



JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**COUNTY OF MERCER**  
McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
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LISA M. VENA  
DEPUTY CLERK

**MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FORMAL MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2021**

**MINUTES**

Chair Frisby called the Formal Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on January 28, 2021 through Zoom Video Conferencing.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

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The Deputy Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

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

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The Deputy 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.

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Chair Frisby announced that by request of the applicant, the OTR hearing was adjourned until April 22, 2021.

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Chair Frisby asked to have a moment of silence for James Stevenson, the first African American elected official in Hamilton Township, and for Rebecca Rousseau-Mitchell, the mother of Dr. Diane Campbell who worked for the College for many years.

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**2021 BUDGET ADDRESS**

County Executive, Brian M. Hughes, presented the 2021 Budget Address to the Mercer County Board of Commissioners. **(See Schedule A, attached hereto, and made a part hereof)**

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**PUBLIC SECTION**

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

**There was no comment.**

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On the motion of Commissioner Walter, seconded by Commissioner Cannon, the Minutes of the following meetings were approved:

Special Formal Meeting of November 9, 2020

Formal Meeting of November 12, 2020

Formal Meeting of December 3, 2020

Formal Meeting of December 17, 2020

**VOTE ON MOTION**

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

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

Absent – Commissioner Colavita

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, Purchasing Agent, dated February 26, 2021. RE: Minutes and Bid Results for the Week of February 22, 2021

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A communication was received from Marion Masnick, Clerk of the Board, Board of County Commissioners of the County of Monmouth, dated February 12, 2021. RE: Resolution opposing funding reductions to the Municipal Alliance Program administered by the New Jersey Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug abuse for Fiscal Year 2021

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A communication was received from Marion Masnick, Clerk of the Board, Board of County Commissioners of the County of Monmouth, dated February 26, 2021. RE: Resolution Opposing New Jersey State Legislation eliminating mandatory Minimum Terms of Imprisonment for Persons who commit crimes related to public corruption..

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A communication was received from Lillian L. Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator, dated March 9, 2021. RE: Commissioner Questions for March 9, 2021.

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A communication was received from Lillian L. Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator, dated March 11, 2021. RE: Commissioner Questions for March 11, 2021.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

The Deputy Clerk to the Board called for a Motion to Add the following proposed Resolutions to the Agenda:

Commissioner Koontz moved, seconded by Commissioner Walter, that:

INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF THE 2021 BUDGET

RESOLUTION TO EXCEED THE COUNTY BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STANDARDS FOR ANTICIPATING COVID-19 AFFECTED REVENUES IN THE CY 2021 BUDGET **“BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA”**

**VOTE ON MOTION**

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

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

Absent – Commissioner Colavita

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

Commissioner Cannon moved, seconded by Commissioner Melker, that:

**RESOLUTION NO. 1, AND RESOLUTIONS NO’S 3 THROUGH 25 ON THE AGENDA “BE VOTED ON IN BLOCK”**

**VOTE ON MOTION**

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

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

Absent – Commissioner Colavita

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

**NO. 2021-148** COUNTY OF MERCER 2021 TEMPORARY BUDGET  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

**NO. 2021-149** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A GRANT AWARD CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY FOR THE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR MERCER COUNTY RENTERS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. AMOUNT: \$10,964,554.50 (US DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY) (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

**NO. 2021-150** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EWING TOWNSHIP FOR THE PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION AND EDUCATION. PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. AMOUNT: \$9,364.00 (STATE FUNDS; NO COUNTY FUNDS)

**NO. 2021-151** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HAMILTON TOWNSHIP FOR THE PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION AND EDUCATION. PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. AMOUNT: \$16,190.00 (STATE FUNDS; NO COUNTY FUNDS)

- NO. 2021-152** 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 THROUGH JULY 31, 2021. FEE: \$1,500.00/DAY. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$295,000.00
- NO. 2021-153** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR RECERTIFICATION OF THE MERCER COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB), AS PER THE STATE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION (SETC) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020 RECERTIFICATION. PERIOD: FEBRUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2023. (NO STATE FUNDS – NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2021-154** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO “EXERCISE AN OPTION TO EXTEND” A PROPRIETARY HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY CLERK. PERIOD: MARCH 18, 2021 THROUGH MARCH 19, 2022. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$84,559.00
- NO. 2021-155** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH ARTHUR STEIN FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT OF THE AIMS JAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM USED AT THE MERCER COUNTY CORRECTION CENTER. PERIOD: APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$30,000.00. (COUNTY FUNDS)

