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BERGEN COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018
COMMENCING AT 7:35 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
- DR. JOAN M. VOSS
- STEVEN A. TANELLI

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:

LAURIE BIANCHI
DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD

JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQ.
COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

JARED LAUTZ
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

MICHAEL SHEINFELD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLICY & RESEARCH

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.
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ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213
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HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Our meeting is
2 called to order at 7:35 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 compliance with the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public
9 Meetings Act.

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

22 ROLL CALL

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
24 please call the roll.

25 (At this point in the proceeding roll

1 call is taken with Freeholders Amoroso, Ganz,
2 Tanelli, Voss, Silna Zur, Vice-Chairwoman Ortiz, and
3 Chairman Sullivan present.)

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Evidence of a
5 quorum is present.

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will everyone
8 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

11 MINUTES

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
13 please read the minutes to be accepted.

14 MS. BIANCHI: Minutes to be accepted:

15 January 3rd - Reorganization Work
16 Session; all present.

17 January 3rd - Reorganization Public
18 Session; all present.

19 January 10th - Work Session; all
20 present.

21 January 17th - Work Session; Freeholder
22 Zur absent.

23 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the minutes.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We're not done yet,
25 Dave.

1 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'll call for it
3 then.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BIANCHI: January 17th - Public
6 Session; Freeholder Zur absent.

7 January 24th - Work Session; all
8 present.

9 January 31st - Work Session; all
10 present.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: May I have a motion
12 to accept the minutes?

13 FREEHOLDER GANZ: Move the minutes.

14 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

16 (All present Freeholders respond in the
17 affirmative.)

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Unanimously
21 approved.

22 HEARING OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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

25 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: So moved.

1 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion by
3 Freeholder Tanelli, seconded by Zur.

4 All in favor?

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

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Unanimously
10 approved.

11 We will now have a Hearing of the
12 General Public, with a three-minute time limit in
13 effect, in accordance with the Bergen County
14 Freeholder bylaws.

15 The Board Attorney will keep the time.
16 When the time of the speaker expires, the Board
17 Attorney will announce that the time has expired.

18 Please fill out the slip of paper with
19 your name, address, and general topic you wish to
20 speak about.

21 Okay. We have a few speakers tonight.

22 Lillian Lewis.

23 MS. LEWIS: Good evening.

24 Lillian Lewis, Teaneck.

25 I'm the Co-Chair of the Teaneck Road

1 Business Community Alliance.

2 I was here before you on December 6,
3 2017, regarding Teaneck Road and Tryon Avenue,
4 requesting the all-way stop. That's right on the
5 corner where we have the Bryant Elementary School,
6 where the preschoolers are, and the kindergarten
7 classes and first grade classes attend.

8 The reason for the four-way stop or the
9 all-way stop is so that we have a safe pedestrian
10 crossing. This would eliminate fatalities, if
11 there's an all-way stop.

12 I went before the Teaneck Council
13 twice. The town engineer, Farah Gilani, I believe
14 her name is, she told me that she sent a letter to
15 you. The town manager, Manager William Broughton, he
16 also told me he sent a letter to you. Both of them
17 received no response from you regarding the all-way
18 stop.

19 You know, right now you have signage
20 there from 7:30 to 4:00 p.m. "No right turn" when
21 you're going east and west, and you do have the
22 turning signal. So once the north/south red light
23 signal comes on, automatically that turning signal
24 comes on.

25 I'm requesting a delay on the turning

1 signal. If you give us a 17 second delay on that
2 turning signal, so you have an all-way stop, that
3 would be safe crossing for the pedestrians.

4 Now, I know you'd have to recalibrate
5 the timing. I think there would be a minimum charge
6 for that. It's not a very extensive amount of money
7 used to do this, and we are talking about lives of,
8 especially, young children and the elderly. Many of
9 the grandparents are taking the kids to school and
10 picking them up, and these are two populations that
11 are mostly neglected, the children under five and the
12 senior citizen, 75 plus.

13 By having an all-way stop, that's the
14 way you eliminate fatalities completely; there will
15 be no movement of traffic.

16 And my question to you is: Where are
17 we now?

18 I went to council. They sent you
19 letters. You didn't respond.

20 So where are you? What's the status of
21 this? What are you going to do?

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: I'm going to defer
23 to our Administrator, and he'll explain the process
24 and how it works.

