



COUNTY OF MERCER
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JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EBONY WITHERSPOON
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FORMAL MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2023

MINUTES

Chair Walter called the Formal Meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. on June 22, 2023, in Room 211 of the Joyce L. McDade Administration Building, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

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

Present – Commissioners Cimino, Lewis, McLaughlin, Stokes and Walter
Absent – Commissioners Frisby (arrived at 6:09 P.M.), Melker

The Deputy Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

Chair Walter 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 Meetings Law, notice of this Formal Meeting had been mailed to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian and The Princeton Packet newspapers as well as having been posted in both the County Administration Building and Courthouse at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

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

Mike McKitish, a resident of Robbinsville addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for all of their hard work done throughout the budget session. Mr. McKitish questioned why a Resolution authorizing only the temporary budget was on and not for the full budget as adopted.

Chair Walter explained because the final budget has not been adopted bills still need to be paid so the County does these emergency temporary budgets to fill in the gaps and allows for temporary funding until the budget is approved.

Mr. McKitish asked when the budget would be approved.

Chair Walter responded that two things would have to happen before the budget gets adopted. The first would be the approval of the 2022 financial statement from the State and second the budget would have to be re-advertised for adoption and could possibly be done in July or August.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At this time, Chair Walter announced that an Executive Session was scheduled to take place regarding "Pending or Anticipated Litigation – Joseph A. Deluca Advisory & Consulting Services, LLC Report on the Mercer County Finance Department"

Formal Meeting recessed at 6:05 PM to enter into Executive Session

Commissioner Frisby joined the meeting at 6:09 PM

Formal Meeting reconvened at 7:18 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Commissioner Frisby, seconded by Commissioner Stokes, the Minutes of the following meetings were approved:

Formal Meeting of February 21, 2023

Formal Meeting of March 9, 2023

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Absent – Commissioner Melker

COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, QPA, RPPS Purchasing Agent, dated May 30, 2023, RE: Minutes and Bid Results for the Week of May 22, 2023.

A communication was received from Isamar Maldonado, QPA RPPS, Purchasing Agent, dated June 5, 2023, RE: Minutes and RFP/Bid Results for the Week of May 29, 2023.

A communication was received from Brian M. Hughes, County Executive, dated June 14, 2023, RE: Appointment Requiring Commissioners Advise and Consent.

A communication was received from Lillian L. Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator, dated June 20, 2023, RE: Commissioner Questions for June 22, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

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

Commissioner Frisby moved, seconded by Commissioner Stokes, that:

RESOLUTION NOS. R-1 THROUGH R-22, ON THE AGENDA “BE VOTED ON IN BLOCK”

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

Absent – Commissioner Melker

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

NO. 2023-448 COUNTY OF MERCER 2023 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

NO. 2023-449 MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZES COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS AND TO FACILITATE ENTRY INTO A DRUG TREATMENT FACILITY FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE. PERIOD: JULY 21, 2023 THROUGH JULY 20, 2026

NO. 2023-450 MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZES COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING FOR NUTRITION MEAL PLANNING, EDUCATION AND COUNSELING FOR MERCER COUNTY SENIORS AND RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

NO. 2023-451

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROPRIETARY SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH OCLC (ONLINE COMPUTER LIBRARY CENTER, INC.) FOR A SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED COMPUTER SERVICES FOR CATALOGING MATERIALS AND INTER-LIBRARY LOAN OPERATIONS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY LIBRARY COMPUTER SYSTEM. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024. AMOUNT: \$60,400.00 (LIBRARY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-452

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION (NO. 2023-05213-1062) TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY RE-ENTRY PROGRAM TO PROVIDE RE-ENTRY SUPPORT SERVICES TO INMATES RELEASED FROM INCARCERATION. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024. AMOUNT: \$786,353.00 [NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FY2023] (NO COUNTY FUNDS)

