

ATLANTIC COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Stillwater Building
201 Shore Road, Northfield, New Jersey 08225
and via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing**

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**Minutes of Meeting
October 17, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners was called to order by Chairman John Risley at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on the above-mentioned date, in the Stillwater Building located at 201 Shore Road, Northfield, NJ and via Cisco Webex Video.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING
STATEMENT**

Statement of Open Public Meeting Compliance: Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chairman Risley 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* and *The Hammonton Gazette*; 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**

A moment of silence was held for the war in the Middle East.

Commissioner Kern offered the prayer followed by the flag salute led by Chairman Risley.

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded: PRESENT: Balles, Bertino, Coursey, Dase, Fitzpatrick (left at 4:51 p.m.), Gatto, Kern, Parker (arrived at 4:08 p.m.) and Risley. ABSENT: None.

**MINUTES OF MEETING
October 3, 2023**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion to adopt and dispense with the reading of the October 3, 2023 minutes.

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

PRESENTATION

Local cancer screening initiatives by Angela Bailey, Cancer Community Outreach.

**MOTION TO MOVE
RESOLUTION NO. 585 TO
TOP OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Fitzpatrick moved and Commissioner Coursey seconded a motion to move Resolution No. 585 to the top of the agenda.

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

**MOTION TO ADD
RESOLUTION NO. 585 TO
THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Bertino moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion to add Resolution No. 585 to the agenda.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 585*
ADDED (10-14-23): Resolution
supporting and confirming that
the State of New Jersey does not
have the resources or ability to
operate as a sanctuary state**

Commissioner Bertino moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion supporting and confirming that the State of New Jersey does not have the resources or ability to operate as a sanctuary state (Sponsor: James A. Bertino).

Cristian Moreno-Rodriquez, resident of Atlantic City, appreciates the language change in the resolution to address policy instead of anti-immigrant statements.

Celeste Fernandez, resident of Galloway Township, thanked the Board for their empathy to change the resolution and supports the County working together.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 556
Agreement to accept one vehicle
to provide transportation
services to seniors and
individuals with disabilities**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing an agreement with New Jersey Transit Corporation through FTA Section 5310 grant funding to accept one vehicle to provide transportation services to seniors and individuals with disabilities for an amount not to exceed \$127,300.00.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 557
Amending Resolution No. 354
(7-11-23), a grant for the
continued operation of the
Atlantic County Family Success
Centers**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 354 adopted on July 11, 2023, a grant from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families for the continued operation of the Atlantic County Family Success Centers for a net increase of \$64,715.00 and a total program amount not to exceed \$999,074.00 for the period commencing July 1, 2023 and terminating June 30, 2024.

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

**MOTION TO MOVE
RESOLUTION NO. 581 TO
TOP OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Coursey seconded a motion to move Resolution No. 581 to the top of the agenda.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 581*
Memorandum of Agreement
(MOA) with AFSCME New
Jersey, Council No. 63, Local 2302
authorizing a formal written
collective bargaining agreement
incorporating the terms of the
MOA**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with AFSCME New Jersey, Council No. 63, Local 2302 authorizing a formal written collective bargaining agreement incorporating the terms of the MOA for a four (4) year period commencing January 1, 2022 through and including December 31, 2025.

