

# 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 March 7, 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

The prayer was offered by Commissioner Dase followed by the flag salute led by Chairman Risley.

### ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded: PRESENT: Balles, Bertino, Coursey (arrived at 4:04 p.m.), Dase, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Parker and Risley. ABSENT: None.

### MINUTES OF MEETING February 21, 2023

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion to adopt and dispense with the reading of the February 21, 2023 minutes.

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

### ORDINANCE NO. 2 FINAL READING Ordinance establishing mid-block crosswalks in the Township of Hamilton

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Bertino seconded a motion to adopt on final reading Ordinance No. 2-2023 establishing mid-block crosswalks on Somers Point-Mays Landing Road a.k.a River Road (County Route 617) and Farragut Avenue (County Route 660) in the Township of Hamilton.

Chairman Risley opened the public hearing for comments at 4:04 p.m. There being no comments, the meeting was closed to the public at 4:04 p.m.

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. 100 Grant application and acceptance for the County Prosecutor Insurance Fraud Reimbursement Program

Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the New Jersey Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor for the County Prosecutor Insurance Fraud Reimbursement Program for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 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, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Parker and Risley. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 101**  
**Grant application and acceptance**  
**for a centralized Fire and EMS**  
**dispatch center and call center**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Challenge Grant to conduct a study for a centralized Fire and EMS dispatch center and call center for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00.

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. 102**  
**Grant application and**  
**acceptance for the 2023 Per**  
**Capita State Library Aid funds**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the New Jersey Department of Education, State Library for the 2023 Per Capita State Library Aid funds for an amount not to exceed \$113,813.00.

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. 103**  
**Grant application and**  
**acceptance for the Section 5310**  
**Grant**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from New Jersey Transit through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 2022 for the Section 5310 Grant for an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for the period commencing January 1, 2020 and terminating December 31, 2023.

Marcus King, President of Teamsters, asked what would the money be used for in this grant? County Administrator DelRosso responded.

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. 104**  
**Professional services agreement**  
**for pharmaceutical consulting**  
**services for Meadowview**  
**Nursing and Rehabilitation**  
**Center**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a professional services agreement with Pharma-Care, Inc. for pharmaceutical consulting services for Meadowview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for an amount not to exceed \$30,200.00 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, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Parker and Risley. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 105**  
**Professional services agreement**  
**for the provision of library goods**  
**and services**

Commissioner Parker moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion authorizing a professional services agreement with various vendors for the provision of library goods and services for an amount not to exceed \$652,230.00 for the period commencing March 1, 2023 and terminating February 29, 2024.

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. 106**  
**Professional services agreement**  
**for temporary nursing staffing to**  
**fill shortages in full time**  
**permanent staffing**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion authorizing a professional services agreement with various vendors for temporary nursing staffing to fill shortages in full time permanent staffing for an amount not to exceed \$654,536.00 for a one-year period commencing February 1, 2023 and terminating January 31, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 107**  
**Renewal competitive contract for the provision of discharge planning and reentry services to inmates of the Atlantic County Justice Facility**

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

Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a renewal competitive contract with Jewish Family Services for the provision of discharge planning and reentry services to inmates of the Atlantic County Justice Facility for an amount not to exceed \$646,941.95 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, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Parker and Risley. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 108**  
**Renewal competitive contract for the provision of physical, occupational and speech therapy services for residents of Meadowview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion authorizing a renewal competitive contract with Rehab Professional Services, Inc. for the provision of physical, occupational and speech therapy services for residents of Meadowview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for an amount not to exceed \$490,000.00 for the term commencing April 1, 2023 and terminating March 31, 2024.

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. 109**  
**Bid contract for the 2022 County Highway Improvement Project for various road repairs**

Commissioner Dase moved and Commissioner Bertino seconded a motion authorizing a bid contract with Arawak Paving Company, Inc. for the 2022 County Highway Improvement Project for various road repairs for an amount not to exceed \$3,897,000.00 from notice of award and terminating December 31, 2023.

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. 110**  
**Contract for transportation of early voting E-Poll books and voting machines to early voting locations**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a contract with Atlantic Coast Moving and Storage for transportation of early voting E-Poll books and voting machines to early voting locations for an amount not to exceed \$6,800.00 for the term commencing May 1, 2023 and terminating on November 30, 2023.