NO. 2023-453

AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2021-592, ADOPTED NOVEMBER 10, 2021 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (NJDOH) FOR THE PROVISION OF VACCINATION SERVICES RELATED TO COVID-19. "AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,000.00 (STATE FUNDS) AND TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT PERIOD." REVISED PERIOD: JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024. REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$765,000.00 (STATE FUNDS) (NO COUNTY FUNDS) (AMENDMENT NO. 2)

- NO. 2023-454** AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2023-265, ADOPTED APRIL 13, 2023 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS FOR ENHANCING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS FOR THE ENHANCING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT. "AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN THE RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00 (STATE FUNDS) AND EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024. REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$1,000,000.00 (STATE FUNDS) (AMENDMENT NO. 1)
- NO. 2023-455** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH CATALYST SOLUTIONS, INC., FOR THE WFNJ TANF JOB SKILLS TRAINING DIRECTLY RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT (JSTDRTE) & JOB PLACEMENT (JP) PROGRAM. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024. CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$150,000.00. (STATE FUNDS-NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2023-456** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SOUTHERN NJ & PHILADELPHIA, FOR THE WFNJ TANF COMMUNITY WORK EXPERIENCE (CWEP) EDUCATION DIRECTLY RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT (EDRTE), JOB SKILLS TRAINING DIRECTLY RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT (JSTDRTE) & JOB PLACEMENT (JP) PROGRAM. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024. CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$120,000.00. (STATE FUNDS-NO COUNTY FUNDS)

- NO. 2023-457** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO EXTEND A COMPETITIVE CONTRACT WITH LATIN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE & EDUCATION FUND, FOR THE WFNJ TANF EDUCATION DIRECTLY RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT – ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (EDRTE-ESL), JOB SKILLS TRAINING DIRECTLY RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT (JSTDRTTE) & JOB PLACEMENT (JP) PROGRAM. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024. CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$120,000.00. (STATE FUNDS-NO COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2023-458** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND FY 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM. AMOUNT: \$772,752.00 (FEDERAL FUNDS) PERIOD: JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024
- NO. 2023-459** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH SUSAN SCHAEFER, LLC FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY INSURANCE COMMISSION. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$85/HOUR AND \$207,000.00 ANNUALLY
- NO. 2023-460** 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 KAPLAN KIRSCH & ROCKWELL LLP, TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES REGARDING MERCER COUNTY INTERVENING AND PARTICIPATING IN LITIGATION BROUGHT AGAINST THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE TERMINAL PROJECT AT THE MERCER COUNTY AIRPORT; TRENTON THREATENED SKIES, ET AL. V. FAA, ET AL. THIRD CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS, CASE NO. 22-1965. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$30,000.00. PERIOD: JUNE 1, 2023 THROUGH MAY 31, 2024. (COUNTY FUNDS)

- NO. 2023-461** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH THE LENOX LAW FIRM TO PROVIDE DEFENDING THIRD-PARTY LIABILITY CASES FOR THE MERCER COUNTY INSURANCE COMMISSION. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$30,000.00. PERIOD: JUNE 1, 2023 THROUGH MAY 31, 2024. (COUNTY FUNDS)
- NO. 2023-462** AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2023-167, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 21, 2023 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH JOSEPH A. DELUCA ADVISORY & CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC FOR SPECIAL FORENSIC AUDIT SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER. "AMEND RESOLUTION TO INCREASE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$125,000.00". CONTRACT PERIOD TO REMAIN THE SAME. REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT: \$525,000.00 (AMENDMENT NO. 2)
- NO. 2023-463** AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2023-441, ADOPTED JUNE 8, 2023 AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) FOR THE RUNWAY PROTECTION ZONE OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL OFF-AIRPORT (DESIGN, SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT & PERMITTING) PROJECT AT THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT. AMEND RESOLUTION TO DECREASE FAA FUNDING AMOUNT: \$369,054.00 (-\$8,046.00); COUNTY OF MERCER AMOUNT: \$41,007.00 (-\$893.00). REVISED TOTAL AMOUNT: \$410,061.00 (\$-8,939.00). (AMENDMENT NO. 1)

