking garage.
- **Park improvements at Miry Run in Hamilton, Robbinsville and West Windsor.** Mercer County is on the map for its abundant, accessible trail network, and this project will build on that reputation. Hikers, cyclists and pedestrians will find a network of trails around the lake, along with parking areas and a primary access drive from Old Trenton Road. Engineering and permitting for the first phase of improvements at this passive-recreation park are continuing. In addition, plans for dredging the lake have been designed and will proceed upon approval from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- **Moore's Station Quarry park development plan in Hopewell Township.** The quarry is adjacent to the county-managed Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain, which boasts more than 1,000 positive reviews, and outdoor enthusiasts are excited for us to move on this project. The Park Commission is working with Trap Rock Industries to execute the terms of the reclamation plan for the 166-acre site ahead of the county's acquisition, which

is anticipated this spring. Once the Park Commission takes possession of the site, it will begin a multi-year process of transforming the open-pit quarry into a park.

- **Fishing Wharf improvements in Trenton.** The Wharf Park – which has been closed to the public for years due to structural deficiencies -- is a treasured fishing spot and its restoration is important for **reconnecting Trenton residents to their riverfront**. This project is a collaborative effort between the City of Trenton, the County of Mercer, and three state agencies to design and create an improved flood-resilient park that also will serve as flood protection for Route 29. A flood wall has been designed and is currently being built at the site by NJDOT. The Wharf Park Improvement Project will immediately follow. The Park Commission is overseeing the design of park improvements and will eventually assume responsibility for maintaining the park once it is constructed by NJDOT.

There's more work to do. Let's make these investments together.

We've learned so much from the challenges of the past few years, most importantly that we must be adaptable and that we need to plan. Our residents and businesses want a flourishing economy, access to good jobs and job training, and a clean and healthy environment.

With that in mind, tonight I present to you our **Mercer Forward** plan. This plan will guide our efforts over the next several years. It will require collaboration with this board to be successful, and will make a real and measurable impact on our residents' lives.

Thriving and Inclusive Economy:

Since the onset of the pandemic, our Office of Economic Development has worked closely with federal, state and local partners to connect struggling businesses with COVID-established grants and loan options. In addition, we created the **Mercer County Business Lending Services** program in 2020 – an initiative that provides lending opportunities to Mercer County businesses and has infused over \$500,000 in low-interest loans since its inception.

New investment is essential to economic development. It creates jobs, drives new business and strengthens communities.

To continue this momentum, I recently announced two new initiatives for our business community -- the **Mercer County Small Business Grant** and the **Small Business Investment** programs. The Grant program, which dedicates \$3.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, will provide direct aid to Mercer County small businesses that have likely experienced pandemic hardship. The focus will be on businesses that have physical storefronts in Mercer with a maximum amount of \$10,000 allocated per grant.

The Small Business Investment Program, brought to us by John Harmon, CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, would set aside half a million dollars in funding for Mercer County businesses. While the details are still being finalized, the potential programs will reduce interest rates on loans and assist underfunded businesses in finding the capital they need to grow and flourish.

Mercer County boasts of one of lowest unemployment rates in the State of New Jersey at 2.5 percent. **However, there still are significant employment opportunities in and outside the County.**

Mindful of increasing costs and overall inflation, I have allocated over \$1 million in ARPA funds toward expanding our transportation options for residents in Mercer County over the next several years. This expansion will complement the Route 130 Connection bus route and will be a free transportation service to local residents who work at newly developed warehouse and retail business parks located in East Windsor and the Cranbury area.

Having a criminal record can create serious barriers to everyday events we might take for granted, things like finding a job or housing. While New Jersey has made it easier to apply for record expungement by opening an online filing system, there are still citizens who find the process daunting. Tonight, I announce **Mercer Path Forward**, a program we are developing that would facilitate a clean start for individuals with certain criminal records, and I look forward to working with the board on the Path Forward program.

