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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018
COMMENCING AT 4:33 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:

JAMES J. TEDESCO III
BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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 LAUTZ
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.

4:35 PM PUBLIC COMMENT 5
(No one wishing to comment.)

4:36 PM REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS 7
Robert G. Esposito, Director
Division of Community Development

4:43 PM CLOSED SESSION 13

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The meeting is
2 called to order at 4:33 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 County Executive, you want to lead us,
7 please.

8 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you.
9 Ladies and gentlemen, please honor
10 America.

11 (At this point in the proceeding all
12 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,
13 led by County Executive Tedesco.)

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Kindly remain
15 standing.

16 I would ask for a Moment of Silence for
17 the students and staff of Marshall County High
18 School, as well as the entire community of Benton,
19 Kentucky. Our thoughts and prayers are with all
20 those who are affected by this tragedy.

21 (Whereupon a Moment of Silence is
22 observed.)

23 4:35 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
25 to open the meeting to the public?

1 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

2 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

3 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

5 (All present Freeholders respond in the
6 affirmative.)

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now have a
10 Hearing of the General Public, with a three minute
11 time limit in effect.

12 The Board Attorney, Mr. Florio, will
13 keep the time. When the time of the speaker expires,
14 the Board Attorney will announce that the time has
15 expired.

16 Anyone here want to speak tonight?

17 (No response.)

18 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Motion to close.

19 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

21 (All present Freeholders respond in the
22 affirmative.)

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: The meeting is now

1 closed to the public.

2 4:36 PM REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now review
4 the resolutions to be voted on.

5 Clerk.

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions #55-18
7 through #68-18.

8 Page 1.

9 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Yes.

11 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Most of the
12 resolutions we are voting on tonight are to authorize
13 grant agreements with various projects through
14 Community Development. I was wondering whether we
15 could sponsor them as a Body of the Whole?

16 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: I have no
17 objection.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I have no
19 objection.

20 That would be up to #66-18, correct?

21 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. So, for
23 #55-18 through #65-18, we'll do as a Body of the
24 Whole.

25 Is there any objection?

1 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: No objection.

2 I do have one question.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Sure.

4 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: This is kind of
5 a crystal ball question, Mr. Esposito.

6 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Which resolution is
7 it regarding to?

8 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: It's regarding
9 to all Community Development Block Grants.

10 MR. ESPOSITO: Happy new year, Board
11 members.

12 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Rob, I have one
13 question for you.

14 MR. ESPOSITO: Sure.

15 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: As we are
16 authorizing these grants, the \$24,00 question, or,
17 actually higher than that came to mind is, what is
18 our anticipation as far as this Community Development
19 Block Grant program moving forward?

20 MR. ESPOSITO: I think we are in the
21 same position we were last year at this time.

22 We know that we were very fortunate in
23 the context of a compromise that was reached between
24 the House and the Senate in May last year, where, at
25 the end of the day, the Republicans got some things

1 they wanted, the Democrats got some things they
2 wanted. Included in that compromise was to hold HUD
3 funding stable, so we escaped a bullet, where, in the
4 context of all the dialog leading up to that
5 Congressional compromise in May of 2017, on the table
6 was 50 percent cuts in terms of many of the grants
7 that we receive, as well as discussion of elimination
8 of CDBG in 2018.

9 At least in terms of the intelligence
10 we have as it relates to the administration in this
11 year, nothing has changed, and I think we're going to
12 see the same range of activity.

13 I have been meeting with Freeholder
14 Amoroso since she became Chair of the Community
15 Development Committee last year, and I thank her
16 again for the excellent service that she provides, as
17 did Freeholder Ganz prior to her, and I have been
18 keeping Freeholder Amoroso aware of these activities,
19 and I think the Freeholder does have some thoughts
20 about how we can advocate, at least as a county, as a
21 HUD jurisdiction, to try to hold the line, but I
22 think we are under the same kind of threat we were
23 last year, and your guess is as good as mine.

24 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: And this funding
25 goes from when, what was the period of the last

1 funding that we received?

