

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CAUCUS MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2021 - 12:00 PM
16th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
520 MARKET STREET, CAMDEN, NJ 08102**

Director Cappelli called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and the following Commissioners answered to their name:

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

It is noted for the record that due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all Commissioners participated virtually, except for Commissioner Kane and Director Cappelli, both of whom attended in person.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was closed to the public attending in person. The public was availed the opportunity to participate via live streaming and to send in questions during and after the meeting.

The Director said this meeting has been properly advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Director proceeded with the Caucus Agenda. Director Cappelli said we will have four (4) First Readings at Thursday's Commissioners meeting. Public hearings on all four (4) matters will be held virtually on March 18, 2021 at 12:00 noon and will be streamed live via www.camdencounty.com/live. Members of the public are welcomed and encouraged to view and participate in the public hearings via the live feed.

FIRST READING #1

Bond Ordinance of the County of Camden, New Jersey appropriating \$1,000,000 in supplemental funding for the development and construction of athletic fields and related parks and recreational improvements at the former Campbell's Field site in the City of Camden and authorizing the issuance of \$950,000 Bonds or Notes of the County for financing part of such appropriation.

FIRST READING #2

Resolution of the County of Camden in the State of New Jersey authorizing a Guarantee by the County of the payment of the principal of and interest on the “County Guaranteed Loan Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021” to be issued by the Camden County Improvement Authority for the purposes of the refunding of all or a portion of the callable maturities of the Authority’s outstanding County Guaranteed Loan Revenue Bonds (County Capital Program), Series 2011.

FIRST READING #3

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Camden, New Jersey providing the County’s consent to (I) the refunding of certain outstanding County Guaranteed Loan Revenue Bonds of the Camden County Improvement Authority originally issued to finance and/or refinance the acquisition, construction, renovation or installation of certain capital projects of the County; (II) the issuance by the Authority of a series of its “County Guaranteed Loan Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021” for the purposes of refunding such outstanding County Guaranteed Loan Revenue Bonds; (III) the Loan Agreement by and between the County and the Authority in connection with the refinancing authorized hereby; and (IV) certain other matters related thereto and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:37A-56.

FIRST READING #4

An Ordinance of the County of Camden authorizing and adopting an assessment on certain services furnished by hospitals located within the County’s borders for the purpose of increasing funding to support the provision of necessary services by such hospitals to low-income citizens and provide new fiscal resources to the County of Camden.

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

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

Resolutions 1 through 3 and Resolutions 5 through 12 were approved to be placed on the Agenda for adoption. Resolution 4 was pulled.

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

Resolutions 13 and 14 were approved to be placed on the Agenda for adoption.

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

Resolutions 15 and 16 were approved to be placed on the Agenda for adoption.

With respect to Resolution 15, Commissioner Nash commended Chris Orlando, Jack Sworaski, Brian Costantino, Dominic Vesper and Maggie McCann on their efforts. He said the current rate for recycling is \$5.00 per ton on the tipping fee. Most towns are currently paying \$80 a ton. Our team was able to hold the line and I am sure the municipalities appreciate that.

Resolutions and discussion of proposed Resolutions by or on behalf of Commissioner Rodriguez

Resolutions 17 through 22 were approved to be placed on the Agenda for adoption. It is noted for the record that due to technical difficulties Commissioner Kane presented Commissioner Rodriguez's Resolutions.

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

Resolutions 23 through 28 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

Resolutions 29 through 42 were approved to be placed on the Agenda for adoption.

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

Resolutions 43 through 56 were approved to be placed on the Agenda for adoption.

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

Garren Steiner - 6650 Browning Road, Suite M20, Pennsauken. Mr. Steiner submitted the following concerns on behalf of members of CWA Local 1014: *On behalf of As Camden County workers we feel deeply disappointed with how we are being treated in contract negotiations with the Camden County administration. Since day one of the pandemic, we, the Camden County Employees, continue to serve residents of Camden County diligently, especially considering the difficult and dangerous conditions this pandemic has placed us all in. We are now in the third year without a contract. We have made every effort to be reasonable with our proposals. And yet the County continues to insist on taking more and more from us. What stands in the way of getting a deal is the County's instance on the following concessions: #1: The County is demanding to decrease the number of our personal days from 4 down to 3. #2: The*

County is demanding to cap the number of vacation days for new hires at 20 days down from 28, which would result in a two-tiered system for employees doing identical work. #3: The County is demanding to decrease our pay if we are injured on the job by taking away the first thirty (30) days at full pay and going immediately to worker's compensation which pays 2/3rds of your pay. It was gratifying to receive an email on June 26, 2020 from a County Commissioner which read in part:

"All of the Freeholders are, of course, well aware of the work our employees do year round, and the vital services you provide to all our residents. We publicly thank you and tell you how important you are. From this pandemic, and all the challenges that arrived with it, the Freeholders have learned that you are more than just good employees; you are great people. What you have accomplished for the residents of our county has been remarkable. It seems none of you ever said "no" when asked to do some task surely not in your job description. No one complained if asked to come early or stay late; you put on your masks and risked your health. And if, in the middle of all of this, a new emergency disrupted all your plans, you ran to where you were needed no complaints no whining no "why me?" you just did it. All of this you did while worrying constantly about protecting your own families from the virus. I mostly wanted you to know that this crisis has helped each of us on the Freeholder board to appreciate you and value you even more than ever before... we have learned through this pandemic experience is that so many of you are so much more than just competent employees. Over the past months, in a hundred conversations among Freeholders, the common theme has been to marvel at your spectacular performance, even under these most difficult and trying circumstances. But more than that, our conversations have been about how far so many of you have gone beyond the call of duty to make sure our residents benefited from every service we could possibly provide them; in their time of great anxiety, you came to their rescue."

In addition to the above, County Employees are responsible for being COVID contract tracers as well as working the COVID testing and vaccination sites and being out in inclement weather, plowing snow to ensure the safety of the county's residents. While these words are received well by the Bargaining Unit, the negotiations tactics taken by the county stand in direct opposition of the sentiments above. How is it possible to truly show appreciation for the vital services provided and to marvel at spectacular performances, when the Bargaining Unit is being faced with proposals that result in the deterioration of the quality of our lives? We appreciate the kind words, but the sentiment must be more than just words. We need a fair union contract, and we need it now. The time has long past for the employees to be told "each of us on the Freeholder board appreciate you and value you even more than ever before." There needs to be actions behind the words, otherwise the words are just stale and hollow. It is time to do what is right, fair and equitable. No longer are words of praise enough. The members of this bargaining unit demand a fair union contract now and will stand strong in unity until we achieve our goal.

*Sincerely,
The Undersigned Camden County Employees,*

Garren M Steiner, CWA Local 1014 President

Sachina Evans, CWA Local 1014 Vice President
Danniele Rodgers, CWA Local 1014 Shop Steward & Recording Secretary
Rose Patterson, CWA Local 1014 Trustee & County Negotiations Team Member
Stephan Pitts, CWA Local 1014 Trustee & County Negotiations Team Member
Matthew Frankowski, CWA Local 1014 Trustee & County Negotiations Team Member
Tim Drumm, CWA Local 1014 Trustee & County Negotiations Team Member
Chris Motte, CWA Local 1014 Shop Steward & County Negotiations Team Member
Christopher Pritchett Lewis, CWA Local 1014 Trustee & County Negotiations Team Member
Marsha Thurmond, CWA Local 1014 Shop Steward & County Negotiations Team Member
Kiem Robinson Lucas, CWA Local 1014 Shop Steward & County Negotiations Team Member
Kathy Jaworski Sitzlow, CWA Local 1014 Shop Steward
Jarrett Dykes, CWA Local 1014 Shop Steward & County Negotiations Team Member
Ryan Harrell, CWA Local 1014 Shop Steward & County Negotiations Team Member
Edmond Twyman, County Negotiations Team Member
Shawn Wilson, CWA Local 1014 Shop Steward & County Negotiations Team Member
Ken Rice, CWA Local 1014 Trustee & County Negotiations Team Member
Bryan Burns, CWA Local 1014 Trustee & County Negotiations Team Member

Director Cappelli said delays were caused when there was a change in the leadership for CWA Local 1014 and by the pandemic. We are engaged in good faith negotiations and hope to come to a resolution soon. County Counsel added that negotiations restarted in November when the workplace began getting back to normal. There were at least two negotiation sessions last week and the parties will continue to meet on a regular basis.

Craig Strimel: *I would like to ask a question about the improvement plan at Cooper River Park. Specifically, I am wondering if there is a plan to improve the track and stadium. I represent a large organization that is interested in helping to raise funds. Commissioner Nash asked Mr. Strimel to contact him directly at jeff.nash@camdencounty.com. He said there are definitely plans for improving the tract and seating at the stadium. Any effort to raise independent funds is greatly appreciated. Commissioner Nash said I look forward to working with Mr. Strimel and his colleagues.*

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

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

The Director 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

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 final determination.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The Director asked for a motion to adopt the Resolution and go into closed session to discuss the aforementioned matters. Commissioner Young made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dyer at 12:37 p.m.

The Commissioners returned from closed session with a motion made by Commissioner Young and a second by Commissioner Nash at 12:42 p.m.

There being no further discussion, the Director asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Young made a motion to adjourn with a second by Commissioner Dyer at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Gilmore
Clerk of the Board