



COUNTY OF MERCER
McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
640 SOUTH BROAD STREET
P.O. BOX 8068
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-0068
(609) 989-6584
Fax: (609) 392-0488

JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

LISA M. VENA
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

FORMAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2020

MINUTES

Chair Koontz called the Formal Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on December 17, 2020

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

Present - Freeholders Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Frisby, Melker, Walter and Koontz

The Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

Chair Koontz 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.

PRESENTATION

Paula Sollami-Covello – Mercer County Clerk’s Five Year Plan

Chair Koontz said that Mercer County Clerk, Paula Sollami-Covello, was present this evening to present the Board with her Five Year Plan.

County Clerk Sollami-Covello addressed the Board. She was pleased to share with the Board her five-year plan for 2021 through 2025. **(See Schedule B, attached hereto and made a part hereof)**

County Clerk Sollami-Covello spoke of the plan including some new and innovative items such as standing desk conversions for each of the staff members and making records more accessible to the public by putting them online for their disposal.

Freeholder Walter asked the County Clerk her thoughts on the last election process in November.

County Clerk Sollami-Covello said they did not have a lot of time to prepare for an all vote by mail election. She informed the Board that they were able to send out roughly 260,000 vote by mail ballots in a generally short amount of time. County Clerk Sollami-Covello took a moment to thank County Executive, Brian M. Hughes, the Administration and the Freeholder Board for all of their support. They provided her with the funds to purchase the tools they needed to ensure all voters in Mercer County had the opportunity to vote during this pandemic. County Clerk Sollami-Covello said the Board of Elections was able to use the extension building as a makeshift hub allowing employees to work while being socially distanced and to have the amenities like new ballot scanners.

County Clerk Sollami-Covello was hopeful that purchasing new voting machines in the future would ensure voter accuracy especially if they were equipped with a paper trail. She was confident in the work provided to Mercer County and its residents during this election season. Mercer County Clerk Sollami-Covello said that Daniels’ Law was just passed. She explained the law requires public officers’ information be redacted from the public record. County Clerk Sollami-Covello said she was still waiting on guidelines on how to navigate this new law moving forward.

Freeholder Walter said she noticed all the election drop boxes located throughout Mercer County. She asked if these boxes were property of Mercer County.

County Clerk Sollami-Covello said they are property of the County of Mercer. She explained that the State of New Jersey purchased only 10 boxes and she purchased the remainder on behalf of the Board of Elections.

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

There were no comments.

COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was received from Marion Masnick, Clerk of the Board, County of Monmouth, dated November 25, 2020, RE: Resolution urging the State Legislature to allow counties and municipalities to regulate the sale and use of marijuana within their borders.

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, Purchasing Agent, dated November 30, 2020, RE: Minutes and RFP Results for the Week of November 9, 2020.

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, Purchasing Agent, dated December 4, 2020, RE: Minutes and Bid Results for the Week of November 23, 2020.

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, Purchasing Agent, dated December 4, 2020, RE: Minutes and Bid/RFP Results for the Week of November 30, 2020.

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, Purchasing Agent, dated December 9, 2020, RE: Minutes and Bid Results for the Week of December 7, 2020.

A communication was received from Lillian L. Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator, dated December 15, 2020, RE: Freeholder Questions for December 15, 2020.

A communication was received from Lillian L. Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator, dated December 17, 2020, RE: Freeholder Questions from December 15, 2020.

RESOLUTIONS

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

Freeholder Colavita, seconded by Freeholder Melker, that:

RESOLUTIONS NO. R-1 THROUGH R-22, 25 THROUGH 27, 29, THROUGH 43 AND 45 THROUGH 65 ON THE AGENDA “BE VOTED ON IN BLOCK”

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Freeholder Cimino offered the following Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Frisby:

- NO. 2020-644** ADOPTION OF LIST OF HOLIDAYS TO BE OBSERVED BY ALL MERCER COUNTY OFFICES FOR THE YEAR 2021 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE OFFICES REQUIRED TO BE OPEN BY LAW
- NO. 2020-645** RESOLUTION TO CANCEL BALANCES IN THE GRANT FUNDS
- NO. 2020-646** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, DIVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION AND PERMANENCY, FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC). PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020. AMOUNT: \$83,384.00 (67,508.00 [STATE FUNDS]; \$15,876.00 [COUNTY MATCH FUNDS])

- NO. 2020-647** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES AWARDS THE COUNTY OF MERCER COUNTY CORRECTIONS CENTER THE MEDICATED ASSISTED TREATMENT SERVICES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT: \$449,974.00; PERIOD: JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020
- NO. 2020-648** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE HUMAN SERVICES, FOR “MERCER COUNTY AREA PLAN TITLE III, OLDER AMERICANS ACT”; FINAL ALLOCATION OF 2020 STATE, FEDERAL AREA PLAN AND CARE ACT – ADRC GRANT CONTRACT FUNDS (NO COUNTY FUNDS). TOTAL ADDITIONAL REVENUE ALLOCATED \$121,709.00
- NO. 2020-649** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS (NJACCHO) AWARD COUNTY OF MERCER HEPATITIS A COVID-19 RELATED RESPONSE ACTIVITY GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY. PERIOD: JANUARY 20, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 11, 2021. AMOUNT: \$78,153.00 (STATE FUNDS) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-650** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES, FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) NON-DISCRETIONARY (ND COVID19 CARES ACT FUNDS) (GRANT AWARD NO. 2020-05205-0311-00) ALLOCATION OF \$276,396.00 WILL BE RECEIVED. APRIL 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022. FIRST INSTALLMENT: \$145,752.00 AND FINAL PAYMENT: \$276,396.00. TOTAL ALLOCATION: \$422,148.00 (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

