



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Alexander Mirabella presided. Roll call showed Vice Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan, Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, Freeholder Rick Proctor, Freeholder Deborah P. Scanlon and Freeholder Nancy Ward were in attendance. Freeholder Chester Holmes and Freeholder Rayland Van Blake were absent.

Also present were County Counsel Robert E. Barry, Esq., County Manager George W. Devanney and Clerk of the Board Nicole L. DiRado.

The Prayer and Salute to the Flag were led by the Clerk of the Board.

The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by the Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Mirabella asked Freeholder Estrada to join him in accepting a plaque from the Portugal Day Parade Committee. Chairman Mirabella called upon Joe Capitaio and Councilman Manny Grova. Mr. Capitaio stated that on behalf of the Portugal Day Parade Committee he thanked the Board for their support. Councilman Grova presented the Board with a plaque of appreciation for their contribution to the Portugal Day Parade Committee and stated that he appreciates the Board's support. He read the inscription of the plaque aloud. Councilman Grova introduced committee members Maria Carvalho and Jack Garda.

Chairman Mirabella and Freeholder Estrada thanked them for the recognition. Chairman Mirabella stated that the Board is proud to support the community and the parade.

Freeholder Holmes entered the meeting at this point.

### APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Note and File

Oaths of Office

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to approve the Communications. On a motion made by Freeholder Estrada and seconded by Freeholder Scanlon, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to approve the Minutes of:

1. February 26, 2009 – Regular Meeting Minutes
2. March 5, 2009 – Agenda Setting Minutes

On a motion made by Freeholder Scanlon and seconded by Freeholder Kowalski, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the February 26, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes with Freeholder Van Blake absent and eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative for the March 5, 2009 Agenda Setting Minutes with Freeholder Rayland Van Blake absent.

## PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting is open to the public for the purpose of commenting on Resolutions on the Agenda only.

Tina Renna, Cranford, in regards to Resolution 2009-298 asked the Board to keep the catering bill to a minimum in light of the current economic conditions.

## RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2009-256 through 2009-299.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR ADOPTION:

- 2009-256**     **FREEHOLDER ESTRADA**, an amendment to the **Temporary 2009 Budget** pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) as a result of notification received from the following agencies in the aggregate amount of **185,592,665**:
- New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety in the amount of **\$79,969** for a program entitled: **“Comprehensive Traffic Safety Grant.”**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-257**     **FREEHOLDER ESTRADA**, an amendment to the **2009 Temporary Budget**, pursuant to the provisions of CH.96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20).



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-258**      **FREEHOLDER HOLMES**, amending Resolution No. 2008-1107, a contract with **Sammons Preston Rehabilitation Products, Bolingbrook, Illinois**, to purchase occupational and physical therapy supplies, adaptive utensils and nursing supplies by adding an additional account and dollars for hospital supplies for the contract period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 in an additional amount of \$6,000 for a total amount of **\$37,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-259**      **FREEHOLDER HOLMES**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Partners Healthcare, LLC, Cranford, New Jersey**, to provide pharmaceutical services to the residents/patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital for the contract period of April 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 in the amount of **\$1,200,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-260**      **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, amending Resolution No. 2008-1120, to change the funding source from 9-01-27-794-090-389 as a result of funding received from the **New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Juvenile Justice Commission**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-261**      **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a lease agreement with **Immaculate Conception Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey**, for the rental of 75 parking spaces located at 425 Union Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, for the Division of Social Services employee parking, for the contract period of February 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 in the amount of \$50 per space or \$3,750 per month, in an amount not to exceed **\$45,000 per year**.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-262**      **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, amending Resolution No. 2009-70, to extend the lease agreement between the County of Union and **Hersh Towers Corporation, c/o ACHS Management Corporation, New York, New York**, commencing March 1, 2009 through April 30, 2009 for a sum not to exceed **\$6,207 per month** for two (2) one-month extensions.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-263**      **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, adopting the revised County of Union Employee Handbook amending the **"Compensatory Time Policy."**