This program is the logical next step to our grant-funded Re-entry Program for people leaving incarceration, announced this time last year. Our re-entry team works to ensure that such people, like every other citizen, can find employment, access stable housing, support their kids and families, and become active contributors to their communities. In Mercer, we also support giving people a second chance, including career counseling, on-the-job training and hiring. Employment is essential to securing other major needs such as food, shelter, and clothing, and helps prevent relapse into criminal behavior.

I received an email recently from someone who, long ago, got caught up in the criminal justice system at age 20. He asked me not to use his name, so I'll just call him Michael.

Michael was with a couple of friends who shoplifted a few sodas and candy bars from a convenience store. They were caught on videotape and stopped by police a few miles from the store. All were charged and Michael took a plea deal giving him probation.

In his own words, Michael said, "For over a decade this charge followed me, preventing me from getting a decent job. Through research I found out my charge was expungable, but I had no idea how to get it done. Luckily, I was referred to Mercer County, who helped at no cost to me. Because of this, I now have a job earning over \$75,000 and I can provide a better life for my family. More importantly, something from my past no longer has a hold on me."

We thank Michael for his candor and will continue to fight the stigma surrounding those who've made mistakes in life. We know there are many more people who need help getting their record cleared, and I'm excited about Mercer Path Forward.

Lastly, around a **Thriving Economy**, I am pleased to announce our new digital Small Business Directory. The online directory is an effort to support the business enterprises of women, minorities and veterans, along with small businesses. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our

local economy, and our goal is to create and identify ways to increase business traffic to certified small businesses and encourage others to become certified. This online directory, managed by our Small Business Outreach Office, is another tool to support our business community.

I'd like to recognize Job One Lawn and Landscape, a Woman and Minority-owned small business in Ewing. Owned by Jocelyn and Stan Tucker of Ewing, Job One recently won a county contract for \$75,000, and are just one of our many success stories. Let's give them a round of applause!

Healthy Residents

Community health impacts everything -- educational achievement, public safety, people's ability to work and be financially healthy, life expectancy, happiness and more. As part of our long-range plan, we are continually creating and improving our physical and social environments and expanding community resources so that people can live their best lives.

One of the ways we have promoted community health is through our highly successful Mercer at Play program, which has resulted in dozens of recreational projects across every one of our towns using county capital funds matched by outside contributions. Among the completed projects are the creation of a skate park in Princeton; renovations at Moody Park in Ewing that included the addition of two lighted basketball courts; and a four-town project to redevelop 51 acres of the former Twin Pines Airport in Lawrence into athletic fields.

And during the COVID-19 pandemic we formed effective partnerships with the City of Trenton, Capital Health, the Trenton Health Team, Henry J. Austin Health Center, Penn Medicine Princeton Health and other health care entities to make vaccinations, test kits and information available to our residents. We also hired critical staff including two full-time public health nurses and a full-time epidemiologist. Over time, as the Division has grown its services and programs, and through the COVID-19 crisis, it is clear that operating and storage space is insufficient.

With that in mind, we plan to use ARPA funds to expand the Division of Public Health so that it can continue to adequately meet the needs of our residents, including storing vaccine, PPE and other equipment, and have enough office space and parking to continue to conduct various health clinics, while supporting the needs of our municipal partners as well.

One of the lessons from the pandemic, coast to coast, state to state, was how taxing it was on our health care systems. Mercer County's Division of Public Health and our Office of Emergency Management were dauntless, and we owe them and all first responders a debt of gratitude.

In October, I collaborated with the Commissioner Board on a \$3 million grant shared by our 12 towns. This \$3 million set-aside is specifically for projects benefiting older adults, veterans and people with disabilities. Among the requests were generators, HVAC systems upgrades, design for a new senior center, an inclusive playground, transportation service and health care services. Like our collaborative Mercer at Play program and Mutual Assistance efforts, I'm looking forward to seeing the project outcomes so that we can move **Mercer forward** together.

Another way we are strengthening our community is by addressing the ongoing public health crisis of opioid addiction. All our communities have been affected by opioid-related overdoses, and many of us know a family that has lost a loved one to overdose. Let us not forget those souls.

