

CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 14, 2023

520 Market Street

6th Floor Conference Room

Camden, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Director Cappelli at 12:00 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners answered:

PRESENT: AL DYER, JEFFREY NASH, MELINDA KANE, VIRGINIA BETTERIDGE, LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR.

EXCUSED: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR., EDWARD MCDONNELL

The Director stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

The Director asked everyone to rise for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Director said good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

PROCLAMATION

The Proclamation presentation was postponed.

MINUTES

The Director asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous Commissioners Meeting as presented. Commissioner Nash made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer and all roll call:

AYE: ALL PRESENT

ABSTAIN: VIRGINIA BETTERIDGE

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Director asked for a motion to adopt the Comptroller's Report. Commissioner Nash made a motion with a second by Commissioner Kane and on roll call all Commissioners present voted aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Director asked the Clerk if there was any correspondence. The Clerk responded yes, Director, we have correspondence from Mr. Joseph Valente.

Dear Commissioner Kane. I am reaching out to you in order to shine a light of praise on one of Camden County's Veteran Servicing Officers, Maggie Warnick. I could and probably should have sent this email months ago. For more than a year Maggie has been helping me with my father's claims. He is suffering from dementia, and I had to move him from Georgia to New Jersey. The process of getting stuff done for him has often been difficult and frustrating. But whenever I needed to reach out to Maggie she: (1) was quick to respond; (2) always had a great attitude and personality; (3) always sent me the information I needed to get the next step done. When I needed to file a form, she always filed that form within minutes of receiving my request. As a retired/disabled Veteran myself I can tell you that not all VSO's are useful. Maggie, however, should be considered a template of excellence within the organization. I don't know what kind of recognition you can present to her but, I can assure you it won't be enough. It's not often I find someone who takes as much care and pride and personal responsibility at their job. Maggie exemplifies everything I need in this professional position. I only wish there were more like her. I look forward to working with Maggie in the future in regards to my father's claims/file.

The Director said the next portion of the meeting is open to the public for discussion of resolutions to be acted upon this afternoon. 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. The Director opened the public hearing.

Hearing no members of the public wishing to comment, the Director asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Dyer made the motion with a second by Commissioner Kane and all Commissioners present voted aye.

The Director closed the public hearing.

Director Cappelli said at Caucus on Tuesday afternoon, the Board of Commissioners reviewed and discussed all resolutions to be acted upon today. We will now be voting on the Resolutions in blocks based on the unanimous consent of the Commissioners.

RESOLUTIONS 1 THROUGH 103

The Director asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 1 through 103. Commissioner Betteridge made a motion with a second by Commissioner Nash and on roll call:

AYE: ALL PRESENT

ABSTENTIONS: MELINDA KANE – Resolutions 22 and 34
JEFFREY NASH – Resolutions 31 and 51
LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR. – Resolutions 9 and 34

1. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the FY 2023 Local Bridges Future Needs Program for improvements to the Collings Avenue Bridge, in the City of Camden, in the amount of \$1,409,557.00.

2. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget from the Township of Cherry Hill for roadway improvements to Kresson Road (CR 671) between Brace Road (NJSH 41) and South Lantern Lane, in the amount of \$421,259.45.

3. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid B-16/2021 - 3rd Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc., for the provision of on-call emergency services and repairs for Camden County and the City of Camden, under the Camden County Cooperative Pricing System, ID #57-CCCPS, on an "as-needed" basis.

4. Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 1 and Final (Bid B-16/2022), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and South State, Inc., for Burnt Mill Road (CR 670) Improvements from White Horse Pike (CR 673) to Somerdale Road (CR 678), MP 0.32 to MP 1.23, in the Township of Voorhees, for a decrease in the amount of \$365,299.91.

5. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and the Township of Winslow, for installation and maintenance of a solar powered flashing pedestrian cross walk sign along Chews Landing Road in the Township of Winslow.

6. Resolution authorizing the execution of a Settlement Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, for civil administrative penalties, in the amount of \$13,750.00 - CAF#9900239199.

7. Resolution ratifying the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) to the Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey Department of Transportation, for the 2024 Local Bridge Future Needs Program, in the amount of \$1,412,118.00.

8. Resolution ratifying the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2024 Local Freight Impact Fund Grant, in the amount of \$2,000,000.00.

9. Resolution consenting to submission by the Boroughs of Barrington and Haddon Heights of a New Jersey Department of Transportation Federal Aid Safe Routes to School (S.R.T.S.) Program Application for pedestrian safety improvements.

ABSTAIN: LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR. (Barrington)

10. Resolution authorizing the Ceremonial Renaming of CR 561 within the limits of Evesham Road to Walt Whitman Boulevard along Haddonfield-Berlin Road, in the Township of Cherry Hill to "Mayor Bernie Platt Boulevard".

11. Resolution authorizing a Deed of Right of Way and/or a Deed of Permanent Easement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and various property owners related to the improvement of Berlin Cross-Keys Road, in the Township of Winslow and Borough of Pine Hill.

12. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Dyer.

13. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-57/2023), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Buildings and Operations) and 3Phase Excel Elevator, LLC, for a Maintenance and Repair Service Contract for Elevators, Escalators and Dumbwaiters for Camden County and various outside agencies, under the Camden County Cooperative Pricing System, ID#57-CCCPS, in the amount of \$256,330.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

14. Resolution ratifying a Right of Entry Agreement and authorizing a Lease Agreement, by and among the Camden City Board of Education, the Center For Family Services, and the County of Camden, for the use of space at the U.S. Wiggins School by the Camden County Department of Health and Human Services and the Youth Services Commission.

15. Resolution authorizing the reappointment of a member to the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

16. Resolution ratifying the reappointment of members to the Camden County Construction Board of Appeals.

17. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Kane.

18. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget from the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority for the Camden County Household Hazardous Waste Program 2023, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

19. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-58/2023), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and South State, Inc., for Wiggins Park Marina – Phase I Improvements, in the amount of \$5,218,240.00 - CAF#9900239232.

20. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-3/2023 -1st One Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks, Division of Environmental Affairs) and MXI Environmental Services, LLC, for Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Removal Services, at the unit prices listed in the bid. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

21. Resolution authorizing an amended Green Acres Project Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, for improvements to Cooper River Park.

