



Commissioner Meeting of February 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Sussex County Administrative Center
Commissioner Meeting Room
One Spring Street
Newton, NJ

Minutes

Item

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR** Director Space called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL** Director Space, Deputy Director DeGroot, Commissioner Carney, Commissioner Henderson, and Commissioner Silverthorne were all in attendance. County Administrator Christina Marks, Clerk of the Board Linda Miller, and County Counsel Doug Steinhardt, Esq. were also in attendance.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG** Director Space asked for a moment of silence and a salute to the flag. Director Space also asked for a moment of silence in honor of Byram Councilman Harvey Roseff who passed away.
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 and email, such notice being submitted on January 6, 2026 from the Administrative Center of the County of Sussex, located at One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey to the following:

New Jersey Herald

Star Ledger

Straus News

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." At this time please mute all electronic devices.

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Director Space advised of a change to the agenda. Item 14L was being tabled to a future meeting as there are corrections that need to be made to that resolution.

MOTION to approve the Agenda as amended was moved by Commissioner Henderson with a second by Commissioner Silverthorne. No discussion was had and all members present voted in the affirmative.

6. **PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS**-There were no proclamations, certifications or presentations at this meeting.
7. **PUBLIC HEARING** There was no public hearing at this meeting.
8. **PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR**

This Public Session is for those wishing to make a comment of three minutes or less regarding an Agenda Item. Please line up at the microphone and state your name, municipality and Agenda Topic for the record

MOTION to open the floor for public comment was moved by Deputy Director DeGroot with a second by Commissioner Carney. No discussion was had and all members present voted in the affirmative.

Ken Collins, Andover, NJ

Mr. Collins stated that FIRE wrote to the County Board of Commissioners at the end of December regarding unconstitutional details regarding the County's policy regarding the Green. Mr. Collins urged the Board to make the suggested and necessary changes to conform with the recommendations and pass the changes without delay.

Counsel advised that changes to the ordinance had been previously made prior to the letter from FIRE, removing the auto insurance requirement and some tweaks per the Board had also been made as necessary. Counsel advised that there is some disagreement on the positions taken, but the County did forward a document weeks ago to FIRE and will be reviewed.

MOTION to close the floor for public comment was moved by Commissioner Silverthorne with a second by Commissioner Henderson. No discussion was had and all members present voted in the affirmative.

9. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Silverthorne

"I have attended several of the municipalities which I am a liaison to, namely Andover Borough, Andover Township, Branchville, and also, actually, that was it so far. I attended a Votech and we had a meeting with Director Space concerning some possible shared service agreements with the with SCCC. I think that went well, and it's going to continue.

I attended a school reception and also a SWAC meeting last night.

Additionally, I have a couple of comments here from first of all from Senior Services, a Senior Services care group support group meeting will be held virtually by zoom from 2 to 3pm on Thursday, February 19, 2026. The group helps to reduce the negative effects of stress and

increases the physical and psychological wellness of the caregiver. It also provides information about programs and services available to the caregiver. Information I have to access these services and provides referrals as necessary. Please call the division of Senior Services at 973-579-0555, extension, 1288, to obtain additional information or to register to attend those meetings.

The Sussex County Library System is proud to spotlight its rapid reads collection designed for adult readers who enjoy engaging stories in a shorter format. These high interest titles feature compelling mature themes and fast paced storylines that make reading accessible and enjoyable. These best books are especially helpful for adults experiencing memory or attention challenges, as well as anyone looking for a satisfying read that can be finished more quickly than a traditional novel. For more information about the library's catalog and services, please visit Sussex County library.org or visit any branch of the library.

Finally, for my commissioners and also the public's knowledge, I will not be at the next meeting. I have a vacation that was scheduled long before I even thought about running for this position, and I don't want anyone to think I picked up any bad habits of the person I replaced up here. I will not be at the next meeting, but I'll be back after that. That's it."