- NO. 2023-464** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE AN AWARD OF A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT TO FIRSTLINE LOCKSMITH, LLC FOR SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, SERVICE AND REPAIR FOR THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY COOPERATIVE CONTRACT PURCHASING SYSTEM. PERIOD: MAY 22, 2023 THROUGH MAY 21, 2025. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$495,500.00 (CK09MERCER2023-01N)
- NO. 2023-465** PARTIAL AWARD OF BID RECEIVED APRIL 5, 2023 TO MULTIPLE VENDORS TO FURNISH AND DELIVER ROAD MATERIALS TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND THE MERCER COUNTY COOPERATIVE CONTRACT PURCHASING SYSTEM. PERIOD: JUNE 22, 2023 TO JUNE 21, 2024 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND ONE (1) YEAR. TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$4,327,511.60 (CK09MERCER2023-04)
- NO. 2023-466** APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT T. JACKSON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL
- NO. 2023-467** APPOINTMENT OF DAWN OLLER TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
- NO. 2023-468** REAPPOINTMENT OF J. DELORES BAKER TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
- NO. 2023-469** EXECUTIVE SESSION – THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. IN ROOM 211 OF THE MERCER COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING “PENDING OR ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – JOSEPH A. DELUCA ADVISORY & CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC, REPORT ON THE MERCER COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT”

NO. 2023-470

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT FUNDING AND EXECUTE SUBSEQUENT SUB-GRANT AWARD DOCUMENTS WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FY21 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ACT – CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (CSRFR), GUNSHOT DETECTION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY. AMOUNT: \$567,400.00 (\$567,400.00 STATE FUNDS; NO COUNTY FUNDS). PERIOD: DECEMBER 1, 2022 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2024. GRANT NO. GDT-11-21

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS:

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

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

Absent – Commissioner Melker

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

Mark O'Dea, a Hopewell Township resident addressed the Board. He was present this evening to speak about 135 Blackwell Road; the property where he currently resides. Mr. O'Dea explained that he had been living and tending to the farmland located in Hopewell Township for quite some time up until the property was purchased by Penn East. He said that he had several discussions with Penn East and they said he would be able to continue to live on the property and be given the opportunity to purchase the property since he was repairing and restoring it already. Mr. O'Dea said he was disheartened to hear that the property was now being sold to the County of Mercer instead of him. He explained that he has every intention of preserving the farmland and to utilize the property as intended. Mr. O'Dea asked the Commissioner Board to intervene if there was a way to stop the sale of the property.

Chair Walter confirmed that Mr. O'Dea was a tenant farmer and was allowed to continue to farm and rehabilitate the land with only a verbal request between himself and Penn East.

Mr. O'Dea agreed and insisted that his plans were to purchase the farmland and use it as intended. He was extremely upset because over several years he has put timeless hours into the repair and rehabilitation of the property.

Commissioner Frisby asked if there was any written memorialization of the Agreement between either party.

Mr. O'Dea responded that there were many emails and noted that Penn East paid him personally for part of the cleaning outside and interior work that was completed. He referred to himself as the "caretaker" of the property and in return Penn East allowed him to stay on the property as such.

Commissioner Frisby asked if the County was planning to purchase this property.

Paul Adezio, Esq., County Counsel, responded that the Administration hired a surveying firm to go out and conduct a survey on the property with the intent to purchase the land.

Commissioner Frisby left at 7:35 P.M.

John Hart, a resident of Hopewell addressed the Board. He was present this evening on Mr. O’Dea’s behalf and to discuss farmland preservation. Mr. Hart commented how he was a member of the State Board of Agriculture and felt farmland preservation was imperative because farms were a thing of the past. He discussed his farm consisting over 60 acres and the fact Mercer County was losing farmland each month to developers purchasing land and using it for development construction. Mr. Hart pleaded for the County to intercede and assist Mr. O’Dea with keeping the land as it was intended, “farmland”.

