

1. Meeting Materials

Documents:

1-2-2020 FREEHOLDER REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA (PDF).PDF
1-2-2020 FREEHOLDER DEPUTY DIRECTOR FANTASIA REMARKS (PDF).PDF
1-2-2020 FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR PETILLO REMARKS (PDF).PDF



**ANNUAL RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.
COURTROOM
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
3 HIGH STREET, NEWTON, NEW JERSEY**

Item

1. **Call to Order by the Clerk of the Board**
2. **Invocation and Moment of Silent Prayer** by Reverend Luis Rodriguez, Full Life Christian Fellowship, Hopatcong, NJ
3. **Salute to the Flag**
4. **Public Statement**

"Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Adequate Notice, as defined by Section 3D of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, has been made by regular mail on the 12th of December, 2019 as per authorization of the Board, and per notice which was posted, emailed and mailed from the Administrative Offices of the County of Sussex, located in the Administrative Center, One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey, to the following: New Jersey Herald, New Jersey Sunday Herald, The Star Ledger, WNNJ Radio and WSUS Radio, and is also posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Administrative Center for public announcements, and has been submitted to the Sussex County Clerk in compliance with said Act."

5. **Jeffrey M. Parrott, County Clerk** - Determination Statement from the November 5, 2019 Election.
6. **Sylvia Petillo** sworn in as a Member of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders by Kevin Kelly, Esq. for a three-year term; said term to expire December 31, 2022
7. **Anthony Fasano** sworn in as a Member of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders by Judge Gauss for a three-year term; said term to expire December 31, 2022
8. **Michael F. Strada** sworn in as the Sussex County Sheriff by Judge Gauss for a three-year term; said term to expire December 31, 2022

9. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2020
10. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTING THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2020
11. RECOGNITION OF DIGNITARIES AND FREEHOLDER REMARKS
12. PROCLAMATIONS - None
13. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR
Comments are limited to 5 minutes or less and must only address issues regarding agenda items followed by a 3 minute response time from the Freeholder Board. Please state your name, and print your name and municipality on the sign in sheet.
14. RESOLUTION RE: DATE AND TIME OF 2020 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
15. RESOLUTION RE: HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2020
16. RESOLUTION RE: PROVIDING THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR WITH VETO POWER OVER COUNTY AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:20-71.3
17. RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT
18. RESOLUTION RE: FILING OF BONDS
19. RESOLUTION RE: CLERK OF THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE FEES FOR COPIES OF PUBLIC RECORDS
20. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM JOSEPH AS THE OFFICIAL TOWN CRIER FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR 2020
21. RESOLUTION RE: ESTABLISHING POLICY RELATIVE TO EMERGENCY PURCHASES GOODS AND SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 AND N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1
22. RESOLUTION RE: APPROVING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2020
23. RESOLUTION RE: BANKS AS DEPOSITORIES
24. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS

25. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY TREASURER TO PAY BILLS ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH WHEN THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS DOES NOT MEET ON THE SECOND AND/OR FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
26. RESOLUTION RE: ADOPTION OF A 2020 TEMPORARY OPERATING BUDGET BY THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX
27. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF SALARIES
28. RESOLUTION RE: REAUTHORIZING PETTY CASH FUNDS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020
29. RESOLUTION RE: POLICY FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF FREEHOLDER EXPENSES
30. RESOLUTION RE: RENEWING A MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS POLICY FOR BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
31. RESOLUTION RE: RE-AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX TO UTILIZE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING FOR VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES AS PERMITTED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1
32. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF EMMA SMITH AS PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER, (P.A.C.O.) IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020, PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 1975 C. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27)
33. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF COUNTY OFFICERS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND AS OFFICERS TO THE COCHRAN HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
34. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENTS OF JENNIFER BRAUN, CONSUMER ADVOCATE, DAWN PENNA, PROVIDER AND ROBIN L. VANDER GROEF, PROVIDER AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH; SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022
35. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER COLVILLE, DEBBIE WEST, DEBORAH BERRY-TOON, AND INGRID VACA-BULLARO AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH; SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022

36. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JOAN BRUSEO (PROVIDER-MANDATED) AND MELISSA LATRONICA, (CONSUMER-MANDATED) MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH; SAID TERMSTO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022
37. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF MARY DONOVICK (PROVIDER), BRIGITTE HEFFERNON (SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBER) AND MAUREEN CIANCI (SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBER) AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH; SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022
38. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF RAYMOND LINES (SENIOR CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE) AND TOM DRABIC (STAFF REPRESENTATIVE) AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH; SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022
39. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF BRIAN FORD AND ANNMARIE SHAFER AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH; SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022
40. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF DIANNA MORRISON (PROVIDER - REPRESENTATIVE) AND SUZANNE SARNER (PROVIDER-REPRESENTATIVE) AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH; SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022
41. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA C. NUGENT AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS; SAID TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022
42. RESOLUTION RE: APPPOINTMENT OF THE HONORABLE MICHAEL GAUSS, J.S.C. MORRIS/SUSSEX VICINAGE, SUSSEX COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, FAMILY PART AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THE HONORABLE NOAH FRANZBLAU, J.S.C.; SAID TERM TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE ON 12/31/2020

43. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF MONICA JENNINGS, ASST. FAMILY DIVISION MANAGER, SUSSEX COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, FAMILY PART, AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THERESA MAHONEY; SAID TERM TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020
44. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF LENORA HUMPHREY, DCP&P COUNTY SERVICES SPECIALIST (EX-OFFICIO), AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF DAVID JOHNSTON; SAID TERM TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020
45. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL PALAZZO, REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF STEVE INSLEY; SAID TERM TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020
46. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW HANNUM AS A CLASS IV MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TO FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF JEAN CRAWFORD; SAID TERM TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2021
47. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF CONCETTO FORMICA AS FIRST ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TO FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MATTHEW HANNUM; SAID TERM TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2020
48. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF ANDREW BORISUK, JR, AS A CLASS IV MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD; SAID TERM TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2022
49. RESOLUTION RE: REPOINTMENT OF GREG CHONTOW, PRIMARY MEMBER/ELECTRICAL SUBCODE OFFICIAL, WILLIAM KOPPENAAL, ALTERNATE MEMBER ENGINEER/ARCHITECT/BUILDING SUBCODE OFFICIAL, VIRGIL ROME AS THE ALTERNATE #2 MEMBER/FIRE OFFICIAL AND GEZA CSIPPAN, MEMBER/PLUMBING SUBCODE OFFICIAL TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE BOARD OF APPEALS FOR THREE (3) YEAR TERMS EACH; SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2022

50. **PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR**
Please Note: Everyone is asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes or less.
Please state your name and your municipality.
51. **LIAISON APPOINTMENTS** – At a later meeting date
52. **REMINDERS**
Please go to our website for all meeting dates and times. www.sussex.nj.us.
53. **ADJOURNMENT**

Greetings, and welcome. I'd first like to offer thanks to some special people:

- Tom Prol, thank you for being here tonight. Tom is a native of Franklin, and I had the pleasure of working with him when he was the Franklin Borough Attorney, and I appreciate you.
- Thank you to my beautiful daughters Maria and Lila;
- And thank you to the D24 Legislative team, Senator Oroho, Assemblymen Wirths and Space, and Sheriff Strada;
- And I'd like to appreciate and recognize the hard work put forth by the county employees. It has been a pleasure working with them over the past year.

As Freeholder Hertzberg and I completed year one of our terms, was paramount to stay true to the issues we set forth to address and the goals we set out to accomplish.

As we establish our goals tonight, we again agree on one guiding principle: differentiating needs vs wants in order to promote affordability while providing comprehensive services to the county residents. And this core principle applies in the following ways:

- **There is a need to provide safe communities:**
The will of the voters of Sussex County was on clear display this past November with the ballot question in opposition to flawed components of the NJ Immigrant trust directive. The voters sent a clear and powerful message to the office of the Attorney General and the Governor that the safety of Sussex County far surpasses convoluted, feel-good measures that do little to protect any resident.
- **There is a need to protect the financial interests of our residents:**
When we engage in elective projects that exceed standard appropriations or involve third party bonding, the decision to invest in such expenditures will now go to the voters due to the direct action of this freeholder board.
- **There is always the need for clear concise communication between the county and the municipalities we serve:**
This year, the board piloted the liaison assignments. My towns were Vernon Franklin, Ogdensburg, Hardyston, and Hamburg. This enabled me to focus on not only being present for special events, but also assisting when the town's mayor or councilmember had questions, so I could in turn route the message to the right individuals. Although our board is elected "at large", this allows us to form relationships and spend more time in concentrated areas. This was especially helpful during the most recent winter storm, where towns I was assigned to suffered extended periods without electricity and property damage, and I was able to advocate for the residents and provide specific and continuous communication to affected individuals.
- **There is a need to provide comprehensive health and human services:**
For example, our area is under siege with a sharp rise in tick-borne illnesses. Our cooperation and drive to make this public health threat a priority led to the first tick borne illness symposium in cooperation with the county college, and we look forward to expanding our efforts in the upcoming year.
- **There is a need for ethical and open practice in everything we do:**
The establishment of a county ethics board was discussed at length in 2019, and I fully expect to have formal action taken on this issue in the new year.
- **There is a need to support our District 24 legislators as they tirelessly push at the state level for our needs in this often forgotten corner of Northwestern New Jersey:**
There may be state issues outside of the direct control of this board, but it is our duty to be mindful of any and all legislation that creates inequity and increases the cost of living and infringes on the rights of the County. Often it's the decisions made in Trenton that deal the largest financial blow to us. As an example, there is a need to provide safe and structurally sound roads and bridges and our state legislators are committed to bringing back aid to the county,