22. Resolution authorizing an Agreement (1st One-Year Option), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-5(1)(a)(ii), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and The Home Port Alliance, Inc., for management of Wiggins Marina, in the City of Camden, in the amount of \$128,000.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

ABSTAIN: MELINDA KANE

23. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Open Space and Farmland Preservation) and the State of New Jersey, State Agricultural Development Committee, for the County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan Grant, in the amount of \$13,750.00.

24. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, for the Lake Maintenance Dredging 2024 Grant, in the amount of \$4,800,000.00.

25. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Nash.

26. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget for the 2024 Area Plan Grant, in the amount of \$4,227,007.00.

27. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget for the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Disaster Response Crisis Counseling County Grant Program, in the amount of \$30,000.00.

28. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget for the National Opioid Abatement Trust II Grant, in the amount of \$170,452.23.

29. Resolution authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the Camden County (Department of Health and Human Services) and various Local Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LACADA) recommended agencies, for the provision of Professional Substance Use Disorder Services, in the amount of \$1,316,111.00 - Various CAF#s.

30. Resolution authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and various vendors, for the provision of Substance Use Disorder Services - Operation SAL, in the amount of \$469,630.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

31. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services)

and Oaks Integrated Care, Inc., for the provision of Mental Health Services, in the amount of \$370,223.43. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

ABSTAIN: JEFFREY NASH (Oaks Integrated)

32. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and New Hope Integrated Behavioral Healthcare, for the provision of 48-Hour Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) Education, Screening and Monitoring Services.

33. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and Genesis Counseling Centers, for the provision of Project SAVE Substance Abuse Services, in the amount of \$350,000.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

34. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and various agencies, for the provision of Professional Medical Health Services, in the total amount of \$133,350.00. Funding contingent upon the passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

**ABSTAIN: MELINDA KANE (Cooper Health)
VIRGINIA BETTERIDGE (Cooper Health)
LOUIS CAPPELI, JR. (Cooper Health)**

35. Resolution rejecting Bid A-56/2023 for COVID vaccines for the Camden County Department of Health and Human Services as the one bid received was noncompliant with the bid specifications.

36. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-32/2022, 2nd Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and Northeast Mechanical Services, Inc., for replacement of 57 heat pumps at the Michael J. DiPiero Building, in the amount of \$700,000.00 - CAF#9900239227.

37. Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior and Disabled Services) and various entities, to provide Congregate Nutrition Sites for Camden County residents, at no cost to the County.

38. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, School of Nursing, to provide training to students in the clinical nursing program, at no cost to the County.

39. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and Community Planning and Advocacy Council (CPAC), for the provision of Management Services for various Human Services Programs, in the

amount of \$140,000.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

40. Resolution ratifying the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior and Disabled Services) to the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, for the 2024 Area Plan Grant, in the amount of \$4,227,007.00.

41. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Community Health Services) to the State of New Jersey Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, for the provision of the Municipal Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Program Grant, in the amount of \$267,064.00.

42. Resolution authorizing a Standardized Board Resolution in connection with the 2024 Area Plan Grant, to be filed by the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Senior and Disabled Services) with the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services.

43. Resolution amending Resolution No. 45, adopted May 18, 2023, authorizing Letter of Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (GCADA), relative to the Municipal Alliance Grant Program and authorizing Shared Services Agreements with various municipalities for the provision of same, in the amount of \$72,971.00, to reallocate funding.

44. Resolution authorizing the appointment of a member to the Camden County Mental Health Board.

45. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Betteridge.

46. Resolution authorizing a Bond Substitution in the amount of \$9,000.00 to provide funding for Camden County Department of Public Safety - City Hall Metal Detectors.

47. Resolution authorizing a Bond Substitution in the amount of \$42,000.00 to provide funding for Camden County Department of Public Safety - Campus Security Radio Upgrades.

48. Resolution authorizing a Bond Substitution in the amount of \$26,000.00 to provide funding for Camden County Department of Public Safety - Light Tower Generators.

49. Resolution amending Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Justice) and various vendors, for the provision of Positive Youth Development Services and Detention Alternative Innovation Services, in the amount of \$934,717.00, to extend term to March 31, 2024.

50. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #20-01 (4th One-Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and Aramark Correctional Services, LLC, for Food Services for the Camden County Juvenile Detention Facility, in the amount of \$6.104 per meal. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

51. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to Competitive Contracting Request For Proposals #22-46 (1st One Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Justice) and CFG Health Systems, LLC, for the provision of Comprehensive Medical, Mental Health, Substance Use and Dental Healthcare Services for inmates of the Camden County Correctional Facility and Juvenile Detention Facility, in the amount of \$14,404,633.46. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

ABSTAIN: JEFFREY NASH (Center for Family Guidance)

52. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #22-32 (1st One Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and Keefe Commissary Network, LLC, for inmate commissary services for the Camden County Correctional Facility and Juvenile Detention Facility

53. Resolution ratifying an award of Contract (Bid #22-24), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and SHI International Corp., for CCTV equipment for the Camden County Restorative and Transformation Justice Hub Space, under the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance System ID #CK04, in the amount of \$74,643.44 - CAF#9900238893.

54. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract #A-84242), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and BI Corporation, for inmate electronic monitoring services at the Correctional Facility and the Juvenile Detention Center, in the amount of \$146,095.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

55. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid 22-24), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and SHI International Corp., for a Civic Ready Mass Notification System, under the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance System ID #CK04, in the amount of \$71,931.67 - CAF#9900238916.

56. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract 17-FLEET-00776), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and All Traffic Solutions, Inc., for purchase of four (4) trailers with message boards, in the amount of \$65,359.60 - CAF#9900239144.

57. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract #A-83916/T-0109), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and Intrado Life & Safety Solutions, for a maintenance contract for the Viper 911 telephone system, in the amount of \$150,963.52 - CAF#9900238917.

58. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5.1(dd), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and Securus Technologies, Inc., for maintenance and support services for the CAD systems and servers, in the amount of \$142,077.00 - CAF#9900238918.