Let me highlight a new initiative in this area:

Our Office on Addiction Services awarded a contract to the Rescue Mission of Trenton to provide Mobile Recovery Support Services, which was made available through county and Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services funding.

The new mobile unit will offer Narcan kits and linkage to local treatment services, and will travel around the county, focusing on the hardest-hit neighborhoods, to help prevent overdoses. As we await the arrival of the mobile unit, the recovery support staff have been out in force, providing Narcan trainings, and distributing naloxone and other needed resources throughout the community.

But there is more work to do. Any life lost to overdose is one too many.

Environmental Sustainability:

When it comes to sustainability, every little bit counts. From conserving water to recycling to driving less, there are a number of things each of us can do to help make a difference. Sustainability is something that we have prioritized through initiatives such as land preservation; tree plantings and reforestation; grants to our municipalities for park infrastructure; creation of pollinator habitats; sustainable farming practices at Capital City Farm, and our solar array at Mercer County Community College, which was ahead of its time. These efforts improve biodiversity, help with flood and drought control, reduce urban heat and improve air quality. We've also taken a Complete Streets approach to transportation planning and developed a Bicycle Master Plan to guide the installation of bicycle facilities on county roadways and expand people's ability to forgo their cars and safely get around.

In addition, we are working with a grant consultant to find solar funding opportunities for the county and are looking to install solar benches at our parks. We put 22 new electric vehicle chargers into operation at county facilities last summer and are seeking to add 13 new charging stations, for a total of 48 chargers. Our Economic Development and Planning offices recently hosted two Clean Energy Workshops aimed at the business community to discuss sustainability and cost-savings opportunities available to reduce their energy consumption.

Our combined efforts with those important projects go a long way toward reducing our carbon footprint and reliance on fossil fuels, **but there is more work to do**, and the opportunity to take a more cohesive approach. Looking ahead, we will continue to identify potential funding sources and create a monitoring process that outlines how we measure the success of each sustainable action and plan as a whole.

As part of our new **Integrated Climate Action Plan**, we will create an internal advisory board, which will consider adaptation and resilience measures in county infrastructure, transportation including motor vehicle fleet, waste management and community engagement.

Then, as a next step to the energy audits we have performed on more than 25 county facilities, we will commission a sustainability audit of all county operations to evaluate our progress.

A long-term goal is to turn over our motor vehicle fleet, and a first step toward that effort would be to evaluate the fleet to identify which vehicles would offer the greatest reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, as well as the cost associated with replacing them with green vehicles. Another long-term goal is to retrofit lighting, lighting fixtures and HVAC systems to the most efficient available.

Looking toward the future, Dr. Deborah Preston, our new President at Mercer County Community College, and I are discussing new programs and courses in the area of Sustainability, and exploring collaborations in urban or vertical farming to eliminate food deserts and promote “green” careers in the City of Trenton.

Our discussions included an exploration of hydroponics and aquaponics, and although these conversations are just beginning, the concepts are forward-thinking and on the cutting edge of progressive means to address hunger and sound nutrition. Let’s give President Preston a round of applause.

With the support of our residents and businesses, Mercer County will continue to be a leader in making government operations more sustainable. We understand the scale of the challenge, and we are passionate about the need to preserve the planet and create a cleaner, greener future.

I want to briefly touch on just a few of the many other things our county government has been busy with during the past year.

