

CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 21, 2024

520 Market Street

6th Floor Conference Room

Camden, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order by Director Cappelli at 1:30 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners answered:

PRESENT: AL DYER, JEFFREY NASH, MELINDA KANE, JONATHAN YOUNG, SR., EDWARD MCDONNELL, LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR.

ABSENT: VIRGINIA BETTERIDGE

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 the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The Director said we begin today's meeting with the introduction of two Resolutions regarding the Camden County Budget. Public Hearings on the Budget Resolutions will be held on April 18, 2024, at 12 noon at the Camden County Courthouse, 520 Market Street, 6th Floor Meeting Room, Camden.

INTRODUCTION #1

Resolution to Exceed the County Budget Appropriations Limit and to Establish a CAP bank (N.J.S.A 40A:4-45.14) for Calendar Year 2024.

Director Cappelli asked for a motion to adopt the introduction of the Resolution. Commissioner Nash made a motion with a second by Deputy Director McDonnell and all Commissioners present voted aye.

INTRODUCTION #2

Introduction of the 2024 Camden County Budget

Director Cappelli asked for a motion to adopt the introduction of the Resolution. Commissioner Dyer made a motion with a second by Deputy Director McDonnell and all Commissioners present voted aye.

MINUTES

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

AYE: ALL PRESENT

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

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

CORRESPONDENCE

The Director asked the Clerk if there was any correspondence. The Clerk responded no, Director, we have no correspondence this month.

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 Nash made the motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer 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 87

The Director asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 1 through 87. Commissioner Dyer made a motion with a second by Commissioner Young and on roll call:

AYE: ALL PRESENT

ABSTENTIONS: JEFFREY NASH – Resolution 14
JONATHAN YOUNG, SR. – Resolutions, 7, 8, 9, 25, 38 and 56
LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR.- Resolutions 6, 12, 13 and 14

1. Resolution authorizing a Bond Substitution in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 to provide funding for Camden County Department of Public Works - Countywide Road Improvements.

2. Resolution authorizing a Bond Substitution in the amount of \$115,144.00 to provide funding for Camden County Department of Public Works - Countywide Road Improvements.

3. Resolution authorizing a Bond Substitution in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 to provide funding for Camden County Department of Public Works - Countywide Drainage Improvements.

4. Resolution authorizing a Bond Substitution in the amount of \$400,000.00 to provide funding for Camden County Department of Public Works - Property Acquisition.

5. Resolution authorizing a substitution in the amount of \$563,792.00 to provide financing for Camden County Department of Public Works - Countywide Drainage Improvements.

6. Resolution authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and various vendors, for the provision of Professional Engineering Services for On-Call Construction Management/Construction Inspection for Roadway Projects in various Camden County Municipalities, on an "as-needed" basis.

ABSTAIN: LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR. (Colliers Engineering; Remington & Vernick)

7. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid B-1/2024), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Driscoll Construction Co., Inc., for Newton Avenue Flood Mitigation Rehabilitation of the Kaighn Avenue Dam - East Tide Gate within the Township of Pennsauken and the City of Camden, in the amount of \$2,026,422.00. Funding available in the amount of \$26,422.00 - CAF#9900240915. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of Bond Substitution Resolution.

ABSTAIN: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR.

8. Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 2 and Final (Bid B-13/2021), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and South State, Inc., for the Reconstruction of Union Avenue (CR 615) from Maple Avenue (CR 537) to Park Avenue (CR 621), in the Township of Pennsauken, for an increase in the amount of \$33,491.61 - CAF#9900240775.

ABSTAIN: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR.

9. Resolution amending Resolution No. 16, adopted July 21, 2022 and Resolution No. 4, adopted December 14, 2023 authorizing an award of Contract (Bid B-16/2022) and Change

Order, 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 Road (CR 673) to Somerdale Road (CR 678), MP 0.32 to MP 1.23, in the Township of Voorhees, to correct contract amount.

ABSTAIN: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR.

10. Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 3 (Bid B-9/2022), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and P and A Construction, Inc., for Berlin-Cross Keys Road Improvements Contract 3, in the Borough of Pine Hill and Townships of Gloucester and Winslow, for an increase in the amount of \$74,700.56 - CAF#9900240783.

11. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and the Township of Cherry Hill, for the purchase and installation of solar powered pedestrian crosswalk signs at the intersection of Park Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue, in the Township of Cherry Hill.

