

Due to public health issues arising from the coronavirus situation, the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders will conduct this meeting remotely via a conference call. Callers are invited to listen and will have an opportunity to make comments by calling: 973-310-7191.

The County Engineer's Power Point presentation is on the County Web Site. www.sussex.nj.us Visit the Freeholder page for Meetings and Agenda to view this presentation.

FREEHOLDER MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2020 AT 6:00PM
REGULAR BUSINESS
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

Item

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR** at 6:00
2. **ROLL CALL** PM Freeholder Fantasia, Freeholder Fasano, Freeholder Hertzberg, Freeholder Petillo, Freeholder Yardley

Also on the line was: County Administrator Greg Poff, County Counsel Kevin Kelly, and Clerk to the Board Teri Lyons

3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE AND 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 and email, such notice being submitted on August 17, 2020 from the Administrative Center of the County of Sussex, located at One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey to the following:

New Jersey Herald	WSUS Radio
New Jersey Sunday Herald	WNNJ Radio
Star Ledger	

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."

Freeholder Fantasia gave a comment on why this meeting occurred 24 hours after the originally scheduled meeting of October 14th. She stated all the Freeholders had prior comments and it left Freeholder Fantasia and Yardley however that did not make a quorum. According to statute there must be 3 voting members.

Freeholder Petillo also made a statement. At their last meeting the Board tabled a Resolution about the Legalization of Recreation Marijuana question on the ballot with the intent of revising the wording and putting the Resolution back on this week's Agenda for consideration. After reviewing the Resolution it was determined that Residents would be receiving their ballots and already voting so the Board will address their concerns during the Freeholder Comments section. She also said that if any member of the public would like to speak about the Resolution they will be allowed to do so at either public session.

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION to approve the Agenda made by Freeholder Yardley
Seconded by Freeholder Hertzberg
No Discussion
(Voice vote)- All voted in the Affirmative

6. **PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS-**

PROCLAMATION – Recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month 391-2020

Freeholder Petillo read this into the Record.

MOTION to adopt the Proclamation made by Freeholder Fantasia
Seconded by Freeholder Yardley
Discussion- Freeholder Director Petillo read the Resolution into the record and invited all to watch the Live stream event on Facebook October 21 at 6:30 PM.
(Voice Vote)-All voted in the Affirmative

PRESENTATION- County Engineer Report – Active Road Resurfacing Programs

Mr. Bill Koppenaar gave an update on the Road Resurfacing Program. He stated that it is the largest reoccurring capital program that is authorized by the Board on an annual basis and managed by Engineering. He gave a program general description. He spoke on why is it important to resurface the roadways. They take into consideration a number of things when considering whether or not the roads need resurfacing. This also includes upgrades to adjacent ADA facilities. He went over the planning and design considerations and gave general information of the Sussex County Route System. The system consists of 620 lane miles or 310 Centerline miles

of County roads and has an average estimated 14 year service life. He mentioned on page 2 why 2011 and 2015 were low. In 2011 there was a lot of emergency work that came up and it was pushed to 2012 and 2015 there were a number of delays from the State level related to the allocations and approvals of the state funds. That was pushed out to future years. The remainder of the pages has to do with the high level summaries of the actual programs that were completed or in process of this year. He pointed out the 2022 is already under preliminary scoping and we are starting to identify the roads that will be in the project. It will be part of the 2021-22 capital requests. All of these programs are very significant and result in one of the biggest public impacts from maintaining the suitability and functionality of the county road network system.

Freeholder Yardley asked if this project is the same as the repaving of the roads.

Bill said this is the annual resurfacing program which overlays and resurfaces roads within the county. The individuals pages 3, 4 and 5 includes a list of the road segment that were included in each years' program as well as the municipalities that the roads are included in.

Freeholder Fantasia thanked Bill for this presentation and also clarifying some questions she had and she said this information is very helpful.

Freeholder Hertzberg thanked Bill and his staff. He acknowledged how hard the department works while being understaffed. They also do a terrific job in maintaining roads and keeping them safe.