59. Resolution authorizing the appointment of the Camden County Emergency Medical Services Coordinator.

60. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (One Stop) and the National Center for Advocacy and Recovery for Behavioral Health, to provide reimbursement to the County for the cost of police services, in the amount of \$5,026.35.

61. Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (One Stop) and The New Jersey Department of Education, for administration of Adult Education Tests.

62. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract and Lease, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #21-03 (3rd One-Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Office of Sustainability and Shared Services) and Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center, Inc., for the operation and maintenance of the Camden County Animal Shelter, in the amount of \$401,587.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

63. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-52/2023), by and between the County of Camden (Office of Sustainability and Shared Services) and Decker's Hardscaping & Landscaping, Inc., for a new greenhouse hoop structure, in the amount of \$75,000.00 - CAF#9900239233.

64. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-53/2023), by and between the County of Camden (Office of Sustainability and Shared Services) and Decker's Hardscaping & Landscaping, Inc., for panel replacement at the greenhouses, in the amount of \$33,500.00 - CAF#9900239230.

65. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Young.

66. Resolution authorizing budgetary transfers in the 2023 current fund budget.

67. Resolution authorizing cancellation of checks in various Camden County checking accounts.

68. Resolution authorizing the cancellation of certain reserve and receivable balances for grant accounts.

69. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Insurance) and Payflex Systems

USA, Inc., for COBRA notifications and insurance billing services for Camden County retirees. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024, 2025 and 2026 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

70. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Insurance) and the Standard Insurance Company, for the provision of Voluntary Benefits Plan administration.

71. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Finance) and Bowman & Company, LLC, for Annual Financial and Compliance Audits for the County of Camden and County Agencies and Authorities, in the amount of \$372,000.00 - CAF#9900239245.

72. Resolution ratifying an award of Contract (Bid A-36/2022 - 1st One Year Option) by and between the County of Camden (Division of Insurance) and Praline Collision, Inc., for Automobile Body Repair Services for various Camden County Departments, on an "as-needed" basis.

73. Resolution reappointing Commissioner to the New Jersey Counties Excess Joint Insurance Fund.

74. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Events and Community Outreach) and Camden County College, for Program Services for seniors and special needs residents, in the amount of \$75,000.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

75. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell.

76. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget for the 2023 HOME Program, in the amount of \$50,890.00.

77. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the Budget for the 2022 HOME Program, in the amount of \$199,405.63.

78. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract 20-TELE-01512), by and between the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) and Insight Public Sector, Inc., for Infoshare software, in the amount of \$140,000.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

79. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract #A-82584), by and between the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) and AT&T Mobility II, LLC, for wireless cell phone service, in the amount of \$160,000.00. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

80. Resolution amending Camden County Policy and Procedure #404 COVID-19 Protocols.

81. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a donation by the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) from Cooper University Health Care, of forty-five (45) turkeys.

82. Resolution authorizing the transfer of one (1) vehicle no longer needed by the Camden County Prosecutor's Office to the Camden County Department of Buildings and Operations.

83. Resolution authorizing the appointment of a Member to the Camden County Homelessness Trust Fund Advisory Board.

84. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #23-40, by and between the County of Camden (Office of the Sheriff) and Superior Alternatives, LLC, for Service of Process services at the rates listed in the proposal. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024, 2025 and 2026 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

85. Resolution rejecting Bid A-55/2023, Extradition Services for the Camden County Office of the Sheriff, as no bids were received.

86. Resolution ratifying an Agreement, by and between the Policemen's Benevolent Association, Local 277, Superior Officers and the Camden County Sheriff.

87. Resolution authorizing payment in equity to ColorSource, Inc., for ballot printing and other related services for the 2023 General Election for the County Clerk's Office, in the amount of \$586,146.33. Funding available in the amount of \$498,365.87 - CAF#9900239229. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of transfer Resolution.

88. Resolution amending Resolution #45 adopted on November 18, 2010, to increase the County Clerk's Recording fee surcharge from \$3 to \$5, pursuant to N.J.S. 22A:4-17, for the Camden County Homelessness Trust Fund.

89. Resolution amending Resolution No. 78, adopted July 20, 2023, authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Office of County Counsel) and various law firms for the provision of Special, Conflicts and Labor Counsel services for the County, and County Agencies and Authorities, to revise pool.

90. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Office of County Counsel) and Madden & Madden, P.A., for the provision of Affirmative Action Officer/Equal Employment Officer (AAO/EEO) Services for the County of Camden, various Camden County Agencies and Authorities and the City of Camden, on an "as-needed" basis.

91. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden and USA Architects, Planners and Interior

Designers, P.A., for Architectural and Engineering Design Services, for the Supportive Housing Project, in the amount of \$886,005.00 - CAF#9900239246.

92. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden and Pennoni Associates, Inc., for the provision of Design Engineering Services for a security screen/barrier/louwer at the Camden Hall of Justice parking lot, in the amount of \$84,650.00 - CAF#9900239247.

93. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Office of Administration) to the New Jersey Division of Community Affairs, for the Admiral Wilson Boulevard Beautification Improvements 2024 Grant, in the amount of \$8,000,000.

94. Resolution ratifying and authorizing a Shared Services Agreement (2nd and 3rd Year Options) by and between the County of Camden and the City of Camden, for the provision of coordinating Camden County Capital Infrastructure Projects in the City of Camden.

95. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Office of Administration) to the New Jersey Division of Community Affairs, for the Walter Rand Transportation Center 2024 Grant, in the amount of \$1,000,000.

96. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Office of Administration) to the New Jersey Division of Community Affairs, for the Property Acquisition 2024 Grant, in the amount of \$5,000,000.

97. Resolution authorizing payment by the County of Camden (Department of Administration) to Camden County College, for start-up equipment for the cafe in the Hall of Justice, in the amount of \$20,579.00 - CAF#9900238369.

98. Resolution amending Resolution No. 65, adopted October 19, 2023, authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #23-35, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Police Services) and Extra Duty Solutions, for Secondary Employment Management Information System Services, to correct the legal name of the company.

99. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid ESCNJ 20/21-43), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Police Services) and Mobilelease Modular Space, Inc., for delivery and installation of a modular office at Camden County Police Department Substation located at 10th and Linden Streets, in the City of Camden, under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System ID#65-MCESCCPS, in the amount of \$972,220.00 - CAF#9900239066.

100. Resolution authorizing a Police Services Contract, by and between the County of Camden and the City of Camden.

101. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and among the County of Camden, the City of Camden and the State of New Jersey (Division of Local Government Services) for the Camden County Department of Police Services, Metro Division.

102. Resolution amending Resolution No. 118, adopted October 20, 2022, ratifying the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Police Services) to the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General for the General Gunshot Detection Technology Initiative Grant, in the amount of \$385,000.00, to include the subaward number and other required elements.

103. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Commissioner Director Cappelli.

RESOLUTION 104

The Director called for a motion on Resolution No.104 acknowledging personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Constitutional or Statutory Row Offices.

NO MOTION MADE – FAILED

Director Cappelli opened the meeting to any member of the public who wished to address the Board of Commissioners and asked that those wishing to speak limit their comments to three minutes to allow as many people to speak as possible.

Robert Ivone, 605 North Atlantic Avenue, Collingswood. *Mr. Ivone said we are here again to discuss animal welfare in the County, specifically Homeward Bound. According to social media and Homeward Bound's website, as of this morning the shelter is critically full and that means euthanizing for space. As of this morning there are 114 cats at the shelter and 94 dogs who are all deemed currently adoptable. Of these 114 cats, there are 47 that do not have any biographical information. Meaning, if I am a potential adopter and I want to adopt a pet for my family, 47 of the cats only have a name and an age. The end. Of the 94 dogs, 35 do not have bios. Just a picture so I do not know anything about the dog; whether or not I can bring the dog home, whether it is good with children, whether it's been there for 6 months or a year and a half. That is over 1/3rd of the dogs that have no bios. What is a little more troubling is that of the 94 dogs that are present and adoptable, 27 are not fixed. That is a greater problem than not having a bio. If the dog is not fixable, obviously they are going to come home and repopulate. Excessive population is a problem, but temperament is also an issue. Some of the cats and dogs go home and they come right back due to temperament issues if they are not fixed. This is a problem. Of the cats, 41 with no bios and of the 114 who are present, 33 are not fixed. That is over 1/4 of the cats not being fixed. I discussed this last time. When you have cats who are not fixed, they can have up to three litters a year, between 20 and 30 cats, exponential growth. It is a major, major problem. If you go down the list of cats and dogs in the shelter, many of whom do not have bios. Bozo, no bio; Bruno, no bio; Buddy the Elf, no bio; Carlton, no bio; Daisey, Bella, Darrel, no bios. It's repetitive. It's easy to fix by writing a bio that is going to help a dog or cat get adopted.*

Finally, imagine yourself as a dedicated teacher and our community is your classroom. Just as parents welcome constructive criticism for the betterment of their children, consider our local animal shelter as another aspect of our collective investment in the community. Our schools, I'm a teacher, like any institution, may not be flawless and the same applies to the shelter. However, when the shelter is presented with an opportunity to engage with experts in the field it

is akin to a teacher having access to professional development. Choosing to resist such opportunities for growth could be viewed as both naïve and negligent, hindering the potential progress and enhancement of our shared community resources. We need to work together for improvement to address this myriad of problems. Thank you.

Eileen Boyle, 116 East Stiles Avenue, Collingswood. *The implementation of sustainable sterilization programs is one of the most critical elements in addressing pet overpopulation. Shelters are overflowing with unwanted animals and yet, much to my great chagrin, Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center continues to allow intact animals to leave their facility to be fostered to adopt by private citizens. On September 29, friends went to Homeward Bound to adopt a 9-month-old female large breed dog. Because the dog was not yet spayed, they were told they would have to temporarily foster her and a contract with a spay appointment for November 20th with Homeward Bound, three weeks later, was given to them. Female dogs can go into heat around 6 months usually, but definitely by 9 – 12 months. This dog was already 9 months old. My friends asked for an earlier appointment but were told November 20th was the first available and they were put on a wait list. They were extremely concerned about the dog going into heat. They contacted their vet who then scheduled an appointment for the dog on November 6th. My friend was told after contacting Homeward Bound that their contract to adopt the dog would be null and void if they used an outside source for vetting this dog. On November 16th the dog went into heat. Their foster dog is now scheduled to be spayed on January 15th after which my friends will hopefully and finally be able to adopt the dog. Yes, that's right, despite wanting to adopt the dog back on October 29th they were not allowed to because she was intact. Homeward Bound's official policy is to not adopt intact dogs, however they will absolutely allow intact dogs to be fostered by the public. Even more confusing and frustrating is Homeward Bound's policy that prohibits a private citizen from getting a dog or cat sterilized by their own vet which would save the shelter money.*

Director Cappelli said that is a curious question. Does anyone know the answer to that question? Director Cappelli asked Ken, the Executive Director of Homeward Bound to respond to that question. Ken said we would absolutely allow a member of the public to get their animal spayed or neutered at their private vet, especially if they were doing that at their own expense. Ms. Boyle said that was not the case. *I have all the paperwork and they had emails back and forth. This is a couple in town who are very well known. Mr. Angilella asked Ms. Boyle who at the animal shelter told them that. Ms. Boyle said I don't have the emails. Mr. Angilella asked her to get the name of the individual. Ms. Boyle said the communication between the couple and the shelter is in email form. Again, it makes sense that if they had been allowed to have their dog spayed by their own vet and they were willing to pay for it which they shared with Homeward Bound, this dog would now be a spayed dog and adoptable. I have worked in animal rescue for nearly 5 decades and animals should not go out to the public to be fostered or adopted when they are not spayed or neutered because it increases the chances. What happens is we trust the public to do the right thing and some people are not trustworthy. They do not spay or neuter their dogs, hence pet overpopulation. I would like to recommend that this policy be changed immediately.*