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. 111**  
**Contract for programming and coding of voting machines and electronic poll books**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a contract with Election Systems and Software (ES&S) for programming and coding of voting machines and electronic poll books for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 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, Fitzpatrick, Gatto, Kern, Parker and Risley. NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 112**  
**Contract for transportation of the E-Poll books and voting machines to their respective polling places**

Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a contract with Clifford B. Finkle Jr., Inc. for transportation of the E-Poll books and voting machines to their respective polling places for an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00 for the term commencing May 1, 2023 and terminating November 30, 2023.

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. 113**  
**Interlocal services agreement for the administration of the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the 2022 HOME Investment Partnership Program grants**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing an interlocal services agreement with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority (ACIA) for the administration of the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the 2022 HOME Investment Partnership Program grants for an amount not to exceed \$1,836,812.00 for the term commencing September 1, 2022 and terminating August 31, 2029.

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. 114**  
**Agreement for an internship program with various Atlantic County departments**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion authorizing an agreement with Penn State University for an internship program with various Atlantic County departments for a three-year period commencing March 7, 2023 at no cost to the County.

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. 115**  
**Resolution authorizing the transfer of a County surplus vehicle to Buena Vista Township Fire District 1**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion authorizing the transfer of a County surplus vehicle to Buena Vista Township Fire District 1 at no cost.

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. 116**  
**Grant application and acceptance to purchase a pair of traffic lights for the County's use and to be made available to municipalities on an as needed basis**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a grant application and acceptance from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP) Implementation Grant to purchase a pair of traffic lights for the County's use and to be made available to municipalities on an as needed basis for a funded amount not to exceed \$45,000.00, a County cash match of \$15,000.00 and for a total program amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

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. 117**  
**Subgrant agreement to assist with costs to replace the dam spillway and related work at Lake Lenape**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Parker seconded a motion authorizing a subgrant agreement with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management through the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to assist with costs to replace the dam spillway and related work at Lake Lenape for a funded amount of \$4,600,000.00, a County in-kind match of \$1,914,607.24 and for a total program amount not to exceed \$6,514,607.24.

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. 118**  
**Bid contract for improvements to**  
**Lake Lenape Dam**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion authorizing a bid contract with South State, Inc. for improvements to Lake Lenape Dam for an amount not to exceed \$10,867,260.00 for the period commencing from notice of award and terminating December 31, 2024.

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. 119**  
**Amending interlocal services to**  
**extend the term of various**  
**contracts and to administer**  
**leftover Community**  
**Development Block Grant**  
**(CDBG) funds**

Commissioner Gatto moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion amending interlocal services agreements with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority (ACIA) to administer leftover Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and to extend the terms of various contracts until August 31, 2024 at no additional cost.

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. 120**  
**Amending Resolution No. 692**  
**(12-21-21), a professional services**  
**agreement to approve payment**  
**for extra sessions that were**  
**scheduled by the Central**  
**Municipal Court in December**  
**2022**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 692 adopted on December 21, 2021, a professional services agreement to approve payment for services rendered by the Central Municipal Court Public Defender, Conflict Public Defender and Conflict Prosecutor for extra sessions that were scheduled by the Central Municipal Court in December 2022 for an amount not to exceed \$2,107.39.

Marcus King, President of Teamsters, asked if the court staff will be paid for the extra court days. County Administrator DelRosso responded.

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. 121**  
**Amending Resolution No. 729**  
**(12-20-22), an alternate method**  
**contract to allow payments for**  
**extra sessions scheduled by the**  
**court and extraordinary trial**  
**preparation in the Central**  
**Municipal Court of Atlantic**  
**County**

Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Kern seconded a motion amending Resolution No. 729 adopted on December 20, 2022, an alternate method contract to allow payments for extra sessions scheduled by the court and extraordinary trial preparation pertaining to the municipal prosecutors and municipal public defenders serving in the Central Municipal Court of Atlantic County for an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 for the term commencing January 1, 2023 through and including December 31, 2023.

Marcus King, President of Teamsters, questioned if money has been built into the shared service agreements for the extra court dates. County Administrator DelRosso responded.

