

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.

FREEHOLDER MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2020 AT 9:00AM
REGULAR BUSINESS
MINUTES

Item

1. CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR

2. ROLL CALL: Present: Freeholder Fantasia, Freeholder Fasano, Freeholder Hertzberg
Freeholder Petillo. Also, County Administrator Poff, County Counsel Kelly and Clerk to the Board Lyons.
Freeholder Yardley was absent

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 January 2, 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."

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION to approve the Agenda: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION- None

(Voice vote) All voted in the affirmative

6. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation – Recognizing November as National Hospice Month – Read by Freeholder Petillo and followed by remarks from Freeholder Fantasia and Petillo. **463-2020**

MOTION to approve the Proclamation: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION- None

(Voice Vote) All voted in the affirmative

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. FINAL ADOPTION- ORDINANCE 20-06

Freeholder Director Petillo "At our regular meeting held on November 10, 2020, we introduced for first reading the following Resolution which was advertised in the New Jersey Herald issue of November 11, 2020, together with a Notice of Public Hearing stating it would be held at this meeting at 9:00 AM:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF 2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT AND FOR CERTAIN FACILITIES OF SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$2,800,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,800,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION, THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF WHICH WILL BE ENTITLED TO STATE AID, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 12 OF THE LAWS OF NEW JERSEY OF 1971

MOTION that the Public Hearing be opened: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION- None

(Voice vote) All voted in the affirmative.

Is anyone present to be heard regarding this Ordinance? No public on the line.

MOTION that the Public Hearing be closed: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

(Voice vote) All voted in the affirmative.

MOTION that this Ordinance be finally adopted and authorize the Clerk to advertise this Resolution as finally adopted, and also post same on the bulletin board in the lobby of the County Administrative Center: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION: None

(Roll Call vote) Fantasia –Aye
Fasano – Aye
Hertzberg- Aye
Petillo - Aye

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: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION - None

(Voice Vote) All voted in the affirmative

Tammie Horsfield, Frankford, President, Sussex County Chamber of Commerce spoke on Governor Murphy's recent restrictions he has placed on the restaurant business. Ms. Horsfield requested that the Business owners make their own chooses in a reasonable way rather than forcing them and mandating them to close early or lock down. Small businesses are suffering due to COVID-19 and most of these businesses are following protocols. She asked the Freeholders to continue to work together in helping our communities and supporting our businesses during this time and she thanked the Freeholders for allowing her this time to speak.

Mark Avondoglio, Andover Township, Perona Farms, echoed what Ms. Horsfield said regarding the early closure of restaurants. As a result of this measure he had to reschedule 350 weddings for 2020. Most of these weddings are ending by 10:00PM when they used to end at 11:00PM. Due to this time restriction, they no longer host any weddings on New Year's Eve; which was very popular occasion. Mr. Avondoglio questioned if an exception could be made for New Year's Eve regarding the time restrictions.

Jason Fuchs, Sparta, Manager at Kroghs, stated the new time restrictions will be hurting us especially as the weather changes. There one challenge is just keeping people employed. He said when the bar was open they created a very safe environment. He feels Sussex County has fared well through this and he feels the business owner should be allowed to make decisions as they see fit.

Stacy Frey – Lafayette, Lafayette House, supported the other callers' comments. She is also in support to allow the small businesses to make their own decisions and trust they will do the right thing in keeping their employees and customers safe.

MOTION to close the floor for public comment: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION None

(Voice Vote) All voted in the affirmative

9. FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

Comments by Freeholder Fasano

Had the opportunity to participate in the County's 13th Annual Stuff the Bus Food Drive this past weekend and it was an amazing event to watch and he thinks a record was broken. Freeholder Fasano thanked everyone for their participation. As for COVID-19, the cases are on the rise and Sussex County has a strong group who are committed to the residents' health and wellbeing. It is still very important to protect yourself and others. In conclusion, as the holidays are approaching it is extremely important to support your local businesses. On the County's website there is an interactive map with all the local business that was developed in collaboration with the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce and the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership. He wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Comments by Freeholder Hertzberg

We know more about this virus and we can prevent the spread without ruining people's livelihoods and we cannot let fear drive these decisions. The decisions need to be well thought out and the local businesses should have the ability to make their own decisions. It should be our job to give them the latest and best information so the businesses can make good decisions for their businesses and their families. Freeholder Hertzberg applauded our tri-county efforts and said he has been on the end of the contact tracing process twice and commended the County's Health Department and the terrific job they are doing. In conclusion, he said they will continue to fight for local businesses.