- Among the myriad projects that improve the safety and efficiency of our **transportation infrastructure**, we completed three bridge reconstruction projects, all on budget; four roadway and intersection construction projects; and the building of an 80,000-square-foot hangar for FlightServ, a fixed-base operator at Trenton-Mercer Airport.
- Our award-winning **Share the Harvest Program** at Howell Farm and Capital City Farm yielded more than 12 tons of a variety of foods grown on those farms that were donated to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and various Mercer County food banks to help people in need.
- Our Human Services Department, in conjunction with the Mercer County Board of Social Services, continued to provide **emergency rental assistance** to Mercer County residents impacted by COVID-19, successfully managing more than \$20 million in federal funding and helping more than 1,800 households prevent eviction.
- We saw exceptional growth in the **golf and tennis operations** at our county facilities, which now include the Park Commission’s newest acquisition, the Hopewell Valley Golf and Country Club.
- We continued to support our **military veterans** with special events such as the Holiday Basket Giveaway that provided holiday meal packages to 100 veterans and their families, in addition to the daily assistance that Mercer County Veteran Services provides.
- After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we safely reopened our county nutrition sites for congregate dining and were able to hold our annual senior picnic, which was attended by more

than 500 people, while our Office on Aging continued to assist **older adults** all over Mercer County through phone calls, emails and in-person visits.

- Our **County Connection** office in Hamilton — which serves all county residents — completed an expansion in 2022 that doubled its size to about 4,000 square feet, and now features a large community room that can accommodate up to 50 people for various programs.
- The **City of Trenton** faces unique challenges that none of our other municipalities share. With Mayor Reed Gusciora, we are identifying a number of new supports for Trenton. When our Capital City thrives we all benefit, and the Mayor and I will share our developments on an ongoing basis.

I've learned over the years that governing isn't easy. But I'm proud of what my administration has accomplished with the guidance provided by my Chief of Staff Kelly Ganges and my other esteemed cabinet members; the support of the Board of Commissioners; the dedication of our department managers and section chiefs; and the determined efforts of a county workforce that -- without fanfare -- serves the public each and every day. But no matter how good a job I think we're doing, we'll always strive to do better. To complete another task. To solve another problem. To extend another helping hand. And we'll be back at work tomorrow trying to do just that. **There is more work to do.**

Thank you, board members, for your time tonight. I am proud to be County Executive of the Greatest County. I look forward to working with you to continue moving this County forward and improving the quality of life for our residents and visitors. Thank you.



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JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EBONY WITHERSPOON
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INFORMAL MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2023

MINUTES

Chair Walter called the Formal Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on January 24, 2023, in Room 211 of the Joyce L. McDade Administration Building, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board answered the Roll Call of the Clerk to the Board:

Present – Commissioners Cimino, Frisby, Lewis, McLaughlin, Stokes, Walter and Melker

Chair Walter led the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.

The Clerk to the Board announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, notice of this Formal Meeting had been mailed to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian and The Princeton Packet newspapers as well as having been posted in both the County Administration Building and Courthouse at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

At this time, Chair Walter invited members of the public to comment on any item listed on the Agenda.

There was no comment.

COMMUNICATIONS

Three (3) communications were discussed and approved for placement on the Agenda for the Formal Meeting of January 26, 2023

RESOLUTIONS

Fifty-three (53) proposed Resolutions were discussed and approved for placement on the agenda for the Formal Meeting of January 26, 2023.

Commissioner Walter began the meeting inviting Mercer County Engineer, Basit A. Muzaffar, "Sunny", to come before the Board to answer any questions they may have on the Ordinance Introduction, amending speed limits along Bear Tavern Road in Hopewell.

Commissioner Cimino questioned what changed allowing the Ordinance amending speed limits to be presented before the Board.

Mercer County Engineer, Muzaffar, responded that the 85% percent rule that was put in place restricted the engineers in using their judgment in the past, currently, the rules have been changed and were more flexible and allow for the judgment of engineers to be considered.

Commissioners Frisby questioned specifically who changed the guidelines. The Engineer made the Board aware that the Federal Government changed the guidelines that the 85 % rule is now only one point of criteria and not the only criteria.

County Engineer Muzaffar discussed the importance of enforcing the new speed limits.

Commissioner Walter questioned if the Municipality would be made aware of the changes. County Engineer Muzaffar and Clerk to the Board, Jerlene H. Worthy, answered that once the Ordinance was adopted both offices would send a copy of the Ordinance to the local Municipality.

Commissioner McLaughlin expressed her appreciation to the Administration for bringing the Ordinance to the Board as a resident of the Municipality, she knows that it will make a positive impact in the community and keep the residents and children attending school safe.