Additionally, unfunded mandates are no stranger to our county. For instance, the VOTE BY MAIL directives were indeed found by the court to be an unfunded mandate costing counties tens of thousands of dollars, and by aligning with the NJAC, we won this fight.

Another unfunded mandate comes by way of New Jersey's Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, which costs our neighbors in West Milford more than a half-million dollars a year in lost revenues. WM filed a complaint to a state council that seeks to have the law declared unconstitutional. Mayor Shortway of Vernon Township has expressed to me that existing sewer debt and restricted growth in Vernon is related to state mandates, with the state legislature failing to appropriate resources to offset the permanent loss of revenue. This issue is not unique to Vernon.

And perhaps the most critical safety issue, and regardless of political affiliation, we should all be aware of current and proposed state legislation that threatens to take away our means to protect ourselves, our families, and our liberty. Look no further than Virginia for a clear example of state overreach and policies intentionally written in a convoluted manner to cast a broad net of firearms regulations that is widely open to interpretation.

This is a slippery slope. Under the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the US Constitution, states may not exempt themselves from, nor pass laws which nullify, federal law. HOWEVER, additional laws at the state level, including permits, licenses, open carry/concealed carry, reciprocity, red flag, are enacted by each state, and in the most recent cases in VA and NJ, these laws are evolving to create an environment entirely hostile for "legal" gun ownership, including prohibitive costs, loose language that may be used to outright ban firearms (VA) and intentional barriers to insurance (NJ).

It appears we are devolving into the question of legal gun ownership in NJ, period. This board is committed to looking carefully into how we can best support our D24 legislators and the preservation of our Constitutional rights.

I look forward to serving this year in the capacity of Deputy Director, and working with this board to address the needs I've mentioned, in the spirit of trust and mutual respect, and in doing what is good and right in the service of our taxpayers.

I'll end by thanking the voters for putting their trust and their faith in this team. I wish a happy and healthy new year in 2020 and beyond, and God bless all of you.

Reorganization Meeting 2020 #2

Good Evening. I would like to welcome everyone to our 2020 Reorganization meeting. This evening I am especially thankful to the voters for the confidence they have showed in me. I am also grateful to serve as Director this year, and to work with Dawn Fantasia in her new position as Deputy Director to advance the issues that are important to Sussex County.

I would also like to congratulate my running mate, Anthony Fasano, and welcome him to the Freeholder Board. I look forward to working with him this year along with Josh Hertzberg and Herb Yardley.

Tonight, I would like to share with you some of our prior year's accomplishments and the goals that I would like to see considered for 2020.

1. Adoption of a Debt Management Policy

As part of good financial planning, the Freeholder board adopted a Debt Management Policy for the County that will reduce county debt, prevent the Freeholder Board from issuing debt on behalf of a third party, and non-recurring capital projects over 10 million dollars will need voter approval.

The objectives of the policy include improving the quality of decisions, articulating policy goals, and demonstrating a commitment to long-term capital and financial planning. The adoption of this policy compliments the Fund Balance Policy the Board adopted at the end of fiscal year 2018 that fosters prudent tax rate management and protects our strong credit rating.

2. County Capital Investment in Transportation Infrastructure

Every year the County makes significant annual investments in its transportation infrastructure. The County Engineering Department actively managed a variety of multi-year road and bridge projects. Of the 36 million dollars invested.... we received in excess of 24 million dollars in grant funding through the New Jersey Transportation Trust Funds. Some of the highlights of the 2019 investments included 16,000 feet of guide rail upgrades, 32 miles of road paving and 100 miles of restriping.

It is important to note here..... that our commitment to improve our transportation infrastructure is also an investment in economic development. In order to attract businesses, we have to have good roads and bridges to move people and goods throughout the county and beyond.