Comments by Freeholder Fantasia

She is in agreement with Hunterdon County and all the callers this morning. She feels the local businesses have suffered enough. In her opinion, every business is essential when it is putting a roof over your head and feeding your family. She feels once again the Governor has missed the mark. She feels it is the duty of this Board and every elected official to support our businesses. She said she will follow up with Trenton on the time restriction for New Years' Eve. She then moved on to other County business. She thanked Jeff Parrott and the Clerk's office. They managed to come in under \$50,000 of their budget even with the extra work load that came with the vote-by-mail this year. She mentioned that District 24 announced

S238 which was a law that revised the training and duties of firefighters was enacted. This allows the Jr. Trainees to do on seen support for specific training. She mentioned that our volunteer corps in Sussex County is extremely important in keeping our residents safe. For any farmers or ranchers' operations that have been directly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, President Trump and the Secretary of Agriculture will be announcing that the USFDA is implementing a coronavirus food assistance program. There is a call center for this to receive one-on-one support with the application process. The number is 877-508-8364. She then gave updates on the County stats with the virus. She said a good portion of the state is in the orange zone. A total of 435 new cases have been reported by the County. She said if you go to the daily reports that are released you can see the breakdown by municipality. Again, cases are linked to 18 years of age or younger and have been asymptomatic. Currently there are 7 cases open in our long-term care facilities and these require serious attention from the state and the County. There have been no new reported deaths. She then expanded on what Freeholder Fasano mentioned in his report about testing. She said Sussex County Office of Emergency Management is in receipt of 6,400 rapid test kits from the New Jersey Department of Health. These are available to County long-term facilities. For Sussex County residents there are at-home test kits available. On the County's website there is a map that shows the entire County's testing sites and a New Jersey state test finder as well. She mentioned the locations in Sussex County where testing is available. Any questions can be referred to the County's Health Department at 973-579-0370. The Office of Emergency Management as well at Sherriff Strada is looking for resident input as they are updating the County Hazardous Mitigation Plan. There is a citizen survey questionnaire on the County website and citizen input is very helpful. The Sherriff department is pleased to announce the promotion of Sheriff Detective Corp Scott Hagerty to Sargent. In conclusion, she gave updates on the Sussex County Arts and Heritage Council. She wished everyone a very safe Thanksgiving congratulated recent elected officials.

Comments from Freeholder Petillo

She spoke on the Stuff the Bus fundraiser which was hosted by IHeart Radio. This fundraiser benefits the Sussex County food pantry. The First Hope Bank hosted a cash donation as well as other food drives hosted by local Shoprite stores. She thanked the police departments from Byram, Hopatcong and Sparta for their help with the drive. If you know of anyone who is in need of food, please contact the County's Division of Social Services at 973-383-3600. They are located at 83 Spring Street in Newton.

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. RESOLUTION RE: 464-2020

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2020 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE SFY21 NJ CANCER EDUCATION & EARLY DETECTION GRANT AWARD #DCHS21CED018 FROM THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$71,712.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

B. RESOLUTION RE: 465-2020

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX TO SUBMIT THE AREA PLAN GRANT AGREEMENT DoAS21AAA008 WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,595,906.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021 FOR THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS UNDER THE OLDER AMERICAN'S ACT

C. RESOLUTION RE: 466-2020

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES FOR A MEDICARE SPECIAL BENEFITS OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020 TO AUGUST 31, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000.00

D. RESOLUTION RE: 467-2020

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE MODIFICATION #5 TO INCREASE THE SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS CONTRACT #SH19019 WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,045.00 FOR THE PROVISION OF HOMELESSNESS AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES FOR THE CONTRACT TERM OF JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACTED AMOUNT OF \$412,445.00

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-D: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION – None

(Roll call vote) Fantasia –Aye

Fasano – Aye

Hertzberg- Aye

Petillo - Aye

11. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – November 10, 2020
Executive Session Minutes – November 10, 2020

MOTION to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting and Executive Session: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND – Freeholder Fasano

DISCUSSION - None

(Voice Vote) All voted in the affirmative.