Commissioner Walter referred to Communication C-3, answers to the Commissioner's questions. She questioned why the budget was being used at 31% instead of the 25% it usually is.

Mercer County Administrator, Lillian Nazzaro Esq., explained that according to the State Statute the Emergency Budget was allowed to exceed the 25%. Commissioner Walter referred to previous years having two Emergency Budgets and questioned why this year there was only one.

The County Administrator commented that these were recommendations from the Temporary Chief Financial Officer.

Commissioner Walter made reference to R-20, "authorizing to execute an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services Agreement with J.A Montgomery risk control for risk/loss control services for the Mercer County Insurance Fund Commission. She expressed the need for a pre-accident assessment be done at County buildings. Commissioner Walter felt this could help to avoid a major insurance payout if an accident were to occur.

County Administrator Nazzaro, responded that there has been a preliminary walk-through at the Administration building and the Administration was awaiting a completed report

Commissioner Stokes asked for clarification to mitigate pay to the insurance companies. He asked if Buildings and Grounds could assist internally by painting numbers on doors and additional pre-accident maintenance.

Commissioner Lewis made reference to the pre-accident assessment and requested the Administration to provide a answer if all County buildings would be assessed in the future.

Commissioner Walter wanted to make note on R-1, Emergency Temporary Budget, that a few of the items are at 75%.

Commissioner Lewis asked was it normal to have line items at 75%.

County Administrator, Lillian Nazzaro, Esq., responded the items that were listed at 75%, such as Utilities, have increased in price.

Commissioner Frisby questioned what last year's utilities budget were approved at.

Administrator Nazzaro said she would provide that information

Commissioner Cimino made reference to R-2, Resolution authorizing to execute a Competitive Contract with PKF O'Connor Davies, Llp. to provide professional auditing services, and mentioned that the Board requested the Administration hire a forensic auditor. Commissioner Cimino expressed the need for a forensic auditor to do a deep dive into the Finance Department so the Board had a better idea of what exactly was going on with the County's finances.

Commissioner Lewis questioned why PKF O'Connor Davies received the contract when they did not seem to be the lowest bidder and she expressed concern if this company has done auditing work prior in the County, why would the County use their services again.

Commissioner Melker informed her colleagues during her time as Chair she put a request in for a forensic audit through Board Counsel to the Administration.

Board Counsel, Michael Herbert Esq., concurred.

Commissioner Walter made the suggestion that Board Counsel sit with Commissioner Lewis to share with her more information discussed during the previous executive session.

Commissioner Frisby also voiced his support for a forensic audit of the County Finance Department

Commissioner Walter requested that Resolutions coming from Health and Human Services provide the previous contract amount and amount of people serviced in all Resolutions coming from that office.

Clerk to the Board, Jerlene H. Worthy, made the Board aware that they have a revised R-21, R-23, R-24, R-25 because the contract type was changed from a Professional Service Contract to a regular Contract after discussing the legality with County Counsel.

Commissioner Lewis made reference to R-20 through R-25, not having the Bid and RFP results for those Resolutions and urged these Resolutions be pulled from the Agenda and deferred to the next meeting so the Board had time to review the new backup as requested.

The Board concurred with Commissioner Lewis.

Commissioner Cimino made reference to R-32, authorizing to execute an Agreement with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for DVRPC FY 2023 to reimburse DVRPC for non-federally funded regional planning services. He questioned if the Penn East Pipeline cut down trees on County property and if they were ever replaced.

The Administration was unaware of them replacing trees and County counsel made the Board aware that the case has been closed.

Commissioner Walter made reference to R-36, Acceptance of Deed dedication from Princeton Junction Storage, Llc., to the County of Mercer for the purpose of road widening. She questioned if the Resolution was for the road widening or just accepting the deed of dedication.

Board Counsel Herbert advised her that it was just to accept the Deed of Dedication.