- NO. 2020-651** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT FUNDS COUNTY OF MERCER SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020. THESE FUNDS MUST BE INCORPORATED INTO PROGRAM YEAR 2019 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD OF MAY 1, 2020 THROUGH OCTOBER 30, 2020. TOTAL AMOUNT: \$277,200.00
- NO. 2020-652** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AWARDS THE COUNTY OF MERCER UNIVERSAL SERVICES FUNDS (USF) GRANT FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$306,280.00
- NO. 2020-653** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE AWARDS A GRANT TO COUNTY OF MERCER FOR PUBLIC PURPOSE OF PLANNING AND OPERATIONALIZING SAFE AND SECURE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IN MERCER COUNTY. THESE FUNDS MUST BE INCORPORATED INTO PROGRAM YEAR 2019 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA CONTRACT. FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 15, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020; TOTAL AMOUNT: \$1,003,599.52
- NO. 2020-654** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – CITY OF TRENTON DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) ENTERED INTO A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR SYSTEM MONITOR SERVICES IN MERCER COUNTY. PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2020 (WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR) AMOUNT: \$116,800.00 (\$51,800.00 [CITY OF TRENTON – UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FUNDS; \$65,000.00 [COUNTY FUNDS])

- NO. 2020-655** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – NEW JERSEY TRANSIT AWARDS COUNTY OF MERCER GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE NEW JERSEY TRANSIT’S FTA SECTION 5311 CARES ACT TO PROVIDE AID FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PROVIDERS EXPERIENCING EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES RELATED TO COVID-19. TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT: \$198,228.00. PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2020 THROUGH JULY 31, 2021
- NO. 2020-656** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – NEW JERSEY TRANSIT AWARDS COUNTY OF MERCER, THE NEW JERSEY CONSOLIDATED JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR (SFY) 2021 ROUND 7 (SFY 2021 NJ JARC R7). AMOUNT: SFY2021 \$470,000.00 (COUNTY MATCH: \$235,000.00; NJ TRANSIT: \$235,000.00). PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. (STATE FUNDS & COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-657** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, DIVISION OF LOCAL AID AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS COUNTY OF MERCER GRANT FUNDS FOR THE ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR VARIOUS BRIDGE PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR 2020. TOTAL AMOUNT: \$5,492,654.00 [STATE FUNDS, NO COUNTY FUNDS]
- NO. 2020-658** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AWARDS FUNDING FOR COUNTY OF MERCER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM, COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE RESPONSE TEAM/FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINER PROGRAM, GRANT NUMBER VS-35B-17, FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$91,958.00 STATE FUNDS AND COUNTY MATCH: \$35,077.00, TOTAL AWARD: \$127,035.00

- NO. 2020-659** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AWARDS FUNDING FOR COUNTY OF MERCER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM, COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE RESPONSE TEAM/FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINER PROGRAM, GRANT NUMBER VS-35B-17, FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$91,958.00 STATE FUNDS AND COUNTY MATCH: \$35,077.00, TOTAL AWARD: \$127,035.00
- NO. 2020-660** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS (OHSP), STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP), FOR THE 2020 HOMELAND SECURITY GRAND FUNDS AMOUNT: \$278,573.29. PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2023
- NO. 2020-661** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NJDOT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND PROGRAM FOR STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGE NO. 140.8 CARRYING MONMOUTH STREET OVER ASSUNPINK CREEK BRIDGE PRESERVATION, CITY OF TRENTON, COUNTY OF MERCER; TOTAL AMOUNT: \$500,000.00
- NO. 2020-662** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – FUNDS WILL BE RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION'S DELAWARE WATERSHED CONSERVATION FUND FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AND MERCER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT FOR THE DESIGN AND PARTIAL INSTALLATION OF LIVING SHORELINE AND ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY BOAT RAMP IN JOHN A. ROEBLING MEMORIAL PARK, (GRANT ID NO. 0403.20.068622/DUNS NO. 054177662; IN AN AMOUNT OF \$150,000.00 (22%); WITH A MATCHING AMOUNT OF \$520,687.00 (78%), FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2022

- NO. 2020-663** SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE – STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AWARDS THE COUNTY OF MERCER, MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION, IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY TO PREVENT, MITIGATE OR CONTROL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AT ROSEDALE LAKE, TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL, TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$51,282.00 (24.8%). WATERSHED INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY IN-KIND SERVICES MATCHING FUNDS \$61,050.00; NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GRANT FUNDS; \$185,000.00 TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$246,050.00 (RFP#1 GRANT NO. WM20-035)
- NO. 2020-664** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS AUTHORIZES PAYMENT TO ROYAL PRINTING SERVICES FOR CENSUS 2020 PRINTED MATERIALS FOR AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO UNDERSERVED, HARD-TO-COUNT AREAS THROUGHOUT MERCER COUNTY. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$20,270.74
- NO. 2020-665** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH THE RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) YEAR. AMOUNT: \$52,040.00 (HOMELESSNESS TRUST FUND) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-666** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH MEALS ON WHEELS OF MERCER COUNTY, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF “COUNTY WIDE WEEKDAY HOME-DELIVERED MEALS SERVICES”. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$254,819.00 (\$129,546.00 [FEDERAL TITLE IIIC2 FUNDS]; \$4,500.00 [STATE MATCH FUNDS]; \$19,125.00 [NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP) FUNDS]; \$84,293.00 [PROVIDER MATCH FUNDS]; \$17,355.00 [COUNTY FUNDS])

- NO. 2020-667** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH MEALS ON WHEELS OF MERCER COUNTY, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF "COUNTY-WIDE WEEKEND HOME-DELIVERED MEAL SERVICES". PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$54,234.00 (\$38,278.00 [STATE WEEKEND HOME DELIVERED MEAL (SWHDM) FUNDS]; \$3,900.00 [NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP) FUNDS]; AND \$12,056.00 [PROVIDER MATCH FUNDS]) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-668** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH SENIOR CARE CENTERS OF AMERICA, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF THE "NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT RESPITE CARE PROGRAM." PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$163,071.00 (\$67,267.00 [FEDERAL TITLE III-E FUNDS]; \$55,036.00 [STATE MATCH FUNDS]; \$40,768.00 [PROVIDER MATCH FUNDS]) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-669** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE PROVISION OF "THE MERCER COUNTY CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AIDE AND FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROJECT." PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$140,000.00 (\$51,000.00 [FEDERAL TITLE III-B FUNDS]; \$7,000.00 [PEER GROUPING FUNDS]; AND \$2,750.00 [PROVIDER MATCH FUNDS])