- NO. 2021-156** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND D&R GREENWAY LAND TRUST FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE CIFELLI PROPERTY, KNOWN AS BLOCK 50, LOT 7, HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY. COUNTY COST NOT TO EXCEED \$243,700.00
- NO. 2021-157** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO NEW JERSEY TRANSIT FOR FUNDING UNDER THE 2021 SENIOR CITIZEN AND DISABLED RESIDENT TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. AMOUNT: \$744,531.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021
- NO. 2021-158** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO NEW JERSEY TRANSIT FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE 2021 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S NON-URBANIZED AREA FORMULA PROGRAM (SECTION 5311) UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT, AS AMENDED. FTA SECTION 5311 FUNDS: \$66,292.00; NEW JERSEY TRANSIT FUNDS: \$33,146.00; COUNTY OF MERCER MATCHING FUNDS: \$33,146.00 - TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT: \$132,584.00. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021
- NO. 2021-159** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH JOHNSON, MIRMIRAN & THOMPSON, INC., TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR ROADWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, GUIDERAILS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY. TERM: UNTIL COMPLETION OF SERVICES. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$180,914.20

**NO. 2021-160** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE ROAD WIDENING OF EDINBURG ROAD AT THE INTERSECTION OF OLD TRENTON ROAD, WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF MERCER TERM: UNTIL COMPLETION OF SERVICES. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,080.00

**NO. 2021-161** 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 EDUCATIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM CONTRACT NO. 65MCESCCPS (BID NO. 17/18-30) TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$303,062.08

**NO. 2021-162** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO "EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND" THE AWARD OF BID CONTRACT WITH COUNTY BUSINESS SYSTEMS, INC., FOR POLL BOOK PRODUCTION AND PROGRAMMING FOR THE MERCER COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTIONS. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$61,128.00. PERIOD: APRIL 10, 2021 THROUGH APRIL 9, 2022 (AB2019-05)



- NO. 2021-163** PARTIAL AWARD OF BID RECEIVED DECEMBER 18, 2020 TO MULTIPLE VENDORS FOR GOLF COURSE, PARK MAINTENANCE MATERIALS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT CHEMICALS FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING SYSTEM, AS AN OPEN-END CONTRACT. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$406,000.00. FEBRUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2022 **(CK09MERCER2020-22)**
- NO. 2021-164** AWARD OF BID RECEIVED JANUARY 22, 2021 TO FULL SERVICE MAILERS, INC.. FOR FULFILLMENT SERVICES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTIONS. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$94,000.00 (COST OF 0.11609 PER BALLOT FOR PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS AND ANY ADDITIONAL COST BORNE BY A LOCAL UNIT RELATIVE TO ADDITIONAL ELECTIONS). PERIOD: MARCH 1, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) YEAR BASED ON THE INDEX RATE **(AB2021-01)**
- NO. 2021-165** AWARD OF BID RECEIVED DECEMBER 18, 2020 TO NATIONAL FLAG & DISPLAY CO., INC. DBA METRO FLAG CO. FOR AMERICAN FLAGS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERAN SERVICES. PERIOD: FEBRUARY 26, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26, 2023. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,156.48 **(AB2020-47)**
- NO. 2021-166** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZES MARCH AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

- NO. 2021-167**      MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZES MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- NO. 2021-168**      MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZES THE MONTH OF MARCH AS IRISH HERITAGE HISTORY MONTH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HISTORY OF IRISH AMERICANS
- NO. 2021-169**      INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF THE 2021 BUDGET
- NO. 2021-170**      RESOLUTION TO EXCEED THE COUNTY BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)
- NO. 2021-171**      RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STANDARDS FOR ANTICIPATING COVID-19 AFFECTED REVENUES IN THE CY 2021 BUDGET

**VOTE ON MOTION**

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

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

Absent – Commissioner Colavita

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Commissioner Cannon offered the following Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Melker:

**NO. 2021-172** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH CAPITAL AREA YMCA OF TRENTON FOR THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY PREVENTION-RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM SERVICES FOR YOUTH. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022. AMOUNT: \$84,160.00 (\$42,080.00 [COUNTY FUNDS PER YEAR])

Commissioner Colavita stated that he was abstaining from the vote, as he was the President of CONTACT of Mercer County, NJ, Inc.

