



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 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LISA M. VENA
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION

FORMAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2021

MINUTES

Chair Frisby called the Formal Meeting to order at 6:00pm on February 25, 2021 through Zoom Video Conferencing.

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

Present – Commissioner Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Melker, Walter and Frisby.

The Deputy Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

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

The Deputy Clerk to the Board announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting 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 Courthouse and the Administration Building at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Commissioner Cimino held a moment of silence for former Hamilton Township Mayor Jack Rafferty, who also served in the New Jersey State Assembly. He expressed his deepest condolences on the passing of Mr. Rafferty.

PRESENTATION:

At this time, Chair Frisby welcomed Dr. Sharon Bailey to address the Board regarding equity within the Black community.

Dr. Bailey thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to briefly speak on the issue on social equity and systemic racism. She added that racism is a public health crisis. Dr. Bailey addressed the legacy in New Jersey on systemic racism in homeownership and that New Jersey has the largest wealth gap. She said closing the gap between disparities is imperative. She spoke on the importance of diversity at work and schools. She asked the Commissioners what does social equity mean to them.

Commissioner Cannon thanked Dr. Bailey for the interesting presentation. Commissioner Cannon stated that she wanted to do more and that Dr. Bailey could help lead the Board in the right direction.

Chair Frisby thanked Dr. Bailey for attending the meeting.

At this time, Chair Frisby invited Tirza Wahrman to discuss the plastic bag ban in West Windsor.

Commissioner Walter stated that Ms. Wahrman has a cause to help the environment and that environment justice needed to be discussed.

Ms. Wahrman briefly discussed the New Jersey Plastic Pollution Reduction Act that focuses on the challenges and opportunities to clean up the Passaic River, which was an environment injustice. She added there is miseducation of single use plastic bags. She urged the Board to watch Plastic Wars on Youtube. She encouraged the County to do outreach in the community for single use plastic bags.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, Purchasing Agent, dated February 12, 2021, RE: Minutes and Bid Results for the week of February 8, 2021.

A communication was received from Brian M. Hughes, County Executive , dated February 11, 2021, RE: Appointments Requiring Commissioners Advise and Consent

A communication was received from Brian M. Hughes, County Executive, dated February 11, 2021, RE: Appointment Requiring Commissioners Advise and Consent

A communication was received from Lillian Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator , dated February 23, 2021, RE: County Commissioner Questions and Answers.

A communication was received from David Miller, CFO/Deputy Administrator, dated February 23, 2021, RE: County Commissioner Questions and Answers.

Commissioner Koontz thanked the Administration for the clarification regarding the Resolution with Global Spectrum, LP and the Mercer County Improvement Authority for the leasing of the CURE Insurance Center to establish and operate a COVID-10 vaccination distribution site. He said his question was not answered about if Global Spectrum was receiving funding.

Commissioner Cimino asked for the operating expenses.

Mr. Miller said he would provide information.

Commissioner Walter requested adding language to the Resolution.

Paul Adezio County Counsel said he could add the appropriate language to reflect emergency purchase orders.

At this time, the Commissioners agreed to remove the Resolution until more information is provided.

RESOLUTIONS:

The Deputy Clerk to the Board called for a Motion to Remove the proposed Resolution with Global Spectrum from the Agenda.

Commissioner Koontz moved, seconded by Commissioner Cannon, that :

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN EMERGENCY SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GLOBAL SPECTRUM , LP AND THE MERCER COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE LEASING OF THE CURE INSURANCE CENTER, TRENTON, NJ TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A COVID-19 VACCINATION DISTRIBUTION SITE- PERIOD JANUARY 20, 2021 TO JULY 31, 2021. FEE: \$1,500.00 / PER DAY TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$ 295,000.00 **BE REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

The Deputy Clerk to the Board called for a Motion to Vote in Block on the Resolutions No. 1 through 8 and 11 through 31 on the agenda,