12. Resolution authorizing Shared Services Agreements, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and various municipalities within Camden County, for street sweeping on County roadways.

ABSTAIN: LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR. (Barrington, Collingswood, Gloucester Township, Pennsauken, Waterford)

13. Resolution authorizing a Right of Access and Hold Harmless Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and the Township of Waterford.

ABSTAIN: LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR.

14. Resolution authorizing the establishment of a pool of qualified professionals for Architectural Services and Engineering Services for the County of Camden and its Agencies and Authorities.

**ABSTAIN: JEFFREY NASH (Naik)
LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR. (Colliers Engineering; Remington & Vernick)**

15. Resolution authorizing the reappointment of members to the Camden County Planning Board.

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

17. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-6/2024), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Buildings and Operations) and various vendors, for Grass Cutting, Trimming and Grounds Keeping Services for various Camden County Departments and Cooperative Members under the Camden County Cooperative Pricing System, ID #57-CCCP.

18. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract #19-FLEET-00971), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Buildings and Operations) and Pedroni Fuel Company, for the purchase and delivery of unleaded fuel. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

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

20. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to solicitation of quotations, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Open Space and Farmland Preservation) and South Jersey Land and Water Trust, for coordination of the Stewards of Open Space in Camden County Program, in the amount of \$30,000.00 - CAF#9900240543.

21. Resolution terminating an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., for the Cooper River and Gateway Park Lighting and Sculpture project, Phase II, in accordance with the termination provision of the County's advertised specifications for these services.

22. Resolution amending an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and Consulting and Municipal Engineers, for additional closely related Professional Engineering Services for the Wiggins Marina Improvement Project, for an increase in the amount of \$25,000.00 - CAF#9900240778.

23. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and Environmental Resolutions, Inc., for vegetation mitigation for Newton Lake and Peters Creek, in the amount of \$126,000.00 - CAF#9900240762.

24. Resolution rejecting Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals for Lease of Land at Camden Waterfront and Concession Services, as no proposals were received.

25. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-2/2024), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and Think Pavers Hardscaping, LLC, for construction of Jake's Place and Park Improvements at New Brooklyn Park, in the amount of \$1,195,395.00. Funding available in the amount of \$467,276.22 - CAF#990240911. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

ABSTAIN: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR.

26. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid ESCNJ 20/21-06), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and MRC, for the Newton Lake Park Collingswood Playground Project, under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System ID#65-MCESCCPS, in the amount of \$244,008.35. Funding contingent upon passage of the Resolution establishing program categories relating to Camden County's allocation of American Rescue Plan Funds.

27. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid ESCNJ 20/21-06), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and MRC, for the Newton Lake Park Haddon Township Playground Project, under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System ID#65-MCESCCPS, in the amount of \$187,790.29. Funding contingent upon passage of the Resolution establishing program categories relating to Camden County's allocation of American Rescue Plan Funds.

28. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks, on behalf of the Mosquito Commission) and the New Jersey State Mosquito Commission, for the use of State-owned equipment for various water management projects throughout the County, at no cost to the County.

29. Resolution amending Resolution No. 22, adopted March 16, 2023, authorizing the submission of a Grant Application, by the County of Camden (Department of Parks, on behalf of the Mosquito Commission) to the State of New Jersey, Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, for the 2023 Spotted Lantern Program - Chemical Control Treatment Grant, to revise the grant amount.

30. Resolution ratifying the submission of the Local Recreation Improvement Grant, by the County of Camden (Department of Parks) to the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, for improvements to Berlin Park, in the amount of \$100,000.00.

31. Resolution authorizing an enabling Resolution for the submission of the Local Recreation Improvement Grant, by the County of Camden (Department of Parks) to the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, for improvements to Berlin Park, in the amount of \$100,000.00.

32. Resolution ratifying the submission of a Grant Application by the County of Camden (Department of Parks) to the New Jersey Department of Transportation, for the TAP Grove Street Connector Trail Grant, in the amount of \$142,238.91.

33. Resolution authorizing the submission of a Grant Application by the County of Camden (Department of Parks, on behalf of the Mosquito Commission) to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, for the 2024-2026 Spotted Lanternfly Population Reduction/Chemical Control Treatment Grant, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

34. Resolution authorizing the donation of two (2) vehicles no longer needed by the County of Camden (Department of Parks) to the Pollution Control Financing Authority of Camden County.

35. Resolution ratifying the appointment and reappointment of members to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority.

