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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018
COMMENCING AT 4:35 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

- THOMAS J. SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN
- GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, VICE CHAIRWOMAN
- MARY J. AMOROSO, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE
- DAVID L. GANZ
- TRACY SILNA ZUR
- STEVEN A. TANELLI
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

NONE

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
P.O. BOX 213
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
201-336-6200

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ALSO PRESENT:

LARA RODRIGUEZ
CLERK TO THE BOARD

LAURIE BIANCHI
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQ.
ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

JARED LUTZ
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

MICHAEL SHEINFELD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
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I N D E X

PAGE NO.

4:37 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

6

Chuck Powers

8

Paul Nickels

10

4:44 PM REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

13

4:45 PM CLOSED SESSION

15

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The meeting is
2 called to order at 4:35 p.m.

3 Before we begin our meeting, I ask that
4 everyone please take a minute to silence their
5 cellphones.

6 Thank you.

7 Will the Clerk please read the
8 Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act.

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: In accordance with
10 Section 5 of the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings
11 Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been
12 provided in the Annual Notice Schedule, which
13 contained the time, date, and location of this
14 meeting, copies of which Notices were forwarded to
15 the official County newspapers, to wit: The Herald
16 News; The Record; and the Star Ledger; and a copy of
17 which was posted on the bulletin board in the Bergen
18 County Justice Center and Administration Building,
19 One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, New Jersey, and
20 filed with the Office of the Bergen County Clerk.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
22 please call the roll.

23 (At this point in the proceeding roll
24 call is taken with Freeholders Amoroso, Ganz,
25 Tanelli, Voss, Silna Zur, Vice-Chairwoman Ortiz, and

1 Chairman Sullivan present.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Evidence of a
3 quorum is present.

4 Will you please rise for the Pledge of
5 Allegiance.

6 (At this point in the proceeding all
7 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.)

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Can you please
9 remain standing for a Moment of Silence.

10 We would like to observe a Moment of
11 Silence for the passing of former Gov. Brendan Byrne
12 on January 4, 2018, at the ripe young age of 93.

13 Gov. Byrne served from 1974 to 1982,
14 and is notably remembered for preserving the
15 New Jersey pine barrens and for legalizing casinos in
16 Atlantic City.

17 He is survived by his wife, Ruthi;
18 sons, Brendan Jr., Timothy, and William; and
19 daughters, Nancy, Mary Anne, and Barbara.

20 Can we please have a Moment of Silence.

21 (At this point in the proceeding, a
22 Moment of Silence is observed.)

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

24 Will the Clerk please read the minutes
25 to be accepted.

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: December 13, 2017 -
2 Work Session; all present.

3 December 20, 2017 - Work Session; all
4 present.

5 December 20, 2017 - Public Session; all
6 present.

7 December 27, 2017 - Sine Die Meeting;
8 Freeholder Zur, absent.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
10 to accept the minutes?

11 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

12 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

14 (All present Freeholders respond in the
15 affirmative.)

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion carries.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
21 to open the meeting to the public?

22 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

23 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

25 (All present Freeholders respond in the

1 affirmative.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Unanimously

5 approved.

6 We will now have a hearing of the
7 general public, with a three-minute time limit in
8 effect, in accordance with Bergen County Freeholder
9 Bylaws [Section 1, page 6, item 2:1-8, adopted
10 January 6, 2016].

11 The Board Attorney will keep the time.
12 When the time of the speaker expires, the Board
13 Attorney will announce the time has expired.

14 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Point of order, is
15 that 2016 or 2017?

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: It says 2016.

17 MR. FLORIO: '16.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: That's when it was
19 last updated.

20 MR. FLORIO: It was updated at the
21 Reorg.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay.

23 FREEHOLDER GANZ: It should be 2017.

24 MR. FLORIO: It would be '18 now.

25 FREEHOLDER GANZ: '18.

1 MR. FLORIO: They were updated at the
2 Reorganization Meeting.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: So it should say
4 "2018."