- NO. 2020-670** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO BIOTERRORISM, OUTBREAKS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS AND EMERGENCIES FUNDED BY LOCAL CORE CAPACITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS GRANT (LINCS). PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2023 (NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-671** AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-240, ADOPTED APRIL 23, 2020 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE PROVISION OF MOTEL/HOTEL PLACEMENTS, 24 HOUR RESPONSE FOR HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND PERSONS ENTERING THE SYSTEM VIA THE STATEWIDE 211 SYSTEM, AND CODE BLUE ALERT PLANS TO SHELTER AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS. “AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$547,000.00. (\$80,000.00 (SSH) FUNDS); \$467,000.00 [COVID19 RELIEF FUNDS]” REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$668,148.00 (\$162,348.00 [SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS (SSH) FUNDS]; \$18,800.00 [HOMELESSNESS TRUST FUNDS]; \$467,000.00 [COVID19 RELIEF FUNDS]; \$20,000.00 [COUNTY FUNDS])
- NO. 2020-672** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT RENEWAL PACKAGE WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF DISABILITY SERVICES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM (PASP) IN MERCER COUNTY. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$69,948.00 (STATE FUNDS) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

- NO. 2020-673** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT A GRANT RENEWAL APPLICATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (NJDEP) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACT (CEHA) PROGRAM. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. AMOUNT: \$330,996.00 (STATE FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-674** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS HEREBY ACCEPTS A 2020 FINAL AREA PLAN CONTRACT GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES FOR THE PROVISION OF MERCER COUNTY AREA PLAN ON AGING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR MERCER COUNTY OLDER ADULTS AND CAREGIVERS. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020. AMOUNT: \$3,855,542.00 (LESS MID-YEAR FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,767,330.00 FOR A TOTAL INCREASE IN FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$88,212.00) (FEDERAL AID AND STATE FUNDS) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-675** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH THE ACTUARIAL ADVANTAGE, INC., TO PROVIDE ACTUARIAL SERVICES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$8,118.00
- NO. 2020-676** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH BORDEN PERLMAN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC., TO BE THE RISK MANAGER FOR THE MERCER COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$66,000.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

- NO. 2020-677** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE AN OPTION TO EXTEND A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH INSERVCO INSURANCE SERVICES, INC., TO BE THIRD PART ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE MERCER COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$201,500.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021.
- NO. 2020-678** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE INITIAL OPTION TO EXTEND AN EXTRAORDINARY, UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES (E.U.S.) AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH J.A. MONTGOMERY RISK CONTROL FOR RISK/LOSS CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$135,360.00
- NO. 2020-679** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN EXTRAORDINARY, UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES (E.U.S.) AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH DENTAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION, INC., FOR A GROUP DENTAL EXPENSE PROGRAM FOR MERCER COUNTY EMPLOYEES. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$310,000.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021
- NO. 2020-680** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AN EXTRAORDINARY, UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICE (E.U.S.) AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH THE FIRM OF DELTA DENTAL OF NEW JERSEY, INC., FOR A GROUP DENTAL EXPENSE PROGRAM. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$740,000.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

- NO. 2020-681** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE AN OPTION TO EXTEND A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO PROVIDE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$173,519.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021
- NO. 2020-682** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH BOWMAN AND COMPANY, LLP, FOR AUDITOR SERVICES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$10,024.00
- NO. 2020-683** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR THE PROVISION OF PRINTING SERVICES FOR MERCER COUNTY. OPEN-END CONTRACT; PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$45,000.00 PER YEAR. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$135,000.00
- NO. 2020-684** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PARKER MCCAY TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THE OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD. TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED: \$95,000.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

- NO. 2020-685** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH THE FIRM OF RIKER DANZIG SCHERER HYLAND PERRETTI, LLP, TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES REGARDING THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION INVESTIGATION AND SERVICES RELATED TO STATE OF NEW JERSEY V. KEVIN B. BANNON, IND. NO. 17-10-185. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$100,000.00. PERIOD: APRIL 1, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021 (COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2020-686** ACCEPTANCE OF TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM GEORGE FILIPIAK TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR THE PURPOSE OF A BRIDGE (#364.15) REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED ON LOCUST LANE OVER HARRYS BROOK, PRINCETON, MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY FUNDS REQUIRED: \$500.00
- NO. 2020-687** ACCEPTANCE OF TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM PETER MEYERS AND GRAYSON BARBER, TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER, FOR THE PURPOSE OF A BRIDGE (#364.15) REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LOCATED ON LOCUST LANE OVER HARRYS BROOK, MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON, MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY; FUNDS REQUIRED: \$500.00
- NO. 2020-688** ACCEPTANCE OF TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM JEFFREY SCHWARTZ, TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER, FOR THE PURPOSE OF A BRIDGE (#364.15) REPLACEMENT PROJECT LOCATED ON LOCUST LANE OVER HARRYS BROOK, PRINCETON, MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY FUNDS REQUIRED: \$500.00
- NO. 2020-689** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MERCER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES TO AID THE DISADVANTAGED AND ELDERLY (TRADE) FOR THE PROVISION OF "TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS". PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$19,686.00 (MEDICAID MATCH FUNDS) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

- NO. 2020-690** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MERCER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES TO AID THE DISADVANTAGED AND ELDERLY (TRADE) FOR THE PROVISION OF "TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS." AMOUNT: \$284,373.00 (\$212,808.00 [SOCIAL SERVICE BLOCK GRANT (SSBG) FUNDS]; \$34,429.00 [SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS]; \$37,136.00 [COUNTY MATCH FUNDS])
- NO. 2020-691** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MERCER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES TO AID THE DISADVANTAGED AND ELDERLY (TRADE) FOR THE PROVISION OF "TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS." PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$124,405.00 (\$65,000.00 [FEDERAL TITLE III-B FUNDS]; \$15,000.00 [STATE MATCH FUNDS]; \$10,000.00 [SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS]; \$34,405.00 [COUNTY MATCH FUNDS])
- NO. 2020-692** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH W.E. TIMMERMAN CO, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) ELGIN BROOM BEAR STREET SWEEPER FOR THE MERCER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM CONTRACT NO. 65MCECCPS (BID NO. 17/18-30) TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$308,912.08
- NO. 2020-693** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR COUNTY AID TO VARIOUS BRIDGES IN MERCER COUNTY. TOTAL AMOUNT: \$5,489,101.00

