

**MINUTES OF A CAUCUS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 4 MOORE ROAD, CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, NEW JERSEY ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.**

Deputy Clerk Doyle called the meeting to order. The following members answered roll call:

Commissioners Desiderio, Hayes and Thornton -Present (3)  
Commissioners Pierson and Morey - Virtual access (2)

Statement of the Director:

“This is a notice read pursuant to the requirements of the “Open Public Meetings Act.” At least 48 hours advance notice of this meeting has been provided by posting of the same in writing on the bulletin boards in the County Administration Building, and the County Clerk’s Office and mailing a copy of the notice to the Cape May County Herald and the Atlantic City Press and filing the same with the County Clerk, all being done on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.”

Moment of Silence

Flag Salute- Led by Commissioner Pierson.

Agenda Items

Discussion:

**1. Allison Hansen-Purchasing Report**

Ms. Hansen detailed awards, extensions, or changes to contracts, and competitive contracting of the following resolutions: Res. Nos. 162-21, 169-21 and 181-21.

Res. 162-21 awarding Contract No. C1-42 to DKC Contractors, LLC and Contract No. C1-45 to Coastal Landscaping to provide Property Maintenance for County Commons.

Res. 169-21 authorizing an emergency contract with Praxis HCS, Inc. for COVID-19 PRC testing at Crest Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in the amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Res. 181-21 authorizing various emergency contracts for sinkhole repair, embankment stabilization, Construction Engineering Services, and Design Engineering Services for Ocean Drive (CR621) Bridge over Middle Thorofare Rehabilitation in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.00.

**2. Robert Church-Engineer’s Update**

Mr. Church was not present. He was called out to attend to a road emergency.

**3. Kevin Lare-Administrator Update**

The Administrator updated regarding future capital costs for additional voting machines to accommodate early voting, per a bill currently before the Legislature. Other considerations mentioned were additional staff, upgraded software and ability to print provisional ballots on-site. Drop boxes which required daily tending would add to staffing costs. He estimated the total expense amounting to \$2 million dollars.

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Director Thornton advised the Board they should demand the State pay for the extra machines. The State should also do what was necessary to guard the security and integrity of all future elections, he added.

Commissioner Pierson recommended a resolution from the Board be sent to the State requesting they finance the upgrades to equipment required for future elections.

#### **4. Commissioner Discussions**

**Commissioner Morey**-No discussion.

**Commissioner Pierson**- No discussion.

**Commissioner Hayes**- Commissioner Hayes requested that specific groups of women be honored each year in March.

In honor of International Women's Day and March designated as Women's History Month, the Commissioner recognized the following women that she knew from her law enforcement career:

- a. Lillian Harrison, Wildwood
- b. Vicki Skill, North Wildwood
- c. Diane Sorentino, Cape May
- d. Rose Milano, Sea Isle City
- e. Michelle DeWeese, 1st woman prosecutor

Commissioner Hayes identified and briefly spoke about the careers of the following women from the City of Ocean City:

- f. Jamie Ginn
- g. Marla Adams
- h. Sister Rosemarie E. Jeffries, R.S.M., PhD.
- i. Stephanie Vanderslice Gaitley

Women's Commission member present on tonight's call acknowledged by Ms. Hayes:

- j. Jackie Simonsen

She also recognized Judy Davies from Stone Harbor as being the 1<sup>st</sup> female officer hired for the Stone Harbor Police Department.

All female department heads for the County of Cape May were acknowledged. Nancy Mauro was recognized and congratulated on her retirement from the County.

**Commissioner Desiderio**- No discussion, however Vice-Director Desiderio agreed with Commissioner Hayes' proposal to honor specific groups of women each year in March.

**Commissioner Thornton**- No discussion.

Moved by Mr. Desiderio seconded by Ms. Hayes to adjourn the caucus. Roll call: Commissioner Desiderio, Hayes, Morey, Pierson and Thornton (AYE-5) (NAYE-None) (ABSTAIN-None) (ABSENT-None). Carried.

March 9, 2021, (Continued)

Caucus adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

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Clerk of the Board