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-264**      **FREEHOLDER KOWALSKI**, appointing **Desiree Ramos, Government & Community Relations, Port Authority of NY & NJ**, to the Workforce Investment Board for a term to commence July 1, 2008 and to expire June 30, 2011.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-265**      **FREEHOLDER VAN BLAKE**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with **Union County Economic Development Corporation, Union, New Jersey**, to provide procurement training/technical assistance to private businesses within Union County and associated general economic development services to the County for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 in an amount not to exceed **\$80,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-266**      **FREEHOLDER VAN BLAKE**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with **Union County Economic Development Corporation**,



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**Union, New Jersey**, to provide general economic development services within Union County for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 in an amount not to exceed **\$80,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-267**     **FREEHOLDER WARD**, appointing **Lorraine Seidel** as an alternate member for the Township of Springfield to the **Union County Air Traffic and Noise Advisory Board** for a term to commence January 1, 2009 and expire December 31, 2010.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-268**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Full Service Mailers, Garfield, New Jersey**, for the purpose of mailing Union County sample ballots for the 2009 School Board, Primary and General Elections in an amount not to exceed **\$50,750**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-269**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Royal Printing Service, West New York, New Jersey**, for the purpose of printing Union County ballots for the 2009 School Board, Primary and General Elections in an amount not to exceed **\$498,190**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-270**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **B&B Press, Inc., Somerville, New Jersey**, for the purpose of printing absentee and provisional ballots for the 2009 Primary and General Elections in an amount not to exceed **\$126,400**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

- 2009-271**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Porter Lee Corporation, Schaumburg, Illinois**, to provide annual support for the Barcoded Evidence Analysis, Statistics and Tracking (BEAST) evidence logging system for the contract period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 in an amount not to exceed **\$45,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-272**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, approving the **Union County Sheriff's Five Year Written Spending Plan** for the use of the Document Trust Fund.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-273**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, designating two vehicles, a 1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee and a 1976 T5 Ford Tractor as **surplus vehicles** so they may be donated to the Roselle Park fire department.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-274**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to **donate two vehicles**, to the Borough of Roselle Park Fire Department pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36(2). The fire department has expressed an urgent need to acquire the vehicles.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-275**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending Resolution Number 2009-223 awarding insurance policies, to reflect a change in insurance company and premium amount to replace AIG with **Everest National Insurance Company** for the contract period of March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 in an amount not to exceed **\$721,140 plus NJPLIGA surcharge of \$6,490, for a total amount of \$727,630**.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-276**      **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to award the proposed contracts obtained through advertised public bidding in accordance with the **Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq**:

- a. Department of Engineering and Public Works: **Tiffany Electric Inc., Fairfield, New Jersey**, to provide intersection improvement in the Township of Cranford at East Lincoln Avenue with Walnut Avenue at E. Lincoln Avenue with Centennial Avenue in the amount of **\$354,863.65**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-277**      **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to purchase imprinted grave flags to be placed on veterans graves throughout Union County to honor their service on Memorial Day from **Metro Flag, Dover, New Jersey**, in the amount of **\$24,480**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-278**      **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending Resolution No. 2008-572, authorizing Change Order No. 1 (final) to a contract (through public bid process) with **Star of the Sea Concrete Corporation, Old Bridge, New Jersey**, in the amount of \$382,311.70 for 2008 resurfacing project for a new total amount of **\$4,079,813.96**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-279**      **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, concurring with the **City of Linden**, granting permission to Morning Star Community Christian Center to hang a banner at Wood and Elizabeth Avenue beginning February 25, 2009 to April 13, 2009 to advertise Easter Sunday service.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**2009-280**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending Resolution No. 2007-542, authorizing Change Order No. 1 (final) to a contract (through public bidding process) with **Schifano Construction Corporation, Middlesex, New Jersey**, for the 2007 milling, resurfacing and handicap ramp construction project. This Change Order will decrease the original contract amount by \$358,233.59 for a new contract amount of **\$3,107,563.46**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-281**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending Resolution No. 845-99, a professional engineering service contract with **Kupper, LLC, Trenton, New Jersey**, for the reconstruction of the East Inman Avenue Bridge (Ra13) over the South Branch of Rahway River, Rahway, New Jersey in an amount of \$19,400.00 for a new contract amount of **\$242,297**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-282**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to award a professional service contract to **Imperial Construction Group, Inc., Pine Brook, New Jersey**, for the purpose of providing construction management services for the Union County Courthouse Tower Addition & Stairwell Modernization Project in Elizabeth, New Jersey in the amount of **\$925,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-283**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Union and the **New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness** for the use of the Field Analysis Unit at no cost to the County.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**2009-284**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, authorizing the County Manager to enter into a contract with **Forensic Pathology Services, Ltd., Titusville, New Jersey**, to perform autopsies and external examinations on weekends and/or while the medical examiner is on vacation or on sick leave for the period of March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 in an amount not to exceed **\$25,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-285**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending Resolution No. 2009-106, authorizing the County Manager to enter into an agreement with **Thompson West, Stamford, Connecticut**, for the purchase of such law books and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional officers and agencies within the County of Union for and additional amount of \$1,800 for a new total amount not to exceed **\$133,677.50**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-286**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending Resolution No. 2009-108, authorizing the County Manager to enter contract with **various vendors** for the purchase of such law books and materials as is necessary for various departments, constitutional officers and agencies for an additional amount of \$600 for a total amount not to exceed **\$71,777.50**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-287**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending Resolution No. 2008-997, to increase the appropriation to **Palumbo & Renaud, Cranford, New Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled **Eduardo Tapari v. UC, et als**, for an additional sum of \$5,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$60,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-288**     **CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, amending Resolution 2008-999, to increase the appropriation to **DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Wisler, LLP, Teaneck, New**