- NO. 2020-694** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH LOOMACRES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, INC., TO PROVIDE WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING AS A PART OF AN INTEGRATED WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT AND SURROUNDING PROPERTIES. PERIOD: APRIL 28, 2020 THROUGH APRIL 27, 2021. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$59,133.78
- NO. 2020-695** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH OXFORD COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT WEBSITE. PERIOD: DECEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2021. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$37,300.00
- NO. 2020-696** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC., TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES FOR INDEPENDENT FEE ESTIMATES FOR ANTICIPATED DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AT THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT. PERIOD: DECEMBER 18, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 17, 2021. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$25,000.00
- NO. 2020-697** AWARD OF BID RECEIVED NOVEMBER 24, 2020 TO STARR TRANSIT CO, INC., FOR ROUTE 130 CONNECTION BUS SERVICE JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM (JARC) FOR THE MERCER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDM) PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022 WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND TWO (2) YEARS. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$801,678.50 (YEAR ONE TOTAL: \$391,616.40 YEAR TWO TOTAL: \$410,062.10) (AB2020-44)

- NO. 2020-698** REJECTION OF BIDS RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 FOR INMATE SUPPLIES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY CORRECTION CENTER AS THE BID SPECIFICATIONS SHALL BE REVISED (AB2020-08B)
- NO. 2020-699** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS SUPPORTS ASSEMBLY BILL 2258 TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO UTILIZE THERAPY DOGS IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WELLNESS PROGRAMS
- NO. 2020-700** RESOLUTION DECLARING DATE, PLACE AND TIME OF 2021 REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021 AT 6:00 PM
- NO. 2020-701** REAPPOINTMENT OF LILLIAN L. NAZZARO TO SERVE AS A COMMISSIONER TO THE NEW JERSEY EXCESS LIABILITY JOINT INSURANCE FUND
- NO. 2020-702** REAPPOINTMENT OF RAISSA WALKER TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER TO THE NEW JERSEY EXCESS LIABILITY JOINT INSURANCE FUND
- NO. 2020-703** RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS
- NO. 2020-704** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS CALLS ON CONGRESS TO PASS A CORONAVIRUS RELIEF PACKAGE THAT PROVIDES CRITICAL AID TO RESIDENTS, STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS:

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

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

Freeholder Cannon abstained from voting on the following Resolutions because she serves as a member of the Board of Interfaith Caregivers.

Freeholder Frisby offered the following Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Colavita:

NO. 2020-705 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS OF GREATER MERCER COUNTY FOR THE “SOCIALIZATION AND RECREATION PROGRAM PROJECT HEALTHY BONES.” PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$72,377.00 (\$13,659.00 [COUNTY DIRECT FUNDS] \$58,718.00 [PROVIDER MATCH FUNDS])

NO. 2020-706 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS OF GREATER MERCER COUNTY, FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES – NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS PROGRAM.” PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$221,245.00 (\$20,000.00 [FEDERAL TITLE III-B FUNDS]; \$22,000.00 [MERCER COUNTY PEER GROUPING FUNDS]; \$179,245.00 [PROVIDER MATCH FUNDS])

ADOPTED:

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

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

Abstain – Freeholder Cannon

Freeholder Colavita abstained from voting on the following Resolution because he serves as President of Contract of Mercer.

Freeholder Frisby offered the following Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Walter:

NO. 2020-707 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH CONTACT OF MERCER COUNTY NJ, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF A “TELEPHONE REASSURANCE PROGRAM.” PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$21,750.00 (\$12,000.00 [FEDERAL TITLE III-B FUNDS]; \$7,000.00 [PEER GROUPING FUNDS]; AND \$2,750.00 [PROVIDER MATCH FUNDS])

ADOPTED:

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

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

Abstain – Freeholder Colavita

Freeholder Melker offered the following Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Colavita:

NO. 2020-708 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE & SALE AGREEMENT WITH PRODIGY INNOVATION, LLC, FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN EVIDENCE STORAGE WAREHOUSE FOR USE BY THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE. PROPERTY: 1590 REED ROAD, HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY. PURCHASE PRICE: \$1.9 MILLION (COUNTY FUNDS)

ADOPTED:

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

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

Abstain – Freeholder Cimino

ORDINANCE – ADOPTION AND SECOND READINGS

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO P.L. 2020, C.67, ALL REFERENCES TO THE TITLE “FREEHOLDER” IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SHALL HEREINAFTER BE CHANGED TO “COMMISSIONER” (AMENDMENT NO. 21)

The Clerk to the Board acknowledged receipt of a memorandum from County Executive Brian M. Hughes, dated December 15, 2020, whereby he indicated that he had reviewed the above named Ordinance and found no negative overriding implications, and therefore, he recommended adoption of the Ordinance.

The Clerk to the Board announced that said Ordinance had been properly advertised in accordance with the State Statute, and all requirements had been complied with.

Chair Koontz announced the opening of the Public Hearing on said Ordinance.

Hearing no comments or questions, he called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Freeholder Cimino moved, “**To Close the Public Hearing**”, seconded by Freeholder Colavita.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Freeholder Frisby offered the following Ordinance Introduction, seconded by Freeholder Cimino:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-1

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO P.L. 2020, C.67, ALL REFERENCES TO THE TITLE “FREEHOLDER” IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SHALL HEREINAFTER BE CHANGED TO “COMMISSIONER” (AMENDMENT NO. 21)

VOTE ON ORDINANCE:

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

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

BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS PIECES OF EQUIPMENT IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER,, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$67,230,533.00 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$63,661,093; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

The Clerk to the Board acknowledged receipt of a memorandum from County Executive Brian M. Hughes, dated December 15, 2020, whereby he indicated that he had reviewed the above named Ordinance and found no negative overriding implications, and therefore, he recommended adoption of the Ordinance.

The Clerk to the Board announced that said Ordinance had been properly advertised in accordance with the State Statute, and all requirements had been complied with.

Chair Koontz announced the opening of the Public Hearing on said Ordinance.