25 MS. LEWIS: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Because I wasn't
2 aware of this.

3 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: Ms.
4 Lewis, did you see the letters that went from Teaneck
5 to the county?

6 MS. LEWIS: I didn't see the letters,
7 but I spoke with the town engineer, and she told me
8 that she sent a letter. I spoke with the town
9 manager, he also told me he sent a letter. Both told
10 me they didn't get a response from you.

11 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: Did
12 they tell you who they contacted?

13 The process works that it's the local
14 municipality that basically plans the work, and they
15 just get sign-off from our county, if it involves a
16 county road. It's basically a process that's driven
17 by the municipality.

18 I'm following up now with our engineer,
19 and our Planning and Engineering Department to find
20 out the contents of the letter as well as what the
21 status is.

22 MS. LEWIS: All right.

23 Also, I sent an email to the two deputy
24 mayors, Deputy Mayor Elie Katz and Deputy Mayor
25 Pruitt.

1 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Ms. Lewis.

2 MS. LEWIS: Okay.

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: We'll look into it.

4 Like the Administrator said, there's a process.

5 Teaneck has to do their process, and we'll follow-up

6 on our end.

7 MS. LEWIS: Okay. Thank you.

8 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: Ms.

9 Lewis, all the email addresses are first initial,

10 last name, so you can follow-up with an email to me

11 and I can let you know the status at the Planning

12 Department.

13 MS. LEWIS: Okay. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

15 Jared, would you write down Julien's

16 email for her.

17 MR. LAUTZ: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: John Fesen.

19 MR. FESEN: Good evening.

20 My name is John Fesen, and my address

21 is 20 Falcon Court in Mahwah.

22 I would like to talk to you tonight

23 about the gun range and the water well at the Police

24 and Fire Academy in Mahwah, which are subjects that

25 you probably already know a lot about.

1 I live very close to the Academy. I've
2 done so for the last 37 years.

3 Let's talk about the gun range first.

4 I know that activity at the gun range
5 has been suspended until the whole situation over
6 there has been resolved, the dirt piles, the
7 contaminated soil, the testing.

8 I believe that the gun range will be
9 renovated in the near future. Once the range has
10 been renovated and is back to being fully
11 operational, my question is: What will the noise
12 level be coming from that range?

13 Will the noise level be higher, lower,
14 or at the same decibel level as it was before the
15 current suspension was put in place?

16 Very importantly: Did either the
17 county or the town take any decibel level
18 measurements of the noise level in the past? Do we
19 have any benchmark data that we can use to compare
20 the before and after, so we can judge if the noise
21 level has been increased or it has been decreased?

22 If we have no noise level, does that
23 mean we have to live with whatever happens?

24 I consider this a very real and major
25 problem.

1 Will the residents who live within a
2 three-mile radius of the gun range be alerted to this
3 potential problem?

4 By the way, the sounds emitting from
5 the range travel over the golf course, and, very
6 often, the fairways to many homes in Ramsey. Should
7 those residents also be alerted to this potential
8 problem?

9 I would prefer that a target be set
10 that the new range produce 50 percent lower decibels
11 than what was recorded in the past.

12 At a very recent Mahwah Council
13 meeting, it was discussed that other opportunities
14 regarding the issue of the gun range should be
15 explored. For example, can the range be moved to
16 another location, away from a very developed
17 residential area? Can it be moved to a location near
18 the Meadowlands or a similar place?

19 What about an enclosed gun range as
20 compared to an open air gun range?

21 Secondly, the water well.

22 At a Mahwah Council meeting, it was
23 mentioned that there is a well either on the property
24 of the Academy or very close to the property. I
25 believe it was said that this well is used to provide

1 water for two places, to water the grass on the
2 county golf course and to provide water for the
3 snow-making machines at the county ski area.

4 My question is: If the water that is
5 coming from a well has been contaminated by the dirt
6 from the gun range, is contaminated water being
7 sprayed on the grass and on the snow slopes? Has
8 anyone done any soil testing on the golf course or on
9 the ski slopes? If so, can that information be made
10 available to the public?

11 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you.