Chair Walter thanked Mr. Hart and referred to him as being an “unsung” hero when it pertains to open space preservation around the State of New Jersey. She said she would gather further information from the Administration and proceed from there.

Mike McKitish, a resident of Robbinsville addressed the Board. He was present this evening to discuss his concerns with the voting process in Mercer County as well as the 2023 Mercer County budget process. He commented on the tax rate and respected the Commissioner Board for all of their due diligence when dealing with taxpayer dollars. Mr. McKitish brought up concerns with the election process including election software glitches and security flaws. He thanked the Board for always being attentive to his concerns and looked forward to open conversations regarding the election process.

Chair Walter mentioned that she attended a meeting on Wednesday night and that County Clerk, Paula Solami-Covello was there and they had a discussion regarding how the primary election went. She was pleased to inform Mr. McKitish that many issues during the general election were corrected and the process went much smoother this time around. Chair Walter noted that locks were on ballot bags and they were also trackable because of the censors that were used.

Mr. McKitish was pleased to hear this news. He remarked how the County was still in need of poll workers and how polling locations were decreased. Mr. McKitish asked how the County planned to remedy that issue.

Chair Walter explained there had been some discussion with the Board of Elections to see if poll workers’ wages have to be taxed. She discussed how election day was a long “working” day and the money paid to workers’ may not seem worth it after taxes were paid. Chair Walter mentioned the idea of not taxing poll workers was still an on-going discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTE ON MOTION:

Ayes - 5. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -2.

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

Absent – Commissioners Frisby and Melker

FORMAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:51 PM



**EBONY WITHERSPOON
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD**

GBO



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JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EBONY WITHERSPOON
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INFORMAL MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2023

MINUTES

Commissioner Board Chair Walter called the Agenda Meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. on June 20, 2023, in Room 211 of the Joyce L. McDade Administration Building, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Chair Walter 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 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.

MINUTES

1. Formal Minutes of February 21, 2023
2. Formal Minutes of March 9, 2023

COMMUNICATIONS

Four (4) communications were discussed and approved for placement on the Agenda for the Formal Meeting of June 22, 2023.

Chair Walter made reference to Communication C-4, dated June 20, 2023, RE: Commissioner Questions for June 22, 2023. Chair Walter discussed with Dr. Sharon Sharp, Temporary Chief Financial Officer, the proposed Resolution authorizing 2023 Temporary Budget Appropriations. Chair Walter asked if the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) would flag our proposed budget because it would not cover the amount that has been expended and we are now in an emergency temporary budget.

Dr. Sharp responded that would not occur because this Resolution is requesting permission from the Board to reduce those budget lines to align with the introduced & amended budget. She explained this was a necessary step to move forward with the budget process.

Commissioner Lewis mentioned the last column referring to the 2023 Introduction numbers, she asked which set of numbers she should be referencing.

Dr. Sharp noted that the numbers in parenthesis were negative numbers, required to align the budget accordingly.

Commissioner Frisby explained that Dr. Sharp created her own stop-gap ensuring that the Departments do not over-expend what the Commissioner Board already approved for the budget.

Dr. Sharp concurred.

RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-two (22) proposed Resolutions were discussed and approved for placement on the agenda for the Formal Meeting of June 22, 2023.

Commissioner McLaughlin made reference to R-5, proposed Resolution authorizing to Submit a Grant Application (No. 2023-05213-1062) to the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the Mercer County Re-entry Program to provide Re-entry Support Services to Inmates released from incarceration. She noted that the Application was delayed due to the high level of grant activity and that the Human Services department was understaffed. Commissioner McLaughlin asked the Administration if the consultants that were hired to assist with Grants could support the department with these types of Grants.