Hearing no comments or questions, he called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Freeholder Frisby moved, “**To Close the Public Hearing**”, seconded by Freeholder Walter.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Freeholder Walter offered the following Ordinance Introduction, seconded by Freeholder Colavita:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-2

BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS PIECES OF EQUIPMENT IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER,, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$67,230,533.00 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$63,661,093; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

VOTE ON ORDINANCE:

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

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

ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2008-30

The Clerk to the Board acknowledged receipt of a memorandum from County Executive Brian M. Hughes, dated December 15, 2020, whereby he indicated that he had reviewed the above named Ordinance and found no negative overriding implications, and therefore, he recommended adoption of the Ordinance.

The Clerk to the Board announced that said Ordinance had been properly advertised in accordance with the State Statute, and all requirements had been complied with.

Chair Koontz announced the opening of the Public Hearing on said Ordinance.

Hearing no comments or questions, he called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Freeholder Colavita moved, **“To Close the Public Hearing”**, seconded by Freeholder Frisby.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Freeholder Walter offered the following Ordinance Adoption, seconded by Freeholder Colavita:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-3

ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2008-30

VOTE ON ORDINANCE:

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

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

ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2009-14

The Clerk to the Board acknowledged receipt of a memorandum from County Executive Brian M. Hughes, dated December 15, 2020, whereby he indicated that he had reviewed the above named Ordinance and found no negative overriding implications, and therefore, he recommended adoption of the Ordinance.

The Clerk to the Board announced that said Ordinance had been properly advertised in accordance with the State Statute, and all requirements had been complied with.

Chair Koontz announced the opening of the Public Hearing on said Ordinance.

Hearing no comments or questions, he called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Freeholder Frisby moved, “**To Close the Public Hearing**”, seconded by Freeholder Colavita.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Freeholder Frisby offered the following Ordinance Adoption, seconded by Freeholder Walter:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-4

ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2009-14

VOTE ON ORDINANCE:

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

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

ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2012-4

The Clerk to the Board acknowledged receipt of a memorandum from County Executive Brian M. Hughes, dated December 15, 2020, whereby he indicated that he had reviewed the above named Ordinance and found no negative overriding implications, and therefore, he recommended adoption of the Ordinance.

The Clerk to the Board announced that said Ordinance had been properly advertised in accordance with the State Statute, and all requirements had been complied with.

Chair Koontz announced the opening of the Public Hearing on said Ordinance.

Hearing no comments or questions, he called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Freeholder Frisby moved, “**To Close the Public Hearing**”, seconded by Freeholder Colavita.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Freeholder Walter offered the following Ordinance Adoption, seconded by Freeholder Colavita:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-5

ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2012-4

VOTE ON ORDINANCE:

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

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

ON-GOING BUSINESS

County Administrator Nazzaro shared some excellent news with the Board. She said the County has received \$900,000.00 in additional funds for COVID-19 testing from the State of New Jersey. County Administrator Nazzaro said these funds were in addition to the funding already received from Grants.

Freeholder Walter proudly noted that said funding came from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services. She said that her daughter, Director Melanie Walter oversees that program and was very excited to give more money to the County because of a formula she created. Freeholder Walter spoke of how proud she was of her daughter and she wanted to recognize that department because of all the diligent work they are doing.

NEW BUSINESS

Freeholder Walter wanted to take a moment and thank Chair Koontz for all of his guidance throughout this year. She commented on the wonderful job he did chairing the meetings and ensuring they ran smoothly.

Chair Koontz thanked his fellow colleagues for the opportunity to serve as Chair. He said he had no idea how this year was going to go due to the extenuating circumstances but was proud of their dedication to public service. Chair Koontz also thanked Ankit Ghandi, Director of Information Technology, for all of his help allowing the Board to conduct their meetings virtually.

County Administrator Nazzaro thanked the Board for their understanding throughout her first year as County Administrator. She wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and best wishes in 2021.

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

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

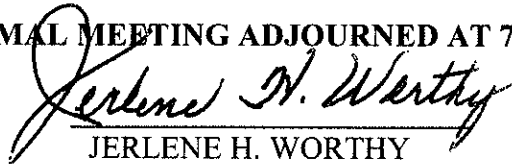
A motion to adjourn the Formal Meeting was offered by Freeholder Colavita and seconded by Freeholder Cannon, which was adopted by the unanimous vote of the members of the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

FORMAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:15 PM



JERLENE H. WORTHY
CLERK TO THE BOARD

Mercer County Clerk's Office Five-Year Plan

FIVE YEAR PLAN- County Clerk's Special Trust Account, 2020-2025

In 2006, 2010, and 2016, I came before you with five-year plan, which is required under law for expenditures of the County Clerk's Trust Fund. I am pleased to report to you that the goals set forth therein, and approved by you, under that plan were completed or initiated with the Special Trust as specified.

Pursuant to Statute, NJSA 22A:4-17.1, I am hereby submitting below a five-year plan at the end of my third term, with my goals for my fourth term over the next five years, for your review and approval.

The County Clerk's Five-Year Plan for Special Trust Account is set forth below:

Years 1-5 2021-2025-

In 2020, the Clerk's Office purchased several new elections scanners for counting votes on Election Night. These were needed to meet the needs of two all "vote by mail" elections in 2020, and the scanners will make counting faster and easier on election. They were for the Board of Elections Office to use to transmit the final count to my office for election certification. I will be purchasing additional scanners as needed with the Clerk's Trust as we go forward.

We purchased several drop boxes for the Board of Elections to collect ballots, and we also purchased a mail-opening machine for the election mail in 2020. These purchases for our team helped the County of Mercer in many ways as the County did not have to find money to meet the major and immediate demands of the election.

Elections:

We will continue to purchase supportive equipment as needed to meet the ongoing demands of the three election offices with the Trust Fund where we can, in order to perform election duties and meet demands. I thus, am submitting this to notify you that funds will be spent for unbudgeted election equipment and modernization to support the offices.

My trust will not be used for purchasing voting machines for Mercer County or basic machine equipment, but there may be new needs to support this purchase by the three offices once machines are purchased and the Clerk's Trust Fund will be used as needed to support this purchase.

We will provide educational funding for staff members to attend educational seminars/or conferences which will directly enhance their job performance and improve their skills. This will not include hotel or travel costs which are budgeted.

Passports:

We also will continue to purchase cameras and film for passport and County ID's, and associated repair costs, etc., as we continue to have a satellite location for passports and we hold passport events throughout the County.