Commissioner Walter moved, seconded by Commissioner Colavita , that RESOLUTIONS NOS. 1 THROUGH 8 AND 11 THROUGH 31 ON THE AGENDA, **“BE VOTED ON IN BLOCK”**

Commissioner Cannon offered the following Resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Cimino:

No. 2021-117 RESOLUTION APPROPRIATION RESERVE TRANSFER
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A:40A-59

No. 2021-118 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD
AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT THE 2021 MERCER COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, JUVENILE
JUSTICE COMMISSION. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AMOUNT: \$657,387.00

No. 2021-119 AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-503, ADOPTED OCTOBER 15, 2020
AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO
THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE
OPTION TO EXTEND THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH
HOMEFONT, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF CASE
MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL
SERVICES PROGRAMS TO INCOME ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS OF
LAWRENCE AND OTHER UNSERVED MERCER COUNTY
RESIDENTS. " AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE
CONTRACT AMOUNT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$90,000.00 (CSBG)
NON-DISCRETIONARY (ND) COVID-19 CARES ACT FUNDS);
AND TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT PERIOD THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022. REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$190,000.00
(\$55,000.00 (CSBG) FUNDS); \$90,000.00 (CSBG) NON-
DISCRETIONARY (ND) COVID19 CARES ACT FUNDS]; \$45,000.00
(COUNTY FUNDS)

No. 2021-120 AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-493, ADOPTED OCTOBER 15, 2020 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH ARM IN ARM INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS TO INCOME ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS OF PRINCETON “AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$62,000.00 (COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) NON-DISCRETIONARY (ND) COVID-19 CARES ACT FUNDS); AND TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT PERIOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022. REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$162,000.00 (\$55,000.00 (CSBG) FUNDS); \$62,000.00 (CSBG) NON-DISCRETIONARY (ND) COVID19 CARES ACT FUNDS]; \$45,000.00 (COUNTY FUNDS)

No. 2021-121 AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-500, ADOPTED OCTOBER 15, 2020 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION SERVICE CENTER, INC., D/B/A RISE FOR THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS TO INCOME ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS OF HIGHTSTOWN “AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$116,720,00 (CSBG) NON- DISCRETIONARY (ND) COVID19 CARES ACT FUNDS) REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$216,720.00 (\$55,000.00 (CSBG) FUNDS); \$116,720.00 (CSBG) NON-DISCRETIONARY (ND) COVID19 CARES ACT FUNDS; \$45,000.00 (COUNTY FUNDS) AND TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT PERIOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

No.2021-122 AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2020-504, ADOPTED OCTOBER 15, 2020 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE OPTION TO EXTEND THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH JOHN O. WILSON HAMILTON NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS TO INCOME ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS OF HAMILTON “AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$69,000.00 (CSBG) NON- DISCRETIONARY (ND) COVID19 CARES ACT FUNDS); AND TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT PERIOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 . REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$169,000.00 (\$55,000.00 (CSBG) FUNDS; \$69,000.00 (CSBG) NON-DISCRETIONARY (ND) COVID19 CARES ACT FUNDS) \$45,000.00 [COUNTY FUNDS]

No. 2021-123 AMEND RESOLUTIONS NO. 2020-49, ADOPTED JANUARY 28, 2021 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO.1 TO THE 2021 INITIAL AREA PLAN CONTRACT GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES “AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$466,620.00” REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$2,285,459.00 (\$656,038.00 [FEDERAL TITLE III, C1,C2, D AND E FUNDS]; \$57,100.00 [STATE MATCH] \$38,387.00 [STATE WEEKEND HOME DELIVERED MEALS (SWHDM); \$45,415.00 [SAFE HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION (SHTP); \$237,370.00 [ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICE (APS); \$561, 167.00 [SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SSBG); \$21,019.00 [MEDICAID MATCH]; \$32,588.00 (NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP); \$209,534.00 [SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS]; \$84,789.00 [FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT (FFCRA CI FUNDS)]; AND \$342,043.00 (CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT TITLE III-B, III-E AND ADRC FUNDS)) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