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

13. **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **RESOLUTION RE: 468-2020**
AUTHORIZATION ADOPTING A TELEWORK POLICY
- B. **RESOLUTION RE: 469-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PURCHASING TO MAKE PURCHASES DIRECTLY FROM THE STATE DISTRIBUTION CENTER AND PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING SYSTEM DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2021
- C. **RESOLUTION RE: 470-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PURCHASING TO MAKE PURCHASES DIRECTLY FROM THE SOMERSET COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM DURING THE CALENDAR/FISCAL YEAR 2021
- D. **RESOLUTION RE: 471-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PURCHASING TO MAKE PURCHASES DIRECTLY FROM THE MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL SYSTEM DURING THE CALENDAR/FISCAL YEAR 2021
- E. **RESOLUTION RE: 472-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PURCHASING TO MAKE PURCHASES DIRECTLY FROM THE HUNTERDON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION DURING THE CALENDAR/FISCAL YEAR 2021
- F. **RESOLUTION RE: 473-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PURCHASING TO MAKE PURCHASES DIRECTLY FROM THE BERGEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM DURING THE CALENDAR/FISCAL YEAR 2021
- G. **RESOLUTION RE: 474-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF PURCHASING TO MAKE PURCHASES DIRECTLY FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL SYSTEM DURING THE CALENDAR/FISCAL YEAR 2021
- H. **RESOLUTION RE: 475-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR ELECTRIC GENERATION SUPPLY SERVICE UNDER THE PASSAIC COUNTY ENERGY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM TO VARIOUS BUILDINGS WITHIN SUSSEX COUNTY WITH DIRECT ENERGY FROM DECEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2022
- I. **RESOLUTION RE: 476-2020**
ESTABLISHING AMENDMENTS TO HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY FOR NON REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES SET FORTH IN THE SUSSEX COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

MOTION to adopt said Resolutions A-I: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION- None

(Roll Call vote) Fantasia –Aye

Fasano – Aye

Hertzberg- Aye

Petillo – Aye

14. **AWARDS OF CONTRACT/CHANGE ORDERS/BID**

- A. **RESOLUTION RE: 477-2020**
AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR ANNUAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR COUNTY BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, GEOTECHNICAL AND GENERAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO GENESIS ENGINEERING, LLC FROM JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021
- B. **RESOLUTION RE: 478-2020**
AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS

FOR ANNUAL ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR COUNTY ROADWAY, SIGNAL, TRAFFIC SAFETY AND GENERAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO VARIOUS VENDORS FROM JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

- C. **RESOLUTION RE: 479-2020**
AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR COUNTY BRIDGE REHABILITATION AND REPLACEMENT PROJECTS TO VARIOUS VENDORS FROM JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021
- D. **RESOLUTION RE: 480-2020**
AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF A FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX TO PHOENIX ADVISORS LLC FROM JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021
- E. **RESOLUTION RE: 481-2020**
AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR DATA PROCESSING SOFTWARE/SERVICE TO PROVIDE FOR A PAYROLL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND HUMAN RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM TO PRIMEPOINT LLC FROM JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021 IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$91,000.00
- F. **RESOLUTION RE: 482-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF COUNTY ROAD IMAGERY ACQUISITION AND WEB-BASED VIEWER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND PLANNING FROM CIVIL SOLUTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,415.00
- G. **RESOLUTION RE: 483-2020**
AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF CISCO SMARTNET TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FROM COMPUTER DESIGN & INTEGRATION LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$84,575.35
- H. **RESOLUTION RE: 484-2020**
AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR GARBAGE REMOVAL FROM VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES TO BLUE DIAMOND DISPOSAL, INC FROM NOVEMBER 28, 2020 THROUGH NOVEMBER 27, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,717.84
- I. **RESOLUTION RE: 485-2020**
AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2021 OR CURRENT MODEL YEAR FREIGHTLINER SD108 OR EQUAL SINGLE AXLE TRUCK CHASSIS WITH TRADE INS TO ROBERT H. HOOVER & SONS INC., IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$195,577.00 AFTER TRADE-INS

The Board of Chosen Freeholders 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 approve Contracts A-I: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION - None

(Roll call vote) Fantasia –Aye

Fasano – Aye

Hertzberg- Aye

Petillo - Aye

15. FINANCIAL

A. RESOLUTION RE: 486-2020

PAYMENT OF BILLS LIST

November 24, 2020

MOTION to approve the Bills List: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