Cherie Rassmann, Vice President of AFSCME Local 2302, thanked all involved with the negotiations of this agreement because it was able to retain employees.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 558
Grant application and
acceptance for an Alcohol
Education and Rehabilitation
Grant**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services for an Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Grant for a funded amount of \$770,585.00, a County cash match of \$109,716.00 and a total program amount not to exceed \$880,301.00 for the term commencing January 1, 2024 and terminating December 31, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 559
Grant application and
acceptance for the FFY 23 State
Homeland Security Program
Grant**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for the FFY 23 State Homeland Security Program Grant for an amount not to exceed \$240,522.21 for the term commencing September 1, 2023 and terminating July 31, 2026.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 560
Grant application and
acceptance for a Continuum of
Care for the Homeless Planning
Grant**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Continuum of Care for the Homeless Planning Grant for a funded amount of \$25,573.00, a County cash match of \$6,394.00 and a total program amount not to exceed \$31,967.00 for the period commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 561
Amending Resolution No. 176
(4-7-20), a grant for the Local
Efficiency Achievement Program
(LEAP) County Coordinator
Fellowship Grant to reflect the
actual working days of a
coordinator**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 176 adopted on April 7, 2020, a grant from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs for the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) County Coordinator Fellowship Grant to reflect the actual working days of a coordinator for a funded amount not to exceed \$22,876.71.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 562
Professional services agreement
to provide public health
education services to
underserved communities**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a professional services agreement with Allies in Caring, Inc. to provide public health education services to underserved communities for an amount not to exceed \$293,383.00 for the period commencing October 1, 2023 and terminating June 30, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 563
Professional services agreement
for perishable food quotations
and purchases**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a professional services agreement with various vendors for perishable food quotations and purchases for an amount not to exceed \$1,276,780.00 for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 564
Amending Resolution No. 19
(1-17-23), a competitive contract
for the provision of homecare
services under the Division of
Welfare and Statewide Respite
Grant Programs**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 19 adopted on January 17, 2023, a competitive contract with various vendors for the provision of homecare services under the Division of Welfare and Statewide Respite Grant Programs for a net increase of \$24,930.75 and a total amendatory amount not to exceed \$160,068.75 for the term commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 565
Amending Resolution No. 329
(6-20-23), a competitive contract
for the operation of a Family
Success Center**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 329 adopted on June 20, 2023, a competitive contract with AtlantiCare Behavioral Health for the operation of a Family Success Center for a net increase of \$9,800.00 and a total amendatory amount not to exceed \$301,809.00 for the term commencing July 1, 2023 and terminating on June 30, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 566
Bid contract to furnish and
deliver three (3) Ford minibuses**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a bid contract with Rohrer Enterprises, Inc. to furnish and deliver three (3) Ford minibuses for an amount not to exceed \$327,000.00 for the period commencing from notice of award until July 1, 2024.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 567
Renewal lease agreement for use
of County owned premises
located at 201 South Shore Road,
Northfield**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion authorizing a renewal lease agreement with the Center for Family Services for the use of County owned premises located at 201 South Shore Road, Northfield for an amount not to exceed \$68,400.00 (revenue generating) for the term commencing November 1, 2023 and terminating October 31, 2024.

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

**MOTION TO REMOVE
RESOLUTION NO. 551 FROM
THE TABLE**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion to remove Resolution No. 551 from the table.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 551*
Tabled (10-3-23): Memorandum
of Agreement for the provision of
Sheriff patrol services**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement between the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office and Stockton University for the provision of Sheriff patrol services for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 (revenue generating) for the term commencing August 3, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 568
Alternate method contract to provide CivilServe SaaS software licenses for the Sheriff's Office

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing an alternate method contract with Tyler Technologies, Inc. to provide CivilServe SaaS software licenses for the Sheriff's Office for an amount not to exceed \$44,000.00 for the term commencing May 1, 2023 and terminating April 30, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 569
Interlocal agreement to bid and manage Community Development Block Grant ADA improvements to the Hammonton Library

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing an interlocal agreement with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority (ACIA) to bid and manage Community Development Block Grant ADA improvements to the Hammonton Library for an amount not to exceed \$24,686.00 for the term commencing November 1, 2023 and terminating on October 31, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 570
Acceptance of deeds/easements in accordance with Atlantic County Planning Standards

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing the acceptance of deeds/easements from various grantors in accordance with Atlantic County Planning Standards.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 571
Agreement for the provision of Special Child Health Services in Atlantic County

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing an agreement with Children's Specialized Hospital for the provision of Special Child Health Services in Atlantic County for an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00 for the term commencing July 1, 2023 and terminating June 30, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 572
Sourcewell National Cooperative contract for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a Sourcewell National Cooperative contract with McKesson Medical for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for the period commencing from notice of award and terminating on December 31, 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 573
Amending Resolution No. 730 (12-20-22), an alternate method contract to add two law firms to the list of conflict municipal prosecutors to serve on an as needed basis in the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County

Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 730 adopted on December 20, 2022, an alternate method contract to add two law firms to the list of conflict municipal prosecutors to serve on an as needed basis in the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County for \$400.00 per session and an amount not to exceed \$586,400.00 for the term commencing January 1, 2023 and terminating December 31, 2024.

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

MOTION TO COMBINE AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NOS. 574 TO 580 Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion to combine and adopt Resolution Nos. 574 to 580.