13 I will tell you that we had a
14 presentation about the gun range, and there will be
15 no increase in noise from when it's reopened. And I
16 believe the decibels, if I'm not mistaken, are .2, so
17 they're not going to increase. There will definitely
18 not be any increased noise level coming from the
19 range.

20 MR. FESEN: Do you have data on what
21 the gun range noise was in the past?

22 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Yes, same as it is
23 now. We were given a presentation on what it was and
24 what it is going to be, and it has not changed.

25 As far as the water goes and the

1 contamination, I have to refer to counsel to that for
2 legal purposes.

3 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
4 There was actually a test that was done on the well
5 water there at the time that did not test positive
6 for contaminated lead or any elevated lead levels
7 that were registered.

8 MR. FESEN: And this is the well that's
9 used to water?

10 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
11 Right.

12 MR. FESEN: And the slopes?

13 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS:
14 That's correct. And that water is not used for any
15 drinking purposes, it doesn't serve any of the
16 residents' drinking water.

17 MR. FESEN: So I can sleep very
18 assuredly?

19 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR NEALS: Yes,
20 you can.

21 MR. FESEN: I've been up all night.
22 Thank you for your time and
23 consideration.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, sir.
25 Have a good evening.

1 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Mr. Joseph Dunsay.

3 MR. DUNSAY: Good evening.

4 Today I'd like to talk about the Bergen
5 County Wellness Center, and because of the
6 three-minute time limit, it's actually going to take
7 a few meetings to tell you about the entire
8 situation, so I'll briefly introduce the problem.

9 When Judy got moved from the regional
10 office in Clifton to the program in Jersey City, she
11 was no longer looking over the programs in Bergen
12 County. There were a lot of hateful things that she
13 put a stop to, when she was in charge, that now as
14 Prestige Management doesn't really tackle the
15 problem.

16 There was an employee named Paula who
17 was from the center in Englewood, and when they
18 merged, she worked at the wellness center in
19 Hackensack, and she took a firm stance against the
20 hate. But the company that runs the wellness center
21 decided to fire her. So I protested the firing. And
22 I'll start by playing a clip, so that it was some
23 friendly advice another member gave me, and I think
24 you should hear it so you understand that even
25 complaining about the wellness center is kind of

1 risky.

2 (Whereupon, Mr. Dunsay plays an audio
3 recording.)

4 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Mr. Dunsay, it's
5 very inaudible. We can't hear.

6 Can I ask you what this recording is?

7 MR. DUNSAY: So basically while I was
8 standing outside the center with a sign that said the
9 company made a mistake, they should fire Christi
10 (phonetic) and rehire Paula, other members approached
11 me and gave their opinion. And that was a member
12 who, you know, normally he and I get along, and if
13 there was time I would, you know, play many more
14 minutes to show that most of the conversation was
15 friendly, but he gave that friendly advice telling
16 me, you know, I get harassed and beat up on because
17 I'm open. And, you know, he told me that if I go
18 after the center, people will go after me, and I
19 don't have many friends as it is. So that's what he
20 said, it will get even worse.

21 MR. FLORIO: Three minutes, Mr. Dunsay.

22 MR. DUNSAY: So I'll have to tell you
23 more at another meeting.

24 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you, Mr.
25 Dunsay.

1 MR. DUNSAY: Thanks.

2 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Anyone else wishing
3 to speak?

4 May I have a motion to close the
5 meeting to the public?

6 FREEHOLDER VOSS: So moved.

7 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

9 (All present Freeholders respond in the
10 affirmative.)

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion carried.

14 RESOLUTIONS OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Will the Clerk
16 please read the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

17 MS. BIANCHI: Resolutions of Consent:
18 #70-18 through #119-18.

19 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Can I have a motion
20 to accept the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda as
21 read by the Clerk?

22 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

23 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: So moved.

24 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

1 (All present Freeholders respond in the
2 affirmative.)

3 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Roll call.

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

9 MS. BIANCHI: Seven ayes, all
10 Resolutions have passed.

11 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. Are there
12 any Resolutions of Nonconsent, pulled, postponed or
13 tabled? If so, will the Clerk please read them.

14 MS. BIANCHI: There are none.

15 COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM FREEHOLDERS

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Okay. We'll now
17 have Freeholder Committee Reports.

