



JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

COUNTY OF MERCER
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LISA M. VENA
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MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

SPECIAL FORMAL MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2020

Chair Koontz called the Special Formal Meeting to order at 10:00 AM

The following members answered the Roll Call of the Clerk:

Freeholders: Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Frisby, Walter, and Koontz
Absent: Freeholder Melker

The Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

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

SUNSHINE LAW

It was announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law, notice of this Meeting has been mailed to the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, and the Princeton Packet newspapers as well as having been posted in the Administration Building and the Courthouse at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting.

Chair Koontz announced the purpose of this Special Formal Meeting was for the Board to take action on the following proposed Resolution:

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD
AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF
MERCER AND THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NJOEM) AND NEW
JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (NJDOH) FOR
THE PROVISION OF COVID-19 TESTING. PERIOD:
AUGUST 2020 THROUGH JUNE 2021. AMOUNT:
\$4,031,833.00 (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

County Executive Brian M. Hughes, addressed the Freeholder Board. He thanked them for holding this Special Formal Meeting because the above mentioned Resolution was extremely important. County Executive Hughes explained that as the County moves forward toward the months of September and October they are preparing for another bout of COVID-19 cases along with the added stressors of the regular flu season. He explained that this Resolution is the State's first attempt to reimburse Mercer County for some of the expended costs they have had to cover due to coronavirus relief efforts. County Executive Hughes said this Resolution will bring much needed funding to Mercer County and will help meet the financial obligation of COVID-19.

Chair Koontz thanked the County Executive for his summary and announced the Resolution would allow Mercer County to cover costs they already incurred and also provide further COVID-19 testing to the public.

Freeholder Cimino asked for further clarification on the Resolution. It was his understanding that these funds totaling 4 million dollars was specifically geared toward reimbursing the County.

County Administrator Lillian Nazzaro, Esq., explained that there are two grants covering the corona relief funds and this particular one would help cover costs the County already paid for and future testing for COVID-19.

Freeholder Cimino thanked the Administration for the clarification but he felt it would be prudent to pass that information on to the municipalities who were hopeful that some of these funds could be distributed to help them to offset their costs.

County Executive Hughes announced that Mercer County was going to see a major reduction in revenue unlike any other they have seen previously. He added that the Administration was looking to the federal government for more assistance in receiving funds. County Executive Hughes discussed that only 9 counties in New Jersey received funding under the CARES Act and for a comparison shared that Ocean County received 106 million dollars in funding whereas Mercer County is seeing 4 million. He said the difference in funding was alarming but he was hopeful there would be financial assistance from the federal government in the future.

Freeholder Walter asked if the Administration would work with local municipalities' health departments to provide testing to area residents.

County Administrator Nazzaro responded that the Administration would be reaching out to local officials to see if they could work together on this effort.

County Executive Hughes explained that the Administration is looking into two types of testing. One would be an at home test which people would call in and provide their insurance information take the test and send it to the designated lab. He also explained that there are pop-up testing sites, one located in the City of Trenton. County Executive Hughes was hopeful this funding would provide more readily available testing to those in need.

Freeholder Cannon thanked the Administration for all that has been done to keep all residents safe. She noted that Mercer County was one of the last counties to have COVID-19 cases and appreciated their hard work and due diligence.

Chair Koontz felt Freeholder Cannon's sentiments were shared by the entire Freeholder Board.

At this time, the Clerk to the Board called for a Motion to Vote on the following Resolution listed on the Agenda:

Freeholder Walter offered the following Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Cannon:

NO. 2020-409 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NJOEM) AND NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (NJDOH) FOR THE PROVISION OF COVID-19 TESTING. PERIOD: AUGUST 2020 THROUGH JUNE 2021. AMOUNT: \$4,031,833.00 (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

VOTE ON RESOLUTION:

Ayes -6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 1.

Ayes – Freeholders Cannon, Colavita, Frisby, Walter and Koontz

Absent – Freeholder Melker

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

There were no comments.

A Motion to Adjourn the Special Formal Meeting was offered by Freeholder Colavita, seconded by Freeholder Cannon, which motion was adopted by the unanimous vote of the members of the Board.

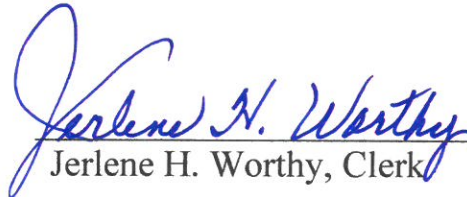
VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes- 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 1.

Ayes - Freeholders Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Frisby, Walter and Koontz

Absent – Freeholder Melker

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:23AM



Jerlene H. Worthy, Clerk