Jeff Miller-McGrail, 111 Lawnside Avenue, Collingswood. *Mr. Miller-McGrail said I would like to let the Commissioners know about an incident that occurred over the last few weeks*

at Homeward Bound Animal Shelter. In November my family decided to foster to adopt a cat. We were assured of his good health and questioned his safety around our other cats and child. Upon bringing the cat home it was evident that something was wrong. He refused to eat and was skittish and foaming at the mouth. Concerned, we reached out to the shelter but our attempts to contact them proved futile. As he worsened with lethargy and refused to eat, we escalated our communication. Our attempts to seek help were met with silence and since their foster contract says you must use them for vet services, we resorted to Instagram prompting them to advise us to bring him in. We brought him in where they, unbeknownst to us, performed a panleukopenia test. Despite the test showing a negative result, we later learned that false negatives are possible and that he did indeed have this deadly virus. We were never alerted to the possibility of this virus and its possible effects on our other cats. Unfortunately, this cat passed away in the shelter. Days later the shelter contacted us revealing a necropsy had shown nothing zoonotic. Still concerned about the health of our other animals and young child, we inquired about risks and were told by Lauren that everyone would be fine. Our worst fears materialized when our other cat got sick followed by a third leading to a diagnosis of panleuk. We were now faced with two dead cats in a week. Frustrated with the lack of response and info, we reached out to the shelter multiple times with Lauren finally revealing that panleuk was brought into our home by the cat from the shelter. They alerted us a week after they found out. Despite our plea for this information, they were hesitant and failed to provide details in a manner that could have saved our other cats' lives. As the situation unfolded, our other cats required vet attention and a Facebook review detailing our experience was deleted by shelter staff twice. In subsequent communications with shelter staff, we voiced our grievances about the negligence and lack of communication despite Ken, who is on this call, saying that they would look into compensation. He later claimed the shelter did nothing wrong and told me that they were not planning on alerting other fosters and adopters from this month about exposure to panleuk. In summary, the shelter's negligence, disregard for procedures and lack of communication proved to be fatal for two cats and inflicted emotional distress on our family. I want an apology from the shelter and for them to be held accountable in the form of compensation for the vet bills incurred as a result of this incident. I have reached out to the Board twice with no response and am still waiting, now a week, for a follow-up from Mr. Ken. I have also contacted Mr. Young's office and am still awaiting a response. Thank you.

Director Cappelli said, Director Ken, do you have a response? Ken said I have sent all the information about this to Commissioner Young as well. It is a very long story, and I don't know whether we are going to be able to go back and forth about this today, but I am happy to follow up with Commissioner Young about this. *Mr. Miller-McGrail said I would also appreciate a phone call back.* Director Cappelli said I think the constituent needs a response as well, with all due respect. *Mr. Miller-McGrail said thank you Commissioner. It has been utter silence for weeks. They refuse to take accountability.*

Brooke McGinley, 10 Vale Road, Sicklerville. *Ms. McGinley said I am here to speak about a feline medical foster from Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center and I want to thank all the Commissioners for hearing my concerns. The first two concerns I will be sharing are the lack of communication from the medical staff and the lack of action for treatment. I am happy to share with you all my notes after this presentation. Would it be acceptable if Kathy Liszewski shares a photo for me while I read through my script of what his condition looks like? Lenovo was first*

intake to Homeward Bound on September 4, 2022. He was in the shelter for a few months following his intake and during this time his records indicate that he was seen three times by a vet in the office, Dr. Y, for complaints of red spots and wounds all over his body. The notes indicate that on the first exam he received a convenient injection, the second exam was a depo injection and there was a note that she requested a sedated exam for a more thorough examination and cultures, which is nowhere to be noted that he actually received this examination in his records. The third examination Dr. Y noted that after the depo infection the condition had improved and the treatment plan for Lenovo would be monthly depo injections and a sedated reexam in two weeks. After this he was placed into foster care but this treatment plan was not communicated with this foster, therefore it could not be executed. I took over as Lenovo's foster on April 7, 2023 after his previous foster was terminated as a volunteer. I brought Lenovo in for a skin biopsy on May 19th. I did not receive a treatment plan or the results of the biopsy without following up multiple times. I finally received the results on June 7th but did not receive a treatment plan until after following up again on June 13th. After this conversation for a treatment plan, I had requested that Lenovo be placed in the ICU for more frequent care to help improve his condition, but this request was never answered. The lackadaisical medical treatment and communication has continued. Lenovo went to the shelter on September 27th to receive an exam and blood work. The blood work was never drawn. I did not receive communication that the bloodwork was never drawn until this was escalated to a member of the County who is in this room. A few months later he was taken in to get his lab work completed, once we figured out that the lab work was not actually completed the first time. The bloodwork requested was a full CBC panel for the indication of an infection as well as a full thyroid panel, including a free T4. For those of you who are not well versed in the medical, you can sometimes not diagnose a thyroid issue without that Free T4 value. Unfortunately, we have lost a potential adopter for Lenovo as the medical staff has not responded to any of my communications without escalation or promptly treated Lenovo for this condition. The quality of life Lenovo is currently living is much below expected and this is due to the lack of communication and lackadaisical treatment he has received from Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center. I want to thank you all for your time and I hope this can be resolved immediately.

Director Capelli said, thank you. I am not an expert or in the business of running animal shelters but clearly, at a minimum there is a communication issue here. Deputy County Administration Rhodes, I am going to ask you, on behalf of the Board, to get involved with this situation to see why there is such a lack of communication and how we can resolve that. It seems to me that at the heart of all these issues is communication.

Kathy Liszewski, 10 Vale Road, Sicklerville. Ms. Liszewski said I had slides to show but apparently, I am not permitted to screen share. I am working with Gloucester Township on our community cat population and to assist in bringing numbers down. On my slide I had all the numbers on intake from Homeward Bound for Gloucester Township for 2023 where we are contracted to pay for 925 animals. We have so far through the end of November brought in 622. We are going to be well below 925 but the ironic thing is there are 15 animals that I just spot checked and found on this list that are from Winslow, not from Gloucester Township. I know the Gloucester Township Police have already investigated the shelter for this misbilling and we are receiving a \$3,008.33 credit per month on our invoice because of this and yet this practice

continues. We also were charged for a DOA. I am not really sure what an animal brought to the shelter deceased costs them to administer since they go in a freezer and then to a landfill. They don't even have the decency to cremate them so not really sure why they would be charging the Township \$200 to intake that animal. My bigger concern is with the increase going to \$300 next year per animal per municipality, how many other municipalities are being billed incorrectly? I really think we need to investigate this. The shelter's record-keeping is horrendous. You've heard other people say animals are getting medications that are not documented. In the instance of the cat who died, that cat was brought in on October 29th. Its emancipation date was not until November 5th but yet they let them take that animal home on November 4th. Maybe if they would have waited another day and followed their policies and procedures that animal would not have died. In addition, there has been a long-standing issue of shelter mismanagement. Ever since Vickie left there has been nothing but problems and I have all of the documentation which I have told you every month I am happy to share with all of you.