18 I ask that you not take too, too long.
19 Freeholder Ganz.

20 FREEHOLDER GANZ: I'll pass for
21 tonight.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Freeholder Tanelli.

24 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you,
25 Chairman.

1 I just want to point everyone's
2 attention to one of the Resolutions that we passed
3 tonight, Resolution #90-18. It's the Open Space Tax
4 we're setting again this year at a full penny. It's
5 a commitment that every member on this Board has made
6 over the past was to honor the wishes of the Bergen
7 County residents that unanimously or almost
8 unanimously passed the referendum to increase the
9 open space.

10 We all made commitments through the
11 political process that we're supporting, and we
12 finally raised it last year, and I'm very happy that
13 we unanimously voted to again establish that same
14 rate this year.

15 We're very passionate about our open
16 space, maintaining open space, upgrading areas that
17 need to be updated, and this is all part of the plan
18 to enhance the lives of every Bergen County resident.

19 That will complete my report tonight.

20 Thank you, Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,

22 Freeholder.

23 Freeholder Zur.

24 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Thank you,

25 Chairman.

1 As you heard from the minutes that were
2 read, I was not here at last week's meeting because I
3 was at the National Association of Counties'
4 conference on the intersection of health and criminal
5 justice. This was an opportunity for people
6 throughout the country to come together and talk
7 about the policies that they're doing in their county
8 to combat everything from the heroin addiction to
9 mental health issues to issues regarding
10 incarceration and the impacts on the community. It
11 was an amazing opportunity to really learn from each
12 other so that we don't have to recreate the wheel,
13 but it was also really empowering to see that we are
14 very ahead of the curve here in Bergen County, and we
15 are continuing to innovate on all of these issues for
16 the better wellness and the better administration of
17 criminal justice and law and public safety here in
18 Bergen County.

19 This past week we had the Project
20 Homeless Connect, which is one of the things I know
21 all of us on this Board are so proud of, not only to
22 end veterans homelessness but to end chronic
23 homelessness. And this year we once again had a
24 Project Homeless Connect, which is a point-in-time
25 survey counting those who are homeless in our

1 community. We had 181 individuals who received meals
2 and information for referral services; 167 guests who
3 received gift bags; over hundreds of donors; and 150
4 volunteers; and identified 19 unsheltered individuals
5 who we are now going to provide services for and find
6 housing for.

7 This was an amazing day, where we had
8 such an outpouring of support from our community.

9 This week, we also had an amazing
10 announcement regarding the New Bridge Medical Center,
11 where we're now going to be able to provide services
12 to our veterans and provide them the health care so
13 they don't have to go all the way down to Lyons to
14 get the services that they need. We have veterans
15 who are desperately in need of greater care, and to
16 be able to provide those services here in Bergen
17 County is exactly what we hoped for in the near
18 future for New Bridge Medical Center.

19 As you can see, a lot of us are wearing
20 red on this Board. Part of this is because we were
21 this morning at the Bleshman jump-a-thon. This is
22 where our students at Bleshman are involved in
23 raising money for heart health.

24 Heart disease is the biggest killer of
25 women. One woman, every 80 seconds, dies from heart

1 conditions. It kills more women than all cancers.
2 And so this is our way of saying, you know, we
3 support and encourage all women to take care of their
4 wellness checks and make sure that they get the
5 health care that they need.

6 That is my report.

7 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you.

8 Dr. Voss.

9 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Thank you, Chairman.

10 The jump-a-thon is a wonderful thing.
11 I've been there every single year, but,
12 unfortunately, this morning I couldn't make it, but
13 the kids at Bleshman, even with their handicaps, are
14 just wonderful, wonderful human beings.

15 One of the things that I'm very proud
16 of is our Bergen Community College. Every year, they
17 have "Give Kids a Smile." All of the people who were
18 dental technicians and many dentists volunteer for
19 this program so that children who can't afford
20 regular dental checkups can get checkups free of
21 charge. It's just a wonderful program, and I'm very,
22 very proud of Bergen Community, because one of the
23 things we need to do is to have courses so that the
24 young people can be prepared for professions once
25 they graduate.