No.2021-124 AMEND RESOLUTIONS NO. 2020-258 ADOPTED MAY 14, 2020 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT (AMENDMENT NO .1) TO THE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY TRANSIT FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S NON-URBANIZED AREA FORMULA PROGRAM (SECTION 5311) UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT, AS AMENDED TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FTA SECTION 5311 FUNDS: \$65,241.00; NEW JERSEY TRANSIT FUNDS; \$32,621.00; COUNTY OF MERCER MATCHING FUNDS: \$32,620.00 TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT: \$130,482.00 "AMEND RESOLUTION TO MODIFY ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED THROUGH THE CARES ACT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$198,228.00 (NO MATCHING FUNDS) REVISED TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT: \$328,710.00

No.2021-125 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH ACENDA, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF INPATIENT / RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT SERVICES THAT INCLUDE HALFWAY HOUSE SERVICES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021 (WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE YEAR) AMOUNT: \$32,760.00 (\$25,000.00 [STATE FUNDS]; \$7,760.00 [COUNTY FUNDS]

No.2021-126 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO "EXERCISE AN OPTION TO EXTEND" A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH RONALD A. CURINI APPRAISALS CO., INC., FOR REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00

No. 2021-127 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES, FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDS(GRANT AWARD NO. 2021-05235-0092-00 PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$75,487.00 [STATE FUNDS] [NO COUNTY FUNDS]

No.2021-128 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A REVISED CONTRACT MODIFICATION FORM FOR THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC) GRANT AWARD CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020. AMOUNT: \$82,579.00 (\$66,703.00 STATE FUNDS); \$15,876.00 [COUNTY MATCH FUNDS]

No. 2021-129 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES, FOR THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHY ADOLESCENTS PROJECT. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. AMOUNT: \$40,000.00 (STATE FUNDS) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

No. 2021-130 MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, COUNTY TREASURER AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY PROGRAM DOCUMENTS WITH THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICE TRAINING COMMISSION TO APPLY FOR ACCEPT AND DISBURSE PAYMENTS FORM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT FUND (LEOTEF) PROGRAM. SUBAWARD NO. LEOTEF-11- 21 FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021. AMOUNT: \$21,482.00 NO COUNTY MATCH REQUIRED

No.2021-131 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON FOR THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE SWIFTREACH EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SERVICE. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

No.2021-132 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROPRIETARY MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH DYNAMIC IMAGING SYSTEMS, INC., TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE TO THE PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE PICTURELINK CAPTURE STATIONS FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER . PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED:\$26,730.00

No.2021-133 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON – FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH ROYAL PRINTING FOR THE PRINTING OF VOTING AUTHORITIES, CANDIDATE PARTY, AND ORGANIZATION CHALLENGER BADGES, OFFICIAL BADGES AND NUMBERED PAY VOUCHERS FOR DISTRICT ELECTION BOARD WORKERS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$80,000.00

No.2021-134 APPOINTMENT OF PAUL R. ADEZIO AS MERCER COUNTY COUNSEL; N.J.S.A:40A:9-43 TERM: FEBRUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2024

No.2021-135 APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER ANN M. CANNON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

No.2021-136 APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER JOHN A. CIMINO TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE

No.2021-137 APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER LUCYLLE R.S. WALTER TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT –BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE

No.2021-138 APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER ANDREW KOONTZ TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT- BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE

No.2021-139 APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER PASQUALE “PAT”
COLAVITA, JR. TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE
AND THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

No.2021-140 APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER NINA D. MELKER TO SERVE
AS MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY VOCATIONAL-
TECHNICAL SCHOOL – BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE

No.2021-141 APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER SAMUEL T. FRISBY SR. TO
SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNT
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL-BOARD OF SCHOOL
ESTIMATE AND THE MERCER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

No.2021-142 APPOINTMENT OF ANTONIO MARTINEZ TO SERVE AS A
MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

No.2021-143 APPOINTMENT OF EDUARDO GITTENS TO SERVE AS A MEMBER
OF THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

No.2021-144 APPOINTMENT OF PHILP B. CATON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF
THE MERCER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

No. 2021-145 MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AMENDS THE COMMISSIONERS MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM TO WAIVE THE FULL-TIME
STUDENT REQUIREMENT FOR THE DURATION OF THE
CORONAVIRUS

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Commissioner Cannon offered the following Resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Walter:

NO. 2021-146 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD
AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH
CFG HEALTH SYSTEMS, LLC FOR MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES FOR INMATE AT THE MERCER COUNTY
CORRECTION CENTER. PERIOD: JANUARY 25, 2021 THROUGH
JANUARY 24, 2023, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1)
YEAR. TOTAL AMOUNT: \$1,082,425.39 (YEAR ONE: \$532,554.26-
YEAR TWO: \$549,870.83)

No. 2021-147 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED
TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH CFG HEALTH
SYSTEMS, LLC FOR MEDICAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR
INMATES AT THE MERCER COUNTY CORRECTION
CENTER. PERIOD: JANUARY 25, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY
24, 2023, WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) YEAR.
TOTAL AMOUNT: \$1,864,851.96 (YEAR ONE \$858,560.36- YEAR
TWO: \$886,297.00)

Commissioner Frisby abstained because CFG Health System, Inc., sponsor the YMCA golf outing.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

Ayes – Commissioners Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Melker, and Walter

Abstain- Commissioner Frisby

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Walter suggested renting space at Mercer County Special Services School District for a vaccination site.

Mr. Miller said he has not heard back regarding an approval to use the facility , however Governor Phil Murphy indicated that schools could not be used as vaccination sites.

Commissioner Walter said she was looking for ways to generate money at Mercer County Special Services School District.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Cimino asked when the County Executive was presenting the 2021 Budget.

Mr. Miller stated that he had no information at this time.

Chair Frisby asked if the Budget would be available in the next three weeks.

Mr. Miller said he would prefer to review the Budget in the next three weeks, however he was not certain about an exact timeline for 2021.

Commissioner Walter said she attended the Park Commission virtual meeting and provided an update on events and improvements at Mercer County Parks.

Commissioner Cimino referred to the emergency rental assistance program, he asked if the County was administering the funds or if there was an outside agent navigating the funds. He asked if there was an auditor to monitor the funds.

Mr. Miller said Mercer County Board of Social Services is administering the funds and that the \$13 million dollar program would help people tremendously.

Commissioner Cannon would keep the Board updated on monitoring funds.

PUBLIC SECTION:

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

The following people spoke regarding the Mercer County Special Services School District:

Karen Burke Kris Kowalski Julie Ryan Gabrielle Raccosta Janet Cerullo
(See Schedule "A" attached hereto and make part hereof)

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Commissioner Koontz, seconded by Commissioner Colavita, which was adopted by the unanimous vote of the members of the Mercer County Board of Commissioners

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

FORMAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:32PM

**LISA VENA
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD**



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 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LISA M. VENA
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INFORMAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021

MINUTES

Chair Frisby called the Agenda Meeting to order at 6:01 PM on February 23, 2021 through Zoom Video Conferencing.

ROLL CALL:

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

Present – Commissioners Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Melker, Koontz, Walter and Frisby

The Deputy Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

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

SUNSHINE LAW:

The Deputy Clerk to the Board announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law, notice of this Informal Meeting had been mailed to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian and The Princeton Packet newspaper 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.

Both adequate and electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place, and manner in which such notice was provided.