Bill said he was very worried going into this year with the pandemic and he feels the staff has done a phenomenal job of staying on top of all the projects.

Freeholder Petillo thanked Bill for the presentation and his staff. She recognized how difficult his job is and how his presentation makes it easy to understand.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE**

8. **PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR**

This Public Session is for questions or comments pertaining to Agenda Items only. Before we open this Session we ask Callers wanting to make a comment to first state your name and municipality. The Clerk will create a Roster and call each in the order received. Comments are limited to 3 minutes or less.

MOTION to open the floor for public comment made by Freeholder Hertzberg

Seconded by Freeholder Fantasia

(Voice Vote)- All voted in the Affirmative

Lori Champi, Hardyston, is the Prevention and Education Coordinator at DASI. She thanked the Board for reading the Proclamation for Domestic Violence month. She is looking forward to the Vigil that will be virtual on their Facebook page and having Freeholder speak. She advised all callers that DASI services are 24/7 and offer a wide range of resources for victims and family members in a domestic abuse relationship.

Freeholder Petillo thanked Lori and recognized all that DASI does for the Community.

Freeholder Fantasia thanked Lori as well. She said during this COVID time there has been a tremendous need for mental health and domestic violence victims.

Zoe Health Vernon Township asked if the Marijuana Resolution is on the Agenda.

Freeholder Petillo said after they looked at this again and realized that by the time it made the Agenda the ballots are out and everyone is voting. The Freeholders will speak about it during their comment period.

Jamie VanStiver, Paulsboro asked about information in the minutes in particular something that Nick Loizzi and the Director at Center for Prevention noted as being facts. She wanted to know if they give sites to where the information comes from and it is available to the public.

Freeholder Petillo said they do use references and she said Jamie can call them for the references.

Ms. VanStiver continued by quoting statements being said on marijuana.

Jeffery King Eatontown agreed with everything that Jamie VanStiver said. He has noticed some of the same inconsistencies. He expressed his concerns with opposing the marijuana resolution.

Edward "Lefty" Grimes Liquid Church in Parsippany had comments on the marijuana resolution.

MOTION to close the floor for public comment Freeholder Fantasia

Seconded Freeholder Hertzberg

(Voice Vote)- All vote in the Affirmative

9. **FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS**

Comments from Freeholder Fasano

He started by thanking Bill Koppenaal for his presentation. He said the presentation was a breath of fresh air because it was a presentation on something other than COVID-19. Sussex County has never shut down due to the pandemic and never stopped keeping up with our needs and providing crucial services to our residents. He then moved onto a COVID-19 update. The County has developed a testing plan that is currently awaiting state approval. The testing plans will include at-home testing countywide, reestablishing a testing site as well as a flu clinic. He then moved on to the upcoming Elections. It is an important one and your voice and your vote will be secure and counted in Sussex County. The County Clerk's office has been getting information out through all media on this election. All ballots have been mailed. He gave the options on how to return your ballots. He reminded anyone that shows up at the polls without their ballot they will be given a paper provisional ballot. These ballots are counted after the regular mail-in ballots are received. For any questions on this election, please contact the Board of Elections at 973-579-0900 Ext. 1507 or online at sussexcountyclerk.org/election. Please do not rely on Social Media for your election information.

Comments from Freeholder Hertzberg

He thanked Bill Koppenaal as well as Jamie and her staff helping those in need. He has a special place in his heart for people who protect others. He made comments on the Marijuana Resolution. He feels it is important to give our feeling on it but it is important to let the voters make the decision. We have to oblige by the will of the people. This will go to a vote. It is important for people to understand that when we do give our opinions that we roll it out safely and with proper precaution. It is important that we have funds for addiction, for treatments, for law enforcement if needed. He wants to make sure all the necessary precautions are taken to protect children.