Property Recording:

The majority of the Trust Funds spent this term will be dedicated to our back-scanning project of County Property Records. This is being done with the use of fees from the Trust Account.

We are back-scanning old books and have recently put out an RFP to scan additional older books. This preserves the books and allows for them to be placed in storage. Also, we must pay to upload the images and to index those images. It is an expensive process but it allows all books to be electronically accessible for internet property searching. Frankly, the public and the property industry expects the County Clerks to be able to provide this information electronically.

We will continue to digitize and electronically format property records as it preserves them and makes them available to property searchers. Our hope is that our record storage fees will have go down considerably as a result of the back-scanning project.

We plan to be using trust monies to update our office. Those improvements will be funded through the Clerk's special trust.

- Some back-scanning of the oldest (most fragile) books will be done in house. A scanner may need to be purchased for on-site scanning. Or, alternately, we will hire a vendor to begin scanning the oldest historical books on our shelves.
- Book-binding or record image-enhancement to make a record legible will also be paid for by this fund.

Other Items-

Finally, the Clerk's Trust will likely be used for other needed items that fit the statutory allowance

- Prepare Informational Brochures in multiple languages pertaining to changes in vote by mail law for elections.

- IGO Conference registration and/or COANJ conference registration fees as needed to learn new technologies for recording and elections with County registers, clerks and election officials.
- We plan to offer seminars on notary publics and seminars on how to use the new land-records management computer system for the public to attend. Funds for educational programming will come from this account.
- Election signage as needed for Election Office.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE EACH YEAR, WE WILL:

- In 2021 and 2022, the County Clerk's Office will also be purchasing standing desk equipment for all staff members to modernize office services as this is healthier on their backs. In these two years, we will also look into better encrypting our on-line search system.
- Also, we have been required to remove certain data from records pursuant to Daniel's Law and we will be updating our redaction software to meet this legal requirement in 2021 and 2022.
- In 2023, the County Clerk's Office will be purchasing additional computers for the search room. We need more computers for property searchers as we continue to book books online. We will also repair bindings of the old priceless books.
- In 2024, we will continue back-scanning and binding of old priceless books.
- In 2025, we will continue to back scan and bind older books.

Thank you for your attention and approval of this plan.



COUNTY OF MERCER
McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
640 SOUTH BROAD STREET
P.O. BOX 8068
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-0068
(609) 989-6584
Fax: (609) 392-0488

JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

LISA M. VENA
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

INFORMAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2020

MINUTES

Freeholder Board Chair Koontz called the Agenda Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on December 15, 2020.

ROLL CALL

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

Present - Freeholders Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Frisby, Melker, Walter and Koontz

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

SUNSHINE LAW

The Clerk to the Board announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, notice of this Informal 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.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Jianping Wang, President – Mercer County Community College

Chair Koontz said that Dr. Wang was present this evening to provide the Freeholder Board with an update on Mercer County Community College (MCCC).

Dr. Jianping Wang addressed the Board. She thanked them for the opportunity to be present this evening and speak about MCCC. Dr. Wang wished everyone a happy holiday with continued success and happiness throughout the season. She began her presentation informing the Board that MCCC continues to offer hybrid courses to its students. Dr. Wang stated that the college's fall enrollment was down 16% but this was on trend with national enrollees occurring throughout the country. She explained that community colleges were experiencing a decline mainly due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19. Dr. Wang said unfortunately enrollment for the spring semester was down 36% for minorities but explained that even students who were awarded full financial aid have not registered for classes in this current climate. Dr. Wang attributed much of the decline was a result of job uncertainty and the need of students' providing for their families. She was pleased that the college was offering \$800,000 in scholarships this year and was proud to inform the Board that they were one of the top learning institutions in the Country to do so. Dr. Wang informed the Board that she implemented hiring freezes within MCCC and asked employees to assist in fundraising efforts. She was pleased to announce that over 150 MCCC employees participated. Dr. Wang spoke about being a strong advocate of community outreach and discussed local dentist offices donating chairs to help dental students learn and hone their skills. She said that she was in contact with local officials offering her assistance and providing the MCCC campus as a local site for COVID-19 vaccine distribution. She spoke of numerous student success stories and was proud of all they have accomplished in these very unprecedented times. Dr. Wang thanked County Executive, Brian M. Hughes, the Administration and the Freeholder Board for always supporting MCCC's endeavors.

Freeholder Cannon said she was extremely proud of all the hard work that Dr. Wang continues to provide MCCC.

Chair Koontz thanked Dr. Wang for providing the Board with an extensive update and handling everything with such fortitude.

Freeholder Frisby asked how students were fairing with talking courses online.

Dr. Wang responded that many students were feeling extremely isolated which in turn caused MCCC to offer services to both faculty and students assisting them with their mental health.

Peter Crowley – CEO of Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce

Peter Crowley thanked the Board for the opportunity to work together for the last twelve years. He expressed his sincere gratitude and said he considered many of the Freeholders friends. Mr. Crowley spoke of the first year he spent as President of the chamber and attending his first Freeholder meeting in March of 2009. He informed the Board that he would be retiring from his position at the end of the year but was leaving the Chamber in very capable hands. Mr. Crowley said that Hal English would be replacing him as President and hoped the Board would work together ensuring the Chamber's growth. He thanked the Board for their continued support and friendship over the last twelve years and looked forward to the future for both the Chamber and Mercer County.

Chair Koontz thanked Mr. Crowley and said he has done an incredible job as President of the Chamber. He spoke of first meeting Mr. Crowley when he was a Princeton Councilman and how the Chamber has come such a long way under his leadership especially in terms of tourism and economic drivers for Mercer County. Chair Koontz wished him the best of luck in his future.

Freeholder Walter thanked him for his time and always being a gentleman of honesty and integrity. She thanked Mr. Crowley for setting the standard high and was confident that Mr. English would continue his vision for the Chamber.

Freeholder Frisby referred to Mr. Crowley as “my guy” and was appreciative of his diligent work. He said that Mr. Crowley never took his critiques as criticism but utilized them as a learning tool and sometimes implemented them. Freeholder Frisby commented that Mr. Crowley was always there to listen and he was thankful for all he did for Mercer County.