At this time, Commissioner Cimino called for a moment of silence for Jack Rafferty, former Mayor of Hamilton Township and Assemblyman, who recently passed away. Commissioner Cimino spoke highly of Mr. Rafferty, adding that he was a faithful public servant for over 24 years.

Chair Frisby agreed, adding that it was a pleasure to have known Mr. Rafferty.

At this time, the Board welcomed County Executive Brian M. Hughes to speak.

Mr. Hughes also related to Commissioner Cimino's comments and said that Mr. Rafferty would truly be missed. Mr. Hughes addressed the Board for considering the appointments of Antonio Martinez to serve on the Park Commission, Eduardo Gittens to serve on the Mercer County Board of Social Services (MCBOSS), and Philp B. Caton to serve on the Mercer County Park Commission.

Mr. Martinez thanked the County Executive and County Commissioners for the recommendation.

Commissioner Koontz asked what does stewardship means to the appointee.

Mr. Martinez stated that stewardship is building on the foundation that is already in place and focusing on improvements.

Commissioner Walter said she was looking forward to working with Mr. Martinez.

Mr. Caton noted that he is looking forward to serving on the Park Commission Board.

Commissioner Koontz said he appreciated his willingness to serve.

Mr. Caton said stewardship is considered preservation and complete projects to Better serve the citizens of Mercer County.

Mr. Gittens thanked the County Executive and County Commissioners for the opportunity to give back to Mercer County residents. He added that he is excited to work on MCBOSS and move forward to improve the organization.

Commissioner Cannon said she served on MCBOS for 21 years and enjoyed serving the residents of Mercer County. She thanked the administration for recommending all three appointees.

Commissioner Walter added that Mr. Gittens goes above and behind to get the job done.

Chair Frisby thanked all the appointees.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Five (5) communications were discussed and approved for placement on the Agenda for the Formal Meeting of February 25, 2021.

RESOLUTIONS:

Thirty-one (31) Resolutions were discussed and approved for placement on the Agenda for the Formal Meeting of February 25, 2021.

Chair Frisby made references to two (2) Resolutions authorizing to execute a Competitive Contract with CFG Health System, LLC for mental health services for inmates at the Mercer County Correction Center for the period of January 25, 2021 through January 24, 2023, with an option to extend for one (1) year in the total amount of \$1,082,425.39 and the Resolution authorizing to execute a Competitive Contract with CFG Health System, LLC for medical healthcare services for inmates at the Mercer County Correction Center for the period of January 25, 2021, through January 24, 2023, with the option to extend for one (1) year in the total amount of \$1,864,81.96. He asked to separate the Resolutions from the Block vote because he had to abstain from voting.

Commissioner Koontz referred to the Resolution authorizing to execute an Emergency Services Agreement with Global Spectrum, LP, and the Mercer County Improvement Authority for the leasing of the Cure Insurance Center, Trenton NJ, to establish and operate a COVID-19 vaccination distribution site for the period of January 20, 2021 to July 31, 2021, with a fee of \$1,500.00 per day, in the amount not to exceed \$295,000.00. He asked why the County was spending \$1,500.00 per day for the use of an arena that we own. Also, he asked how much of the \$1,500.00 is going to Global Spectrum, as well as how much of this cost is FEMA covering.

David Miller, Chief Finance Officer, responded that FEMA would cover the cost for the arena. He noted that the County is utilizing Mercer County Community College-West Windsor Campus to distribute vaccines and that transportation may be an issue for people. He added that if FEMA does not reimburse the funds, the County was not obligated to pay the rent. He said funds with Global Spectrum are deposited to a joint MCIA global account, and the MCIA controls the account.

Chair Frisby stated that CURE Arena is a prime location for Trenton residents and 40% of the population does not drive.

Commissioner Koontz indicated that he needs something in writing that Global Spectrum is not receiving any of the money and that FEMA needs to provide documentation that they will pick up the cost.