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**Jersey**, special counsel in the matter entitled County of Union v. FAA for an additional sum of \$10,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed **\$120,000**.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE LAUDATORY IN CONTENT:

**2009-289 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Baldeep Dua** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Entrepreneur.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-290 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Ina Golub** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Fine Arts.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-291 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Kim Nesbit Good** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Business.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

**2009-292 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Mildred Lewis** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Civic Leadership.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-293 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD,** congratulating **Janet Malko** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Lifetime Achievement Secondary Education.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-294 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD,** congratulating **Denise Miles** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Volunteerism.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-295 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD,** congratulating **Patricia Murphy** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Lifetime Achievement Healthcare.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-296 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD,** congratulating **Heather G. Suarez** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Law.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

- 2009-297 FREEHOLDERS WARD, KOWALSKI, SCANLON AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Kristina Sylvestry** on her recognition by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women and her selection for the “2009 Women of Excellence Award” in the category of Women’s Advocacy.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-298 CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA**, declaring Wednesday, March 25, 2009 as “**Union County Day**” in New Providence.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

- 2009-299 CHAIRMAN MIRABELLA AND THE ENTIRE BOARD**, congratulating **Ben Laganga, Director, Union County Division of Emergency** on his upcoming retirement.

On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

The meeting is open to the public for the purpose of commenting on any matter.

Kathy Torpe, Clark, stated that she has a petition that consists of seventy-six pages and approximately four hundred and fifty signatures to keep the Oak Ridge Golf Course from closing. She stated in lieu of closing the course she suggested keeping the course in its existing state until the economic conditions improve. She urged the Board to cancel MusicFest 2009 and urged County employees to take a pay cut until the economy recovers.

The petition is attached.

Lavinia Ruby, Cranford, stated that she is appealing to keep the Oak Ridge Golf Course open. Attached, are Ms. Ruby’s comments and a draft lease agreement for the golf course on how to make improvements through leasing. She also spoke about a deferred pension plan for the employees.

John Berry, Kenilworth, stated that there is no coverage or rules for public plans. He stated that he believes that no one will be able to obtain their pensions in a few years. He stated



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

that the pension deferral vote is not on the list to be voted upon. County Manager Devanney stated that they have been advised that the Board will be voted on this Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. He asked if MusicFest will be held at the Oak Ridge Golf Course site this year.

He also stated that Oak Ridge will not remain dormant. He said the Board will meet to discuss what type of events will be held at the location.

Chairman Mirabella stated that Family Flix may be held at the Oak Ridge site in the future. Mr. Berry stated that he liked the idea and asked if the County already offers Family Flix. Chairman Mirabella replied, yes, he stated that during summer months the movies are shown in various parks throughout the County.

