

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS
SPECIAL FREEHOLDER MEETING
April 30, 2020**

**520 Market Street
16th Floor Conference Room
Camden, New Jersey**

The meeting was called to order by Director Cappelli at 12:00 noon

The Clerk called the roll and the following Freeholders answered:

PRESENT: BARBARA HOLCOMB, MELINDA KANE, JEFFREY NASH,
CARMEN RODRIGUEZ, JONATHAN YOUNG, SR., EDWARD
McDONNELL, LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR.

It is noted for the record that due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the following Freeholders participated via conference call: Holcomb, Kane, Nash, Rodriguez, Young and McDonnell

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, while the meeting remained open to the public, no members of the public attended. The public was availed the opportunity to participate via live streaming and to send in questions during and after the meeting.

NOTE: At 12:04, the meeting was placed on hold while technical issues with the live stream were addressed. Following an approximate 6:00 minute delay, the meeting was restarted at 12:10.

The Director stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Director said good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, welcome to a special meeting of the Camden County Board of Freeholders. This afternoon we will be acting on matters related to the Camden County Budget.

The Director said we will begin our meeting with a Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2020 CAMDEN COUNTY BUDGET, AS
INTRODUCED AND APPROVED**

Chief Financial Officer, David McPeak explained the amendment is adding \$3,000,000 to the Office of Emergency Management for COVID-19 related expenses. The funding comes from County surplus so the tax levy will remain the same.

Director Cappelli opened the public hearing to anyone who would like to comment on the amended 2020 Camden County Budget. The following questions were submitted through the on-line chat:

Peter Heimbaugh of 2 Morningstar Court in Sicklerville had the following questions:

1. *For Camden County towns that extend the property tax grace period to June 1 be allowed to delay their corresponding tax payments to the County and to the school district?* County Administrator, Ross Angilella stated that the question indicates a misunderstanding of the law and asked CFO, David McPeak to explain. Mr. McPeak explained that the Executive Order by the Governor related to the due date to the municipalities, which is normally May 1st, can be extended to June 1st, if a municipality desires to extend it. The County and school taxes are still due May 15th from Camden County municipalities. Mr. Angilella commented that the Governor's Executive Order specifically notes that tax payments to school districts and to the County may not be delayed. If they are delayed, we must charge the statutory 6% interest.

2. *Is Camden County incurring any extraordinary expenses related to this COVID crisis? Is Camden County realizing any spending savings related to this COVID crises?* Mr. McPeak said there are no spending savings. We are incurring additional costs which is the purpose of the amendment for \$3,000,000. We are not necessarily going to spend all of that and hopefully most, if not all, of that will be reimbursed from FEMA at some point, but not likely until next year. The amendment for \$3,000,000 does not impact the tax levy. We have reserves to cover that.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to comment, the Director asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion with a second by Freeholder Nash and all Freeholders present voted aye.

The Director read the following resolution related to the 2020 Camden County Budget:

RESOLUTION f.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE 2020 CAMDEN COUNTY BUDGET, AS AMENDED

Director Cappelli asked for a motion to adopt. Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion with a second by Freeholder Holcomb and all Freeholders present voted aye.

The Director then called upon each Freeholder individually to present his or her Resolutions.

Resolutions proposed by or on behalf of Freeholder Holcomb

Freeholder Holcomb presented the following Resolutions:

1. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget from the Township of Cherry Hill for reimbursement of Kresson Road Shared Services Improvements, in the amount of \$178,940.51.

2. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, for the FY 2020 Local Freight Impact Fund Program for the Camden City Port Access Truck Route, in the amount of \$4,000,000.00.
3. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for the FY 2020 County Aid (ATP) Grant, in the amount of \$9,276,394.00.