**VOTE ON MOTION**

**Ayes – 5. Nays - 0. Abstain - 1. Absent - 1.**

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

Abstain – Commissioner Frisby

Absent – Commissioner Colavita

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**OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Cannon mentioned that she would like to prepare a certificate for the retirement of Annette H. Lartigue, serving 39 years at Mercer County Board of Social Services.

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**ON-GOING BUSINESS**

Ms. Nazzaro gave an update on COVID vaccinations and testing. She added that the County expects to receive a large number of vaccines coming in April 2021.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Walter announced that the Library System was running a number of preschool outdoor programs.

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**PUBLIC SECTION**

**At this time, Chair Frisby invited the members of the public to comment on any item listed on and off the agenda.**

The following individuals discussed their concerns regarding lack of communication and guidance with the Mercer County Special School Services District:

- Stephanie Moore, resident of Hamilton Township
- Kristin Robinson, resident of Robbinsville Township
- Leah Pray, resident of Lambertville, President of Teachers Union
- Tina Jablonski, resident of Pennington, Vice President of Teachers Union
- Janet Cerullo, resident of West Windsor Township
- Amanda Santos, resident of Lawrence
- Julia Ryan, resident of Belle Mead
- Ayala Rahimi
- Heidi Music, resident of Hamilton, Substance Abuse Counselor Association of Student **(See Schedule B, attached hereto, and made a part hereof)**
- Ashley Opihimer, resident of Ewing
- Anna Olivero, resident of Yardville
- Lisa Pusillo resident of Allentown
- Stephanie McDade, resident of East Windsor
- Elizabeth Bredenn, resident of Robbinsville
- Denise Dombkoski, resident of Glenside, PA
- Marjorie Fleck **(See Schedule C, attached hereto, and made a part hereof)**

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Jim Burd, expressed his concerns regarding a Resolution related to affordable housing in New Jersey

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTE ON MOTION**

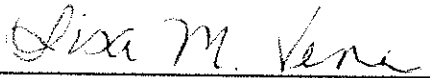
**Ayes - 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 1.**

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

Absent – Freeholder Colavita

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**FORMAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 PM**



LISA M. VENA

DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

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# "Schedule A"

**2021 Budget Introduction**  
**Brian M. Hughes, County Executive**  
**Mercer County, New Jersey**  
**Presented before the Mercer County Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, March 11, 2021**

Thank you, Chairman Samuel Frisby, members of the Board of Commissioners.

It is my pleasure to appear before this board to discuss the 2021 Mercer County proposed budget, which I am pleased to report will keep the county tax rate flat. This document represents our effort to provide the best possible government in the most cost-effective manner to the taxpayer. The fact of the matter is that many of our residents are suffering because of the pandemic, and it is up to us to tighten our belts and hold the line.

It will mean that some capital projects are temporarily put on hold, that new equipment is capped and that some positions will not be filled, but I believe we are morally obligated to keep spending in check.

I am also proud that we have not had to reduce our force in response to the pandemic.

The year 2020 and the pandemic has tested us as never before, and through technology and significant upgrades and changes to our facilities, we have made our buildings and workplaces as safe as possible for our employees and the public, and we have enabled remote access wherever possible.

While we may have changed the way we deliver some services, I am proud of the fact that we have continued to provide resources our residents expect, and I applaud the creativity of our county workforce, including this board, for their innovations.

## **Proposed 2021 budget**

The trend during my tenure has been one of conservative budgeting and the proposed 2021 budget recognizes the financial difficulties faced during this pandemic. I present to you a proposed operating budget for 2021 in the amount of \$332.2 million that is under the state-mandated cap.