DISCUSSION

(Roll Call vote) Fantasia –Aye

Fasano – Aye

Hertzberg- Aye

Petillo - Aye

16. PERSONNEL - NONE

17. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Poff reported that the Budget Committee continues to work on the development of the 2020-2021 County operating and capital projects budget. More will follow on this in the coming weeks. He is also working with the Emergency Preparedness Team to continue the full implementation of the County's testing plan for COVID19 and continues to work with the NJ Department of Health in the development of the

vaccination plan that will soon be implemented. In closing, Mr. Poff wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

18. **COUNTY COUNSEL REPORT - None**

19. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

20. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Discussion on Governor Murphy's Executive Order #195**

RESOLUTION RE: 487-2020

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS NON-INTERFERENCE POLICY IN SUSSEX COUNTY

This was listed on the Agenda as Title Only

Freeholder Petillo read the Resolution into the record.

Freeholder Fasano said he supports this resolution and believes it is absolutely not the time to further regulate businesses in Sussex County. Sussex County businesses are currently following the guidelines to follow the mandates from the state. He does not believe Sussex County should be taken any action to further to interfere with local businesses.

Freeholder Fantasia said she was clear with her support with small businesses in this situation. She stands with Hunterdon and Warren County to never initiate any further regulations for our small businesses.

Freeholder Petillo stated that all of our businesses in Sussex County are essential and are the backbone of our community. SC Freeholders have always been in favor of small business in our county. They have taken every opportunity to stand with our business sector and work closely with the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce. We continuously look for new ways and resources that will help support and sustain these businesses. She feels that it is imperative for our business to remain open in a manner that enables them to remain financially viable. She is in support of the resolution to take no action to interfere with the existing hours of our business or close down business throughout Sussex County.

MOTION to Open the Public Comments: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

Voice Vote: All voted in the affirmative

Peggy Burn, Hackettstown feels putting any more restrictions on our small businesses is obscured at this point. People are struggling to make it in our communities.

Dean Boyd, Andover Township has an insurance agency in Newton. He comes in contact with many small businesses in the community. He thanked and applauded the Freeholders for taking this position. Whatever can be done within our legal abilities to push back the Governor's edicts we need to do so. The numbers don't justify the restrictions in Sussex County. He feels we need to push for a Republican Governor.

Donna Rodriguez, Stanhope agrees and appreciates the stance of the Freeholders and the restrictions on the small business are beyond the wisdom of authority of our government. Having the businesses shut down is not helping them or the community and it will have nothing but devastating effects on our community.

Diane Scanlon, Hopatcong feels the restrictions need to be lifted. These individuals are depending on this money.

Tracy Boyle, Hopatcong agrees with all the callers. Her heart goes out to these businesses. She tries to support them in any way she can.

Cheryl Pitingher, Hampton one of her co-workers and a very good friend has recently opened up a business a year ago and they are struggling beyond words. It is so sad having their life-long dream of a restaurant be hampered by these restrictions. She is hoping they will be allowed to stay open.

Christy Levin, Hardyston visited a small business owner today where she bought breakfast for her family. She spoke with the business owner and his take on what is going on. He said a vaccine will really be a game changer but ultimately he wants people to be safe. She said as a community we all feel for these business owners. They need funding and patrons.

Freeholder Fantasia said there is a list that has been undated by the Chamber of Commerce that is shared on our website with restaurant information on who is open, delivering, etc. She said we are very hopeful that more NJ Cares funding will be sent to the County for more direct aid for these businesses.

Freeholder Hertzberg said that the County did partner with the Chamber to create an interactive database that is on the website showing all the business with their services.

Tammie Horsfield said they update all of that information on a weekly basis. Any special, discounts or offers for anyone with any business within the County is on that. She said the map was created in partnership with Sussex County and we continue to encourage their business to sign up. The business does it themselves either on the Chamber website or on the County's website or the Economic Development Partnership website. Her staff works continuously to update it.

Freeholder Petillo stated that they have been fighting for our businesses since this pandemic began. There has been an injustice to our business owners who have invested in our communities. They are holding on by a thread. If you really want to help these businesses it can be done. They have their inventory out, the restaurants are decorated. If you don't want to go out for dinner, definitely order take out. She said we need to be serious about this and visit your small business in lieu of going to amazon. She thanked everyone who was on the call.

MOTION to close Public Comments: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

Voice Vote: All voted in the affirmative.

MOTION to adopt Resolution: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

Roll Call Vote: **Fantasia –Aye**

Fasano – Aye

Hertzberg- Aye

Petillo - Aye

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

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

(Voice vote) All voted in the affirmative.