36. Resolution amending Agreements, authorized by Resolution No. 35, adopted October 19, 2023, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the

County of Camden and various vendors for Recovery Support Services in Homeless Shelters Program, to revise the terms.

37. Resolution amending Agreements, authorized by Resolution No. 25, adopted March 16, 2023, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and Center for Family Services, for the provision of Professional Substance Use Disorder Services - Peer Led Recovery Center Services, to extend the term for an additional nine months at no cost to the County.

38. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract #23-FOOD-47764), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and Metropolitan Contract Carpets, Inc., for the removal and replacement of flooring, in the amount of \$72,460.00 - CAF#9900240562.

ABSTAIN: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR.

39. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) and Rutgers School of Public Health, to provide students with field and clinical experience in public health, at no cost to the County.

40. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services, Community Health Services) and Temple University of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, to provide students with field and clinical experiences in the Public Health Program, at no cost to the County.

41. Resolution ratifying the submission of a Grant Application by the County of Camden (Department of Health and Human Services) to the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, for the Communication and Language Access Services Grant, in the amount of \$70,000.00.

42. 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 State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, for the New Jersey State Health Insurance Program, in the amount of \$36,000.00.

43. 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 Health and Human Services) and Tyler Technologies, for the provision of inspection, reporting and permitting software, in the amount of \$223,040.00 - CAF#9900240579.

44. Resolution authorizing a Standardized Board Resolution in connection with the 2024-2025 State Health Insurance Program, 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 for the New Jersey State Health Insurance Program.

45. Resolution ratifying the reappointment of members to the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

46. Resolution authorizing the reappointment of members to the Camden County Addiction Awareness Task Force.

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

48. Resolution authorizing a Bond Substitution in the amount of \$56,767.00 to provide funding for Camden County Department of Correctional Facility.- Replacement of Radio Units.

49. Resolution authorizing substitution in the amount of \$169,000.00 to provide financing for the main water boiler replacement at the Camden County Correctional Facility.

50. Resolution authorizing substitution in the amount of \$106,061.00 to provide financing for elevator renovations and upgrades at the Camden County Correctional Facility.

51. Resolution authorizing Custodians for County of Camden Department of Corrections bank accounts.

52. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and The Consortium, Inc., for the provision of Substance Use and Addiction Counseling and Assessment Services for individuals incarcerated at the Camden County Correctional Facility, in the amount of \$412,582.00. Funding available in the amount of \$103,145.50 - CAF#9900240756. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

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 an electronic medical records system, under the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance System ID #CK04, in the amount of \$48,084.79. Funding available in the amount of \$12,021.25 - CAF#9900240499. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 and 2025 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

54. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract #A-83909), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and Motorola Solutions, Inc., for the purchase of on-duty radio communication devices and accessories, in the amount of \$58,737.48. Funding available in the amount of \$1,970.48 - CAF#9900240942. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of Substitution of Funds Resolution.

55. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-4/2022 - 3rd Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and Locality Media, Inc., d/b/a First Due, for Fire Records Management software, in the amount of \$192,926.50 - CAF#9900240645.

56. Resolution authorizing award of Contract (State Contract 23-FOOD-47763), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and North Eastern Hardwood Floors, for carpeting for the 9-1-1 Call Center, in the amount of \$61,960.00 - CAF#9900240609.

ABSTAIN: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR.

57. Resolution ratifying the submission of a Grant Application by the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety - Office of Emergency Management) to the New Jersey State Police, for the FY24 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Subaward Grant, in the amount of \$46,440.00.

58. Resolution amending Agreements, authorized by Resolution No. 48, adopted February 15, 2024, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals (#23-WF-03), by and between the County of Camden (One Stop) and various providers for Community Work Experience Programs with Basic Skills Training, Occupational Skills Training, English as a Second Language Training, Clothing Assistance Services for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and General Assistance/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Populations to correct language regarding funding to The Father Center of New Jersey.

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

60. Resolution authorizing budgetary transfers in the 2024 Reserve Fund.

61. Resolution amending Resolution No. 51, adopted February 15, 2024, authorizing budgetary transfers in the 2024 reserve fund, to correct a typographical error.

62. Resolution amending 2024 Temporary Budget Appropriations.

63. Resolution authorizing the Camden County Board of Elections to Exceed the County Entity Budget Request CAP (P.L. 2015, c.249).