Mike Tully, Union, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on behalf of archers. He stated that although he is saddened about the loss of the facility for golfers, he is excited about the possibility of utilizing a small space for archers to use for practice as there are limited locations for the practice of archery. He stated that he has been working with Jean Foley and the staff of the Union County Parks and Recreation since March 8, 2007 to find an area that can be used for archery in Union County. He stated that there have been four previous locations that have been abandoned. He said that Oak Ridge Park would be an ideal location for the 4H Club, Boy Scouts and Junior Olympics.

Ellen D'Orio, Westfield, stated that she is a Union County employee and a volunteer and is also a certified 4H archery instructor for youth and adults. She stated that she is saddened about the closing of the Oak Ridge Golf Course, but adds that an archery range at that location would be ideal. She said it is difficult for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to obtain their medals in archery due to the lack of locations to practice. She stated that she teaches the technicality and safety of the sport, adding that it is considered to be one of the safest sports.

Antonio Bertones, Roselle Park, stated that Oak Ridge Park would be a good location for archery and said archery is a family and friend-fun sport.

Eric Rockman, Eagle Scout, Westfield, stated that it is difficult for him to complete the requirements to obtain the Eagle Scout award because he built targets and a shed and there is no where to put them due to the lack of locations where he could practice. He said that Oak Ridge Park would be an ideal location. He remarked that archery is part of gym class and this location could be used for field trips.

Russ Harvey, Cranford, President of Wax B. Archers stated that the company develops and promotes archery which offers a variety of programs consisting of instruction and safety, leagues, tournaments and teaching certifications. He added that the sport appeals to all ages.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Claire Butler, Mountainside, stated that she is a member of the New Jersey Senior Olympics from its origination in 1987. She said that she has received gold medals in archery and competes nationally. She stated that every year there has been an increase in population in the sport of archery. She stated that Oak Ridge Park would be a great place to practice rather than having to travel to New Brunswick, Clifton or Bloomfield to practice.

Jerry Duffy, Garwood, stated that national archery needs to be brought back to the school programs. He said that there are more than sixteen thousand schools that practice archery in the United States and there are only twenty-five in New Jersey. He said that although the golfers of Union County are losing a golf course, they still have two other courses to play on, whereas, there are no places for archers to practice and the Oak Ridge Golf Course would be a great location. Mr. Duffy stated that archery is a local, county, state, national and international sport and it has no limitations for those who want to play. He stated that he has taught ages three to eighty-three and claims that the old driving range at Oak Ridge is a similar set-up to archery.

Raymond Szpond, Scotch Plains, President of the Cranford Rod and Gun Club stated that there are currently 35 members in the Club and he has a petition with seventy signatures and he will commit members to work on the Oak Ridge site.

The petition is attached.

Sperwin Rogers, Howell, stated that he is an archery instructor who carries his archery equipment wherever he goes. He said that he travels for work and is sometimes in this area. He stated that he attended the Freeholder Meeting in support of having an archery range at Oak Ridge Park.

John Carlos and daughter, Margaret, (inaudible). Mr. Carlos stated that Margaret is a Special Olympian in ice skating, a gold medalist in swimming and is an advent archer. He stated that she was born deaf with severe learning disabilities. He said that since there is no place in the community to shoot, they have been practicing in their rear yard, only to cause problems with the local police department. He stated that they are trying to get archery in the Special Olympics. He urged the Board to keep a section of land at Oak Ridge for archery. Mr. Carlos and Margaret thanked the Board.

Bob Varaday, Hillside, stated that he is President of Groundworks Elizabeth and said the Tour De Elizabeth began five years ago and he was surprised at the turnout, whereas 125 people ranging from eight to eighty to showed up at 7:30am. He stated that people from all over attended and last year 400 people were in attendance. He said that Oak Ridge is a good opportunity for bicyclists. He also mentioned that Freeholder Kowalski has been instrumental in the Bicycle Plan of Union County.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Jonathan Phillips, Executive Director of Groundworks Elizabeth stated that they change places and improve the quality of life for the residents of Elizabeth. He is saddened by the closing of the Oak Ridge Golf Course. He said he applauds the public support of the archers. Mr. Phillips stated that bicycling could join the archers on the Oak Ridge site and stated that other avenues of recreation can be available to Union County residents.