Resolution proposed by or on behalf of Freeholder Kane

Freeholder Kane experienced technical difficulties. Director Cappelli introduced the following Resolution on her behalf:

4. Resolution establishing the 2020 Tax Assessment for the Camden County Library Commission.

Resolution proposed by or on behalf of Freeholder Nash

Freeholder Nash presented the following Resolution:

5. Resolution authorizing the Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Tax for 2020.

Freeholder Nash commented he had one (1) additional Resolution for consideration as follows:

Resolution authorizing the reopening of all Camden County parks.

Resolution proposed by or on behalf of Deputy Director McDonnell

The Deputy Director experienced technical difficulties. Director Cappelli introduced the following Resolution on his behalf:

6. Resolution ratifying emergency purchases and authorizing payments in accordance with applicable New Jersey law, by the County of Camden to various vendors for goods and services required in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Resolution proposed by or on behalf of Director Cappelli

Director Cappelli presented the following Resolutions:

7. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget for the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Insurance Fraud Reimbursement Program, in the amount of \$250,000.00.
8. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget for the 2020 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Grant, in the amount of \$745,240.00.

9. Resolution authorizing execution of Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964".
10. Resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden and the Camden County Improvement Authority, in connection with the issuance by the Authority of its Bonds or Notes for the 2020 Capital Budget

The Director commented that he had one (1) additional Resolution for consideration, as follows:

Resolution authorizing the County of Camden (Office of the Sheriff) to participate in the Federal 1033 Program, to acquire needed federal surplus.

The Director said the next portion of the meeting is open to the public for discussion of resolutions to be acted upon. There will be another public hearing later in the meeting at which members of the public can ask any questions they want regarding the business of the County of Camden. This portion is limited to the discussion of those resolutions to be acted upon.

The Director opened the public hearing.

The Director said hearing no members of the public wishing to comment, he asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Freeholder Young made the motion with a second by Deputy Director McDonnell and all Freeholders present voted aye.

The Director closed the public hearing.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS 1 THROUGH 10 AND THE TWO WALK-ONS

Director Cappelli asked for a Motion to adopt Resolutions 1 through 10 plus the two (2) walk-on Resolutions. Freeholder Holcomb made a motion to adopt with a second by Freeholder Nash and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

Director Cappelli opened the meeting to any member of the public who wished to address the Board of Freeholders.

Kate Delany of Collingswood, had the following questions:

1. *On page 31 of the adopted budget, it states that the County is being paid \$561,503 by Gloucester County to house youth in detention. It doesn't look like there was any Camden County revenue for this in 2019 so is this new, that Camden County is being paid to do this? How many youth? For how long? In which facility?* CFO, David McPeak said it is not a new revenue. Previously, in years past, it was classified as miscellaneous revenue not anticipated. This is the first year that we are anticipating this because it is a reoccurring revenue based on an agreement with Gloucester County where we house their juveniles. Holly Cass added that she can provide the number of individuals at a later time if Ms. Delaney would like to send her an e-mail.

2. *When is the next public meeting of the Homeless Trust Fund Advisory Board? Where is that information published?* Ms. Cass responded that the meetings are quarterly. We do not have the next date yet because it will probably be held via Zoom. Ms. Cass said Ms. Delaney can make that request to her via e-mail @ holly.cass@camdencounty.com.

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to comment, Director Cappelli asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion with a second by Freeholder Young and all Freeholders voted aye.

The Director opened the floor to the members of the Board of Freeholders for their comments.

Freeholder Young said I would like to thank our employees for doing such an outstanding job – the Office of Emergency Management, Communications, the Health Department, the Highway Department and all of our departments.

Freeholder Holcomb said I would like to thank, David McPeak. I know Deputy Director McDonnell already thanked him, but I just wanted to reiterate his comments. Under normal circumstances, the best circumstances, budgets are very difficult so under these abnormal circumstances, David you have done an outstanding job in keeping us up to speed on everything we needed to have at our disposal to be able to vote today.

There being no further business, the Director asked for a motion to adjourn. Freeholder Young made a motion with a second by Freeholder Holcomb and all Freeholders voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore
Clerk of the Board