Freeholder Cimino said that Mr. Crowley should be extremely proud of all his has accomplished in his tenure. He added that Mr. Crowley was able to accomplish many initiatives, one of them being the merger of the Mercer/Regional Chambers along with the help of his wife, Jeanine Cimino. Freeholder Cimino said it was a collective effort under his leadership and was for the betterment of this region. Freeholder Cimino wished Mr. Crowley health and happiness in his retirement.

Freeholder Melker mentioned that she has had a long working relationship with Mr. Crowley. She said that he actually hired her at the Bank of Princeton. Freeholder Melker was proud that she and Mr. Crowley have had the pleasure of helping grow that bank and it was a great working with him over the years. She wished him a wonderful retirement and congratulated him on all of his endeavors.

Freeholder Cannon told Mr. Crowley she would miss seeing him at the meetings and commented how moved she was by his tenacity. Freeholder Cannon wished him much happiness and health on his retirement.

Freeholder Colavita thanked Mr. Crowley for attending the Freeholder meetings and keeping them informed of what was occurring in Mercer County. He wished Mr. Crowley well on his retirement.

Chair Koontz thanked everyone for the comments and wished Mr. Crowley all the best on his next chapter.

Ms. Yuki Moore Laurenti, Trustee, Open Space Institute

Ms. Laurenti was present this evening to discuss her ongoing concerns about ensuring environmental equity in open-space preservation efforts. **(See Schedule A, attached hereto, and made a part hereof)**

Chair Koontz commented that he was proud of Mercer County and their open-space acquisition and felt it prudent to mention that using the Hopewell golf course as the example of how the County handles open-space acquisitions was a bit unfair. Chair Koontz felt that it is great advice and commented that the revenue generated by golf courses is an extremely important source of revenue for the County. He asked that Ms. Laurenti submit her documents for the record.

Freeholder Frisby mentioned that he is part of a group that looks at environmental space and the equity in that environmental space, along with Director Aaron T. Watson. He mentioned that Director Watson is ironically one of the only Parks Directors of color throughout the State of New Jersey. Freeholder Frisby spoke of the importance of making open-space available to more diverse communities. He said that often times equity, diversity and inclusion are overlooked and many communities are underserved. Freeholder Frisby commented that he would love to connect with Ms. Laurenti and gain her perspective on this matter.

Freeholder Walter explained that in Ewing Township, the Benjamin Temple house has trails that connect into Lawrence Township and these areas are very well developed. She commented that these lands are often being inhibited by other projects with tree removal and damage to those lands. She felt areas such as Hopewell or the Windsor's which already have an abundance of open-space should have a portion of their funds set aside and utilized for urban areas and cities.

Ms. Laurenti agreed and thanked the Board for all of their concerns ensuring environmental equity and open-space accessibility.

COMMUNICATIONS

Seven (7) communications were discussed and approved for placement on the Agenda for the Formal Meeting of December 17, 2020.

RESOLUTIONS

Sixty-five (65) proposed Resolutions were discussed and approved for placement on the agenda for the Formal Meeting of December 17, 2020.

Chair Koontz made reference to the Special Item of Revenue – funds will be received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund for the Mercer County Park Commission and Mercer County Planning Department for the design and partial installation of a living shoreline and ecologically friendly boat ramp in John A. Roebling Memorial Park. He said how impressed he was with the work that went into this Grant especially the Parks Department. Chair Koontz requested the Board receive the scope of work for their review.

Freeholder Cannon mentioned that she too was amazed by the amount of work that went into this project and applauded the Administration.

Freeholder Cannon requested that Resolution Nos R-23 and R-24 with Interfaith Caregivers be separated out of block for Thursday's vote because she serves a member of the Board.

Chair Koontz made reference to the Resolution authorized to Transfer Appropriations. He asked Chief Financial Officer, Dave Miller to update the Board.

Mr. Miller said his goal is to keep the transfer below 1% and noted this year the rate was 1.4% almost 1.5%. He commented that he was still diligently working on lowering the numbers. Mr. Miller said there was a relatively large transfer in the Prosecutor's office but stated those funds would be refunded by Grants.

Freeholder Walter said she was interested in the 1.4 million dollar transfer from the Mercer County Correction Center.

Mr. Miller explained that two major things occurred there. The first being that overtime was down and second there was an expectation that the Administration would enter in a contractual Agreement. He added there was a chance those funds could be put back to provide for any retroactive payments that many come up noting they had two open ended contracts for 2019 and 2020.

ORDINANCE ADOPTIONS – SECOND READING

1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO P.L. 2020, C.67, ALL REFERENCES TO THE TITLE “FREEHOLDER” IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SHALL HEREINAFTER BE CHANGED TO “COMMISSIONER” (AMENDMENT NO. 21)

 2. BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS PIECES OF EQUIPMENT IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$67,230,533.00 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$63,661,093; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

 3. ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2008-30

 4. ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2009-14

 5. ORDINANCE CANCELLING THE REMAINING BALANCE OF 2012-4
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OLD BUSINESS

County Administrator Lillian Nazzaro, Esq., said she attached her memo to the questions & answers regarding the quarterly update at the Trenton-Mercer airport. She noted that the noise complaints were attached including two separate documents for the Board's review.

Freeholder Walter thanked airport personnel, noting she was listed as one of the callers on the noise complaint list. She commented that she called in because of a low-flying airplane and they were diligent in tracking down that plane and letting her know it was not going to or from Trenton-Mercer airport. Freeholder Walter said the fact that airport personnel provides residents with information at their request was for the betterment of the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerlene H. Worthy, Clerk of the Board, stated that she had the opportunity to attend the 59th Electoral College of New Jersey. She explained that it was a wonderful event and was so happy to attend.

County Administrator Nazzaro commented that you could view the event on Spotlight News through YouTube. She was pleased to announce that Mercer County Chief of Staff, Kelly Ganges was one of the electors asked to participate. County Administrator Nazzaro remarked what an honor it was to have our Chief of Staff elected.

Chair Koontz congratulated Mr. Ganges on that honor.

PUBLIC SECTION

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

Judith Hopenner, 1406 Siloh Road, PA, addressed the Board. She commented that she was extremely impressed by Dr. Wang's presentation about MCCC. She asked Chair Koontz if there was anything listed on the Agenda pertaining directly to the Trenton-Mercer airport.