Commissioner Henderson

"On January 29th I, along with Commissioner Director Space and Commissioner Silverthorne attended Sussex County Community College tour, along with Congressman Tom Kean, Dr. Homer and staff. It was nice to see our congressman taking time to visit our county college and what has to offer.

On Monday, February 2nd, Commissioner, Director Space, Commissioner Carney and I attended the swearing in of our new Sussex County prosecutor, Dan Perez. Also on February 2, Commissioner Carney and I attended a county planning board meeting where Concetto Formica was sworn in as the 2026 chair. Jennifer Johnson was sworn in as a full member of the planning board. Anyone interested in becoming an alternate member, please submit your information ASAP so the position can be filled.

February 4th, I attended the Sussex County SCMUA regular meeting where Ron Petillo and John Wesley were sworn in as board members. Also Mr. Petillo was sworn in as a chair of the committee on February 6th. Commissioner DeGroot and I attended a review meeting for the capital budget

On February 10th. Commissioner Director Space, Commissioner Silverthorne and I attended the Sussex County Chamber breakfast. It seems like it's been a quiet two weeks. Everybody's been busy shoveling snow and trying to keep warm, but look on the bright side, we got 37 days till spring, and that's all I have."

Commissioner Carney

"2025-2026 winter session has continued to be very active, as Commissioner Henderson just said. So far this season, the Division of Public Works has activated 18 winter storms. The Winter Response Program has included upwards of 16,500 staff hours allocated to operating equipment and managing the program 67 plow routes. The county response has included the use of approximately 18,000 tons of de icing salt. The total county investment in the Winter

Response Program for labor, equipment and materials has exceeded \$3 million the Board recognizes and appreciates long hours and dedication of the Public Works team, along with the county support staff involved in providing the public service in a highly professional and capable manner, and that goes for facilities in Fleet as well. Fleet keeps our plow trucks operating and running in all kinds of weather, working through the night as our DPW plows the snow off the road.

Sussex County guardrail upgrade program - The Division of Engineering recently completed work on a construction contract upgraded all guide rail systems, along county route 519 from Warren County line in Green to New Jersey Route 94 in Newton. The work included replacement of 54 guide rail systems, and included 14,250 feet of rail in 92 terminal ends. Work on the project began in early November and was completed mid-January of this year. The project investment was \$1,087,450 and was funded using Sussex County capital.

Sussex County trail grants program. I brought this up at our last meeting. I'll revisit it again. Division of Planning hosted a virtual meeting on February 4th with interested applicants, which reviewed the 26 trails grant program. As a reminder, solicitations for the program will remain open through May 15th. The grant program is funded through the Sussex County farmland preservation, recreation, open space trust fund. Grants can be used to assist eligible applicants with construction, rehabilitation, restoration and maintenance of publicly owned shared use grants questions or more information on the grant program can be provided by contacting Sussex County Division of Planning at 973-579-0500.

I think some of the commissioners hit on what we've done over the last couple of weeks. I did attend Crime Stoppers with Commissioner Silverthorne. Last Monday, I also attended with Commissioner Silverthorne the Byram police station. Congressman Tom Kean was able to get a grant for their police station, which, if you read in the paper over the last few years, needed a major upgrade. I think it's been 40 or 50 years, I believe, since they had any upgrades. That amount was \$1,237,500 which is a nice grant to get back here in Sussex County for our officers. I think we hit on the school, my reorg, I was there, and I also had a State Planning Board meeting last couple weeks. I'll keep you guys abreast on what's going on with that. That's all I have."

Deputy Director DeGroot

"Director Space and I, along with Deputy Administrator Lorraine Hentz had the opportunity to meet with the fairgrounds management to discuss hosting a centralized county wide celebration for the 250th anniversary of America's independence. We are enthusiastic about this collaborative effort, and pleased to announce that the celebration will be held at Sussex County Fairgrounds in Frankford on Sunday, June 7th, which is exciting. I would like to thank Mike Richards for his leadership and partnership. Our next step is to solidify the promotion of the event at the upcoming mayor's meeting and work with all Sussex County mayors to ensure broad participation among the municipalities.

