

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CAUCUS MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2024  
6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
520 MARKET STREET, CAMDEN, NJ 08102**

Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and the following Commissioners answered to their name:

PRESENT: AL DYER, MELINDA KANE, JEFFREY NASH, VIRGINIA BETTERDIGE, EDWARD McDONNELL

EXCUSED: JONATHAN YOUNG, SR., LOUIS CAPPELLI, JR.

Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell said good afternoon. This meeting has been properly advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The Commissioner Deputy Director asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell said, at Thursday's Commissioners' meeting we will be taking the following actions related to adoption of the Camden County Budget:

**Adoption of a Resolution authorizing, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, the 2024 Camden County Budget to be read by title only.**

**Public Hearing on a 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.**

**Public Hearing on the 2024 Camden County Budget, as introduced.**

We will also be introducing the following Bond Ordinance:

**Bond Ordinance of the County of Camden, New Jersey, in connection with various improvements for Camden County College, appropriating \$3,095,000 therefor, and providing for the issuance of \$3,095,000 in Bonds or Notes of the County to finance such appropriation.**

A Public Hearing on the Bond Ordinance will be held May 16, 2024 at the Camden County Courthouse, 520 Market Street, 6th Floor Meeting Room, Camden, NJ at 12 noon.

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

**Resolutions and discussion of proposed Resolutions by or on behalf of Commissioner Dyer**

Commissioner Dyer read Resolutions 1 through 16 into the record and they were approved to be placed on the agenda for adoption.

**Resolutions and discussion of proposed Resolutions by or on behalf of Commissioner Kane**

Commissioner Kane read Resolutions 17 through 20 into the record and they were approved to be placed on the agenda for adoption.

**Resolutions and discussion of proposed Resolutions by or on behalf of Commissioner Nash**

Commissioner Nash read Resolutions 21 through 33 into the record and they were approved to be placed on the agenda for adoption.

**Resolutions and discussion of proposed Resolutions by or on behalf of Commissioner Betteridge**

Commissioner Betteridge read Resolutions 34 through 49 into the record and they were approved to be placed on the agenda for adoption.

**Resolutions and discussion of proposed Resolutions by or on behalf of Commissioner Young**

Commissioner Kane read Commissioner Young's Resolutions 50 through 62 into the record and they were approved to be placed on the agenda for adoption.

**Resolutions and discussion of proposed Resolutions by or on behalf of Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell**

Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell read Resolutions 63 through 71 into the record and they were approved to be placed on the agenda for adoption.

**Resolutions and discussion of proposed Resolutions by or on behalf of Commissioner Director Cappelli**

Commissioner Nash read Director Cappelli's Resolutions 72 through 98 into the record and they were approved to be placed on the agenda for adoption.

The Commissioner Deputy Director opened the meeting to the public for discussion of the Resolutions and/or any other matters.

Seeing no members of the public wishing to comment, Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell asked for a motion to close the public portion. Commissioner Kane made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer. All Commissioners present voted aye.

### **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell read the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the hereinafter-specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed:
  - A. **PERSONNEL**
    - Personnel Actions
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above subject matter will be made public when members of the Camden County Board of Commissioners have made a final determination.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution and go into closed session to discuss the aforementioned matters. Commissioner Kane made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer at 12:32 p.m.

Before the Board could officially move into Closed Session a member of the public in attendance asked when the meeting would be open to the public for discussion of issues other than the Resolutions. County Counsel advised the Commissioner Deputy Director that the meeting would have to be reopened to the public. The Commissioner Deputy Director asked for a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Nash made the motion with a second by Commissioner Betteridge at 12:34 p.m.

**Louis Monoyios, 103 Johnson Avenue, Oaklyn, New Jersey.** *I am currently a resident of Camden County for 60 years. I have lived at 103 Johnson Avenue for 58 years which is contingent on Newton Lake. You folks did a dredging program, but it's not finished. You finished the dredging, but the bank stabilization is not done. All the muck is going to go back into the lake and all the money that you spent – and I don't know how much you spent or how much is left over*

– *but it is going to be wasted. I can tell you one thing, there is a sewer line that comes out of Johnson and East Lakeview and that sewer line goes into the lake for stormwater. I can't tell you how long that sewer line has been cracked. All the runoff from that area goes right on to the land that is at the bottom of the steps. It's not doing its job and I am sure there are other places that are having the same issue. When I first moved to Oaklyn 58 years ago at the same house, Newton Lake Park was beautiful. It had grass, benches, and barbeque pits. You could get to the fishing pier but right now that fishing pier is mostly under water. My kids used to go fishing there. I don't know what's happening. It seems like you did the dredging, but you forgot about everything else. I tried to bring it up at various places and I decided to come up here and talk to you guys, You guys have the money control.* Deputy Director McDonnell asked Commissioner Nash to comment.