1 I have to echo what Freeholder Zur said
2 about New Bridge. The Veterans Home is directly
3 across the street from the New Bridge Medical Center,
4 and this is going to be such a wonderful thing for
5 families that have members who have difficulty
6 traveling or who are in the Veterans Home.

7 And, of course, tomorrow at 5:30, we
8 will be observing Black History Month here. We
9 should have a wonderful program, so I hope many
10 people will attend.

11 Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
13 Freeholder.

14 Freeholder Ortiz.

15 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

16 I just wanted to discuss Resolution
17 #77-18. It's authorizing the reappointment of Joseph
18 Femia for a five-year term.

19 Mr. Femia has done an excellent job
20 managing all aspects of the County Engineering
21 Division for the past 10 years, and we look forward
22 to working with him in the future.

23 I also attended the Human Services
24 Advisory Council meeting. They brought in OEM to
25 discuss Code Blue, which is basically when all law

1 enforcement goes out and makes sure, when it's 32
2 degrees or less, which usually starts in December,
3 they bring the homeless to the shelter in Hackensack.

4 They went into all details. And Julia
5 Orlando attended, who's the director of the homeless
6 shelter. She discussed how they were pretty full.
7 They did a good job on handling all the homeless at
8 the time, and she also discussed that we need to have
9 some sort of outreach more for homeless youth, which
10 is what she's really working on currently right now.

11 At the Advisory Committee, we were
12 happy to announce that there are now 67 towns that
13 are Stigma-Free in Bergen County, so that was very
14 exciting.

15 Also that the children's health
16 insurance program, known as CHIP, was approved for
17 another six years.

18 I also wanted to announce Autism Day at
19 the zoo is on April 29th.

20 And, also, Bergen Community College is
21 having their 50th anniversary gala, which will take
22 place on April 19th, so if anybody needs tickets.

23 And a little quick shout out to a
24 gentleman that Freeholder Amoroso and I were able to
25 give a commendation to last week. He turned 95. He

1 just retired in River Edge from being a crossing
2 guard for the past 20 years. God bless his soul! He
3 was so cute! Besides being a crossing guard for
4 20 years, and everybody loves him dearly in River
5 Edge, he was born in Italy, moved to the U.S. as a
6 youngster, he then entered into the Army, where he
7 served from 1941 to 1945, and achieved the rank of
8 corporal. He was present at the Battle of Normandy
9 and the Battle of The Bulge.

10 His older brother, also a vet, died in
11 World War II.

12 Joe is a lifelong member of the VFW,
13 and has served as commander of the VFW Post 876 for
14 the past 40 years.

15 He is truly an American hero.

16 So that concludes my report.

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,
18 Freeholder.

19 Freeholder Amoroso.

20 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Near the end of
21 January, the county funded work on the Rt. 202 road,
22 bridge, culvert near Ramapo College in Mahwah was
23 finally completed. Thank God!

24 The County Executive, Mahwah's Mayor
25 and Council, and I -- it was a mess for so long,

1 months and months, and we got it done finally -- we
2 were there to celebrate the reopening of the road
3 that had caused such long detours in Mahwah.
4 Everybody was excited. Everybody was talking about
5 it. When I got my hair done, there were people
6 talking on opposite ends of room about how wonderful
7 it was. It reminded me about government's basic
8 responsibility, to keep our roads safe and
9 functional.

10 On January 25th, we celebrated the work
11 anniversaries of about 150 hard working Bergen County
12 employees.

13 On the 26th, we attended the winter
14 gala of our Bergen County union members, Local 755,
15 which honored Sen. Loretta Weinberg that night.

16 On January 28th, a number of us worked
17 the phones for the Jewish Federation of Northern New
18 Jersey to raise funds for many of their
19 philanthropies.

20 I can report that Freeholder Steve
21 Tanelli has an uncanny ability for telemarketing.
22 It's true.

23 On January 30th, we attended the ribbon
24 cutting ceremony for Valley Hospital's new Health and
25 Wellness Center in Mahwah, which combines gym, pools,

1 urgent care, with medical monitoring by Valley.

2 On February 2nd, we attended the
3 opening of the reentry program in Hackensack.

4 Reentry, led by former Gov. Jim
5 McGreevey, helps former inmates connect with
6 employment and services. It greatly reduces
7 recidivism rates.