RESOLUTION NO. 574 Chapter 159 Insert into the budget of the year 2023 the sum of \$69,056.00 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, STOP VAWA FY22.

RESOLUTION NO. 575 Chapter 159 Insert into the budget of the year 2023 the sum of \$1,087,416.00 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 23-24 WIOA Adult.

RESOLUTION NO. 576 Chapter 159 Insert into the budget of the year 2023 the sum of \$613,864.00 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 23-24 WIOA Dislocated Worker.

RESOLUTION NO. 577 Chapter 159 Insert into the budget of the year 2023 the sum of \$1,125,122.00 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 22-23 WIOA Adult.

RESOLUTION NO. 578 Chapter 159 Insert into the budget of the year 2023 the sum of \$620,496.00 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 22-23 WIOA Dislocated Worker.

RESOLUTION NO. 579 Chapter 159 Insert into the budget of the year 2023 the sum of \$105,263.15 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Operation Helping Hand Grant Program SFY 23.

RESOLUTION NO. 580 Chapter 159 Insert into the budget of the year 2023 the sum of \$68,556.00 from the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY20.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 581 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with AFSCME New Jersey, Council No. 63, Local 2302 authorizing a formal written collective bargaining agreement incorporating the terms of the MOA Moved to the top of the agenda. Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with AFSCME New Jersey, Council No. 63, Local 2302 authorizing a formal written collective bargaining agreement incorporating the terms of the MOA for a four (4) year period commencing January 1, 2022 through and including December 31, 2025.

Cherie Rassmann, Vice President of AFSCME Local 2302, thanked all involved with the negotiations of this agreement because it was able to retain employees.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 582 Reappointments to the Atlantic County Youth Services Commission Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing the reappointment of Cindy Herdman Ivins, Naomi Jones and Claudia Ratzlaff to the Atlantic County Youth Services Commission for a term to expire on October 1, 2026.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 583
Roadway Solicitation event in
Absecon**

Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion authorizing consent for a roadway solicitation event by the Absecon VFW 9462 at the intersection of Mill Road (CR 651) and New Jersey Avenue (CR 601) in the City of Absecon on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 8 am to 2 pm.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 584
WITHDRAWN (10-14-23)**

WITHDRAWN (10-14-23): Resolution requesting the State Legislature to rescind New Jersey's sanctuary state status (Sponsor: James A. Bertino).

**RESOLUTION NO. 585
ADDED (10-14-23): Resolution
supporting and confirming that
the State of New Jersey does not
have the resources or ability to
operate as a sanctuary state**

Moved to the top of the agenda. Commissioner Bertino moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion supporting and confirming that the State of New Jersey does not have the resources or ability to operate as a sanctuary state (Sponsor: James A. Bertino).

Cristian Moreno-Rodriguez, resident of Atlantic City, appreciates the language change in the resolution to address policy instead of anti-immigrant statements.

Celeste Fernandez, resident of Galloway Township, thanked the Board for their empathy to change the resolution and supports the County working together.

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

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL
COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

Commissioner Kern announced Atlantic Prevention Resources has a Youth Cannabis Prevention workgroup. The Eighth Annual NJ Suicide Prevention virtual conference is free to the public. Naloxone is free in participating pharmacies for anyone over the age of 14. Virtual Mental Health Awareness trainings are available online at nj.gov. The County is still providing free flu vaccines. She also recognized the annual Donald J. Sykes Award Ceremony and highlighted the work of Joe Brown, a longtime advocate.

Commissioner Gatto requested the Youth Cannabis Prevention information be shared with LACADA.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Balles stated that even though Atlantic County is amongst the poorest counties in the State, it is well managed and provides a lot of services to the residents.

Chairman Risley reported the County received its 24th perfect audit with a AA bond rating. The groundbreaking for building number two of the NARTP is an exciting expansion to the area along with plans for a new hotel/convention center.

Commissioner Balles is impressed by the perfect audit because it also includes the County's constitutional officers.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS
AND PETITIONS**

Written communications and petitions were received by this office from October 4, 2023 through October 17, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Risley opened the meeting to the public at 5:29 p.m.

There being no comments, Chairman Risley closed the public portion at 5:29 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Coursey pronounced “Go Phillies!”

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Risley entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Coursey moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion to adjourn the Commissioners’ meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tara Silipena
Clerk of the Board