

ATLANTIC COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
Via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing

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Minutes of Meeting

April 7, 2020

- CALL TO ORDER** A regular meeting of the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders was called to order by Chairman Frank D. Formica at 6 p.m., Standard Time, on the above-mentioned date, via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing as a result of COVID-19.
- OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT** Statement of Open Public Meeting Compliance: Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chairman Formica announced that adequate notice of this meeting, as required by said Act, has been published in *The Press of Atlantic City*, and mailed to *The Current*, *The Daily Journal*, *The Hammonton Gazette* and *The Hammonton News*; posted on the bulletin boards at 1333 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, the Stillwater Building, 201 Shore Road, Northfield and the County Clerk's Office in Mays Landing.
- PRAYER, MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE** The prayer was led by Chairman Formica with a moment of silence in honor of former Egg Harbor City Mayor Jim McGeary and Mays Landing resident and educator Carol Tomasello followed by the flag salute.
- ROLL CALL** The following roll call was recorded: PRESENT: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. ABSENT: None.
- A quorum was present.
- MINUTES OF MEETING March 3, 2020** Freeholder Gatto moved and Freeholder Kern seconded a motion to adopt and dispense with the reading of the March 3, 2020 minutes.
- The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None. ABSTAINED: Dase.
- BOND ORDINANCE NO. 1 FIRST READING**
An Ordinance providing for various 2020 capital improvements by and in the County Freeholder Kern moved and Freeholder Bertino seconded a motion to introduce on first reading Bond Ordinance No. 1-2020 providing for various 2020 capital improvements by and in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey; appropriating \$23,947,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$22,749,000 bonds or notes to finance part of the cost thereof.
- The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.
- BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2 FIRST READING**
An Ordinance providing for various capital improvements for fiscal year 2020 by and for the Atlantic Cape Community College located within the County Freeholder Risley moved and Freeholder Kern seconded a motion to introduced on first reading Bond Ordinance No. 2-2020 providing for various capital improvements for fiscal year 2020 by and for the Atlantic Cape Community College located within the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey; appropriating \$3,100,000 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$3,100,000 bonds or notes of the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, for financing such appropriation, the principal of and interest on the aggregate principal amount of which will be entitled to state aid, pursuant to Chapter 12 of the laws of New Jersey of 1971.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE
FIRST READING NO. 1
Providing for various
capital improvements and
equipment, in and for the
County**

Freeholder Risley moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to introduced on first reading Capital Ordinance No. 1-2020 providing for various capital improvements and equipment, in and for the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey; and appropriating \$3,605,500 from the capital improvement fund to pay for the cost thereof.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2
FINAL READING
An Ordinance to vacate
and abandon clear sight
triangle covenants and
restrictions concerning the
Weekstown Community
Church, located along
Pleasant Mills Road, at
Block 6401, Lot 26, in
Mullica Township**

Freeholder Bertino moved and Freeholder Kern seconded a motion to adopt on final reading Ordinance No. 2-2020 to vacate and abandon clear sight triangle covenants and restrictions concerning the Weekstown Community Church, located along Pleasant Mills Road, at Block 6401, Lot 26, in Mullica Township.

Chairman Formica opened the public hearing portion for comments at 6:08 p.m. There being no comments, Chairman Formica closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 176
Grant application and
acceptance for the hiring of
a fellow to identify and
advance shared service
opportunities**

Freeholder Gatto moved and Freeholder Kern seconded a motion to authorize a grant application and acceptance from the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) County Coordinator Fellowship Grant to be used for the hiring of a fellow to identify and advance shared service opportunities in the amount of \$50,000.00 plus a \$40,260.00 County in-kind match, totaling \$90,260.00.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 177
Grant application and
acceptance for the Clean
Fleet Electric Vehicle
Incentive Program to be
used for the purchase of
two environmentally
friendly electric vehicles**

Freeholder Risley moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to authorize a grant application and acceptance from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for the Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive Program to be used for the purchase of two environmentally friendly electric vehicles funding in the amount of \$8,000.00.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 178
Chapter 159**

Freeholder Kern moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to insert into the budget of the year 2020 the sum of \$120,000.00 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Juvenile Justice Commission, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)-Innovations 2020.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 179 Freeholder Gatto moved and Freeholder Kern seconded a motion to enter into a contract with Alpine East Electric, LLC, for raising electrical components on the Dorset Avenue Bridge for the total sum not to exceed \$67,000.00 to do the work and/or supply the materials as set forth in the contract.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 180 Freeholder Dase moved and Freeholder Risley seconded a motion to authorize Change Order no. 1, contract with Feriozzi Concrete Company for the widening of Jimmie Leeds Road (CR 561) Section 3 in the Township of Galloway for a total amendatory contract amount \$3,913,294.84.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 181 Freeholder Gatto moved and Freeholder Kern seconded a motion to enter into a lease agreement with Egg Harbor Leasing, LLC to occupy 4,159 square feet of office space located at 6821 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Township for a Child Advocacy Center with fit out cost in an amount not to exceed \$439,840.00 and the first year rent in the amount of \$62,385.00, for a cost totaling \$502,225.00.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 182 Freeholder Kern moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to enter into a contract with TAG Consulting Group Corporation to establish an Indirect Cost Allocation Plan for an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00 for the term commencing from notice of approval to December 31, 2020.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 183 Freeholder Kern moved and Freeholder Bertino seconded a motion to authorize an Intergovernmental services agreement with the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board and the Atlantic Cape Community College for an Incumbent Worker Training Program for Medical Assistants for an sum amount not to exceed \$30,170.00.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 184 Freeholder Dase moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board (WDB) and Atlantic County One Stop Partners for the Atlantic County WDB One Stop Partners Agreement.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 185
Emergency contract to
furnish test kits and test
results to be utilized for
COVID-19 testing at the
proposed Atlantic County
drive up test site**

Freeholder Kern moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to approve an emergency contract with Bio-Reference Laboratories, Inc., to furnish test kits and test results to be utilized for COVID-19 testing at the proposed Atlantic County drive up test site.