Comments from Freeholder Yardley

He thanked Social Services and Carol Novrit. Carol is doing very good working with the Health Department and the COVID-19 to make sure our residents are getting things they need. He also thanked them for the work they do for our Veterans. One of the programs is Catholic Charities. This program provides legal aid, rental and oil assistance. He mentioned that he met with the seniors through a Skye program. He is happy we are getting the testing program up and running again for COVID. It is at the Governor's office for review. He then spoke on marijuana and the impact it has on children younger than 14. He gave some information on statistics with the use. He said his issue with legalizing marijuana is that the fact that gummy bears, sour worms, edibles, chocolate, etc. get in the hands of children. He is concerned that controls will not be there. If you go online you can see what is being sold and they look just like candy. He doesn't see how New Jersey is going to have control or have a plan on how they will handle edibles.

Comments from Freeholder Fantasia

She started with the marijuana issue. She spoke on two concerns that she has. One is safety and the other is the black market. She said traffic fatalities in Colorado have increased since they legalized the use of recreational marijuana. According to an analysis published by the Journal of American Medical Association since Colorado legalized marijuana six years ago there is an average of 75 additional deaths resulting from traffic accidents per year. With the states that have legalized marijuana there is not a test comparable to a breathalyzer which tests the level of alcohol in someone. Regarding the black market BDF Analytics based in Colorado have estimated that 78% of all marijuana sold in California in 2018 was illegal. 90% of marijuana sold in Massachusetts was illegal. This is because of the price. She is in full support of medical marijuana. She went on to explain how New Jersey bungled it by instituting a tax on marijuana purchases. She went to say her thoughts on medical marijuana are very different than her thoughts on recreational use by adults. Her advice is to tread very lightly. She said without a plan, there is a lot to learn from Colorado and Washington, D.C. She moved onto COVID. She gave information on testing and positive cases. According to our epidemiologist, she reported there was a marked concentration of cases in individuals 15 to 18 years old with 70% in that age group as being Asymptomatic. There have been no new reported deaths in Sussex County since August 14th. She moved on to a report she received from Dr. John Connolly as an update with what is going on at the college. SCCC continues to organize an opportunity with the US Navy by offering online college programs and classes. In conjunction with the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges the college is exploring future opportunities in global manufacturing, supply chain management and innovation and technology. The College also continues to strengthen its partnerships. They continue to work on their culinary program at the McGuire Building. The college has also upgraded the backstop at the Public Safety and Training gun range which allows the use of higher caliber weapons including rifles which allows our police departments to go to one location for their qualifying. As far as athletics goes they continue to be monitored for college requirements for COVID safety protocols. The Veterans are planning a grab and go fundraiser with Fish and Chips and the proceeds will go to Veterans Emergency Relief Fund and the College hosted a Suicide Awareness Event on the Green. On a conference call with the Chamber, Dr. Connolly updated the callers on many topics. The Chamber presented a one hour zoom seminar on Indoor Air Quality with Dr. Connolly. Its goal was to educate business about best practices to manage air quality so indoor service economies can resume without controversy and safety. Lastly on the College, the College Board Chair William Curcio was named to the Committee on Racial and Social Justice which is a newly formed panel with the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges. She thanked Freeholder Fasano for going through the voting process. On the state web site you can look up your voter record and obtain your voter id number if you need that. She ended with saying it is very important that you do not write on your ballot unless you are writing in a candidate's name. If you have anything you would like to express, a letter or email would be the proper way to communicate.

Comments from Freeholder Petillo

She started with the Marijuana issue. She has had some very interesting discussions on this issue with residents from all over the County. Clearly people see this from many different perspectives and have formed very strong opinions for or against. Since other states have legalized recreational marijuana there is information available that offers facts about the impact this legislation has had on their communities. She read a few statements from a report by SAM the “Smart Approaches to Marijuana Organization”. They have just released their fourth annual report on harms of Marijuana Legalization. The report begins with a quote from Dr. Kevin Sabet, a former senior drug policy advisor to the Obama Administration and the President of SAM. “In pot legal states, stoned driving is up. Youth use is up. Emergency room admissions are up. We won’t know the full impact of commercialization for years; but these current indicators are discouraging.” One interesting fact is as commercialization has led to dramatic increases in the potency of marijuana products and increases in their availability, calls made to poison control centers in Colorado, Massachusetts and Washington for marijuana exposures have risen 112%, 140% and 103% respectively since legalization. She said in Sussex County, marijuana use increased among 11th and 12th grade students from 2017 to 2018. 15% of 11th grade students and 21% of 12th grade students reported that they had used marijuana within the past 30 day. So you can see there is an active use of marijuana in a state that has not legalized it yet. She said she is not here to debate the issue. Everyone has to look at all of these facts and understand what the possibilities will be and the impact to our communities will be. Her goal tonight is giving you facts coming out of different states that have already legalized it.