Commissioner Melker asked if the correct amount was \$295,000.00 or \$275,000.00. Mr. Miller stated \$1,500.00 x 83 days is \$275,000.00; however additional funds were added in an amount not to exceed \$295,000.00 in the event that more days were needed.

Commissioner Cimino asked if the process was the same at the college.

Mr. Miller said it is the same process and that the County has to pay to utilize the college conference room.

Commissioner Walter asked if Mercer County Special Services School District could be used a vaccination site. Chair Frisby responded that Governor Phil Murphy stated that facilities that have children are prohibited from vaccination sites.

Commissioner Walter stated that students are not currently in school.

Commissioner Koontz asked for more information.

Commissioner Cimino left the meeting at 7:01 PM.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Mr. Miller provides a brief update on COVID-19; he said the County provides 2,000 vaccines per week.

Chair Frisby asked about the municipalities waiting list.

Mr. Miller said 1,000 vaccine doses are distributed per week to handle the list of the towns.

Commissioner Koontz indicated that the State delivers the vaccine to the towns. He added that the County is prepared and has the capacity to house the vaccine.

Mr. Miller responded that yes, the County does have the storage capacity and ability to scale up the operation for a large supply of vaccines.

PUBLIC SECTION:

At this time, Chair Frisby invited members of the public to comment.

Susan Herman, a resident of Newtown, PA, asked for clarification on communication C- 4.

AGENDA MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48 PM

**LISA VENA
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD**

From: Vena, Lisa
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Witherspoon, Ebony
Subject: FW: Mercer County Special Service School District Public Comment

fyi

-----Original Message-----

From: Gabrielle Raccosta [<mailto:gvraccosta@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:44 PM
To: Vena, Lisa; Frisby, Samuel
Subject: Mercer County Special Service School District Public Comment

MCSSD is facing hard times right now, and it seems little is going to change for those who are being immediately affected, like myself. But as we continue to get information from our superintendent, administration and the Board, it seems this is not an issue that has appeared over night. Hearing from staff members who have to in this district for many years (some who have been around almost from the very beginning), and coming from a family who had more town one member successfully attend and thrive within the district, it seems there have been issues that could have soften the blows that Mercer is currently facing. Unfortunately, it appears few measures have been taken to establish a proactive approach to advertising and promoting the benefits and services that MCSSD offers. We need everyone in our district working toward the common goal of spreading the word throughout our county. This needs to be the focus moving forward, otherwise the district is going to collapse. And the party that will suffer the most are the students. The kids who can thrive at Mercer rather than in their local districts. Mercer is a community of acceptance and inclusion that some students will not be able to find anywhere else.

— Gabrielle Raccosta
88 Eldridge Avenue Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

WARNING: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Witherspoon, Ebony

From: Vena, Lisa
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Witherspoon, Ebony
Subject: FW: Statement Re: MCSSSD

fyi

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Cerullo [mailto:janetcerullo@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 8:56 PM
To: Vena, Lisa
Subject: Statement Re: MCSSSD

My name is Janet Cerullo and my address is 3 Kingsley Court , West Windsor, New Jersey

As I said in a prior commissioners meeting, my daughter Sophia Cerullo goes to Mercer high school. She has attended Mercer County special services school District for 16 years. She is multiply disabled and requires physical, occupational and speech therapies. She was typically happy and outgoing until Covid hit and we went to a virtual platform. Now Sophia is clinically depressed and anxious. Her doctor is treating her with an antidepressant. This has helped but Sophia still cries daily that she misses school, her friends, teachers and therapists.

The irony in this whole mess is that, after those who have died from Covid, children have paid the highest price in the pandemic and yet, they are the least susceptible. And now we know, because of the science, that only 1% of infections are associated with in-person learning.

I have voiced my opinion about getting our kids back to school (following the science), at board meetings, a Mercer County special services school district focus group led by superintendent Schneider, and to this board. Frankly, as a parent and a taxpayer, I feel ignored and dismissed. I see no indications that there is a sense of urgency to get our kids back to school. Nor has there been any transparency - represented by a disappointing lack of communication from the district.