Moving on, I was able to attend the public Sussex County trails grant webinar. I just want to thank Joel and Autumn for leading such an informative session. Since I joined the board of commissioners, I've been extremely pleased with the growth of this program and proud of where it stands today. I look forward to hearing the application submitted late spring, early summer.

Additionally, I attended SCMUA reorganization. I just wanted to congratulate chair Ron Petillo, Vice Chairman John Drake, and Secretary Andrea Coccula for their election to leadership.

Also, as mentioned, Commissioner Henderson and I attend the capital budget hearing.

Finally, I had the pleasure of attending some community events since our last meeting, I was able to support and attend Sussex County Technical School's, outdoor and archery club game dinner, which was outstanding. Would recommend everyone attend next year. Also had the privilege of speaking at Rolling Hills Primary School in Vernon about the role of local government. I truly enjoyed explaining what a county commissioner does and highlighting the many valuable services Sussex County provides. I was especially happy to learn that the students' favorite county service is our outstanding library system. Specifically, they love the comics and nonfiction over there. So great group of kids. That's all. Thank you and God bless"

Director Space

"I want to again thank the DPW and facilities for an excellent job clearing our roads and walkways after yet another storm. Thank you to our County Administrator, Christina Marks, for being accessible during the latest storm. I didn't expect a quick text at 6am to Christina of a tree in the middle of the road on a Saturday morning and have her text me right back that she had the county road department headed over to check it out. I also want to thank all the linemen who worked in subzero temperatures with high winds to restore power to residents who are without my business and our rentals were out over 20 hours, and we have four of our properties with busted pipes, and we are in a huge mess. But thank you to all the local businesses that stepped up to help us so quickly.

I recently attended the first Ginnie's house board meeting of 2026. The first fundraiser of 2026 is a Boots and Boogie country line dancing on Sunday, February 22nd at 1pm at the Fountain House in Fredon and they also thanked this Board of Commissioners for passing a resolution supporting the return of the federal VOCA funding.

I attended the meeting along with the other commissioners at Sussex County Community College, where Dr. Corey Homer met with Congressman Tom Kean. It was a very great conversation. I attended the Andover Township Volunteer Fire Department's annual installation dinner.

I was happy to attend the swearing in of Dan Perez as the new county prosecutor. In four years, we've had three acting prosecutors, so it's very nice to have someone in there permanently.

Recently, Commissioner Henderson and I had the opportunity to speak in front of Fire Chiefs Association at a meeting in Byram. We've had a very open line of communication with them the last two months over the appointment of a new fire marshal. We recently appointed at our last meeting, after we came back from executive session, we appointed Wantage resident Mark Snook, who is a longtime volunteer firefighter, as the new fire marshal.

Commissioner Silverthorne and I met with Sussex Tech School Board President Bob Heiden, Sussex County Community College Board President Herb Yardley, and Dr. Corey Homer from Sussex County Community College. It's extremely important to keep the line of communication open between the two schools and the commissioners, and this way we can see, like Dave said, what shared services would benefit both schools, along with the taxpayers.

I also attended the SCMUA reorg with the other Commissioners.

Commissioner DeGroot, Deputy Administrator Lorraine Hentz, and I, and our new confidential assistant, Ken Schwemmer, attended the meeting about the 250th anniversary celebration that we're going to have on June 7th. So save the date.

We attended the chamber breakfast today.

Commissioner Carney and I, along with the budget subcommittee, Christina Marks, Elke Yetter, Ken had our budget. Our biggest problem with the budget this year, which I think most of you can already guess, is going to be health insurance costs, the rise in health insurance, which is going to hit all the municipalities and all the schools too.

Tonight, Commissioner Carney, Commissioner Henderson and myself also had a meeting with the board of school estimate from the college, and they came up here. I want to say that it is very refreshing to sit on a board with four other active members, and that we are all out there doing things together and running the county the way that it should be.