She thanked everyone for their comments and those who took the time to get on the conference call.

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. RESOLUTION RE: 392-2020**
CHANGE IN TITLE, TEXT OR AMOUNT OF APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-85, TO PROVIDE COUNTY MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,500.00 FOR THE SFY21 NJ JARC ROUND 7 AWARD

- B. RESOLUTION RE: 393-2020**
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF VARIOUS GRANT FUND RECEIVABLES AND APPROPRIATED RESERVES THAT EXIST ON THE BALANCE SHEET OF THE GRANT FUND

- C. RESOLUTION RE: 394-2020**
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2020 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE FFY2020 FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS UNDER THE CARES ACT FROM THE NJ TRANSIT CORPORATION FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,737,398.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2020 TO JULY 31, 2021

- D. RESOLUTION RE: 395-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT THE LOCAL EFFICIENCY ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (LEAP) AWARD AND EXECUTE THE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND SUSSEX COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$124,000.00 (\$93,000.00 GRANT; \$31,000.00 MATCH), FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

- E. RESOLUTION RE: 396-2020**
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2020 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE FY2021 LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE TO PREVENT ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE FROM THE GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$86,992.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

- F. RESOLUTION RE: 397-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT THE COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT AWARDS AND EXECUTE COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE (CTCL) AND SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,300.00 AND THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,725.00, FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 15, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020)

- G. RESOLUTION RE: 398-2020**
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2020 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT AWARD TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLERK FROM THE CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$49,725.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 15, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

- H. RESOLUTION RE: 399-2020**
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2020 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANT AWARD TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS FROM THE CENTER FOR TECH

AND CIVIC LIFE FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$66,300.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 15, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

- I. **RESOLUTION RE: 400-2020**
APPROVING GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAWA) GRANT PROGRAM, COUNTY OFFICE OF VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY VICTIM SERVICES PROJECT ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL VAWA-49-19 FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,052.00 FEDERAL SHARE AND \$5,352.00 CASH MATCH, FOR A PROJECT TOTAL OF \$21,404.00
- J. **RESOLUTION RE: 401-2020**
APPROVING GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAWA) GRANT PROGRAM, COUNTY OFFICE OF VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY VICTIM SERVICES PROJECT ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL VAWA-49-18 FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,395.00 FEDERAL SHARE AND \$5,469.00 CASH MATCH, FOR A PROJECT TOTAL OF \$21,864.00

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Sussex has reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of various proposed Resolutions and determined that adoption of the said Resolutions is in and will further the public interest. If any Freeholder would like to remove an item to be considered separately, please do so now.

MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda Resolutions A-J Freeholder Fantasia

Second: Freeholder Hertzberg

Discussion: None

(Roll call vote)

Freeholder Fantasia Yes
Freeholder Fasano Yes
Freeholder Hertzberg Yes
Freeholder Petillo Yes
Freeholder Yardley Yes

11. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – September 23, 2020

MOTION to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting Freeholder Fantasia