Director Cappelli said thank you. Commissioner Nash raised a good question, do we audit the animal shelter's finances? DCA Rhodes said we do and when issues such as this come to our attention, we work with the shelter to make sure things are being billed properly. There was a unique situation in Gloucester Township and Winslow because of the boundaries of the two towns with Sicklerville. We did sit down with both Gloucester Township and Winslow and reached an agreement to adjust the bills with Gloucester Township which they have done. Everyone is aware that should such incidents happen again to make us aware of it and they will be addressed.

Desiree Serrano, 218 Crestview Avenue, Blackwood. *Ms. Serrano said I wanted to talk about my experience in fostering kittens. When we were given the kittens, we were asked if we had any questions and I said we have never fostered kittens, so we don't really know what to do. They just said ok let us know. We were hoping they would give us some pointers. Eventually one of the kittens got diarrhea and I was told to bring in a sample. When I brought in the sample, I was told that within a few days the results would be in. I had to contact them several times and they didn't answer me until Kathy called for me. Once they did answer they said they lost it. Eventually all the kittens got diarrhea and my cat got diarrhea. I was given medicine that is supposed to be shot in their mouths but they told me to mix it in their food but it is really bitter so they didn't eat their food which made everything more complicated. I can't share my screen so I can't share my pictures but when I brought the kittens in for my appointment, I was waiting an hour and a half and there were dogs in the lobby constantly barking and I am trying to get these kittens used to people and being less scared and they are sitting in their crate waiting for an hour for a shot. The community cat room was disgusting. There was not enough litter in the pans so eventually the pans just became mounds of urine. These cats were elderly and there was vomit on the floor and fly tape hanging from the ceiling. I was told that these cats were in a hoarder situation so they are not used to living in a clean environment, but I thought that would mean they should be a first priority. They were 12- and 13-year-old cats and they were not given enough litter. Once we wanted to adopt the kittens, we were going in circles with them telling us that we had to wait until someone from Best Friends was here and then no you don't, you can come down. Once I did go down and signed the paperwork they were like ok wait you have to wait until someone from Best Friends is here. Someone came in the room and said no they don't. We got the paperwork and*

left and then a week later someone from Best Friends was emailing me asking me to fill out the paperwork again to adopt the cats. It was constant contradictory information.

Colleen Eckhardt, 13 (Inaudible), Sicklerville. Ms. Eckhardt said I am here to discuss a medical cost issue I have with Homeward Bound. I have been a veterinarian technician for 25 years. Because of my background, on September 5th, I was asked to volunteer at Homeward Bound to help out with cats that needed extra care, essentially medical care. We had an 8-year-old cat that was surrendered by his owner on August 10th for behavioral reasons at which time he weighed 28.5 lbs. At the time I picked him up he was down to 22.9 lbs. I was told by shelter staff that he refused to eat due to strep. He was sent home with a prescription diet and medication and told that they were force feeding him daily and supplementing with fluids. Multiple emails back and forth to Homeward Bound throughout the time that I had him up until September 8th. I did email asking if lab work had been done. I also inquired about a feeding tube if necessary. The response I received two days later was that they would check on his lab work but no response on the feeding tube. On September 28th, I emailed them again as I did have more concerns. The response back was he was due for his vaccine on August 24. I hadn't picked him up until September 8th. I responded with my concerns about him not being vaccinated and asking for repeat lab work and possibly an x-ray or an ultrasound. The lab work was done. My request for imaging was ignored. I did reach out to a local rescue for help to get an appointment for an abdominal ultrasound. This appointment was made for November 11th. I reached out to Homeward Bound only to obtain his records and medications for the appointment. Responses to my emails took days to get. My appointment in Mt. Laurel revealed he was in hepatic. This was the concern I had back on September 28th. He was scheduled for a feeding tube which was done on November 17th. He was down 17 lbs. at that point. Had I not reached out to a private rescue for help, Homeward Bound would have completely ignored my requests. Since the feeding tube placement, he has gained back 2 lbs. His liver values have improved tremendously, and I am happy to report he is eating a little bit on his own now. My concerns with Homeward Bound are the lack of communication or the delay in communication and the care.

Ken Sieranski, Executive Director, Homeward Bound. First, I would like to thank the Camden County Board of Commissioners so much for your support and partnership from helping us to care for the facility here at Homeward Bound to having adoption specials for veterans and seniors, for helping us with the pet food pantry which supports our community. You have done so much for the shelter and we appreciate you. I wanted to briefly introduce myself. My name is Dr. Ken Sieranski. I am the relatively new Executive Director here. I have been with the shelter for less than a year. I have specialty training in shelter medicine as well as veterinarian forensics. I was born and raised in Camden County and I want nothing more than to bring the knowledge and experience I have learned both in my training and my work at some of the largest animal shelters in the country. What I found when I came to Homeward Bound is an incredible team full of heart, love and passion for everything that they do. I have never worked with a team like this. They are incredibly dedicated. I identified experienced and knowledgeable leaders amongst the team that have worked here at the shelter for over a decade, and I have promoted them to running the animal shelter. I know that I joined the shelter at a really difficult time where there was executive level turnover for three years, but it takes time to rebuild. We are proud to say that this year, even though we have taken in 200 more dogs this year than last year, we have also increased our dog

adoptions by 28% year over year. We have also decreased the euthanasia of cats by 43% year over year and we have a region leading wide release rate of 94%. This team works so hard every day in the most difficult of circumstances and we want to thank you so much for your support and partnership and we wish you the happiest of holidays.