Commissioner Walter expressed that any work being done, especially along Clarksville Road, would include thorough backup from the town.

Commissioner Walter made reference to R-42, Amend Resolution to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Service Agreement with Greenman Pedersen, Inc., to provide final engineering design services for the replacement of County Bridge No. 140.9. She informed the Board that it was an infusion of funds from the State.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS- FIRST READING

1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SPEED LIMITS ALONG BEAR TAVERN ROAD (CR 579) BETWEEN 1000' NORTH OF MADDOCK ROAD TO WASHINGTON CROSSING-PENNINGTON ROAD (CR 546), TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, COUNTY OF MERCER
2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2013-4, ADOPTED MARCH 14, 2013, TO ESTABLISH THE LOAD LIMITS ON VARIOUS MERCER COUNTY BRIDGES AND CULVERTS (AMENDMENT NO. 2)

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Frisby requested the current numbers for the Mercer County Minority Set Aside Program. In addition, he would like the updated information on the effectiveness of the program and the ability of some of the minority businesses to partner with non-minority businesses. Commissioner Frisby also mentioned adding the LGBTQ+ Community to the eligibility list for the Mercer County Set Aside Program.

Commissioner Walter asked the Administration for the status on the Disparity study.

County Administrator Nazzaro, said she would check with Mr. James Chamber and get back to the Board.

Commissioner Frisby suggested that Mr. Chambers make a presentation before the Board with the study's findings.

The Board concurred.

Commissioner Walter took a moment to highlight and congratulate the City of Trenton for handling a constituent issue in a timely and effective manner. After receiving a dumping complaint, Commissioner Walter reached out to the City of Trenton to assist this resident. She received photos of the job well done and the resident was very happy to have this matter taken care of.

Commissioner Frisby inquired if the Administration looked into private health insurance for County Employees.

County Administrator Nazzaro, responded that they have an RFP to seek out plans.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Commissioner Walter discussed the importance of an indoor track for the residents of Mercer County, especially the youth. Commissioner Walter believes that an indoor track was severely needed in Mercer County.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Cimino questioned the Administration about the County Correction Facility being closed on weekends for intake, due to staffing shortages, and why individuals were being housed in their local precincts.

County Administrator Nazzaro, responded that these incidents haven't occurred since the previous Fall. The Administration mitigated the staffing shortages by asking the Sheriff to assist, and hiring Temporary Employee Law Enforcement Officers (TELEO).

Commissioner Walter questioned how the TELEO officers' contract was paid out. She also requested the account number that these officers were being paid out of.

County Administrator Nazzaro, responded that these officers were not civil service, employees they are temporary employees, and that hiring the TELEO Officers was an executive decision to staff the prison.

At this time, Chair Walter invited members of the public to comment on any item listed on the Agenda.

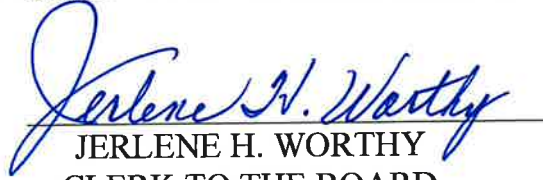
Mr. Jeffrey Burd, a resident of Ewing and a Board member of the Agricultural Board, addressed the Commissioner Board. Mr. Burd discussed with the Board all of the open space throughout Mercer County, and questioned if there was some way to examine or inquire about the land that the County owns. More specifically, Mercer County owned land not being utilized, Mr. Burd proposed that the open land could potentially be put back into agricultural production. He believed this would benefit all County residents.

Commissioner Walter suggested that Leslie Floyd, Planning Director, answer the question that Mr. Burd presented to the Board in reference to using County owned open land for agricultural production.

Commissioner Walter received a request from Terhune Orchards in reference to an Assembly and Senate Bill, these bills would allow farms to host special occasion events. Commissioner Walter asked if the Board would be comfortable sending a support Resolution for these bills.

The Board concurred.

AGENDA MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 PM


JERLENE H. WORTHY
CLERK TO THE BOARD

SO