Regarding the focus group I mentioned earlier, it was presented to me by the superintendent last spring that I should attend so that I could provide parent input. We met twice - once in June and once in July. I have received no further communication regarding this group. I can only surmise that my input was of no value. Any further communication from the district was reduced to telecommunication messages informing us of school closings or about school provided meals. In this district, communication goes one way. Open dialogue and transparency are not a high priority it seems.

So when I learned that my sending district, West Windsor, is providing their in-district special needs students with a five day per week in-person learning experience, and at Mercer County special services school District we are still going virtual a year later, I wonder how long my sending district will be willing to pay tens of thousands of dollars a year for Sophia to attend virtual school? I'm not surprised that Mercer County special services school District's enrollment is decreasing. With the virtual platform, not only is MCSSSD not providing a competitive product but they are providing an inferior product for a greater cost.

Ms. Vena, I'd like to add to my statement that for the past 16 years, MCSSSD has been a God send to Sophia and our entire family. She's had an exceptional education. The teachers, therapists, counselors, aides and one-on-ones have been wonderful! Sophia grew and thrived in the atmosphere they created. We've made so many meaningful and life-long relationships with staff members. Even though Sophia goes to Mercer High, we are still friendly and keep in touch

with teachers and therapists from the elementary and middle schools. The bonds are strong because the staff members truly love our special kids.

It's my understanding that the school was started in 1985 by parents just like me...parents who loved their special needs children so much that they desired for them to have an education that would help them achieve their own personal optimal development and that it be provided by a staff that nurtured and respected them and lovingly pushed them to their potential. This desire was achieved at MCSSSD!

MCSSSD is crucial to special needs kids in our county. MCSSSD is the quintessential model of how to educate special needs children. We are a jewel in the state of NJ. It's absolutely essential to their development to keep special needs children in Mercer county together -in one school district - instead of retaining them in their sending district. As well-intentioned as a home district may be, they just can't offer the specialized learning and therapies, or the diverse extracurricular activities that a centralized special needs district can offer. A special needs child who is a minority in a "mainstream" school will unfortunately feel more like an appendage than an essential part of the school environment. At MCSSSD, the kids feel essential and important. This district must be saved. It needs new life breathed into it because it's definitely worth saving! And most of all, our special needs children deserve to continue receiving the excellent education that is provided by the exceptional staff at MCSSSD!

Please feel free to email me or call me at (609) 751-3367 if you have any questions or need clarification on anything I've shared.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Janet Cerullo

Sent from my iPhone

WARNING: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Witherspoon, Ebony

From: Vena, Lisa
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Witherspoon, Ebony
Subject: FW: Comments to Commissioners
Attachments: Julie Ryan to Commissioners.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie Ryan [<mailto:jryan233@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Vena, Lisa
Subject: Comments to Commissioners

Attached please find the comments read at the 2/25 meeting by Ruth Bills Headley for Julie Ryan.

WARNING: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Julie Ryan. I live at 233 Township Line Rd. Belle Mead. I am a teacher at Mercer High School.

It is imperative that Mercer County Special Services not only reopen on April 19th, but also move forward with planning for wider access, allowing more time in school for those who wish to come into the building.

We understand that Dr. Schneider has set a very hard line for the April 19th date, even though this decision was made in January. Upon our return, students will have been out of school for 13 months, with the exception of ten half days that we had in November. Eight hours a week of in-person instruction and therapies is simply not enough for our students and their families. Increased time in school will allow students the proper time to receive all of the needed therapies and instruction that has been impossible to deliver virtually.

Staff who work directly with the children and their families are concerned about significant repercussions of virtual instruction. Parents have reported some of the following: increased seizure activity, neurological issues, recurrence of negative behaviors and aggressions that were extinguished years ago. There has also been serious regression in verbal and physical abilities. Additionally, we are concerned for the mental health of our students as we are seeing signs of depression and anxiety, which is extremely concerning in children and teens.