Creed Pogue, resident of Estell Manor, asked if this contract is for the original 600 kits. How many kits is it covering? Are there anymore test kits available from Bio-Reference Laboratories? County Administrator DelRosso responded.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 186
Resolution in support of
Assembly Bill 3841 which
extends the State Income
Tax and Corporate
Business Tax to match any
extension of the federal
government's tax filing
deadline**

Freeholder Kern moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to authorize a Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 3841 which extends the State Income Tax and Corporate Business Tax to match any extension of the federal government's tax filing deadline (Sponsor: Maureen Kern).

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 187
Resolution in support of
Assembly Bill 3846 which
creates a "Temporary Lost
Wage Unemployment
Program;" and allows
persons to submit claims
for lost wages due to
coronavirus disease 2019,
and employers to pay
wages to workers ordered
under quarantine by
licensed healthcare
practitioner**

Freeholder Bennett moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to authorize a Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 3846 which creates a "Temporary Lost Wage Unemployment Program;" and allows persons to submit claims for lost wages due to coronavirus disease 2019, and employers to pay wages to workers ordered under quarantine by licensed healthcare practitioner; appropriates \$20,000,000 (Sponsor: Maureen Kern).

Creed Pogue, resident of Estell Manor, asked does this conflict with the federal enhanced program? Chairman Formica responded.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 188
Resolution in support of
Assembly Bill 3856 which
makes an FY2020
supplemental
appropriation of \$10
million for healthcare and
residential facility
sanitation due to
coronavirus disease 2019
outbreak**

Freeholder Bennett moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to authorize a Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 3856 which makes an FY2020 supplemental appropriation of \$10 million for healthcare and residential facility sanitation due to coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak (Sponsor: Maureen Kern).

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 189
Resolution in support of
Assembly Bill 3857 which
makes FY2020
supplemental
appropriations of \$15
million for grants to food
banks**

Freeholder Kern moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to authorize a Resolution in support of Assembly Bill 3857 which makes FY2020 supplemental appropriations of \$15 million for grants to food banks (Sponsor: Maureen Kern) - pending Governor's signature.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Bennett, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Risley and Formica. NAYS: None.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

There were no reports of special committees of the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Formica announced that the Atlantic County Public Health Officer Patricia Diamond and Public Safety Department Head Michael Fedorko would entertain any questions from the Board or the public regarding Covid-19.

Freeholder Fitzpatrick inquired as to the next meeting of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Task Force. Ms. Diamond responded.

Freeholder Gatto requested Ms. Diamond and Mr. Fedorko provide a summary of their day-to-day Covid-19 process. Ms. Diamond, Mr. Fedorko and Mr. DelRosso each responded.

Freeholder Dase requested that perhaps the first responders could possibly make the decision to be tested for Covid-19 testing.

NEW BUSINESS

Freeholder Risley requested that the Board provide Administration the authority to make necessary Covid-19 purchases without Board approval. A discussion ensued including the opinions of both Legislative Counsel Roger Steedle and County Counsel Jim Ferguson. Budget and Finance Committee Chair Gatto suggested the recommendation be sent to Committee for discussion.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Freeholder Dase stated he received a resolution from the City of Brigantine restricting seasonal residents from summer homes and Airbnb's in Atlantic County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Formica opened the meeting to the public at 7:40 p.m.

Creed Pogue, resident of Estell Manor stated that Hudson, Essex and Mercer Counties have a number of cases, perhaps we can investigate how they handled emergency spending so far.

Former Ventnor Mayor Tim Kreisher stated, concerning Freeholder Risley's recommendation earlier, that the Board approve the spending for a two-week period.

Brigantine Councilman Michael Riordan asked if the Board could adopt a resolution similar to Brigantine's Resolution No. 2020-69, authorizing restrictions on the ability of hotels, motels, guest houses or private residents to accept new transient guest or seasonal tenants.

There being no further comments, Chairman Formica closed the public portion at 7:41 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Freeholder Coursey provided a Covid-19 update regarding Atlantic City including the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) approving the Convention Center as a hospital and a \$2 million grant for small businesses.

Freeholder Gatto stated that she would bring forward both Brigantine and Ventnor's resolutions for discussion at the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting. She suggested correspondence be sent to each municipal mayor and clerk regarding our Webex technology along with lessons learned that our Clerk has been documenting.

Freeholder Bennett stated that we keep our first responders and health care workers in our thoughts.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Formica entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Freeholder Kern moved and Freeholder Gatto seconded a motion to adjourn the Freeholder meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sonya G. Harris
Clerk of the Board