For this year's budget plan, I am recommending we use \$14 million of our surplus, and bank \$21 million. It has been my policy to keep a healthy balance in our surplus fund to cover unforeseen circumstances. While no one could have imagined living through a pandemic, our fiscal prudence over the years has helped us weather this unprecedented storm.

Of this total budget, \$269 million will be collected locally through property tax, representing a ZERO increase.

As presented, the 2021 proposed budget reflects our plan to respond to the changes the COVID-19 pandemic brought to this county in 2020. Unfortunately, Mercer County due to its size did not

# "Schedule A"

receive significant funding from the federal government 2020 CARES Act fund. As a result, we are aggressively seeking reimbursement funding through FEMA. In the meantime, we will continue to offer free COVID-19 testing and we will ramp up our vaccination effort as vaccine supply increases. To date, we have distributed every vaccine that has been supplied to us and it is our continued goal to get vaccine into the arm of every Mercer County resident who wants to be vaccinated. That will come at a cost, but I am confident that we will recoup most, if not all, of the financial burden that has been put upon us.

As we emerge from this pandemic, we will continue to adhere to fiscal policies that are austere and responsible, while serving the needs of our constituents. More than any other time in recent history, we are aware that County government has a positive impact on the lives of our residents, and I continue my commitment to offer a hand to our residents in need.

Together, this board and my administration run a County government that is transparent, responsive and efficient, one that ensures that services are offered in a manner that is reliable and honest. Thank for your time tonight, and I look forward to working with you to produce a compassionate and fiscally responsible budget that best serves the citizens of Mercer County.

# "Schedule B"

My name is Heidi Musick, this is my 7<sup>th</sup> year as The Substance Abuse Counselor, also known as the Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) with Mercer County Special Services School District.

I was blindsided to learn that my position is being impacted by the Reduction In Force. I am the only tenure position being RIFd, and the only SAC in the district, which means this essential program is being eliminated. However, We were reluctantly informed on Tuesday night by the BOE that the position is being outsourced to Mercer Council. I can say from attending Mercer County SAC meetings that this group is utilized to support SACs with additional resources, NOT replace them.

I'll share with you some duties, needs of the students, and what the SAC position is...

The SAC is a comprehensive, and integrated school-community program for prevention, intervention, and referral services to students in the areas of high-risk behaviors such as the use of substances, self-harm, personal struggles, and many other mental health concerns.

Each year I have seen 29 to 34 students on my caseload for Individual Counseling required by their IEP. I understand the district enrollment is lower. However, at the high school, the individual counseling needs have increased. The Case Managers that are remaining will have the impossible task of absorbing 34 more students into their caseload. This is creating a much more complicated load for the Case Managers that it could lessen the availability for student / counselor relationships. Individual counseling does not just mean one day a week. The students often stop by my office, check in with me daily, need reassurance and support. I also visit classrooms during their Group Counseling sessions and provide 2 to 3 lessons on Substance Abuse Counseling.

Additionally, when students anger is heightened, I participate in problem-solving sessions involving my students and crisis support. This will be eliminated once my position is gone. As shared many times by staff and parents, our students need consistency and trust. An outsourced program/counselor does not make up for a full-time dedicated counselor who our fragile students know, trust and see every day.

This pandemic has caused many students and families stress, anxiety, depression, and other emotional turmoils. I have supported many parents during this difficult time and have found most students need more support because of mental and emotional discomfort. I am available to my students. I provide comfort, empathy, and rapport -especially during this traumatic time. Hiring Mercer Council or any outside source should be ADDITIONAL support not TO REPLACE the SAC position.

Over the past 7 years I have been someone the students can talk to, someone to calm them down, and at times the only person a student can open up to. The only excuse I have received at this time, as to why they are eliminating the position is that I am not, "social worker certified". I was hired as Substance Abuse Counselor. I do not need the social worker certificate. My position IS to be different and distinct. It is essential for students, their guardians, and staff to have me, the Substance Abuse Counselor, available to them. Eliminating a full time in the building counseling position is unconscionable.