64. Resolution authorizing the Camden County Board of Taxation to Exceed the County Entity Budget Request CAP (P.L. 2015, c.249).

65. Resolution authorizing the Camden County Office of the Sheriff to Exceed the County Entity Budget Request CAP (P.L. 2015, c.249).

66. Resolution authorizing acceptance of the 2022 Report of Audit.

67. Resolution amending Resolution No. 38, adopted January 18, 2024, establishing program and funding categories relating to Camden County's allocation of American Rescue Plan funds.

68. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-7 /2024), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Events and Community Outreach) and Vandell, LLC, for leased tents and equipment, for various Camden County Departments, Agencies and Authorities, under the Camden County Cooperative Pricing System, ID #57-CCCPS, on an "as-needed" basis.

69. Resolution rejecting Bid A-4/2024, New Seasonal Stage at Wiggins Park for the Camden County Department of Events and Community Outreach, as the one bid received was non-compliant with the bid specifications.

70. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid A-7 /2022 - 3rd Year Option), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Events and Community Outreach) and Drew & Rogers, Inc., for the purchase of promotional items and apparel, on an "as-needed" basis.

71. Resolution authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #24-02, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Administration, Division of Cooper River Venues) and various vendors for catering services at the Camden County Boathouse and Golf Academy.

72. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (Bid BC-C-23-013), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Administration/Division of Cooper River Venues) and Shaw Integrated and Turf Solutions, for purchase and installation of safety netting at the Camden County Driving Range, under the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance System ID #CK04, in the amount of \$98,244.00 - CAF#9900240180.

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

74. Resolution authorizing budgetary transfers in the Camden County Department of Police Services budget.

75. Resolution ratifying the submission of a Grant Application by the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) to the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, for the SFY24 Arrive Together Program Grant, in the amount of \$150,000.00.

76. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract T2776-21-01485), by and between the County of Camden (Office of the Sheriff) and Gentilini Chevrolet, LLC, for the purchase of one (1) 2023 Chevy Tahoe, in the total amount of \$55,682.89- CAF#9900240855.

77. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract (State Contract 21-TELE-01506/AR3227), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Information Technology) and Core BTS, Inc., for hardware and software licensing, in the amount of \$192,815.05. Funding available in the amount of \$38,563.01 - CAF#9900240921. Balance of funding contingent upon passage of the 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

78. Resolution amending Resolution No. 89, adopted August 19, 2021, authorizing award of Contracts, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #21-13, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Community Development) and various vendors, for the provision of 2021 Federal Home Funds to create Affordable Housing for the County of Camden, to rescind the award to Conifer Realty, LLC.

79. Resolution amending Resolution No. 47, adopted January 18, 2024, authorizing award of Contracts, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #23-43, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Community Development) and various agencies, for the provision of 2023 Federal Home Funds to create Affordable Housing for the County of Camden, to rescind the award to Metropolitan Camden Habitat for Humanity.

80. Resolution authorizing an award of Contract, pursuant to Competitive Contracting Request For Proposals #24-05, by and between the County of Camden (Office of Community Development) and Senior Citizens United Community Services, for management of the HOME-ARP Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program, in the amount of \$2,634,800.00 - CAF#9900240709.

81. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Administration/Division of Community Development / Homeless Trust Fund) and the Camden County Board of Social Services, for the provision of Wrap Around Services and Case Management, in the amount of \$100,000.00 - CAF#9900240672.

82. Resolution authorizing approval of the revised "Citizen Participation Plan."

83. Resolution ratifying an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden and the South Jersey Port Corporation, for payment in lieu of taxes for the year 2024, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:11A-20.

84. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement (2nd One Year Option), by and between the County of Camden and Camden County College, for food service operations in City Hall and the Hall of Justice. Funding contingent upon passage of the 2024 Temporary and/or Permanent Budgets.

85. Resolution amending Resolution No. 2, adopted January 4, 2024, establishing Committees, Committee Appointments, Committee Departmental Assignments, Departmental Organization, and Commissioner Responsibilities and Assignments.

86. Resolution ratifying a month-to-month Agreement, pursuant to a Competitive Contracting Request for Proposals #18-46, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Police Services) and Holtec Security International, for IT consulting services for the Camden County Police Department pending reprocurement of these services.

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

RESOLUTION 88

The Director called for a motion on Resolution No. 88 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.

Seeing no 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 Commissioner Nash and all Commissioners voted aye.