Sean Penn, Kenilworth, stated that he supports the Oak Ridge site for archery as there are few locations to practice and he will supply a design a plan at no cost to the County.

Tinna Renna, Cranford, stated that Warinanco Ice Skating Rink does not generate any revenue, just like the Oak Ridge Golf Course and she does not understand the reason. She said that she has heard many speakers say that it's due to mismanagement. Ms. Renna stated that she has submitted many OPRA requests regarding MusicFest 2008 and stated that the numbers do not add up. She addressed layoffs notices and pension payments.

George Anist, Rahway, stated that he is an archer and would be happy to see an Olympian archer come from Union County. He urged the Board to allow space for an archery range.

Kevin Ralph, Toms River, stated that he attended the Freeholder meeting to support an archery range.

Jim Beuttner, Cranford, stated that he was surprised to hear about the proposed archery range and bicycle paths. He said that he was not aware that there were plans for the Oak Ridge space. He stated that he arranged a workshop meeting with County Manager Devanney, Director of Golf Operations Sanchez and Director of Parks and Community Renewal Faella and they stated that they will try to keep the golf course open, only to discover shortly thereafter that the decision was to close the golf course.

Al Shimkowitz, Cranford, asked when the closing of the golf course was voted upon; and he asked if this is the final decision.

Chairman Mirabella stated that this section of the meeting is for comments only.

Mr. Shimkowitz stated that the piece of land that everyone is inquiring about for the archery range is not located in Union County. He said that he believes that it is located in Edison, Middlesex County. He stated that it will cost the County over \$100,000 to maintain the land for a bicycle path. He also stated that if the Board decides to have MusicFest at this location, he would be concerned about the lack of parking. He stated that MusicFest at Nomahegan Park has use of the Union County College parking lot.

Judy Winter, Cranford, stated that she attended the Freeholder Meeting a few weeks ago and asked how they arrived at the cost for the driving range at the Galloping Hill Golf Course. She asked who performed the feasibility study and how she could view it.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Chairman Mirabella stated that the Clerk of the Board would assist her with an OPRA request.

### FREEHOLDER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Mirabella stated that the Freeholder Meeting of March 19, 2009, will include a Special Meeting prior to the Agenda Session Meeting. He also announced that on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 there will be a Mobile Meeting that will be held at the Municipal Center in New Providence.

Freeholder Kowalski stated that it was great to see so many people attend the meeting having such good ideas on the bicycle paths and the archery range. She said that the County has qualified people looking at costs very carefully. She stated that the Board is not happy about the layoffs or closing the Oak Ridge Golf Course and said that we have to face the reality of the economic conditions. She said, unfortunately the suggestions were made available to the Board last year, when they first began discussing the closing of the course. She stated that at this time, millions of dollars cannot be invested into the historic house that is on the site when so many people are on food stamps, welfare and are having a tough time trying to survive during these economic times. Freeholder Kowalski stated that the County staff has worked very hard to come up with these solutions. She claims that she hears a lot of complaints from Cranford residents about taxes and in order for the golf course to remain open the taxes would need to be substantially increased. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their suggestions and thanked County Manager Devanney, Chairman Mirabella and the County staff for their hard work.

Freeholder Scanlon thanked everyone for their suggestions. She stated that the St. Patrick's Day Parade is Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in Union and urged everyone to attend.

Freeholder Estrada thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated that they have been working with archers for the past two years to find a location for them to practice. He said that the Finance Committee is not in a position to subsidize the golf operations and thanked everyone for sharing their opinions and suggestions. He stated that the Board is elected to make these types of decisions and stated that there are two other golf courses in Union County. He remarked that we listen to the public but the Board is ultimately the ones to make the decisions and everything is geared to a budget.