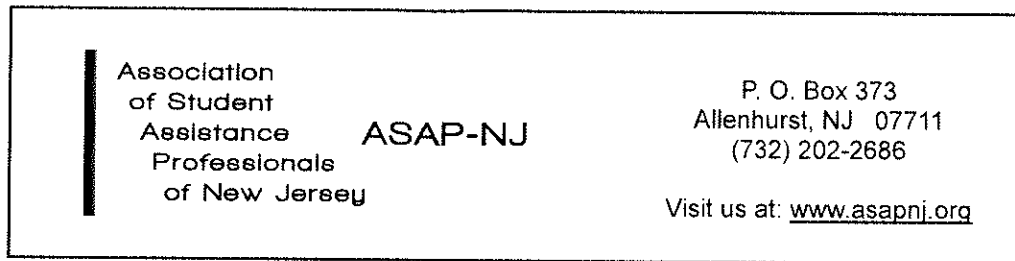
Thank you,

Heidi Musick

24 Longleaf Drive Hamilton, NJ 08690



# "Schedule C"



March 8, 2021

Mercer County Special Services School District

To: Mercer County Special Services Board of Education

As the Mercer County Chairpersons of the Association of Student Assistance Professionals of New Jersey (ASAP-NJ), we are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the decision to eliminate the Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) position in the Mercer County Special Services School District.

In particular, we wanted to bring to your attention to some of the very serious issues school districts have been and will be facing in which the Student Assistance Coordinator is uniquely prepared to handle.

1. **Opioid Crisis** - this concerns us because there will no longer be a properly trained counselor to assist students and families who have been affected by this epidemic. We also can not be sure what the future will hold in terms of drug trends, especially after this COVID-19 Pandemic.
2. **Marijuana legalization** - We're sure you're aware of the marijuana legalization our state passed on 2/22/21. This will be a confusing time for our students, parents and our communities as we all try to understand the implications of these new laws on our young people and their developing brains. The perception of harm has decreased significantly over the past years while use by young people has increased. It will be more critical than ever to have someone in the schools who is able to speak in depth about the risks of underage marijuana use. The SACs are also able to provide referrals to families seeking addiction and mental health treatment, as a result of the increase in marijuana use and access.
3. **Mental Health concerns** - We are deeply concerned about the escalating mental health deterioration of our students in conjunction with the pandemic. The state, anticipating these concerns, has allocated up to \$30 million in grants to schools for assistance in strengthening mental health support. SACs are uniquely trained in both mental health and addiction with the express goal of helping our students move forward so that they can focus instead on their education.

Student Assistance Coordinators have been trained by the state's "specialized" certification requirements, above the training of other educational service professionals. Prevention, interventions, referrals and/or assessments by non-SAC faculty members and by faculty who are untrained can be difficult due to the regulations that SACs, specifically, are trained in, such as 42 CFR Part 2, providing student access to confidential treatment for alcohol and drug related issues.

# "Schedule C"

We also wanted to leave you with some information from the NJAC to consider which clearly proves the need for a highly qualified and trained SAC. Please feel free to review the code at your convenience. <https://www.nj.gov/education/code/current/title6a/chap16.pdf>

Please keep in mind that the elimination of a Student Assistance Coordinator and the reestablishment of this position further down the road will cause major gaps in service and disruptions in the relationships that have been built, both with students, families and the community as well as the programs that have taken years to establish.

We appreciate you taking the time to hear our concerns and reconsider this impactful decision.

Sincerely,

*ASAP -NJ Mercer County Chapter - Marjorie Fleck and Sue Niedrach  
and  
ASAP -NJ State Executive Board*



JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**COUNTY OF MERCER**  
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LISA M. VENA  
DEPUTY CLERK

**MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**INFORMAL MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2021**

**MINUTES**

Chair Frisby called the Agenda Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on March 9, 2021 through Zoom Video Conferencing.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

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

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**SUNSHINE LAW**

The Deputy 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.

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Commissioner Frisby asked to have a moment of silence for James Stevenson, the first African American elected official in Hamilton Township.

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**MINUTES**

Commissioner Walter made reference to the Minutes for the Formal Meeting of November 12, 2020. She reminded the Commissioners that the County Executive's commitment to replant trees was stated at the November 12, 2020 Meeting.