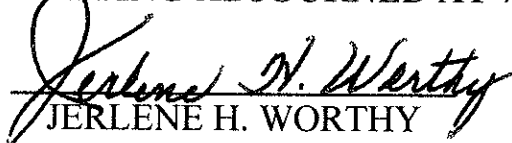
Chair Koontz commented that there were three items listed on the Agenda specific to the airport.

Ms. Hopenner thanked them for the clarification.

Jeffrey Laurenti, 464 Hamilton Avenue, Trenton NJ, addressed the Board. Mr. Laurenti spoke about the importance of the Electoral College and urged the public to not lose faith in the process. He remarked on Mr. Ganges being chosen as an elector and what an honor that was. Mr. Laurenti also asked if it was too late to ask the Board to adopt a support Resolution to the COVID-19 relief bill.

Chair Koontz asked the Board for their thoughts and all agreed in drafting a Resolution for Thursday's meeting.

AGENDA MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:51 PM


JERLENE H. WORTHY
CLERK TO THE BOARD

Presentation to the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders

15 December 2020

Yuki Moore Laurenti, *Trustee, Open Space Institute*

Chairman Koontz, Vice-chairman Frisby, members of the Board of Freeholders, thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening on growing concerns about ensuring environmental equity in open-space preservation efforts.

I serve on the board of trustees of the Open Space Institute, which for half a century has worked with government agencies, landowners, and local land trusts to acquire land to protect diverse landscapes, preserve habitat for rare or endangered species, ensure water quality, and enhance recreational access. It also protects land in private hands from future development through conservation easements.

Simply keeping open space open was long thought to be its own reward. But our board has gradually come to realize that the benefits of these efforts may have been too narrowly felt. Good intentions, it turns out, are not automatically self-validating.

Now, the heightened debate about widening inequality and persistent neglect of racial minorities has prompted many in the environmental community, who had long thought that their work was inherently of universal value, to look more critically at their traditional assumptions.

I have represented the OSI board on its first review of these issues this year. While the focus of our exercise has been on how grant-makers like OSI need to incorporate equity concerns into their evaluation of projects to support, I believe some of the insights we have gained on equity in open-space protection should also resonate in government undertakings.

Our OSI inquiry notes several "values for external equity" that should constitute something of a check-list for proposed projects, deals, and grants, such as:

- Promote positive partnerships with community allies in underserved communities
- Ensure broad, safe, and equitable access
- Create education and programming opportunities for those historically excluded
- Promote equitable practices to mitigate climate effects

Our staff is now charged with creating metrics to hold OSI accountable for our commitments to equity. Yes, metrics to evaluate a project are difficult to craft. Still, we're expecting them to "crystal-ball" any impacts that a proposed acquisition might foster and list all potential impacts, even if purely aspirational.

Most of OSI's traditional efforts have preserved rural open space in New York State, South Carolina, Maine, and Georgia. One concrete sign of the re-thinking I've been describing has been OSI's initiative this year to create the Essex-Hudson Greenway, acting as a catalyst and agent to acquire a 9-mile defunct rail line running from Montclair

through Newark and the Meadowlands to Jersey City, in the two most densely populated counties in New Jersey.

I was led to think of how the OSI re-thinking process might be relevant to our own county with the acquisition this month of the Hopewell Valley Golf Club. It's a substantial land parcel that, by OSI's own traditional criteria, is far better preserved as open space than lost to commercial or residential development.

Yet, seen through the lens of environmental equity, the preserved land should serve more than the relatively small number of higher-income county residents who play golf. Plans are already being drafted, I would hope, to allocate some of that expanse to nature education and to paths for walkers and cyclists.

What also needs reflection is how to assure "*broad, safe, and equitable access*" to this new county facility – and, for that matter, to the county's other park facilities – for people who do not have private automobiles at their disposal. The crown jewels of our county park system, Mercer Meadows in Hopewell and Mercer County Park in West Windsor, assume that people will get there by car, effectively putting them beyond reach of many people living in or near Trenton.¹

I would like to think the nature centers and nature programs have found ways of effective outreach to "*create education and programming opportunities for those historically excluded.*" That, too, is an "external equity value" we need to keep in mind.

As we've belatedly come to understand at OSI, open space acquisition shouldn't be limited to rolling hills and expansive meadows. Perhaps the Essex-Hudson Greenway project can point a way whereby Mercer County can start re-balancing its open space program to improve environmental equity.

While there aren't hills and meadows in Trenton and the older developed sections abutting it in Ewing, Lawrence, and Hamilton, there are linear strips – old rail rights-of-way and creek banks – that perhaps can qualify. I think of the portion of the old Johnson Trolley Line in Ewing, or the old Delaware and Bound Brook rail bed in Trenton and Ewing, as possible examples.²

Of course, even our best intentions don't always engender the applause we expect. This fall, on a bike outing to the Delaware Water Gap, Jeffrey and I stopped at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This is a former golf course near Stroudsburg that OSI worked with local partners to save from sale to a developer. It was then turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore it to its natural state.

We walked on a trail through fields where the grasses were taller than I am, hearing the birdsong and seeing various species of warblers and sparrows and wrens flitting among them. We crossed a stream that's been restored to its pristine condition, and there met an older couple sitting on a bench, apparently enjoying the open space.

The couple told us this had been a golf course that somebody had saved from developers, and they were glad it had been kept as open space. Before I could tell them that in fact I was on the board of the group that had saved this space, they added, "But look at what they did. They just let it go to pot."

It was really much nicer, they explained, when the fields were of regularly mowed green grass. So much for Nature – that was literally "for the birds." And I was glad to have just kept my mouth shut.

Perhaps I should have just kept my mouth shut tonight. But I appreciate your allowing me the opportunity to raise these practical questions of environmental equity as we have been debating them at OSI and as the county might consider them here. Thank you for affording me the time to make this presentation.

¹ A tweak to the 619 bus route to Mercer County College's West Windsor campus could improve access to that nearby park, while assuring equitable access to Mercer Meadows would likely be more complicated.

² The Trenton branch of the former Delaware & Bound Brook rail line ran from the West Trenton rail station to the Reading terminal near the Trenton Battle Monument – much of it between Stuyvesant Avenue and Oakland Street/Homan Avenue.