Division of Health, Office of Public Health Nursing - a women's health screening clinic will be held on Thursday, February 26th from 4:30 to 7:30 at the Office of Public Health Nursing, 201, Wheatsworth Road in Hamburg. This clinic offers a variety of health screenings and education. This service is free to uninsured and underinsured county residents who qualify for the New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program to make an appointment call the Office of Public Health Nursing at 973-579-0570, extension, 1275.

Division of Health, communicable diseases, influenza and respiratory illness. According to the New Jersey Department of Health respiratory illness surveillance report for the week ending January 31 2026, influenza activity continues to decrease in New Jersey. Reported cases, emergency department visits test, positivity and wastewater. Viral levels are all lower than the previous week. Hospitalizations remain higher among individuals age 65 and older with influenza A, still predominant. Influenza B cases have also been reported. RSV hospitalizations have slightly decreased, with the highest admissions in children zero to four years and older adults 65 and up, RSV activity remains lower than last year through test positivity is elevated COVID 19 hospital admissions have increased slightly, mostly among those ages 65 and older. The dominant variant remains Omicron XFG. Respiratory outbreaks and long term care facilities have been linked to influenza, COVID 19 and RSV, while school outbreaks are mostly due to influenza. There have been zero confirmed pediatric influenza associated deaths and no outbreaks in Sussex County

A total of 160 cases of communicable and tick borne illnesses were reported in January of 2026. Which I'm going to doubt our tick borne illnesses, because it's not really tick season, which represents a decrease from 375 cases recorded in January 2025. The data on infectious illnesses shows that there were no deaths reported in January of 2026 which is a decrease from the six reported deaths in January of 2025 and there are no new cases. There are no confirmed cases of measles in Sussex County. So that is a good thing, and schools, the average absenteeism rate for schools due to influenza like illness in January 2026 was 6.9% this figure decreased from the average absenteeism rate of 8.47 recorded in January of 2025, outbreaks. There was one outbreak COVID reported in January of 2026 which is a decrease from the eight outbreaks reported in January of 2025, and that is all I have."

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA There was no consent agenda at this meeting.

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

12. ORDINANCE There was no ordinance at this meeting.

13. APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS

A. RESOLUTION RE:

REAPPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER BRAUN, PATTI NUGENT, AND DAWN PENNA AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY DISABILITY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH; SAID TERMS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2028

B. RESOLUTION RE:

APPOINTMENT OF THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS THE CUSTODIAN OF CORE COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECORDS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 47:1a-1 ET SEQ

C. RESOLUTION RE:

REAPPOINTMENT OF SUSSEX COUNTY SHERIFF MICHAEL STRADA AS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX TERM TO RUN WITH SHERIFF TERM OF OFFICE AND EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2030

MOTION to adopt the Resolutions A-C was moved by Commissioner Henderson with a second by Commissioner Carney. No discussion was had.

(Roll call vote)

Commissioner Henderson - YES

Commissioner Silverthorne - YES

Director Space - YES

Commissioner Carney - YES

Deputy Director DeGroot - YES

14. RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION RE:

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDERS IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 ET SEQ. FOR VARIOUS BID EXEMPT SERVICES AS STATED BELOW FOR 2026 FISCAL YEAR

B. RESOLUTION RE:

AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX DIVISION OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT WITH E I ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,800.00

C. RESOLUTION RE:

AMENDING RESOLUTION #485-2025 TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE CONTRACT #TS26019 WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT SERVICES/TANF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR A REVISED CONTRACT TERM OF JANUARY 1, 2026 TO JUNE 30, 2026 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACTED AMOUNT OF \$9,000.00

D. RESOLUTION RE:

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO RESIDE IN HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,000.00

E. RESOLUTION RE:

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH VERNON TOWNSHIP ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO RESIDE IN VERNON TOWNSHIP FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00

F. RESOLUTION RE:

AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND THE ANNUAL MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR TRANSIT SCHEDULING SOFTWARE FROM DELL MARKETING L.P. FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, OFFICE OF TRANSIT, FROM APRIL 1, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2027 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,096.00