Commissioner Nash asked Mr. Monoyios if he talked to anyone at the Parks Department about these issues. Mr. Monoyios said *we have and the Director has left and there is someone else coming in.* Commissioner Nash said there is a new Director. I am going to take your name and address and I am going to contact you directly because there are a lot of issues. But let me say this, we have put a lot of time and money into Newton Lake Park. The money that we spent was approximately \$22 million for the dredging. We have money set aside for the bank stabilization. You are correct in stating that the bank stabilization is a critical part to make sure that we are not dredging in another 10 or 20 years. We are doing work to stabilize the bank and dealing with the outfalls. The problem is that unfortunately, DEP has taken a different position on bank stabilization than what we would like and what you would like to see. We are currently dealing with DEP to try to resolve the problem. They believe that bank stabilization as you and I would like to see is not appropriate for Newton Lake. Our response to them is well then you can pay to redredge it if necessary, but they do not want to hear that. We are actively negotiating with DEP to try to resolve that problem. I am cautiously optimistic that we are going to be successful once we speak directly to the Commissioner of DEP about our concerns but unfortunately, we have been pushed back by the State. We can't violate what the State says because then the taxpayers are going to have to pay a significant fine. I would like to take your name and number so I can talk to you more specifically about what we are doing. We are also doing a lot of amenities at Newton Lake Park. Mr. Monoyios said *it is not on the Oaklyn side. It is always on the Collingwood side or the Haddon Township areas.* Commissioner Nash said we do not view it by municipality. We have made a significant financial investment to make sure the park is as spectacular as it can be. Dominic Vesper is here. He is the Deputy County Administrator who oversees this. There is a new Director. His name is Scott Traynor, replacing Maggie McCann who ironically went to DEP. It is even more ironic because she went toe to toe with DEP and she took it very personally. Mr. Monoyios said *maybe we have a spokesman there.* Commissioner Nash said we try to use whatever resources we have but it is not her department, it is a different branch of the DEP. We are fighting the fight. The bottom line is that I totally agree with you. To not have the bank stabilization at Newton Creek is going to expedite the need to dredge it again.

Mr. Monoyios said *after every rainstorm, every one, even if you get a 1/10 of an inch, you go down the steps of the culvert and you are in mud.* DCA Vesper asked Mr. Monoyios if he lives in the house behind where the old Burger King was. Mr. Monoyios said at Johnson and East Lakeview where the two streets come to a corner. DCA Vesper asked where the area of the broken sewer pipe is. Mr. Monoyios said *right there at that corner.* DCA Vesper asked for the

intersection again. Mr. Monoyios said *the intersection of East Lakeview and Johnson*. Mr. Angilella said with every dredging project we have ever done, we have done bank stabilization. We are advocating DEP to do it right. DCA Vesper said I am having the Director of Public Works look at the sewer pipe. Mr. Monoyios said *they know it's there. I have talked to Rick Hawko. He knows about it. The Council knows about it*. Commissioner Deputy Director McDonnell said you will be talking with Commissioner Nash and Dominic Vesper and hopefully we can get this resolved but the big issue is with the DEP. Commissioner Nash said we are working through it and I appreciate you coming here today. Mr. Monoyios said *it has gotten bad. Like I said, my kids used to go out to the fishing pier and they loved it. You can't even find the fishing pier because of all the swamp grass. It's atrocious*. Commissioner Nash said I'm not sure which pier you are referring to. I have been to that fishing pier many times. Mr. Monoyios said *you can't get to it. You want to walk through that much water?* DCA Vesper said Scott Schreiber, Scott Traynor, you, I and this gentleman will walk through the area. Mr. Monoyios said *we have done that a couple of times, but I would be happy to do it again*. DCA Vesper said that is all I am asking you to do. I want to make sure I know what fishing pier you are referring to.

County Counsel advised the Commissioner Deputy Director to reread the Closed Session Resolution, following which he asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution and go into closed session. Commissioner Kane made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer at 12:49 p.m.

The Commissioners returned from closed session with a motion made by Commissioner Nash and a second by Commissioner Dyer at 12:54 p.m.

There being no further discussion, the Commissioner Deputy Director asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Betteridge made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Kane at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore  
Clerk of the Board