5 MR. FLORIO: Yes, and the record will
6 so reflect.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: And the record will
8 reflect it should be 2018.

9 Thank you, David.

10 Anyone from the public wish to speak?

11 Mr. Powers.

12 MR. POWERS: I apologize for having
13 missed the last part of your meeting the other day.
14 I had some business to attend to in Teaneck at a
15 couple of meetings. But congratulations, Tom. Thank
16 you to Tracy, and congratulations also to the other
17 two new officers.

18 I'm almost certainly the oldest person
19 here, and I am certainly probably the one who's been
20 watching public policy for the longest. I have some
21 competitors, but I don't think they're all that
22 close.

23 As an observer of public policy changes
24 and the way in which different levels of government
25 interact with each other, I've never been more

1 impressed with the likelihood of the need for
2 different levels of government to take on different
3 responsibilities as different pieces of this
4 four-layered process of municipalities, county,
5 state, and federal government go to work. You're
6 going to see some very strange changes coming out of
7 the federal government. We may get DACA, but who
8 knows what else we're going to get for our kids in
9 terms of medical care, etc.

10 And some good news coming out of
11 Trenton about how things are working out down there,
12 I think that's a good sign that the state may be able
13 to pickup some things, suddenly flush municipalities
14 with more surplus than they've ever seen before, and
15 then what the heck to do with it and how to hold it
16 for the next dozen years, all requiring a level of
17 expertise and understanding of financial matters and
18 financial flows that I don't think actually exists in
19 many of the levels of government.

20 I must say, I've watched this county
21 function more effectively, in thinking about those
22 questions, than I have the folks above you and the
23 folks below.

24 I think you're going to have a really
25 hard time. Trying to put together the budget this

1 year is going to be very complicated, because you're
2 going to have to sort of anticipate how that's going
3 to play, not just for one year but for a couple. I'm
4 not doing that as a member of Bergen Grassroots or
5 anything else, we are very concerned with what the
6 impacts are going to be on the people who are most
7 vulnerable, the homeless, the a whole range of other
8 folks who are going to be looking at some pretty
9 tough situations in places that we don't expect them
10 and how you cover for that effectively. You had a
11 very convivial reorganization the other day. You've
12 got some really tough work to do.

13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
15 Mr. Powers.

16 Is there anyone else who wishes to be
17 heard?

18 Paul.

19 MR. NICKELS: Good evening.

20 Happy New Year. Congratulations,
21 officially.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

23 MR. NICKELS: I'm very grateful that we
24 did Code Blue. It's worked out very well so far.
25 Thank you.

1 Now, one of the things, we had a
2 homeless death, his name was Steve. What we need to
3 do, we need to advocate for our people who are
4 developmentally disabled through the state. I am
5 very, very optimistic. I'm so excited about our new
6 state government that's coming up this year. But we
7 need to advocate for our people and clean some house
8 over there.

9 I'm very angry at the state DDD and
10 also the Division of Mental Health. What is wrong
11 with these people?

12 You have people with, I mean, here's
13 the vicious cycle, you got someone with mental health
14 issues. I spoke to Julia about that. I wasn't even
15 mad at her, how could I be, it wasn't her fault, we
16 all tried to get this guy into the proper facilities,
17 and this is one of many. You know, you get a person
18 with a mental health issue, they go into the shelter,
19 they have a mental health episode, they have to leave
20 or be put somewhere, whether the hospital sends them
21 out, and then they get ping-ponged like a piece of
22 garbage, that's how they feel. And then when we do
23 the survey once a year, which is coming up, you know,
24 "We don't want to be a part of it. What am I going
25 to get out of it?" or "I don't want to go to the

1 shelter" for Code Blue or anything for that matter
2 because they feel like they've been let down, you
3 know. And I have no answers for this, but, you know,
4 we need to work with the state a lot closer now, and
5 I think we can with that kind of thing, but now I'm
6 hearing about all these cases that they're just
7 dropping. I don't know how someone can have a mental
8 health issue or a developmental disability and then
9 all of a sudden be cured. You know, you've heard me
10 talk about the hospitals before, the psych hospitals
11 letting out people, going from 1,000 beds to 500.
12 You can't tell me that all of the 500 are cured. You
13 ain't going to say that.