G. RESOLUTION RE:

AUTHORIZATION TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR A SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CAPITAL AND OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT UNDER SECTION 5310 OF THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR \$430,962.00 IN OPERATING FUNDS FOR ONE YEAR REPRESENTING FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 FUNDING FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2028 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2028

H. RESOLUTION RE:

SUPPORTING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE

REHABILITATION OF NJDOT BRIDGE 1913-150 CARRYING BLUE HERON ROAD OVER NJ ROUTE 15 IN SPARTA TOWNSHIP

- I. **RESOLUTION RE:**
CREATION OF TITLE - ASSISTANT COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ROADS IN NON-REPRESENTED RANGES (**TITLE ONLY**)
- J. **RESOLUTION RE:**
AMENDING SALARY INCREASES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW MINIMUM SALARIES FOR EMPLOYEES NOT REPRESENTED BY A BARGAINING AGENT FOR 2026
- K. **RESOLUTION RE:**
APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR INSURANCE FRAUD REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE FRAUD PROSECUTOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

MOTION to adopt the Resolutions A-K was moved by Commissioner Silverthorne with a second by Deputy Director DeGroot. No discussion was had.

Commissioner Henderson - YES
Commissioner Silverthorne - YES
Director Space - YES
Commissioner Carney - YES
Deputy Director DeGroot - YES

15. AWARDS OF CONTRACT/CHANGE ORDERS/BID

- A. **RESOLUTION RE:**
AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PAVEMENT MARKINGS TO ENNIS FLINT, INC. FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2026 THROUGH FEBRUARY 13, 2027
- B. **RESOLUTION RE:**
AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLES COLLECTION FROM VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES TO WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NEW JERSEY, INC. IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$130,195.56 FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2026 THROUGH FEBRUARY 22, 2027
- C. **RESOLUTION RE:**
AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VHF SIMULCAST PAGING AND DISPATCH PROJECT FOR THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO PIERCON SOLUTIONS LLC FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2026 THROUGH FEBRUARY 13, 2027

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Sussex has reviewed the Award of

Contract/Change Orders/Bids consisting of various proposed Resolutions and determined that adoption of the said Resolutions is in and will further the public interest.

MOTION to adopt the Resolutions A-C was moved by Commissioner Carney with a second by Commissioner Henderson. No discussion was had.

Commissioner Henderson - YES
Commissioner Silverthorne - YES
Director Space - YES
Commissioner Carney - YES
Deputy Director DeGroot - YES

16. FINANCIAL

A. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS LIST A February 11, 2026

MOTION to Pay Bills List A was moved by Commissioner Henderson with a second by Deputy Director DeGroot. No discussion was had.

Commissioner Henderson - YES
Commissioner Silverthorne - YES
Director Space - YES
Commissioner Carney - YES
Deputy Director DeGroot - YES

B. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS LIST B February 11, 2026 (Commissioner Space Abstains)

MOTION to Pay Bills List B was moved by Commissioner Silverthorne with a second by Commissioner Henderson. No discussion was had.

Commissioner Henderson - YES
Commissioner Silverthorne - YES
Director Space - ABSTAIN
Commissioner Carney - YES
Deputy Director DeGroot - YES

17. PERSONNEL

A. RESOLUTION RE: PERSONNEL AGENDA OF 2/11/2026

MOTION to Approve the Personnel Agenda was moved by Deputy Director DeGroot with a second by Commissioner Silverthorne. No discussion was had.

Commissioner Henderson - YES
Commissioner Silverthorne - YES
Director Space - YES
Commissioner Carney - YES
Deputy Director DeGroot - YES

18. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT Administrator Marks reported the following:

“Dennis Library Update – As previously reported, bids were opened today, 2/11/26. The County is currently working on the award and will have an update. We are still anticipating a construction start date to begin in April.