Director Cappelli said thank you, Director. I know there is a lot of good work going on down there despite some of the complaints we hear. It seems to me that a lot of the complaints can be averted if there is just better communication. We understand it is a difficult situation down there and there are far too many stray animals, animals not cared for and not enough resources to really address the problem that is out there so we appreciate all the efforts of everyone down there. I would just ask that the communication with our residents come to a level where they understand exactly what is happening with some of these animals we heard about today.

Carol Gillespie, 49 Stone Hollow Drive, Sicklerville. *Ms. Gillespie said I also have a shelter issue. I was a volunteer socializing cats at the shelter for the past 6 years. Since management changed there is such negativity and poor conditions for the cats. I disagree with everything that Ken just said. He came in on board and advised that this was no longer a shelter that socializes cats. Of course, that was never conveyed to the volunteers in any type of meeting. I was on the behavioral team working with the cats for many years in which I gave updates and videos on the cats' progress who I was asked to work with. I was always advised that I was appreciated and needed for the cats. I would submit weekly updates on the cats on their improvement. Back in March I gave updates on a group of 9 cats I was asked to work with. Then I arrived the following day to discover that all 9 were moved back into a preadoption room and deemed feral and unadoptable. I wasn't even given the courtesy of a discussion. I had submitted videos of their progress just prior to the move and received a response from Danielle Davies saying how happy she was with the improvements. The shelter never posted them for foster care, barn placement or rescue. It is their responsibility to advocate for the cats before even raising the topic of euthanizing. Then a group of friends and I and some of the Pet Smart volunteers pulled all of them except two from the shelter. Within a few weeks, all those at Pet Smart were adopted into loving homes. As I attempted to get the remaining two, named Gala and Tuxie, for our Cherry Hill Pet Smart, Lauren Gravinney and Danielle Davies advised me that I could not take them as they were a danger to the public and feral. I strongly disagreed and had no recourse but to adopt these two cats myself to save their lives. My adoption picture was posted that evening showing me holding one of the cats named Tuxie who was deemed a danger to the public and feral. In my over 45 years of working and advocating for cats I have never been able to hold and cuddle a feral cat so that makes you question the shelter's integrity. I did disagree with Lauren and Danielle but there wasn't a confrontation. I received an email that evening on April 24th termination as a volunteer and blocking me from their Facebook page. Tuxie and Gala deserved every chance from the shelter to thrive. They were never given a cage break, moved to the community room, a rescue group was never sought out and the Pet Smarts were never asked to take them. If barn placement was in fact needed for them, that was never posted.*

Director Cappelli said, ma'am, we have a three-minute limit. You can come back and continue but we want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to speak.

Katherine Stark, 701 Tanglewood Drive. *I have been fostering at the shelter for over 8 years now. I joined the shelter when it was a high kill shelter and the volunteers, the community, and the people who worked there we all pulled together, and we made that no kill status. Over the years, leadership changed, Vicki came in and the volunteers and I saw the conditions start to go in a negative direction. We approached the Board on many different health issues concerning the animals at the shelter. We addressed the Board and it started to help but as of late they have washed their hands. They are no longer participating in trying to make the shelter better. I know Kathy L. and a couple other girls are trying to get your attention and I feel like maybe they did. Something has to be done. One complaint is too many. We get complaints, but these are live animals, so I feel that somewhere someone has to go in there and help the situation improve. The shelter is literally throwing volunteers away because they no longer fit the protocol of what they are looking for. This is a cry for help, and we would really like for you to come and investigate the situation.*

Gina McGay, Mantua Township. *I am the Board President of a non-profit called Pet Savers. In regard to some of the medical concerns that were raised I would just like to speak about the Homeward Bound clinic because my organization's mission is to drive down the euthanasia rate in and around Gloucester County and we do that primarily through TNR of cats and we always used the Homeward Bound clinic until other clinics were available. We stopped using Homeward Bound because of a lot of basically dead cats and some things that we saw with the way the animals were handled. I saw somebody who wasn't a vet cleaning a cat's teeth when it was coming out of anesthesia. We have stopped referring people to Homeward Bound's Clinic and took them off our list of lost cost spay/neuter facilities. I am only raising this because I know there have been a lot of medical concerns and I wonder if clinic management isn't part of that whether it is a communication issue or maybe protocols and SOPs need to be updated.*

Kathy Maguire, 25 Edgewood Road, Sicklerville. *I did want to do a bit of housekeeping seeking to clarify the record. It is important to note the shelter's claims that may have led to believe I am a discontented former Board member from Homeward Bound. To set things straight, my brief stint on the Board was 20 years ago after which I left to establish my own non-profit. Back to Homeward Bound. This information comes right from a Facebook post by the shelter where they announced their intention to start euthanizing dogs due to space constraints. While they earnestly appeal for fosters, adopters, and volunteers it appears there is a pattern of alienating those very individuals, rescue groups, volunteers and individuals who want to help. Moreover, the post invites the public to support them during specified hours, but it is worth noting that they close at 5:00 from Tuesday to Thursday making it challenging for those who work typical hours. In contrast, Voorhees Animal Orphanage who we all know and is a very well-run shelter, maintains more accessible hours, open from noon to 7:00 Tuesday through Thursday. This is a post from Homeward Bounds page last week. It says how did we get here? This is right from the shelter. I implore you Commissioners; how did we get here? Commissioners, you are the gatekeeper, you are the arbiter of our County for both our citizens and our animals. This prompts reflection on all the things you've heard. We've been coming here since October. This prompts a deep reflection from all of you on the decisions and policies that have led to the current state of affairs.*

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to comment, Director Cappelli asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Nash made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer and all Commissioners voted aye.