14 You know, I don't know, we all worked
15 hard with him.

16 But I am very glad that this is a new
17 year, and we're going to do some good things. And
18 don't forget, you know, the Project Homeless Connect
19 coming up.

20 So I just want to thank you.

21 All right. That's it. Thanks.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, sir.

23 Is there anyone else from the public
24 that wishes to be heard?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Seeing none, can I
2 have a motion to close the meeting to the public?

3 FREEHOLDER ZUR: So moved.

4 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

5 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

7 (All present Freeholders respond in the
8 affirmative.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The meeting is now
12 closed to the public.

13 REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Could we have a
15 review of Resolutions.

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: We have resolutions
17 #14-18 through #20-18, and this is contained on two
18 pages.

19 Page 1.

20 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Chairman?

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Yes.

22 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: If I may, can I
23 sponsor #17-18 and #18-18, please?

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: #17-18 and #18-18?

25 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Yes.

1 FREEHOLDER ZUR: I'll co-sponsor that.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay.

3 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Can I suggest also
4 that we do #15-18 as a Body of the Whole.

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Any objection?

6 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: No.

7 FREEHOLDER VOSS: No.

8 FREEHOLDER GANZ: No.

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you,
10 Freeholder.

11 Page 2.

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Page 2 would be our
13 additions list. A copy of the resolution is attached
14 for your review.

15 FREEHOLDER VOSS: That should be by the
16 Body of the Whole.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Is there any
18 objection to doing that as a Body of the Whole?

19 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: No, sir.

20 FREEHOLDER ZUR: No.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Can I have a
22 motion to accept the Resolutions on the Consent
23 Agenda as read by the Clerk?

24 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

25 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Second.

1 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Roll call.

3 (At this point in the proceeding roll
4 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous
5 Consent are passed by a unanimous vote.)

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes, the
7 Consent Agenda has passed.

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Are there any
9 Resolutions of Nonconsent, pulled, postponed or
10 tabled?

11 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

12 CLOSED SESSION

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. We will now
14 go into Closed Session for approximately 20 minutes,
15 and we will return to the Public Session.

16 Will the attorney briefly state the
17 matter for which we will be discussing in Closed
18 Session.

19 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairman.

20 We are going to have an update on
21 ongoing and pending litigation.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: And with any
23 strategy ever being revealed?

24 MR. FLORIO: Let me ask my co-counsel,
25 Freeholder Ganz.

1 (Laughter.)

2 MR. FLORIO: Will the strategy ever be
3 revealed?

4 FREEHOLDER GANZ: No.

5 MR. FLORIO: Never.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

7 May I have a motion to go into Closed
8 Session?

9 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

10 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

12 (All present Freeholders respond in the
13 affirmative.)

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now go into
15 Closed Session at 4:45.

16 (Whereupon, Closed Session commences at
17 4:45 p.m.)

18 (Open Session resumes at 5:03 p.m.)

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. We're back
20 in open at 5:03 p.m.

21 There being nothing further to come
22 before this meeting, may I have a motion to adjourn?

23 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

24 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: So moved.

25 FREEHOLDER ZUR: Second.

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CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

(All present Freeholders respond in the affirmative.)

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The motion carried, the meeting is adjourned at 5:03.

(Whereupon, the Work Session is adjourned at 5:03 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, KIM O. FURBACHER, License No. XIO1042, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Court Reporter, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim record of the testimony provided under oath before any court, referee, board, commission or other body created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

I am not related to the parties involved in this action; I have no financial interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of this action.

This transcript complies with Regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RMR
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:
7/11/19