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. 122**  
**Appointment to the Atlantic**  
**County Workforce Development**  
**Board**

Commissioner Kern moved and Commissioner Dase seconded a motion to appoint Michael Chait to the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board for a term to expire on June 30, 2026.

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. 123**  
**Roadway solicitation event in**  
**Galloway Township**

Commissioner Dase moved and Commissioner Balles seconded a motion authorizing consent for a roadway solicitation event by Police Unity Tour, Inc. at the intersection of Pitney Road (CR 634) and Jimmie Leeds Road (CR 633) in Galloway Township on Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 8 am to 4 pm.

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**

Commissioner Kern reported that the Mental Health Advisory Board shared concerns regarding staffing shortages in the mental health field.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**  
**AND PETITIONS**

Written communications and petitions were received by this office from February 22, 2023 to March 7, 2023.

Chairman Risley received a resolution from the Atlantic County Mayor's Association regarding the ACUA. He suggested the Solid Waste Oversight Committee review the resolution.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Risley opened the meeting to the public at 4:48 p.m.

Autumn Vasquez, employee of the Superintendent of Elections Office, requested an increase in wages. She also shared concerns of two more coworkers.

Marcus King, President of Teamsters Local 331, reported there is a large amount of County employees that have left and there is a need to fix salaries and renegotiate contracts.

Ann Stringer, employee of the Clerk's Office, requested steps be implemented into contracts.

Ricky Sessoms, employee of Public Works, believes the County is understaffed because employees are underpaid.

Jane Davis, employee of the Transportation Department, stated employees are leaving to higher paying counties.

Emily Fuhrmann, employee of the Superintendents of Elections Office, has been facing financial hardships by working for the County.

John DiMatties, employee of Public Works, believes all the employee salaries should be streamlined.

Patricia Moore, employee of Human Services, could use an increase in salary to make ends meet.

Rachael Kelly, employee of Public Works, reported the team is on call 24 hours a day in hazardous conditions and something needs to change with the low salaries.

Todd Schenck, employee of Public Works, expressed the employees are all hurting financially and can use help.

Sean Errig, employee of Public Works, explained bridge employees are getting paid minimum wage for a laborer's union work.

Ronald Branch, employee of Facilities Department, expressed a two percent raise needs to be higher to make it fair for all employees.

Laurie Doughty, employee of Public Safety, complained that the County is trying to recruit employees for \$14.44/hour, which has resulted in short staffing.

Robert Sutton, employee of Fleet Management, stated salaries have not reflected the cost-of-living inflation.

Dan Polak, whose mother is a resident of Meadowview, said the County's Medicaid office is difficult to work with.

Adore Lecruise, employee of Public Works, has been a dedicated employee for many years and is embarrassed to say how much she makes.

Sophia Kent-Howerton, employee of Human Services, requested steps be added into contracts to move employees up.

Dirk Williamson, employee of Public Works, reported Atlantic County is the lowest paid County in the State of New Jersey.

Kore Christensen, employee of Public Works, is a longtime employee that has been through furloughs, cost of living and insurance increases. Employees are leaving for better paying jobs.

Jesus Pinero, supervisor in Facilities, says the County needs to take care of its good employees and residents.

Edward Chatten, employee of Hamilton Township, says he is alarmed about what the County is paying its employees.

Donald Higbee, employee of Public Works, explained traffic safety is dangerous but extremely important. Employees are struggling with salaries.

Nancy Leonowski, employee of Public Works, explained these employees are the foundation of the County and they need significant help in pay.

Ann Stringer, employee of the Clerk's Office, would like the County to look at the tiers in benefits costs. She thanked the Commissioners for their responses on the street lighting in Atlantic County.

There being no further comments, Chairman Risley closed the public portion at 5:49 p.m.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chairman Risley appreciated everyone for coming and values the County employees and their work.

Commissioner Coursey thanked everyone for coming and understands them from personal experience. He explained that negotiations will be a give and take.

Commissioner Balles responded that hearing from the employees is heartbreaking. The County needs to take care of its employees, even if the County tax rate needs to go up.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick is embarrassed that full time employees make \$14 an hour, some with college degrees. The County lowered the tax rate this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Risley entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Balles moved and Commissioner Gatto seconded a motion to adjourn the Commissioners meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tara Silipena  
Clerk of the Board

DRAFT