County Administrator Lillian Nazzaro, Esq., explained that this Resolution was specific to Assemblyman Anthony Verelli's grant for the re-entry program.

Commissioner Cimino believed that the County entered into two different contracts with consulting firms; one for Federal grants and the other for State grants.

Chair Walter asked the Administration if the consultants of WSW and Bruno Associates could assist with this process and help with the delay.

County Administrator Nazzaro explained that Marygrace Billek, Director of Human Services, works with her own group of individuals on grants and they have a scope of work that they are required to follow. She explained that the two firms that the County hired were to assist with obtaining new grants and aid for the County.

Chair Walter asked if the Board could be provided with a list of all grants that have been brought in to date by WSW and Bruno. She wanted to be able to see the activity they have procured thus far.

Commissioner Lewis asked to additionally provide the Board with a list of grants they have applied for as well.

Commissioner Frisby asked if there was any leeway within the Contract that would allow them to assist with this type of work.

County Administrator Nazzaro said she would look into the matter further and inform the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Walter mentioned that the Mercer County Board of Social Services (MCBOSS) was in the process of unwinding the Covid-19 Emergency benefits. She said that MCBOSS sent out approximately 1600 notices to people receiving Medicaid asking them to recertify their benefits. Chair Walter said that to date 600 recipients have not replied. She added that there were a number of job placements and that Mercer County's numbers were decent in comparison to the rest of the State but explained that if people did not continue with specified requirements, they could lose funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Frisby spoke of a recent opportunity he had to visit Trenton-Mercer Airport's flight training school through Mercer County Community College (MCCC). He asked if MCCC was ever included in the economic impact study that was completed a few years ago. Commissioner Frisby spoke about the pilot shortage and how many commercial airlines are paying up to \$500,000 a year for pilots. He said there were currently 250 participants out of Mercer County and 100 participants who reside outside of Mercer, along with veterans who returned from service being trained at the school. Commissioner Frisby was unsure that Mercer County was marketing this asset to its full potential to residents. He wanted to ensure that the County could benefit from the potential impact this could have when hiring local individuals interested in becoming an airline pilot. Commissioner Frisby noted that MCCC has one of the largest flight schools in North America.

Chair Walter said originally the flight school was based out of Princeton NJ at a time when Mercer was very close to losing their tower because the federal government was going to pull the funding. She explained that it was the flight school that kept the tower going because it maintained the tower funding and fire safety training with touch-and-go flights.

Commissioner Frisby noted that the flight school currently was bringing in 500 touch-and-go flights a week.

Commissioner Melker had the pleasure of presenting proclamations and pins; along with Commissioner's Stokes and Mclaughlin to the Steinert High School girls' softball team for winning the State Championship. She commented that her daughter was the head coach, who was also named Coach of the year. Commissioner Melker thanked her colleagues for allowing her to present the proclamations on their behalf.

PUBLIC SECTION

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

Ira Marks, a resident of Lawrenceville addressed the Board. He was present this evening to discuss the 2023 Mercer County Budget. Mr. Marks asked when the budget was originally introduced.

Chair Walter said the budget was originally introduced May 9th and the Commissioner Board held 23 hours' worth of budget meetings with cuts and additions made to the working budget. She explained that after the changes were made it then was sent to the State and they are able to make changes and/or suggestions and then it would have to be re-advertised.

Mr. Marks commented that this process seems to have been started late in the year.

Chair Walter remarked that budget process was started later than usual due to the financial issues within the finance department.

Mr. Marks commented on the substantial increase of 30% for employee healthcare and why that occurred.

Chair Walter explained that healthcare costs went up due to the State, which made provisions for State employees but not local or municipal employees. She added that she was aware the Administration was looking to see what other options were out there to assist with the rising costs.

AGENDA MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:43 PM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ebony Witherspoon", written over a horizontal line.

EBONY WITHERSPOON
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

GBO