Update on Sussex County gastrointestinal illness. Recently, there were reports of incidents of residents experiencing gastrointestinal illness throughout the county. While there were reports of a particular location receiving the bulk of the reports, after a full investigation, the pattern of illness is consistent with a common viral stomach illness. Our Department of Health has determined that norovirus is a likely cause, however, it cannot be definitively confirmed without laboratory results. The Department of Health also completed environmental assessments on potential locations and there were no identified issues with any food establishments, and the findings do not suggest the reported illnesses were a result of a facility related cause. November through February/March, is when an increase of Norovirus activity is seen. Individuals are reminded to practice good handwashing and to stay home when sick.

The County continues to plan for America’s 250th celebration, which is being led by our Deputy County Administrator, Lorraine Hentz, Director Space and Deputy Director Jack DeGroot. There will be more information forthcoming about this very exciting county celebration.

Lafayette Pole Born – we are having continued issues with our vendor completing the construction, which has been forwarded to county counsel.

I met with the County’s Department Heads on February 3rd for an update on the feasibility study for the county and our departments are working on obtaining information that I should have an update for by our next commissioner meeting.

Department of Engineering. Again, I would like to recognize our DPW/roads and our Office of Emergency Management for the work they have been doing keeping the county safe during our recent storms. We have received some questions regarding the snow fence that has been installed in the past around the county. This year, the county faced difficulties obtaining approval for the installation on snow fence from property owners and were faced with additional obstacles. The department is currently assessing areas that has had the fencing installed in the past, where it is helpful and useful and will have a completed assessment for our next winter season.

19. COUNTY COUNSEL REPORT Counsel reported items to be discussed in Executive Session. There is a recommendation that the County join 18 other counties that are challenging the New Jersey Attorney General’s handling of the 3M PFOS settlement proceeds. The County jointed a while back in litigation over the contamination, but specifically to New Jersey, the AG attempted to or has taken action to prevent the other counties from getting access to those funds. 18 counties have banded together to try to

undo that. Counsel advised he wants to make sure Sussex County has a seat at the table and will discuss same in executive session.

20. UNFINISHED BUSINESS No unfinished business at this meeting.

21. NEW BUSINESS No new business at this meeting.

22. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

This Public Session is for those wishing to make general comments of three minutes or less on non-agenda topics. Please line up at the microphone and state your name and municipality for the record.

MOTION to open the floor for public comment was moved by Commissioner Henderson with a second by Commissioner Silverthorne. No discussion was had and all members present voted in the affirmative.

Ken Collins, Andover, NJ

Mr. Collins expressed his concerns over ICE actions that are happening throughout the country.

Gail Just, Layton, NJ

Ms. Just stated that she loves ICE and everyone who comes here should do so legally and be welcomed. Ms. Just stated she does not like her tax dollars to go toward people who are here illegally.

Ms. Just also stated that anyone who uses the Newton Green for a rally should request it through the commissioner's office and they get a permit and pay for private security.

Sierra Wilson, Stanhope, NJ

Ms. Wilson advised that the Mount Olive chief of police announced that they will only work with ICE agents on judicial warrants and asked if Sussex County towns will do the same. Ms. Wilson also asked if Sussex County will also prohibit ICE operations on county property.

Nina Frato, Montague, NJ

Ms. Frato spoke about ICE activities and that the majority of people voted to have people here illegally removed.

David DeWitt, Hampton, NJ

Mr. DeWitt spoke about President Trump and religious observations from the commissioner chair.

Kathy Brennan, Hampton, NJ

Ms. Brennan spoke about the ICE detention centers and the proposed warehouse in Roxbury and how it would not be good for the area.

Kim Fayola, Sandyston, NJ

Ms. Fayola spoke about an address delivered by Ronald Regan in 1989 and read it during her public comment.

Sandy Pender, Fredon, NJ

Ms. Pender appreciated the pride in celebrating 1776, Ms. Pender stated that everyone should consider exactly what is being celebrated. Ms. Pender spoke about the Declaration of Independence and the grievances to the King and remember what is being commemorated.