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

Commissioner Nash said Director you did a great job today at the Battleship ceremony.

Commissioner Young said I would like to begin by thanking the employees of Camden County for always doing an outstanding job for our constituents. A couple of updates from the One Stop. Forklift driver training classes are held every month. Information is available on our website. Tuesday, March 26th there will be a virtual recruitment event for the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. Again, details are available on our website. For the Department of Sustainability, save the date for the annual plant sale which is scheduled for April 27th. March 27th we will be launching a new seed saving program in partnership with the Camden County Certified Gardeners, Camden County College, and the Library. Stay tuned for more exciting partnerships that will benefit the residents of Camden County. As Spring is upon us and you start to clean out your garage, think about donating your old tools to our Tool Saving Library where we can refurbish them and get them back out for use at no cost to our residents.

Commissioner Kane said I would like to thank my fellow Commissioners for being there and braving the cold on the Battleship today. I watched it on the live stream and Director Cappelli your remarks were excellent. Thank you also for your ongoing support of our military and our veterans. On March 10th Camden County held a new event at the Collingswood Ballroom called Empower Her which is geared toward addressing the needs of our female veterans. We had almost 50 different organizations present along with 100+ female veterans and men who support and love them attend the event and luncheon. The panel conversation dealt with recognizing the unique needs of women, the stigma of women serving, sexual trauma, self-care, wellness and a variety of other topics. It was very well received and is certainly an event we will be holding again in the future. I want to thank the volunteers of the Camden County Veterans Advisory Committee for helping to put the event together along with Frank Filipek and his staff at Special Events and the staff at Veterans Affairs led by Colonel Gallagher.

Commissioner Kane said the last thing I want to mention is the Prom Dress Giveaway that is going on currently at the Boathouse for young women in our community who will have the opportunity to pick out a beautiful prom dress. Thank you to the residents of Camden County who graciously donated dresses and to the County staff who are participating in the event.

Commissioner Dyer said great job Commissioner Kane with the Empower Her event. You were a great moderator and kept everyone engaged. Being that it is the last few weeks of Women's History Month, I want to mention a friend who has a small business in Camden County. Yesterday I had the chance to visit a young lady named Lashaun Drew, who has a restaurant in

Voorhees called The Original Hot Dog Factory. I encourage everyone to go there and support her. She also has a women's non-profit through which she helps a lot of women in Camden. Lastly, thank you to the County employees for all you do. Thank you, Dominic, and everyone for keeping Employee Connections going.

Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell said today was an important day for us in many ways but particularly because we introduced the 2024 Camden County Budget. There are a lot of people to thank for this budget, the Board of Commissioners, Departments Heads, DCAs and the employees of Camden County. What we have been able to accomplish today with the direction of Ross Angilella, Steve Williams our Financial Officer, and Yolaika Gonzalez VinaMarte is a tremendous budget. It literally reduces the tax rate in Camden County by 6^c and that is down 12^c since 2022. It is an amazing accomplishment. We will all be proud to know that the value of property in Camden County, called the tax base which reflects the value of all property, commercial and residential in Camden County, went up by \$5.5 billion in value this year. That is remarkable and is part of the reason we were able to lower the tax rate. \$5.5 billion is in addition to last year when our tax base, the value of all property in Camden County, went up by \$5 billion. We are up in value of property \$10.5 billion in Camden County. Now what does that mean? It means it is very much more manageable for us to maintain the great quality of services that we do, and without barely touching the cost to taxpayers. In fact, in Camden County most taxpayers will see a reduction in their county tax rate this year. That works because it is a great place to live and we are making it a better and better place to live every year and that is why the tax base goes up. Property becomes more valuable because the place where it is located is more valuable. Thank you to everyone in our government and in this room today, particularly Yolaika and Steve. Steve, you are doing an absolutely spectacular job as our CFO and we all very much appreciate it. We should also give a round of applause to Yolaika and to Ross Angilella for a great job. Congratulations to everyone and thanks to all our employees who work so hard for the citizens every day and do such a great job.

Commissioner Director Cappelli said thank you Ed. You are being humble because you lead this process year after year and holding the tax rate in check is not an easy thing to do. Not too many other governments do that but thanks to your leadership and everyone you mentioned we have been very successful. Thank you for your hard work. I too would like to thank the employees of Camden County for the hard work they do day in and day out for our residents.

The Director asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Young made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer and all Commissioners voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore
Clerk of the Board