3. Continued Support of the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership

The County of Sussex is in the second year of its three-year financial commitment to the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership. The County's investment in the SCEDP supports its mission to the creation of sustainable economic opportunity and prosperity to improve the quality of life in Sussex County.

4. Increase Security at County Facilities

Building security improvements at a number of County facilities are underway. Card access control at the Administrative Center and Wheatsworth Road facility are in the process of being installed. Mass notification at the Judicial Center has been completed.

5. Contract Service for the Housing of Adult Inmates

Sussex County has scaled back its operations at the Keogh-Dwyer Correctional Facility. After careful consideration of declining jail population due to Bail Reform, an agreement was approved on June 26th by the Freeholder Board authorizing the housing of adult inmates in the Morris County Facility effective November 1st. This agreement represents another opportunity to continue to reduce costs and improve service delivery.

In addition, the agreement expands services Morris County had been providing for the housing of female inmates since April 1st. It also builds upon past successes for medical examiner services, juvenile detention and youth shelter services that counties are required to provide. Sussex County has recognized savings of more than 2 million dollars annually as a result of these agreements.

6. The Division of Health and Human Services

The Division of Health and Human Services was contacted by the New Jersey Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to participate in a survey on the Powassan virus. In 2019, Sussex County has had four cases of Powassan virus disease which is a rare illness spread by the bite of an infected tick. I would like to thank the 272 residents that took part in this survey because this study will provide vital information which will result in recommendations to help protect residents from this disease and improved patient diagnosis throughout New Jersey.

We continue to be diligent in our fight against the opioid overdose epidemic crises that has struck at the heart of our community. Through County funding we are able to assist people with in-patient, out-patient, detox and recovery support through Chapter 51 funding.

With the help of the CLEAR Recovery Program... we are fighting back. Their trained, professional coaches are able to meet people in the emergency ward who have any hint of substance abuse disorder. These coaches are at their bedside within an hour. They have served 1200 people in the last two years.

Our Health and Human Services Department under the direction of Nick Luizzi initiated a series of public opioid symposiums. These forums were designed to engage residents and openly discuss the opioid epidemic, Sussex County's response to it, and the services available for residents who have been touched by it.

At the symposiums, a new initiative in Sussex County was announced called the "Overdose Fatality Review Team." This team was organized to identify missed opportunities for prevention and gaps in the system. The data collected will support recommendations for policies, programs or changes to the law that will mitigate overdose deaths.

Last spring Health and Human Services... under Kristin Turtur... provided education training for schools and police departments on the truth about vapes. Participants received tools and resources to combat the increased vaping in schools.

7. Veterans Services

The Freeholder Board continued to increase services to veterans in 2019. Bill Robinson, Veteran's Service Officer began to offer appointments to Veterans at the Administrative Building in Newton. I would like to thank Diane Friedberg, at Senior Services for her outreach to her Veteran's Groups to provide information on programs and services available to all veterans.

8. Food Pantry

I would like to acknowledge all the wonderful, dedicated and passionate volunteers that work tirelessly at our food pantry. This year they have fed countless individuals and families monthly, they distributed almost 600 weekend backpacks to 7 school districts and one preschool, they give monthly support to 27 food pantries, and customized dietary needs for seniors in senior housing.

As we move into the New Year there are a few initiatives that I would like to mention this evening and ask the Board to consider in 2020.

I would like to propose holding an annual goal setting session to give each Freeholder the chance to present issues that are important to them, and to create an opportunity where we could brainstorm strategies together then take our goals and communicate them to our Administrators so they can be integrated into their work plans.

As the County and the SCEDP continue to collaborate this year, I would like to work towards identifying state and federal resources that can be leveraged towards future planning that includes a market analysis of the entire county. With the development of an effective

actionable marketing strategy, we can deliver a strong social media campaign to help businesses flourish and create a demand for our local attractions, experiences and tourism.

In 2020.....the County will receive a grant to hire a transportation consultant that will analyze the county's current bus service "Skylands Ride" for the purpose of review, evaluating and increasing the effectiveness of the bus service throughout our county. This is very important to our residents because it will give the county another opportunity to work with New Jersey Transit to increase options for transportation.

In closing, I would like to thank our Business Administrator, Greg Poff, our Clerk, Terri Lyons, our Attorney Kevin Kelly and all of our Department Administrators, Division Directors, supervisors, employees and the many volunteers who serve on or boards. They are dedicated to improving the Quality of Life that we enjoy in Sussex County.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Freeholder Board for their support as we move forward in 2020.

And of course, a big thank you to all of you for your part in making Sussex County an enjoyable and amazing place to live.

Thank you for being here tonight. I wish you a very healthy and happy New Year.