Seconded Freeholder Hertzberg

(Voice Vote)- All voted in the affirmative

12. **APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS - NONE**

13. **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **RESOLUTION RE: 402-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND COUNTY OF SUSSEX EMPLOYEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY
- B. **RESOLUTION RE: 403-2020**
DECLARING A 2008 CHEVROLET UPLANDER MINIVAN BELONGING TO THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AS SURPLUS
- C. **RESOLUTION RE: 404-2020**
CHANGE IN CUSTODIAN OF PETTY CASH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- D. **RESOLUTION RE: 405-2020**
CHANGE IN CUSTODIAN OF PETTY CASH FOR BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX
- E. **RESOLUTION RE: 406-2020**
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND THE CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND ELIZABETHTOWN GAS COMPANY ALLOWING INSTALLATION OF A NATURAL GAS MAIN ATTACHED TO SUSSEX COUNTY BRIDGE Q-19 IN SPARTA TOWNSHIP PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 27:19-19

MOTION to adopt said Resolutions A-E Freeholder Fasano

Seconded by Freeholder Yardley

(Roll Call vote)

Freeholder Fantasia Yes

Freeholder Fasano Yes
Freeholder Hertzberg Yes
Freeholder Petillo Yes
Freeholder Yardley Yes

14. **AWARDS OF CONTRACT/CHANGE ORDERS/BID - None**

15. **FINANCIAL**

A. RESOLUTION RE: 407-2020
PAYMENT OF BILLS LIST
October 15, 2020

MOTION to approve the Bills List Freeholder Fantasia
Seconded Freeholder Yardley
(Roll Call vote)

Freeholder Fantasia Yes
Freeholder Fasano Yes
Freeholder Hertzberg Yes
Freeholder Petillo Yes
Freeholder Yardley Yes

B. RESOLUTION RE: 408-2020
RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE
"COUNTY") AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MORRIS COUNTY
IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY (THE "AUTHORITY") TO UNDERTAKE THE
REFUNDING AND OPTIONAL REDEMPTION OF THE AUTHORITY'S COUNTY OF
SUSSEX GUARANTEED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM LEASE REVENUE
BONDS AND THE ISSUANCE OF AUTHORITY REFUNDING BONDS AND
DETERMINING CERTAIN MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH REFUNDING,
OPTIONAL REDEMPTION AND ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS

MOTION to adopt Resolution B Freeholder Fantasia
Seconded Freeholder Yardley
(Roll Call vote)

Freeholder Fantasia Yes
Freeholder Fasano Yes
Freeholder Hertzberg Yes
Freeholder Petillo Yes
Freeholder Yardley Yes

16. **PERSONNEL**

RESOLUTION RE: 409-2020
AUTHORIZING PERSONNEL AGENDA OF October 15, 2020

MOTION to adopt the Personnel Agenda Freeholder Yardley
Seconded Freeholder Fasano
(Roll Call vote)

Freeholder Fantasia Yes
Freeholder Fasano Yes
Freeholder Hertzberg Yes
Freeholder Petillo Yes
Freeholder Yardley Yes

17. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Poff stated we are waiting for approval from the state Department of Health on the County's testing plan which will include at-home, mobile and fix site testing. He said we are looking forward to receiving this approval so we can proceed to the contract phase of engaging a laboratory to perform those tests for the County. The department budget hearings have begun in preparation of the County's 2021 operating budget. The 2021 Capital Improvement program will begin in November. He said we will continue to keep the board updated as the budget sub-committee moves forward.

18. **COUNTY COUNSEL REPORT- No report**

19. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Freeholder Fantasia mentioned from the State's budget the Firearm and Discriminatory fees were not included in the budget. This Board passed a resolution against that and it was shared across the state. It went to the Senate and Assembly budget committees. Warren County also supported us in our efforts and those fees do

remain the same as the current budget cycle. It was a small victory but it did stand up to those less fortunate financially to be able to exercise their 2nd amendment rights.

20. NEW BUSINESS

21. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

This Public Session is for general questions or comments. Before we open this Session we ask Callers wanting to make a comment to first state your name and municipality. The Clerk will create a Roster and call each in the order received. Comments are limited to 3 minutes or less.

MOTION to open the floor for public comment Freeholder Fantasia
Seconded by Freeholder Hertzberg
(Voice vote)-All voted in the affirmative

Jeff Oakes, Oceanport, NJ spoke on the marijuana issue. He is a patient himself and using marijuana has kept him off of opioids from chemo therapy. He has listened to Kevin Sabet and he feels that he spreads false information.