Jean Apriage, Hampton, NJ

Ms. Apriage stated she was concerned that the local, state and federal Republican leadership is not taking the threats coming from MAGA seriously. Ms. Apriage spoke about her views of what is occurring in the federal government.

Pamela Gray, Stillwater, NJ

Ms. Gray spoke about families that are struggling because their benefits changed and reminded the Board that she asked the commissioners what the plan was to prepare county residents when programs were changed at the national level.

Patricia Heany, Lafayette, NJ

Ms. Heany spoke about what she said were the good things done by President Trump.

Laura Haug, Fredon, NJ

Ms. Haug commended Deputy Director DeGroot for his appearance at the March for Life in DC and expressed how he should also support all living beings, not just in the womb.

Christina Henry, Vernon, NJ

Ms. Henry stated that she feels the president is using the power of the state as a weapon for personal vengeance. Ms. Henry feels elections are being undermined, federal agents breaking down doors, science discarded and billionaires looting the country. Ms. Henry expressed additional views on what she stated is going on in the government and country.

John Snyder, Sandyston, NJ

Mr. Snyder recognized the passing of Harvey Roseff.

Mr. Snyder feels many people in the room are intolerant and stated he is sickened by the view of people about the president of the United states.

MOTION to close the floor for public comment and return to regular business was moved by Deputy Director DeGroot with a second by Commissioner Carney. No discussion was had and

all members present voted in the affirmative.

Commissioner Carney stated that he feels very strongly about voter ID and reminded all that the board passed a resolution supporting voter ID about three to four years ago.

23. REMINDERS

Please check the County's website at www.sussex.nj.us for meeting schedules.

24. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Closed Session)

RESOLUTION RE: PROVIDING FOR AN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 ET SEQ. – read into the record.

WHEREAS, the subject matter(s) about to be discussed may be excluded from the public portion of the meeting by Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners as an exception to the "Open Public Meetings Act" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b); and

WHEREAS, it appears necessary for the Board of County Commissioners to discuss such matter(s) in Executive Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Sussex, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) and N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 that the Board at this time enter into an Executive Session from which the public shall be excluded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the general nature of the subject(s) to be discussed relate to the following item(s) authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) as designated below:

- (1) **Matters Required by Law to be Confidential:**
- (2) **Matters Where the Release of Information Would Impair the Right to Receive Funds:**
- (3) **Matters Involving Individual Privacy:**
- (4) **Matters Relating to Collective Bargaining Agreements:**
- (5) **Matters Relating to the Purchase, Lease of Acquisition of Real Property or the Investment of Public Funds:**
- (6) **Matters Relating to Public Safety and Property:**
- (7) **Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney Client Privilege:**

Newton Green
Policy – Promotion effective dates

- (8) **Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship:**

_____ (9) **Matters Relating to the Potential Imposition of a Penalty:**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Sussex County Board of County Commissioners or provided by law that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon completion of the business, for which the Board has entered into the Executive Session, the Board shall reconvene and resume its meeting open to the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board expects to/not to take formal action after returning from Executive Session except to adjourn the regular meeting.

MOTION to adopt the Executive Session Resolution and enter into Executive Session was moved by Commissioner Carney with a second by Deputy Director DeGroot. No discussion was had and all member present voted in the affirmative.

MOTION to adjourn from Executive Session and return to Regular Business was moved by Commissioner Henderson with a second by Deputy Director DeGroot. No discussion was had and all members present voted in the affirmative.

Director Space advised that a resolution was being considered to authorize the director to sign a contingent fee retainer agreement to join 18 other NJ counties in litigation against the NJ attorney general's decision to supersede the state's 3M PFOS settlement money and leave the Douglas and London agreement, if legally advisable. Motion was moved by Commissioner Henderson with a second by Deputy Director DeGroot. No discussion was had.

Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Henderson - YES
Commissioner Silverthorne - YES
Director Space - ABSTAIN
Commissioner Carney - YES
Deputy Director DeGroot - YES

25. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting

Second

Discussion

All in Favor

Oppose

Abstain