Freeholder Petillo read the Reproductive Freedom Act Resolution that was passed at the last Freeholder meeting into the record.

Peggy Burns, Hackettstown, is against the Reproductive Freedom Act. She feels it is murder. She said it is not a decision for the tax payers. She feels this Governor has a death wish on us. All restrictions should be removed.

Donna Rodriquez, Stanhope is opposed and appalled by the Reproductive Freedom Act. She said this is nothing but murder. This is just another poor choice of Governor Murphy. She said she will do whatever it takes to do what is right for this state and for the people.

Diane Scanlon, Hopatcong is appalled that this resolution is up for discussion. She feels leaving abortion up to 9 months is unbelievable and what doctor could do this. This is not a form of birth control.

Cheryl Pittigher, Hampton agrees with the other callers and it appalled by this Reproductive Freedom Act Resolution. She can't believe this is up for consideration. Does believe this is not a form of birth control. She is a foster parent and adopted her son. She said if the mom of her adopted son chose to have an abortion she never would have had the pleasure or honor of being a mom. This is an all-time low.

Tracy Boyle, Hopatcong spoke on the Reproduction Freedom Act. She agrees with what the other callers are saying. This is murder and evil. We should have a say on our tax money.

Christy Levin, Hardyston suggested if it is possible to move meetings to Zoom or another platform. The interruptions are very distracting. Maybe another platform could prevent that. She spoke on COVID. A friend of hers is in the hospital after contracting the virus a second time. She was incredibly careful but got it again. She mentioned that she is grateful that there have not been many new deaths but what have not been mentioned are the lingering health conditions for those who have contracted it. That is not be quantified. We are seeing that people recovered because they have lived. So the information can be misleading. She hopes this Board does everything in their power to protect us and keep in mind the complexity of this virus.

Zoe Heath, Vernon expressed her disappointment that there is a public meeting at 9:00 AM on a Tuesday. She feels strongly that public meetings by elected officials should be at a time when everyone can make it.

She is disappointed regarding the Reproductive Freedom Act and the misinformation spread by our elected officials such as District 24 and our Freeholders. She is disappointed with the fear mongering that is coming from our Freeholders. It is a waste of time for tax payers.

Freeholders Petillo stated that this is bad bill. She is not going to argue Pro-Choice and Pro-life but she said nobody exaggerated in this Resolution. Everything in this Resolution was taken from the Bills. She said the reason that this Board supports this Bill out in public is to let the public know that this Bill is being placed in the hands of our legislatures for a decision and if we did not speak on it the public would not know what is going on. This has become a topic in Sussex County because this Board has taken an action to let people know what is happening. It is important for the public to know what is being handed to our legislatures to vote on.

Freeholder Fantasia said the title itself "Reproductive Freedom Act" is misleading. It is a host to a litany of unethical practices. She said the most ludicrous piece is that it invalidates existing laws and prohibits further adoption of any laws or regulations that conflict with the Bill. She thanks Districts 24 for bringing this to our attention and it does affect people in Sussex County. Our voices have been heard on many different issues. This is an inhumane issue.

Freeholder Petillo said if our Governor is out borrowing billions of dollars yet nowhere in this Bill is any money being set aside for Agencies to help these young girls have their babies. There is an agency in Sussex County Birth Haven that helps these girls support themselves so they can keep their babies. She said there is always money set aside for abortions but never any money set aside for agencies to help keep the babies. She thanked everyone that called in. She said call your legislatures to let them know what is going on. We will continue to make sure you are informed.

MOTION to close the floor for public comment and return to regular business: Freeholder Fantasia

SECOND: Freeholder Hertzberg

(Voice vote) All voted in the affirmative

22. **REMINDERS**

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

23. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Closed Session) Time is 10:39 AM**

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 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;**

- **Contract negotiations**

**PBA 138 Prosecutor
PBA 138 Sheriff
PBA 378 Corrections**

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

- **Various appointment**

_____ (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 resume its meeting open to the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will adjourn the meeting from Executive Session

MOTION to adopt the Executive Session Resolution and enter into Executive Session: Freeholder

Fantasia

Second: Freeholder Hertzberg

(Voice vote) All voted in the affirmative

Freeholder Petillo wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

22. ADJOURNMENT: from Executive Session

DATED: November 24, 2020

Respectively submitted,

Teri Lyons, Clerk