Freeholder Petillo thanked Mr. Oakes for calling and clarified that the issue at hand is recreational marijuana. She wished him the best.

Heather-Stott-Mason, Sparta stated that there has been a lot of mention of SAM. She said that is anti-legalization lobbyist from Washington D.C. She said any studies taken from there need to be taken with a grain of salt. She also said there seems to be a lot of focus on kids. She said things can be regulated such as putting caps on bottles.

Steven Thompson stated that he has emailed Freeholder Yardley regarding Diversion Programs in particular for Veterans. He said there is a 99% denial rate throughout the state. He said the Sussex County Prosecutors are initiating their own laws that the veteran must live in the County. He said it is discrimination and unequal justice for the veteran.

Freeholder Fantasia told Mr. Thompson that she would speak with Freeholder Yardley on this and get back to him.

Zoe Health, Vernon said last September a video was shown on the Opium symposiums. In the presentation there was incredible footage on people overdosing. She said her mother as passed away a month before that of an overdose and she informed the Board how triggering that footage is for people with addiction. She said the reason she is bringing it up is because it was virtually signally then and it is virtually signally now. She feels the Freeholders are showing a lack of empathy on both recreational and medical marijuana use. She feels if marijuana is legalized the addiction rates to other drugs would go down. She feels this entire issue is political.

Edward Grimes, Parsippany stated there is a union called the UFCW and this union represents cannabis workers and you are hurting the working class by stopping legalization. There is a Union that will keep this drug out of the hands of children. He is in favor of unions and the patients' rights. He said he was addicted to opioids and having the access to marijuana helped him. He said cannabis is extremely helpful for people getting off of opioids and many more conditions.

Jamie Van-Stiker, Paulsboro is in agreement with the issues of children and consumption and how it is being blown out of proportion. She wants the Freeholders to investigate these things not just believe what they are reading. She ended with a quote, "The good thing about science is that is it true whether or not you believe in it."

Jeff King, Eatontown said he has enjoyed what the callers have been saying about the marijuana than what the Freeholders have been saying. He said the candy the edibles in Massachusetts is very boring. They are just cubes nothing that looks like a cartoon character. He said the issue of the black market thriving, he said the black market is already thriving. He also said that no one wants to talk about decriminalization.

Freeholder Fantasia stated that regarding decriminalization legislation in June Bill#A1897. The Assembly voted 63-10 in favor. The main goal of it was to seek to replace arrest for processing of up to 2 ounces of weed of a civil fine of \$50 and lessen jail time for larger amounts. She said this was halted with the public question was going on the ballot of legalize marijuana. She said we are well aware at the state level of what is going on so that is why the County has not spoken on this.

MOTION to close the floor for public comment and return to regular business Freeholder Hertzberg
Seconded Freeholder Fasano
(Voice vote)- All voted in the affirmative

She thanked the callers again. She said the vote is in the hands of the people and that is where it should be.

22. REMINDERS

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

23. **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.

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 Chosen Freeholders 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 Chosen Freeholders to discuss such matter(s) in Executive Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders 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 will recess until 8:15 PM and then reconvene to 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 or Acquisition of Real Property or the Investment of Public Funds:**
- _____ (6) **Matters Relating to Public Safety and Property:**
- X (7) **Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney Client Privilege;**
 - Fire Inspection Services
 - Contract negotiations – PBA 378 Corrections
- X (8) **Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship:**
 - Personnel Policies
 - Various Appointments
- _____ (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 Chosen Freeholders 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 not take formal action and will adjourn the meeting from Executive Session.

MOTION to recess the meeting until 8:15 PM and reconvene in Executive Session Freeholder Hertzberg
Seconded Freeholder Fasano
(Voice vote)- All voted in the affirmative

24. **ADJOURNMENT (within Executive Session)**

DATED: October 15, 2020

Respectively submitted,

**Teri Lyons,
Clerk**