Freeholder Ward thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

County Manager Devanney stated that since he introduced the Executive Budget, we are in the same situation. He stated that there has not been a cut where someone has not complained. He said the cuts are not balanced on one certain thing and government needs to be conservative during these times. He stated that they have reduced payroll by



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

\$5,000,000. He claimed that the proposed closing of Oak Ridge Golf course began last year at the budget hearings. He said the Board does not want to see more layoffs and if the golf course remains open, more layoffs will occur. He stated that they have been working with Outreach Programs for employees of the Engineering Department, tried to move some employees into grant-funded positions, prepare them for job training and assist with resume writing. County Manager Devanney stated that budget tax increase, pension and new revenues will balance the budget. He stated that golf is a matter of supply and demand. He said the National Golf Foundation states that there are not as many golfers and those who play, play less. He stated that reducing the golf courses to two can be a healthy investment for Union County. He said that he hopes to see more revenue with a driving range.

County Manager Devanney read a letter from the Recreation Director of Clark Ralph Bernardo with suggestions for the Oak Ridge site.

County Manager Devanney stated that the County received word yesterday that the County will be receiving federal funds from the Omnibus package supported by Congressman Donald Payne, \$475,000 for the Elizabeth signal, \$475,000 for the new ferry service and with the help of Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Rothman, \$380,000 for the Kapkowski Road project. He stated that this amount is the most the County has received since we began persuing federal funds.

Freeholder Sullivan spoke about the Omnibus package, stating that Union County will also receive \$9,000,000 and the bulk of this amount will be for dredging the Arthur Kill and to keep the Elizabethport competitive, allowing bigger ships to enter the port. He stated that this is great news as it keeps employment at the port in place. There will be funding for the YMCA, Children's Specialized Hospital and Kapkowski Road. He stated that the stimulus bill will provide the NJTPA funds for construction and infrastructure.

Freeholder Sullivan thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for speaking, whether it's for or against, these are difficult decisions that need to be made by the Board. He stated that the Oak Ridge Golf Course proposal was part of County Manager Devanney's Executive budget and the Fiscal Committee voted to accept it as it was presented.

Freeholder Scanlon urged the public to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Union on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Mirabella thanked everyone for attending the meeting, especially the young, Special Olympics and seniors and everyone for their suggestions for the Oak Ridge Park. He stated that tough decisions need to be made and did not envision the budget containing layoffs or closing of the golf course. He said that he is saddened to see it close. He stated that these are things that public officials need to face and unfortunately not everyone will agree.



## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Chairman Mirabella stated that he appreciates all the archers that attended the meeting. He said that there will be a lot of rumors of what the site will be used for, but at this point, the Board has not discussed it. He stated that the land will be used for the public and more information will follow.

Chairman Mirabella stated that the St. Patrick's Day Parade will begin with family fun at 11:30 prior to the start of the Parade at 1:00. He urged the public to attend.

### ADJOURNMENT

The voucher list through March 4, 2009 will be available for public perusal in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Mirabella called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion made by Vice Chairman Sullivan and seconded by Freeholder Estrada, roll call showed eight members of the Board voted in the affirmative with Freeholder Van Blake absent.



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS' 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that meetings are regularly held on Thursday evenings. Agenda Setting Sessions and Regular Meetings are held at 7:00pm in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Elizabeth, New Jersey, unless otherwise specified. In the event an Agenda Setting Session and Regular Meeting are held on the same night, the Agenda Setting Session will commence at 7:00pm and the Regular Meeting will commence as soon as possible after the Agenda Setting Session. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 908-527-4140.

### AGENDA SETTING SESSIONS

March 19

April 2  
April 23

May 7  
May 28

June 11

July 9

August 6

September 3  
September 17

October 1  
October 15

November 5

Double Meeting

Summer Session

Summer Session

Summer Session

Double Meeting

### REGULAR MEETINGS

\*March 19  
Special Meeting

\*Wednesday, March 25  
New Providence Council  
Chambers, 360 Elkwood Ave.

April 16  
April 30

May 14  
May 28

June 25

July 30

August 20

September 10  
September 24

October 8  
October 15

November 12



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

December 3  
December 17

Double Meeting  
Double Meeting

December 3  
December 17

---

Nicole L. DiRado, RMC, MPA  
Clerk of the Board

NLD:mb