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

Commissioner Nash said the testimony from the public is, needless to say, very disturbing and at the very least requires some type of County response. We should recognize that the animal shelter, Homeless Bound, is an independent organization. It is a non-profit that was selected by the County through an RFP process. The County does not directly operate the shelter. It owns the property and does offer financial assistance to the shelter but it is not a County operation per se. I will also say, because these complaints have been very widely received, that Commissioner Jon Young who is not here to answer these questions today, is one of the most compassionate, caring Commissioners, especially relating to animal issues, that you will ever find anywhere in government and Deputy County Administrator Jim Rhodes, and Kathy is applauding him and that reflects how people feel about Jim who has devoted an enormous amount of time. Both Commissioner Young and Jim Rhodes are doing this because they are concerned about a non-profit who is operating on County property. Director, I think you hit the nail on the head when you said that there is a communication problem. I do understand it has been a whirlwind there since Vicki left. The shelter hired someone who never showed up to work and things got lost so there has been rotation of directors but that does not excuse some of the terrible issues that are apparently going on there. I think that Commissioner Young and Deputy County Administrator Rhodes will take a hard look at some of these issues. I greatly appreciate the public. Kathy, your organization does an amazing job. There are some towns that don't have feral cat policies. They don't have trap, neuter and release policies which is unacceptable in this world. So now you have these colonies of cats being brought to our shelter and that should not be the case in today's world. I have worked with some of the towns. My own hometown does not have a policy. Sometimes policies take a little encouragement. We will get there. There are external issues. The shelter is overwhelmed with animals, cats and dogs, and that creates a terrible problem. I do appreciate the members of the public and those online for being here today to express your frustration. I can assure you that your words are heard by this Board.

I do want to congratulate Scott Traynor for being named as the Parks Department Director. The parks have really not looked any better. He has always been in charge of operations but now he will be in charge of the whole organization. Ashley Pagan, who is here today, has been promoted. She is an outstanding administrator. She is a get it done person and nobody messes with Ashley which is what we need at the Parks Department. Congratulations to both Scott and Ashley. I am excited and I want to thank Dominic Vesper for overseeing this transition. It was not an easy thing to do but he did it with his usual administrative brilliance. Thank you, Dominic.

Last but not least I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a joyous New Year.

Commissioner Kane said I am happy to be following Commissioner Nash and I thank you for your remarks regarding Homeward Bound. I know you have been an advocate, for as long as I have known you, for animals. I also want to thank everyone in person and online for speaking

up. While I don't work directly with Homeward Bound, I am an animal lover and I know that bringing an animal into your home is a major responsibility and how it impacts other pets within your homes and family members. For all the volunteers, to volunteer your time and we volunteer when we feel passionate about a mission and then for your volunteering to be problematic is also something that is very unfortunate.

I want to thank the departments that I oversee: The Library System; Buildings and Operations which gets a lot of things done but doesn't get a lot of recognition; the Events Department who I work closely with for all the programs we have had throughout the year for Veterans Affairs; and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The letter that Karyn read regarding Maggie, the Veterans Service Officer who has worked with this gentleman, they have never met in person. Their interactions have all been over the phone and online. That is just one person out of hundreds that that staff has assisted and allowed them to age in place and has given them mental health support and provided so much. I just wanted to say that on Monday night we had a dinner for the Veterans Advisory Committee and one of the things they had said was the County, the Commissioners, the Administration, the residents, everyone is so grateful for the veterans who have served that they wanted to take the opportunity to thank us for supporting them in their journey and being 1 of 25,000 veterans within our county that they are most appreciative that Camden County has the reputation it has. So much of that stems from the support and respect we have given to our veterans.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Commissioner Dyer said as we approach the end of the year and our last Commissioners meeting for 2023, I think we all have a lot to be thankful for whatever that may be. You need to always think of positive things at this time of year. This was a meeting that was a little sad, but I know we will get it right. Thank you, Jeff. Every time you speak, I feel like I have learned something. I do understand what is going on and like the Director said I think it is more of a communication issue that we can definitely resolve, and I know that will happen. I want to thank the County's directors, administration and workforce for the job you do to make this County better for the residents. Every year at this time I know that we have to thank the people that make us look good. Happy holidays everybody. Enjoy the time with your family.

Commissioner Betteridge said I would like to take a moment to thank the public for coming out today in person to share with us your concerns about the shelter and also those who took the time online to reach out to us. I echo the intentions that my colleague Jeff Nash just said and you have my commitment to make sure we work to address this matter. I want to take a moment to thank the two departments I am a liaison to. The Department of Health and Human Services just came out of a very busy vaccination season holding clinics around the County to make sure the COVID vaccination and the flu vaccination were available. The Department is gearing up for a very robust 2024. Under the help of our Deputy County Administrator Dominic Vesper we do some really great things. Thank you, Dominic, for your leadership role.

The Board of Social Services has also been undertaking some major changes this year. We are going through the process of reaching out to all the folks who have been a part of our programs to make sure they are re-upping their applications. This has been a major feat and I thank the department in Trenton for their assistance here in Camden County to make sure that no one is left without benefits.

On November 17th we held a Homelessness Prevention Conference and I am happy to report that 123 social services providers here in Camden County united to bring together information to help prevent homelessness here in Camden County. It's no secret. We drive around. We see what's going on, but we do have a pulse and I want to thank Deputy County Administrator Jim Rhodes for his assistance and Commission Jeff Nash for his help as well as all the members of this Board who helped me come up with some ideas and some planning to address the initiatives here we are trying to meet especially with our homeless population. I would like to take a minute to thank my Aide Carla. She has been with me for just a few short months but she does an outstanding job. She proved that to be most noteworthy when we gave her the responsibility of putting the Homelessness Prevention Conference together. Thank you Carla for all you do every day for me and Commissioner Young. Happy holiday season to all.

Commissioner Director Cappelli said I want to take a moment to reflect on the year and thank my colleagues for their leadership and determination and our employees who do a great job day in and day out. If you think about this past year, the condition of our parks, our special events, the condition of our buildings, work that has been done for veterans and seniors, the expansion of health services, the work we are doing with addiction disorders and the homeless population. It is amazing that we have done all that without a tax increase. We have done it with existing resources, and we continue to expand services and do our best to provide the very best for our residents which is what they deserve. I want to thank all of you for your great work. I want to congratulate Scott and Ashley on their promotions. Jeff and I both thank Lisa for your hard work. Finally, I want to thank all our residents and wish you a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Director asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nash made a motion with a second by Commissioner Betteridge and all Commissioners voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore
Clerk of the Board