2 MR. ESPOSITO: We operate, in terms of
3 HUD funding, on a midyear fiscal year, so we're
4 talking about July 1st of 2018 through June 30th of
5 2019 being the next fiscal year cycle.

6 With respect to the funding we receive
7 for the new fiscal year, i.e., fiscal year '18
8 through '19, typically it arrives at the end of
9 February, beginning of March, at least as Deputy
10 Director Drakes has tutored me, and we can thank her
11 for her 20 years of experience with all matters
12 relative to HUD and CDBG, that is the typical
13 notification period when we're told your funding is
14 stable, you're going down a little bit, you're going
15 up a little bit.

16 Last year, we did not get notification
17 of those numbers until the third week of June. And
18 given the way the CDBG process works, we all know
19 that in terms of the three-year cooperative agreement
20 that the county signs with each of the 70 towns,
21 which was renewed last year, that these funding
22 recommendations that come to the board are made by
23 six contiguous regions within Bergen County and a
24 countywide committee, all consisting of municipal
25 representatives selected by the mayors and governing

1 bodies of the seven towns. And usually that process,
2 in terms of review of the applications, listening to
3 the non-profit representatives make presentations in
4 terms of their request, that usually occurs over a 2
5 to 3-month period.

6 Last year, other than organizing the
7 committees, we had to get all of that work done in
8 essentially 3 to 4 weeks. Deputy Director Drakes and
9 her staff had to get the action plan that basically
10 summarizes all of those recommendations done by
11 August 15th. There was no extension of those
12 deadlines. And, of course, it has our entire work
13 plan, our entire work schedule, significantly
14 complicated. We're behind four months from where we
15 usually are, and this includes, frankly, the spending
16 down of the money by the sub grantees that are all
17 given grants.

18 So, Freeholder Zur, at the end of the
19 day, excuse me for using that expression again, I
20 think we're exactly where we were in terms of the
21 square at this point in time last year as to what may
22 happen.

23 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Thank you.

24 MR. ESPOSITO: Thank you, all.

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Is there anybody

1 else?

2 Just for the record, on #66-18, I had
3 discussions with the County Executive, if these funds
4 will be prevailing rate. There's no need to holdup
5 the vote to approve it, but I will be in coordination
6 with the County Executive's Office and the housing to
7 see if these are indeed prevailing rates.

8 Okay. Is there anything else on the
9 agenda?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
12 to accept --

13 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the Consent
14 Agenda.

15 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
17 to accept the Resolutions?

18 Offered by Freeholder Ganz, second by
19 Freeholder Voss.

20 All in favor?

21 (All present Freeholders respond in the
22 affirmative.)

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Roll call.

24 (At this point in the proceeding roll
25 call is taken and the Resolutions of Unanimous

1 Consent are passed by a unanimous vote.)

2 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions #55-18
3 through #68-18 have passed unanimously.

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Are there any
5 Resolutions on Nonconsent, tabled or pulled?

6 MS. RODRIGUEZ: There are none.

7 4:43 PM CLOSED SESSION

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We will now go into
9 Closed Session for approximately 20 minutes. We will
10 then return to the Public Session.

11 Will the attorney briefly state the
12 matter for which we will be discussing in Closed
13 Session and the strategy.

14 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairman.

15 The Board will receive a presentation
16 on the matter of contracts related to Public Safety
17 issues and an update on pending litigation, which, if
18 there is any discussion as to strategy, shall never
19 be revealed.

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
21 to go into Closed?

22 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

23 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

25 (All present Freeholders respond in the

1 affirmative.)

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. We're in
3 Closed at 4:43.

4 (Whereupon Closed Session is held.)

5 (Open sessions resumes at 6:02 p.m.)

6 MR. FLORIO: We're on the record,
7 Chairman.

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: There being nothing
9 further to come before this Board, may I have a
10 motion to adjourn?

11 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

12 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: 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 We are adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

20 (Whereupon the Work Session is
21 adjourned at 6:03 p.m.)

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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