8 On Saturday, February 3rd, I attended
9 the Lunar New Year celebration of the Huaxia Chinese
10 Language School. I think I almost got the phrasing
11 right. (Whereupon, Freeholder Amoroso speaks in
12 Chinese.)

13 Supposedly that means Happy New Year.
14 They did clap, so they must have got most of the gist
15 of it.

16 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: There's really no
17 one here to correct you.

18 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: There we go!

19 And along with Freeholder Zur and
20 Freeholder Ortiz, I attended the jump-a-thon at the
21 Norman Bleshman School in Paramus for the American
22 Heart Association. I must say, Freeholder Tracy Zur
23 displayed an uncanny aptitude for the jump rope.

24 That's it.

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Thank you,

1 Freeholder.

2 Just some things of note.

3 It is Black History Month. We all
4 attended the Lizette Parker ceremony at The Fiesta in
5 honor of Black History Month.

6 Bergen County will have its Black
7 History Month event this Thursday at 5:30 here in the
8 Freeholder Meeting Room.

9 The National Council for Home Safety &
10 Security recently released their 2018 list for the
11 safest communities in the U.S., and Bergen County had
12 four towns ranked in the top 10: River Vale, No. 2;
13 New Milford, No. 4; Hillsdale, No. 7; and my old
14 stomping ground of Bergenfield, No. 9.

15 Earlier in the week, I attended the
16 opening of the New Jersey Reentry Corporation, that
17 Freeholder Amoroso was talking about, their
18 Hackensack office. Their program assists those
19 released from jail become functioning members of
20 society. And it's proven very effective, with a
21 62 percent employment rate and a 19 percent
22 recidivism rate.

23 Congratulations to former Jim McGreevey
24 for all his hard work as the head of the program.

25 I am also happy, like some of my

1 colleagues, who have attended multiple ribbon cutting
2 ceremonies for both small and large businesses. I
3 believe this is a sign of an improved economy here in
4 Bergen County and it's stability for local
5 businesses.

6 Freeholder Tanelli mentioned the open
7 space. It's something we all are in favor of and we
8 all applaud. In Bergen County, it's hard to find
9 open space. We're doing everything we can.

10 On our agenda tonight, there were seven
11 resolutions of grant awards to the County of Bergen.

12 We continue to find ways to save the
13 taxpayers money, whether it's through shared services
14 or grants, and we're going to continue to do that in
15 the future.

16 As was mentioned here before, Bergen
17 Regional Medical Center has expanded programs for
18 veterans. We've all talked about it. Like I said at
19 the press conference, we can say whatever we want, we
20 can do whatever we want, it's the right thing to do
21 and it's something that we as a board and everyone up
22 here actually said when they ran for office, we're
23 going to keep Bergen Regional Medical Center because
24 it's the right thing to do. And we did it. Promises
25 were made and promises were kept. County Executive

1 Jim Tedesco was the one out in front, and we've all
2 agreed and we've all campaigned on it, while other
3 people haven't. These are things that need to be
4 done for our veterans, these are things that need to
5 be done for our community in Bergen County, and we
6 continue to do them. We promised it, and we will do
7 it.

8 On a note to swing into that, my uncle
9 recently passed away, 94-years-old, a veteran of
10 World War II. He was at Iwo Jima. It was a shame to
11 lose him, but at 94, I think I'll sign that contract
12 tomorrow. But what a wonderful gentleman, a very
13 humble man. Jim Mulligan, I want to say thank you
14 for your service.

15 I want to congratulate Joe Femia, as
16 was mentioned before.

17 The last thing I will say, and if I
18 don't say this I can't go home tonight, it is my
19 wife's birthday this evening. She allowed me to come
20 to the meeting and celebrate with all of you for her
21 birthday. So if she's watching, Happy Birthday,
22 Jody!

23 FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Happy Birthday,
24 Jody!

25 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: And that concludes

1 all the committee reports.

2 Before we close, I want to thank our
3 camera operators, Marietta Crudello and Carolina
4 Gonzalez, juniors at Bergen County Technical High
5 School. Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

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

10 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

11 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: All in favor?

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

15 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN: Motion carried. We
18 are adjourned at 8:04.

19 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting is
20 adjourned at 8:04 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