Families are pleading to have more time in school. There is a direct correlation between the RIFs, Dr. Schneider's decision to remain closed and parents removing their children from our schools. Unless we plan NOW for more in person instruction to begin as soon as possible, the result will be further loss of students, further loss of jobs. How can we justify to all of our families remaining virtual and offering such little in-person instruction when every other special services district in the state is open, and has been since September, not to

mention the fact that most of the sending districts are also open to their students with special needs.

We are fearful that the rumors we have heard for years are coming true, and that is that the people in authority would like to see our district close. Our district is too important to these students and their families to ever allow this to happen.

Witherspoon, Ebony

From: Vena, Lisa
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Witherspoon, Ebony
Subject: FW: Tonight's reading

fyi

From: Karen Burke [<mailto:karenb555@msn.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Vena, Lisa
Subject: Fw: Tonight's reading

Hello Lisa,

Here is our statement.

Thank you,

In the upcoming weeks, the staff at MCSSSD will be presenting to you a series of issues and examples of gross mismanagement at our school district. Today we would like to talk with you about staffing numbers and the problems that arose bringing us to the point of having to Riff staff mid-year **and we know that more Riffs will come in June.**

Since Dr. Schneider began at the district 15 years ago, we have lost over 350 students. Yet, during her entire tenure of 15 years, there has been no real attempt to ramp up marketing, or to encourage either parents or districts to send us more students. No innovative programs instituted, even though staff has suggested many. We have held exactly two open houses (that were building planned, not admin planned). There have been no promotional or special events inviting sending district Child Study teams, who are responsible for placing students in our district. In fact, there has been no real attempts to increase our numbers. This is troubling to say the least. The only time that we have had positive press, is when the press shows up for the staff planned events.. because staff has notified them.

We also need to point out the merry go round of administrative staff that have been hired, fired, or left of their own volition because of the **administrative chaos** in the district. In the last seven years we have calculated that we have lost 27 administrative staff. This includes Principal's and supervisors, interim Principals and supervisors and upper administrative positions. This year's supervisor did not even last a year. Why do we continue to have to hire interim staff for these incredibly important positions when qualified candidates have apparently applied?

It should be noted that the instability of not having full time hired principals and supervisors NEGATIVELY IMPACTS programming. The “Band-Aid” fix of interim produces NO LONG-TERM VISION for the future, therefore having a negative impact on the children too.

It is the hands-on staff, the teachers, the child study teams, the therapists and the assistants who have kept the day-to-day operations running smoothly. We thought that by doing our jobs we would always be able to keep the district afloat, but it is now clear that we need proper assistance from the district leadership.

Finally, we need to address the debacle that is the Human Resources Department at MCSSSD. Since 2018 when our last qualified Human Resources Manager left, we have had 4, Yes-- that's right --4 people in that position. 2 of them had absolutely no experience in human resources.

Our present HR manager was an interim principal for 2 years at JFC and then 2 years at MCTS at \$500.00 dollars a day. He was then hired again as our interim Human resource manager/Assistant Superintendent. Two positions that have never been combined before and will no longer be combined in May when, yet another new Human Resource manager takes over. Until this occurs the district has had to hire yet another person to assist with the current position, costing even more money. The inexperience in human resources with our current manager has led to numerous errors. There has been minimal communication to the building principals regarding the very large Reduction in Force that occurred at the end of January. Human resources should have been aware that these decisions directly impact the buildings and so the principals should have been contacted first.

Approximately 70% of our staff has 15+ years of service to OUR district. I say this because it proves the loyalty and dedication we have for the district, the students we service and for their families as a whole. We see the magic in our district. Clearly our administration does not.

Commissioners we have been here before with these same issues and now we are at a critical point. We hope you see the value in our incredible district and will help us as we all try and find appropriate solutions to save our district.

Thank you for your time.

WARNING: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.