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Commissioner Walter made reference to the Minutes for the Formal Meeting of December 3, 2020. She suggested that the Commissioners take a look at the Flight Tracker photos attached to the minutes, which illustrated the flight paths the residents have experienced.

Chair Frisby acknowledged that many of the flight paths appear to be planes that were not Frontier Airlines. He asked the Administration what the County would be able to do if someone was not following the proper flight path.

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

Five (5) communications were discussed and approved for placement on the Agenda for the Formal Meeting of March 11, 2021.

Chair Frisby made reference to the Communication from Marion Masnick, Clerk of the Board, Board of County Commissioners of the County of Monmouth, dated February 12, 2021. RE: Resolution opposing funding reductions to the Municipal Alliance Program administered by the New Jersey Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug abuse for Fiscal Year 2021. He asked if the Administration could reach out to Marygrace Billek, Human Service Director, about the option to use the revenue generated by the legalization of cannabis as an alternate funding source to the Municipal Alliance Program.

The Commissioner Board agreed to have a letter drafted to be sent to the New Jersey Legislative District representing Mercer County.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Twenty-five (25) proposed Resolutions were discussed and approved for placement on the agenda for the Formal Meeting of March 11, 2021.

Chair Frisby made reference to the proposed Resolution authorizing to execute a Competitive Contract with Capital Area YMCA of Trenton for the provision of primary prevention-recreation and activities program services for youth.. He announced that he would be abstaining from the vote on Thursday, because he was the Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Area YMCA.

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Commissioner Koontz made reference to the proposed Resolution authorizing an Application to New Jersey Transit for grant funding under the 2021 Federal Transit Administration's Non-urbanized area formula program. He inquired about if there was support available through County Funds for potential shared services for shuttle transportation with municipalities.

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Commissioner Walter made reference to the proposed three (3) Resolutions authorizing to execute a Professional Service Contract with the Firm of Genova Burns, LLC. She asked that the Commissioner Board be updated if any movement was taken on any of the litigation cases, before reading about them in the newspaper.

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Commissioner Cimino made reference to the proposed Resolution authorizing to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Van Cleef Engineering Associates, to provide engineering design services for the road widening of Edinburg Road at the intersection of Old Trenton Road, West Windsor Township. He expressed his concerns regarding the extremely low amount for the aforementioned Agreement.

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Commissioner Walter made reference to the proposed Resolution authorizing 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 Educational Service Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System. She suggested that the County look into doing shared services for street sweepers with municipalities.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Cannon commented that the Mercer County Library System had many programs for Women's History Month.

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Commissioner Walter mentioned that she had the opportunity to attend the Gallery at the Mercer County Community College, where she seen an exhibit called Puddle Architecture by Leni Paquet-Morante.

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Chair Frisby recognized that the County Executive Brian M. Hughes, was in attendance of the meeting. He thanked the County Executive for the opportunity to meet with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kimberly Schneider, Ed.D.

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Chair Frisby announced that his mother Jeannine LaRue would be facilitating a conversation with the Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey and Senator Shirley Turner on March 13, 2021 to discuss women history.

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Michael Herbert Jr., Esq., Commissioner Counsel, reminded the Commissioners that the OTR Appeal was scheduled for Thursday night's meeting.

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**ON-GOING BUSINESS**

Lillian L. Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator, gave a brief COVID-19 vaccine update. She informed the Commissioners that the County would be receiving 3,000 doses per week, with 2,000 doses being administered at the Cure Arena and 1,000 doses to the Mercer County Community College. She explained that the J & J vaccine would no longer be available for the next couple of weeks, but that the County would continue to administer the Moderna vaccine.

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**PUBLIC SECTION**

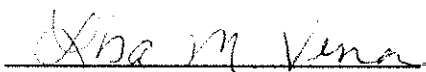
**At this time, Chair Frisby invited the members of the public to comment on any item listed on and off the agenda.**

Elizabeth Bredan, resident of Robbinsville Township, expressed her concerns regarding lack of communication with the Mercer County Special School Services District.

Chair Frisby clarified that the Commissioners does not authorize their budget and that they are a separate entity.

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**AGENDA MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:39 PM**

  
**LISA M. VENA**  
**DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD**