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HUDSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RE:

CAUCUS MEETING : TRANSCRIPT OF
OF THE :
HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF : PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS :
:

O P E N S E S S I O N

Hudson County
Administration Building,
County Commissioners Chambers
567 Pavonia Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
4:30 p.m.

B E F O R E:

CERTIFIED COPY

ANTHONY ROMANO, Chairman
YRAIDA APONTE-LIPSKI, Commissioner
ROBERT BASELICE, Commissioner
FANNY CEDEÑO, Commissioner
KENNETH KOPACZ, Commissioner
WILLIAM O'DEA, Commissioner
CARIDAD RODRIGUEZ, Commissioner
CELESTE WILLIAMS, Commissioner

A L S O P R E S E N T:

CARMEN E. MENDIOLA, ESQ., Board Counsel
ALBERICO DEPIERRO, ESQ., Hudson County Counsel
ABRAHAM ANTUN, County Administrator
WILLIE ORTIZ, County Commissioner Clerk
Reported By: Shari Cathey, CCR, RPR

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner
2 Aponte-Lipski.

3 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Baselice.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cedeño.

7 COMMISSIONER CEDEÑO: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Commissioner Cifelli.
9 Commissioner Kopacz.

10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Commissioner O'Dea.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Present.

13 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rodriguez.
14 Commissioner Williams.

15 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Chairman Romano.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Here. Before we
18 start the meeting, I'd like to say a statement on
19 behalf of my colleagues in the legislative branch.

20 We are appalled and stunned about the
21 recent incidents that have happened because of
22 former employees of Hudson County. We stand
23 together with the Executive Branch and the County
24 Executive to ensure total cooperation with the
25 United States Attorney's Office and also to review,

1 as requested by Commissioner Rodriguez and other
2 Members of the Board, any or all contracts by the
3 Murray Company, correct, if that's been done?

4 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Correct.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And you went out to
6 reconvene. All contracts are being pulled. We're in
7 the process of doing that, yes.

8 MR. ANTUN: Anything that has not
9 been started, we're going to be canceling, we're not
10 going to review those projects, but we're not
11 abandoning the projects, we're just going to do
12 another procurement for those companies.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So while Murray
14 Company is taking your leave from the U.S.
15 Attorney's Office, correct?

16 MR. ANTUN: Leave from?

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: In other words,
18 what --

19 MR. ANTUN: No, we're collaborating
20 with whatever they need, and we will, the law
21 department will not be taking any recourse.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: For the benefit of
23 the total Members of the Board, that was just
24 discussion at Purchasing, with regard to subpoenas,
25 would you inform me or the Board?

1 MR. DEPIERRO: Yes, the County was
2 served with a subpoena for documents. We're already
3 in the process of providing documents that have been
4 requested, and they've already received some of
5 them. So as we get them, we're cooperating
6 immediately.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Now with regards to
8 past payments, we're going to find out from the
9 Purchasing department, for example, there was
10 something on last month's agenda. Is that being
11 able to recall and stop?

12 MR. DEPIERRO: We will, obviously.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Right. I'm just
14 saying so we'll have an answer to the Board by
15 Thursday.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: If anything that
17 was voted on this Board, if a check has yet to be
18 processed and sent to them, then stop it so we can
19 go through a full process of review before any
20 payments are made. I think that's what we should
21 do.

22 MR. ANTUN: Commissioner, we're doing
23 that.

24 DIRECTOR FULLER: Correct. The
25 Finance department has pulled any payments and

1 stopped the processing of any purchase orders or
2 requisitions effectively needed, and we did that
3 today. We actually started that yesterday.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Any of the Board
5 Members have questions?

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I don't have any
7 questions. I would hope that the County Prosecutor
8 will reach out to the U.S. Attorney to see how they
9 can be helpful and cooperative, because there
10 certainly could be charges that would not be federal
11 charges, but may warrant criminal charges or
12 investigations.

13 So I would go on record saying I think
14 that the Prosecutor has an obligation to do that,
15 because as you know, sometimes there are offenses
16 that are either minor or don't fall within a federal
17 jurisdiction, whereas it should be something that's
18 locally done.

19 And then the other is, sooner rather than
20 later, I'd like to see how we're going to have a
21 better process of monitoring and reviewing. So
22 co-op contracts seem to be a much greater potential
23 for issues or problems, but that all of these
24 particular contracts for construction are better
25 monitored. You know, we found out that many

1 projects, the individual who quote-unquote would
2 monitor them and sign off that things were done, has
3 maybe no background in construction. How the hell
4 is a person that knows nothing about a construction
5 initial a PO for work that's done, right?

6 The engineer in a large number of these
7 instances, this is what was represented to us, that
8 never did that. And instead an employee within a
9 department would do that. Now if those employees
10 lack experience and background in the field of
11 construction, how do they do that? Would you sign
12 off, Mr. Administrator, on work done in your office
13 as to how many panels of sheetrock were put in, how
14 many coats of paint? Of course not.

15 So, and this should be with all projects,
16 whether they're publicly bid or whether they're
17 co-op. We need to put in place a proper level of
18 qualified individuals to be able to, whoever's going
19 to -- if you're going to sign on something, right?
20 Because the directors rely on the representations of
21 those individuals to then sign a PO. Whoever they
22 rely on, whoever initials that document needs to
23 show that they have the proper experience and
24 qualifications to do that. They need to go get
25 training in construction and send and pay for their

1 training in construction.

2 So that, and just to reiterate from, you
3 know, we don't need to know the details, but I think
4 that the County Prosecutor has an obligation to
5 offer and be willing to help and be cooperative and
6 see if there are areas within any investigation that
7 they can provide assistance or where an
8 investigation would be better handled by them
9 because of the nature of what an offense could --
10 could potentially be.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Commissioner
12 Rodriguez.

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I understand
14 that Alberico was saying that he already reached out
15 to the Attorney General?

16 MR. DEPIERRO: To the U.S. Attorney's
17 Office, yes. Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: We had a
19 meeting prior to this meeting and in my Purchasing
20 orders there, and we definitely decided that we have
21 to change our way of processing these awards, all
22 right? There should be a total change of how
23 they're processed, how the engineer, the
24 administrator, the site manager or director look at
25 these plans and size up what the best way is and how

1 everything is truthful and honest and limited to
2 that price they give us.

3 There should not be allowance for
4 additions or extras. I've watched this for 12 years
5 before me, additions and extras, and I always wonder
6 why if we give, they give us a price, we have to go
7 beyond that. If there is an emergency, a fire or
8 broken main, something horrible happening, I
9 understand that there has to be an extra price, but
10 it should be the price they gave us and that's it.

11 And people that say that these contracts
12 are ethical and they're honest and that the price is
13 right, then we will sponsor them, and we will vote
14 and we'll award them. Not until then. It won't be
15 so easy, so fast. Yes, because it comes from
16 Murray, who we know for years? Who cares who they
17 are? We've been trusting this. No more. No more
18 of this. It's embarrassing. It's disgracing to our
19 committees. I'm sorry, but it is. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah. And I
21 would just say it's one to improve a process before
22 we award is important, but after we award and
23 somebody says they're going to deliver this, we need
24 to check that we get delivered this and that we
25 don't get delivered this. Because I think if you

1 look into it, read into what occurred, that's things
2 that happen.

3 People said, Oh, I'm going to do this.
4 They never came back and got a price change or got
5 more money from us, but they didn't deliver what was
6 said to be delivered. They cut corners and things
7 and no one was there to properly oversight it and
8 monitor it. Projects that were monitored, projects
9 where you had a master or someone, you don't have
10 those issues. But what is that? Five percent, ten
11 percent of all the projects that get done. You're
12 relying on people that don't have an ability to look
13 at something and see that actually what was said to
14 be done was done.

15 And if they don't, guess what? In
16 instances, there are probably other instances we
17 don't know about where the backside of it never
18 occurred, but I bet you other people cut corners.
19 Because if you realize in a while, Hey, nobody
20 really can check what I'm doing, problems happen.
21 So I think you need to sooner rather than later,
22 whether you have to hire people or you have to train
23 people, any department that has any construction
24 work done on it, people need to sign off on it. And
25 if somebody's delivering 500 pounds of gravel, make

1 sure they weigh 500 pounds. Because I think that's
2 going to be the heart of where you find where a lot
3 of these problems are.

4 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Alberico, my
5 one question. He's responsible for that
6 development, for that contract to be through. He
7 has to check on that periodically. He's got to know
8 from the beginning to the end what goes on in that
9 project. And he has to approve those extras and
10 additions because we can't just leave it to the
11 director who is not an engineer. I call the site
12 manager. He's there trying to see what the County
13 needs, what the parks need, but he's not an engineer
14 either.

15 So it's mostly on the engineer that
16 revises the site that looks at it. If we have one
17 and we need two, then we get two or an assistant. I
18 know there are many things going on, many projects,
19 maybe not enough for one. One is not enough, I
20 meant to say, but it's just appalling to hear now
21 that this has been happening. And who knew? And
22 who said something? Who questioned? I've sat here
23 wondering what the hell kind of money this is, but I
24 had no actual vision if I should question it or not.
25 It was approved by everybody. So who am I to say no?

1 Sorry.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Alberico, question
3 for you. How does it work for our benefit of
4 knowledge? For example, if a contract is awarded to
5 Alberico Towing Company, is Alberico Towing Company
6 allowed to say, Oh, I'm going to now hire Abe Antun
7 Towing Company to work for me? How does that work?

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I think every
9 contract is different, but the majority of our
10 contracts, if I'm not mistaken, do have
11 subcontractor clauses. I would have to check all
12 these contracts to see if there was legal permission
13 in writing for subcontracting.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: You know why?
15 Because then we're getting hit with a middleman
16 price. Instead of directly dealing with that other
17 entity.

18 MR. DEPIERRO: I don't think, for
19 instance, just because of matters that I defended
20 the County on in litigation, when playground
21 equipment is installed, there are subcontractors in
22 those types of contracts.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Right. They come
24 with the equipment.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You have to sign

1 off on who a subcontractor is. You can't just hire
2 anybody you want.

3 MR. DEPIERRO: I'm just responding to
4 the question about the legal rights of
5 subcontractors.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Somebody has to
7 sign off on who either the sub that did a bid or a
8 proposal, and that should be in a proposal, whether
9 it's a co-op or whether it's a public bid; is that
10 correct? So if it's a co-op and there's subs, the
11 name of those subs need to be in that co-op
12 proposal. And obviously in a bid, the name of the
13 subs have to be in the bid. So those are the only
14 circumstances under which you can do it.

15 And in a rare exception that in the middle
16 of a project, whatever, the electrical sub goes out
17 of business before the electrical works, then they
18 got to come through a process and somebody within
19 probably engineering and then your office has to
20 sign off on that. This new sub is an acceptable
21 substitute in the rare instance where the electrical
22 work gets done at the end, and then the company goes
23 out of business.

24 MR. DEPIERRO: I don't think the Law
25 department would be the one that signs off on a new

1 subcontractor, because that is not something that
2 would have to be signed off by an attorney.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, but I
4 would think you would review it to make sure that
5 it's pretty scary that it's non-legal.

6 MR. DEPIERRO: The department that is
7 handling the contract, whatever the job is, the
8 subcontractor does not come under the Law
9 department's review. The only thing that would come
10 under the review of the Law department is if, for
11 instance, in this specific analysis, if it allows
12 subcontractors, then obviously, like you said
13 before, Commissioner, how would a lawyer know if a
14 subcontractor is the right person for the job?

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, do they
16 have proper insurance? Do they have the bonding
17 capacity that they have --

18 MR. DEPIERRO: Any legal
19 requirements, yes.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's what I
21 just said. So if ABC Electrical Sub goes out of
22 business and then DEF Electrical Sub is proposed as
23 a substitute, wouldn't you have to review to make
24 sure DEF had the proper bonding, the proper
25 insurance to do the job that was put under the

1 original bid? Or are you leaving that to a
2 non-lawyer to just to say that's okay?

3 MR. DEPIERRO: If they're required by
4 the contract to have those, then yes, you would have
5 to make sure that had that. But you were asking
6 specifically about contractors and who actually
7 reviews the contractor if they're valid for the job.
8 That's not so.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You would
10 review, yeah. Let me correct that in that sense. I
11 would assume engineering would review the
12 qualification of their ability to do it. Law would
13 review that they meet the requirements for whatever
14 bonding, insurance, whatever legal things that you
15 have to have in order to be that contractor.

16 MR. DEPIERRO: And making sure that
17 they're not breaching the contract by not having the
18 required documentation.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So Abe, in that
20 case with the snow removal, it's because it was the
21 crosswalks and they had that proper equipment,
22 correct?

23 MR. ANTUN: Correct.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So there was no
25 subbing it out. That was that last month's.

1 MR. ANTUN: That's my understanding
2 of it. I mean, Jonathan can correct me if I'm wrong
3 because he oversees that.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Last meeting we
5 gave \$280,000 in an addition, correct?

6 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. But keep in mind,
7 it's not that we paid \$280,000. We approved adding
8 money to that contract because that contract still
9 had a year to go. How much we paid as Director
10 Fuller indicated, we'll look into that. And if the
11 check hasn't been issued, we will stop it. But it's
12 not like we wrote out a check for that amount of
13 money.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you.

15 MS. MORO: I just wanted to,
16 regarding the last, that was a bid that was done.
17 This is the fourth, we're going into the third and a
18 half year of the bid. The total contract over those
19 three years is now \$280,000. We haven't paid
20 \$280,000 and the -- we had an outstanding bill that
21 we needed to pay. That's why we added money, but it
22 was to cover a year of the contract. It wasn't to
23 pay right now \$100,000. Okay. Got that, Carrie?

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So here's a
25 question on a contract like that. Who verifies that

1 that entity has the number of pieces of equipment
2 and the type of equipment needed to do the job?

3 MS. MORO: When we put those in the
4 specs for the bid, and then the department would
5 review it when it comes in.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How do they
7 review it? Do they go look and see where the
8 equipment is?

9 MS. MORO: Usually we'll have an
10 equipment list. I don't know if that one had it. I
11 could check. There are contracts where yes, the
12 department --

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But again, you
14 have an equipment list. Who verifies that the
15 equipment on the equipment list is there? My God,
16 years ago, he had an employee who took a piece of
17 equipment home, remember?

18 MR. ANTUN: Yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: You let the guy
20 just retire, right? Nothing ever happened to the
21 guy. He took a piece of equipment, drove it home for
22 his own personal farm or whatever the property. So
23 who is there that makes sure that if they've got 20
24 certain pieces of equipment and plus that equipment
25 exists? Nobody.

1 MS. MORO: No.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Nobody does,
3 right? That's crazy. Think about that. They give
4 you a list and nobody goes and checks whether they
5 really have the equipment there. And how do you not
6 know that when they get work, they don't just call
7 three other people and tell them, Hey, I need this
8 equipment, that equipment. And they just have the
9 work subbed out that way. And how do you ever find
10 out? Because they're going to submit an invoice to
11 you. You're going to pay it. And then they're
12 going to, after they get paid, pay whoever the other
13 people are.

14 I'm going to tell you that happens because
15 I drove around during the snowstorm, and I saw
16 equipment and it wasn't the equipment from the
17 company I think you guys pay all the money to. So
18 you may want to go on to look into that a little bit
19 deeper too.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thanks, Christine.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But I got to
22 change it. Look, in the future, you need to verify
23 that the perp, that company actually has the
24 equipment. Where is the equipment? Go send someone
25 to look and see that the equipment actually exists

1 there. Or have them provide some proof that the
2 equipment actually exists. When did they buy it?
3 Do they actually have it?

4 MS. MORO: Yeah. In the future, we
5 could put in the specs that you have to submit an
6 equipment list, and it has to be reviewed prior to
7 award of the contract as easily added into any
8 specs.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Thank you,
10 Chris. Go ahead, Mr. Clerk.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 1.
12 Resolution affirming of appointment of the Hudson
13 County Adjuster.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Question.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano and -- I
17 mean, Kopacz and Romano. Go ahead, Bill.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So in my
19 recollection, right? And I know Mark very well and
20 I can only say nice things about him. But in my
21 recollection of the County Adjuster, I've always
22 remembered as somebody who was an attorney.

23 MR. DEPIERRO: We are actually not
24 the only County if this appointment goes by, because
25 in the last three months, I've been the Acting

1 County Adjuster.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And you were an
3 attorney?

4 MR. DEPIERRO: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you.

6 MR. DEPIERRO: I hope so.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, no, I'm
8 just saying you made my point. But you're helping
9 to make my point.

10 MR. DEPIERRO: Yes. No, no. But the
11 point is that we have a monthly association meeting
12 of all the county adjusters. I would say there's a
13 significant percentage of county adjusters in New
14 Jersey that are not attorneys. In fact, they work
15 in conjunction with the county counsel's office. In
16 fact, the president and the vice president of the
17 association, the vice president is the Somerset
18 County Adjuster. She's not an attorney. She's been
19 doing it for 35 years. And the president, Ms.
20 Sandra Coleman, she's also not an attorney.

21 So actually, it's quite a balance. I
22 found it interesting as well, because I always
23 thought they were attorneys until I learned by being
24 on these meetings.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Was this going

1 to be the first non-attorney in Hudson County?

2 MR. DEPIERRO: That I don't know.

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Because I think
4 I go back to like Mayor DeFino, right? And he was
5 an attorney. That's a long time ago. So could you
6 find out when the last non-attorney was the adjuster
7 for Hudson County? And then obviously like hearings
8 that are held, right? Like at Greystone, right?

9 MR. DEPIERRO: Yep.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can a
11 non-attorney conduct that hearing? Or will you now
12 have to have someone conduct that hearing?

13 MR. DEPIERRO: No. In fact, we've
14 always been operating for as long as I've been here.
15 When Neil Carroll was the adjuster when I first
16 started here, we always have a rotation of
17 attorneys. We don't have just one attorney because
18 there are multiple hospitals that have hearings, and
19 sometimes they overlap. So one person can never be
20 the person that does all of the hearings.

21 So we have a rotation of attorneys in the
22 Law department that handles the specific hospitals.
23 And if there's ever any time where we need to have
24 somebody on call in the bullpen, we have somebody
25 from the Law department cover any hearings.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So but you're
2 not saying that -- and you mentioned Neil Carroll.
3 You're not saying that Neil Carroll didn't conduct
4 hearings, correct?

5 MR. DEPIERRO: Oh, he did.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right.

7 MR. DEPIERRO: Jeremy Sullivan,
8 Aurelio Vincitore.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But a non-lawyer
10 could not conduct.

11 MR. DEPIERRO: No, no, no. That's
12 right.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So that's my
14 point. So up to today, you had an attorney that
15 would conduct hearings, right? With Mark's
16 approval, right? I guess you're going to have to
17 add another pitcher into the bullpen, so to speak.

18 MR. DEPIERRO: Well, the bullpen
19 right now is doing well. So we got definitely
20 enough arms in the bullpen. But the adjuster, among
21 their many duties under the civil service job
22 description, that is just one of many, many duties.
23 So our attorney staff is ready. We have already,
24 like I said, the three that are handling. So I
25 think we'll be good. We don't have any worries.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They may have
2 many duties, but it takes a good amount of time.
3 Remember, I see Neil Carroll every Friday. So we've
4 talked for many years when he was there and cases
5 that he handled and how long they took and all that,
6 how many days a week, you know, so I kind of have
7 gotten an insight over that. You know, obviously,
8 it's ironic because, you know, Mark Smith and Neil
9 Carroll and family kind of a thing, you know.

10 MR. DEPIERRO: I have full faith and
11 confidence in my attorney colleagues, as we've been
12 doing for many years, and we've been covering the
13 last three months.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Continue, Mr.
15 Clerk.

16 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 2.
17 Resolution appointing Michael G. McCabe as Hudson
18 County Office of Emergency Management, OEM,
19 Emergency Service Coordinator, January 1st, 2026 to
20 December 31st, 2028.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Romano.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And then just to
23 go back to 1. So Mark, what was Mark's title
24 before? He was a County employee, right?

25 MR. DEPIERRO: Yes. I don't know his

1 exact title. He was in the Sheriff's Office.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Homeland Security.

3 MR. DEPIERRO: I think Homeland
4 Security, right?

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Homeland Security's
6 coordinator.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So who's going
8 to assume that or who is or has assumed that
9 position? Can we find that out? Well, it's a
10 pretty important position. You need to have a
11 Homeland Security coordinator. Can we find that
12 out? If he's now not, if he's leaving that, who's
13 assuming that that position?

14 MR. DEPIERRO: Somebody from the
15 Sheriff's Office.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yeah, if you
17 know now, if not, just can you let us know by
18 Thursday? We wouldn't want to see a Homeland
19 Security issue come up.

20 SHERIFF'S REPRESENTATIVE: I believe
21 Junior Ferranti has been appointed.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 3. 2025
23 Budget Transfers of Appropriation Reserves.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz and Celeste.

25 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 4. 2026

1 Emergency Temporary Appropriations, N.J.S.A
2 40A:4-20.

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Kopacz-Celeste.

4 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 5.

5 Resolution authorizing to amend Resolution Nos.
6 427-7-2023 and 253-4-2024 to reallocate Community
7 Development Block Grant, Coronavirus 1 & 3 and
8 Community Development Block Grant Funding to
9 contract with Hudson Community Enterprises for
10 facility improvement, April 1st, 2026 to August 5th,
11 2027. \$38,000.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski and
13 Baselice.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 6.

15 Resolution authorizing to amend Resolution Nos.
16 343-62019, 275-5-2020, 482-8-2021, 465-8-2022,
17 427-7-2023, 484-8-2023, 682-10-2023 and 184-4-2025
18 to award additional Community Development Block
19 Grant funding to the Township of Weehawken. August
20 1st, 2025 to September 2026. \$270,000.

21 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Carrie? Carrie.
22 Rodriguez and Lipski.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 7.

24 Resolution amending Resolution No. 535-9-2025
25 authorizing the acceptance of CY2026 State/Community

1 Partnership and Family Court Services Grant Program
2 Funds from the New Jersey Department of Law and
3 Public Safety Youth Justice Commission, January 1st,
4 2026 through December 31st, 2026. \$1,357,137.

5 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Baselice and
6 Rodriguez.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can I go back to
8 6?

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead. Back to
10 6.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: In the listing
12 of recaptured fund, you list naval reserve
13 improvement. Is that the building in Kearny?

14 MR. ANTUN: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I have news for
16 you. That building needs a lot more improvement.
17 I'm not sure why you recaptured money from it. Have
18 you gone through it lately?

19 MR. ANTUN: Well, the project that it
20 was earmarked for was completed, and we didn't need
21 any further money, so that's why it's being
22 reallocated.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I suggest and
24 I'll gladly meet you and go walk through the
25 building. There's definitely things that need to be

1 done in that building. There were days there were
2 no heat.

3 MR. ANTUN: You know, Commissioner,
4 I've spoken to Denise and she -- I mean, she's here.
5 I mean, news to me on that, you know, so.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I would gladly
7 pick a day and walk through the building with you,
8 Ralph, or whoever else you want to come with,
9 because whenever I go there, we deliver food.
10 People point stuff out there to us all the time.
11 Bathrooms are shot. There's a couple of bathrooms
12 there not working in the building.

13 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: This is the
14 first time I'm hearing that. They have a provider
15 there who's supposed to call us. They had an issue
16 last week. They broke four sinks that were there.
17 I believe they were new there for the last two,
18 three years. And the jail staff that's mine went
19 over there to fix it when they notify us.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I was there and
21 all the individuals that were going there for the
22 overnight stays had to go to another floor to use
23 the bathroom because the bathroom on that floor
24 wasn't working. I didn't let you know, but I let
25 someone know that day. I'm not going to publicly

1 embarrass anyone, but that wasn't -- it was not you.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So, Denise, they're
3 being purposely broken by the people that are using
4 them?

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's alleged.
6 I mean, you know, you're alleging that that's the
7 current.

8 MR. ANTUN: We've done major
9 improvements in that building.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And look, it's a
11 difficult population, so it's going to be more
12 challenging.

13 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, Commissioner, I'm
14 not disputing what you just said at this moment,
15 but, you know, we've done a lot of improvements in
16 that building. Now, you know, as you said, because
17 of the challenging population, could something have
18 been damaged? Yes, I'm not challenging that, but we
19 have done a lot of work in that building.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And someone
21 might have fixed the bathroom. I'm telling you, I
22 was there one of those snow days delivering food and
23 three people, one or two, which were staying there
24 and one, at least if not two, who were employees
25 were like, Yeah, we got to go to another floor just

1 to use the bathroom because the bathroom on this
2 floor.

3 MR. ANTUN: And it could have
4 happened on that day. I'm not disputing. I'm not
5 challenging.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, it has
7 been for a number of days.

8 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, but it has to be
9 reported. And when it's reported, we follow up and
10 we fix it. I know. I've seen it.

11 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 8.
12 Resolution authorizing to amend Resolution No.
13 427-7-2023 to award Community Development Block
14 Grant funding to the Town of Guttenberg, July 1st,
15 2023 through June 30th, 2030, \$25,000.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
17 Celeste.

18 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 9.
19 Resolution amending Resolution No. 459-8-2025 to
20 extend the contract period for the Community
21 Development Block Grant CARES funding for the Town
22 of Kearny and the town of West New York, August 6,
23 2021 through July 31st, 2026, no-cost extension.

24 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez. Is Al
25 on? No, right?

1 THE CLERK: Rodriguez and who?

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Lipski.

3 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 10.

4 Resolution amending Resolution No. 236-5-2025 to
5 include the award number of the grant award amount
6 for this -- from the State of New Jersey Department
7 of Law and Public Safety Division of Administration
8 for SY2024-'25, New Jersey Mental Health Division
9 Grant 24-MHDP. July 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2027,
10 \$597,336.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea, and was that
12 you Celeste?

13 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Celeste.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And again, do we
16 have an update on when our courts, we're going to
17 have a court? Do we have any updates for us?

18 MR. SALZER: So right now,
19 Commissioner, I can tell you that we've been meeting
20 with the judiciary, public defender's office, as
21 well as Family Services to iron out some of the
22 other details. And as soon as the resolution is
23 signed, we'll send it down to the State to get the
24 final documents.

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to ask

1 you this every meeting. I'm just letting you know.
2 And if you don't start giving me a date, like by
3 whatever, by June 30th, by a month, I'm going to
4 become more probative in all the questions I ask.
5 Because I mean -- I mean, it's been a long time.
6 We've got at one time, everybody wasn't on board.
7 Everyone is on board with it. It's -- it's needed.
8 It's necessary.

9 You know, you see how many individuals are
10 sitting in a correctional facility that makes no
11 sense for them to be there because they got the
12 third shoplifting, right? Is it three shopliftings
13 that you automatically get time? I believe that's
14 what it is. That's what I've been told.

15 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 11.
16 Resolution amending Resolution No. 657-10-2023 to
17 accept additional funds for the FFY23 Urban Area
18 Security Initiative Award, UASI, Hudson County,
19 September 1st, 2023 to July 31st, 2026. \$21,045.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Romano-Lipski.

21 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 12.
22 Resolution awarding professional service contract
23 non-fair and open NCCHC Resources, Inc., April 1st,
24 2026 to March 31st, 2027. \$429,000.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, we'll put it

1 on the agenda first, then question. Sponsor.

2 Romano-Celeste. Question, Corrections.

3 Could you please explain for the benefit of the
4 Board what that contract is, please?

5 DIRECTOR SCOTT: NCCHC is a national
6 organization that monitors correctional facilities,
7 jails, local and State for clinical and medical and
8 mental health substance abuse operations. The goal
9 is contract compliance, operations, response, death
10 and custody review, in addition to systems to allow
11 for the best access of care.

12 Their standards are nationally recognized
13 and accepted across the country, and they also give
14 us critical feedback on systems that the medical
15 provider needs to work on or improve if necessary.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So in other words,
17 Director, they analyze and to checks and balances,
18 almost of ensuring that all the policies are being
19 followed, correct?

20 DIRECTOR SCOTT: Correct. And their
21 staff are clinical providers, mental health
22 providers, medical people across the gamut. It's a
23 whole team. They're on-site monthly, and they come
24 in and they do audits for compliance in addition to
25 remote clinical observations.

1 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Questions by
2 Commissioners?

3 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: How long have
4 they been there?

5 DIRECTOR SCOTT: I believe from it
6 was prior to my arrival, I believe since maybe 2019.
7 If I was told correctly, it was in response to some
8 events that was occurring in the facility to get
9 some operational analysis of improvements that were
10 necessary. I don't have the exact date, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The only thing I
12 would say is that -- is that we in the County, Mr.
13 Administrator, had to amend our contract with the
14 medical provider because of certain services that
15 weren't being provided enough hours. You remember
16 that?

17 DIRECTOR SCOTT: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So was there a
19 report from them that led to us doing that? Or if
20 not, if not, then I got to question them a little.
21 So if you can get me a copy of whatever reports, I'd
22 like to see their reports on any recommendations
23 they've made over the last, say, three years prior
24 to Thursday.

25 DIRECTOR SCOTT: Sure.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I know
2 exactly what we're paying, what we're paying them
3 for.

4 DIRECTOR SCOTT: Sure.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Obviously, I
6 hope the one that resulted in us in our changing
7 contract and also, I guess, we even changed the
8 vendor is in part because of work that this group
9 did.

10 DIRECTOR SCOTT: They don't
11 contribute to the County's decisions on who to
12 engage. Their recommendations are more clinical and
13 operations. They're not to direct us with this
14 vendor is better than that vendor per se, but they
15 will call out any observations. Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They should have
17 documents that called out faults and failures of a
18 vendor. That I'd like to see. I'm not asking them
19 to recommend Vendor A or Vendor B. But if Vendor A
20 was a problem and things weren't being done,
21 obviously, because that was stuff that was brought
22 to our attention outside of this group, then I'd
23 like to see whatever documents we have related to
24 all of that.

25 DIRECTOR SCOTT: Absolutely.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 13.
2 Resolution authorizing payment to Rebco Contracting
3 Corp. As a result of declaration of emergency for
4 snow removal on Willow Avenue, Observer Highway in
5 Hoboken, Boulevard East in Weehawken, JFK Boulevard
6 in Union City, County-Owned Roadways, \$104,200.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's Fannie and
8 Yraida.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Whoa, whoa,
11 whoa, whoa, slow down. So, again, in the instance
12 of this entity, Rebco Contracting, even though it's
13 an emergency, did somebody ascertain that they had
14 all the equipment that was provided here, or will we
15 never know whether they just went and took or leased
16 out for a couple of days somebody else's equipment
17 to do certain work? You got loader delivery,
18 operators, you got all these different things.

19 Even in the case of a short term, right?
20 Because it doesn't say emergency. I don't know why
21 I would think it would have been an emergency.

22 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: It is. Hi,
23 Denise D'Alessandro.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Hello, Denise.

25 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: We got these

1 contractors through HCIA since they work with these
2 vendors. So Norman was our contact, and we had
3 supervisors on-site while the snow removal was being
4 done on all of the emergency projects that we do for
5 snow removal.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Can I add something
7 to that too? I happened to be out there two, three,
8 when you had to do Washington Street, three or four
9 in the morning. And it was definitely a combined
10 effort with the County supervision and those trucks
11 with Rebco on it. So they were there and it was a
12 smooth, especially going down Hudson Street. And
13 you know how picky the wonderful Hoboken is.

14 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: I could also
15 attest I was on Kennedy Boulevard and Boulevard East
16 when they were removing the snow as was the HCIA
17 employees. They had a lot of equipment and were
18 moving pretty quick actually.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Again, make sure
20 that when you do this with any contractor, I don't
21 know, Chairman, if you went to check every place
22 that they were all at Rebco.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Just on Hudson
24 Street and then on Willow. I didn't go everywhere.
25 Just in Hoboken.

1 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 14.
2 Resolution authorizing payment to Persistent
3 Construction as a result of declaration emergency
4 snow removal on John F. Kennedy Boulevard in Jersey
5 City, North Bergen, Union City, and Boulevard East
6 in North Bergen and West New York, County-owned
7 roadways, \$152,700.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Rodriguez and
9 Cedeño.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So why is
11 \$104,000 this thing and \$152,000 this thing? This
12 is Persistent backup. This is Rebco backup. Why is
13 there so much backup for this one and almost no
14 backup for this?

15 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: That backup
16 is what their job is, what they did.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This one has
18 every look -- in, out, where they were. This one,
19 it's like a time sheet.

20 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: You have a
21 time sheet?

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: This says
23 Triaxial Company or has a -- these are just -- I
24 mean, it just, it would seem that one gives us a
25 pretty detailed explanation. Each one signed by

1 drivers, right? Look. Driver's signature, truck
2 number. It's pretty deep. This Rebco, pretty
3 detailed. Persistent, one person signs every -- one
4 person signs for all of these. And the drivers only
5 have a first name. Johnny, Diego, Wender, Albert.

6 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: All right. I
7 mean, I'll get it updated. I have it for you for
8 Thursday. Yeah, because they do have supervisors on
9 staff.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It would just
11 seem as a normal course that you'd want in a file,
12 something that's kind of the same, right? I just,
13 it's kind of weird.

14 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 15.
15 Approve Purchasing Agent's Awards, purchases made
16 under state contracts.

17 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor,
18 Kopacz.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Second question for
20 the benefit of the Board. Abe and Alberico, these
21 are all items that are necessities? For example,
22 with regards to the jail, is that something that has
23 to, you know, where is that at?

24 MR. ANTUN: The furniture for the
25 jail. That's for the jail. Intake and maintenance

1 renovations. That's for Denise's crew. We just
2 renovated that area. So now they need furniture to
3 occupy it.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Where's this now,
5 in the jail?

6 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, it's the one at the
7 jail. Yeah, that's correct. Well, I mean, it says
8 Rosen public property because it's for her staff,
9 but yeah, it's at the jail. And many of these
10 items, we're just adding money to the contract so
11 that we can buy additional services.

12 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead.

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Is there any
14 emergency?

15 MR. ANTUN: Are any of these in
16 emergency? You're asking, are any of these in
17 emergency? No.

18 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: So pull all
19 the items from the Purchasing agenda.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Go ahead, Denise.
21 Is that as this?

22 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: I have one
23 thing on here. It's Hoffman. This is to replace
24 one of our liftgate trucks that we do service on for
25 our big trucks in the garage. The one we had is end

1 of life and it's not working. So we can't service
2 anything if we don't purchase a new one. So if this
3 one is emergency. Yeah, this is No. D Hoffman. If
4 you agreed, it says lift to replace end-of-life unit
5 at the garage. It lists the big trucks so mechanics
6 can work on them.

7 MR. ANTUN: The other thing is, is
8 that we also have gasoline here. If we can't pay
9 the gasoline, then the police vehicles and all the
10 other vehicles --

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm going to
12 maintain the second to the motion and ask that you
13 bring back on Thursday a resolution that has only
14 those items that need to be or an emergency for the
15 next two weeks that need to get done. So can we
16 vote on the motion?

17 MR. ANTUN: Again, Commissioner, I'm
18 going to rely on the department.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, that's
20 fine. That's fine.

21 MR. ANTUN: Not an emergency from my
22 standpoint, but I know with gasoline, I'll get a
23 phone call from his office. I'll tell you that
24 right now, and from the Sheriff.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay.

1 MR. ANTUN: So there may be some
2 other items on here. So folks, you better speak up,
3 okay?

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, that means
5 they've got to speak up to you to get you a revised
6 resolution that --

7 MR. ANTUN: I'm making sure because
8 if somebody fell asleep back here. Because you say
9 a lot and people tune you out there for a while.
10 That's the problem, okay?

11 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Wow.

12 MR. ANTUN: Yeah. No, that's why I'm
13 speaking over here.

14 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Strictly
15 emergency.

16 MR. ANTUN: I've got it,
17 Commissioner. Thank you, Harold.

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: They better stop
19 tuning me out because the volume is going to get
20 louder and then January is going to get even louder.
21 So people better stop tuning people out.

22 MR. ANTUN: Those are my words.

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll be on the
24 other side. I trust you. I'm sure people have
25 conversations with you after the meeting.

1 THE CLERK: Can I request, is there a
2 motion to move?

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Time out. There
4 was a motion by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by
5 Commissioner O'Dea to remove all items from the
6 Purchasing agenda except those that are deemed
7 emergency. That is to be done for a new resolution
8 for Thursday. Correct, Commissioners?

9 THE CLERK: Okay.

10 MR. ANTUN: When you say "Purchasing
11 Agenda," can you be specific?

12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: The numbers
13 under Purchasing.

14 MR. ANTUN: So just to clarify,
15 you're talking about items 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19?

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Everything.

17 MR. ANTUN: Okay.

18 THE CLERK: If we're to just remove
19 the sponsorship for 15 and not sponsor the remaining
20 Purchasing items, they won't be on the agenda.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Who was the
22 sponsor of 15?

23 THE CLERK: It was Kopacz and Romano.
24 If you can remove your second.

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'll remove it.

1 Oh, did I move it?

2 THE CLERK: Yeah. Commissioner --
3 no, it was Kopacz.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Go ahead,
5 Cheryl.

6 DIRECTOR FULLER: I just wanted to
7 point out that, and I understand what the motion is.
8 Emergency is a term of art in the local public
9 contract law. So when you say emergency, I want to
10 be clear. Do you mean it's like necessary now for
11 the continuation of government operations or
12 emergency in the statutory sense?

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I would love
14 to say statutory.

15 DIRECTOR FULLER: Okay. But so an
16 emergency in the statutory sense means that it's
17 unforeseen, that it affects the health, safety, and
18 welfare of individuals. However, there are items on
19 here that affect the continuation of operation of
20 government, which is not an emergency.

21 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: And if we
22 pull it to the following meeting, would that be okay
23 with you?

24 DIRECTOR FULLER: I'm sorry, say that
25 again.

1 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: We'll do now
2 or the following meeting.

3 DIRECTOR FULLER: If it's not
4 time-sensitive, yes.

5 MR. ANTUN: We'll review that,
6 Commissioner.

7 DIRECTOR FULLER: Yes.

8 MR. ANTUN: We'll review that,
9 Commissioner, and we will come back to you. What we
10 feel is something that requires us for the next two
11 weeks to operate. If you disagree, vote it down.

12 DIRECTOR FULLER: Right. But you've
13 got to have gasoline. There's law enforcement
14 vehicles. Let's -- you know.

15 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I
16 understand.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The logical
18 question of that one is how much gasoline do you
19 have now? And how often do you buy gasoline?

20 MR. ANTUN: Don't know the answer to
21 that.

22 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: We order gas.
23 We usually get a delivery at least twice a week. We
24 have Duncan Avenue, which is diesel for our trucks
25 and gas. We have Meadowview Gas, which is majority

1 of the Prosecutor's office, public safety training
2 and our stuff, and the Sheriff. And then we have
3 Duncan Avenue -- I mean, Hoboken Avenue, which is
4 also Sheriff. And Duncan also uses Corrections. So
5 all law enforcement uses all three of our garages.
6 But he said, he wanted to know if that's enough. I
7 just want to let --

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I just want to
9 know, but how often do you have to buy gas for it?
10 I mean, you could buy a half a million dollars worth
11 of gas at the beginning of the year. And as you
12 need it, you get it. But you're coming here already
13 in March, needing to get more gas.

14 DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO: We put gas at
15 50,000, 100,000. We don't ask for \$700,000 for the
16 year. So as we need it, we ask for it because we
17 have a temporary budget. I don't have \$700,000. So
18 I can only add money that I have. So we request it,
19 same as Parks has a gas tank as well. And we get
20 sometimes, depends two to three times a week, we get
21 delivery.

22 THE CLERK: So that the record's
23 clear, Commissioners, the No. 15, first and
24 seconded. And I am not going, I am not going to go
25 through Nos. 16, 17, 18, 19. And I will begin again

1 at 20. Resolution --

2 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: The light
3 project at Gregg baseball field. Obviously, it's
4 not an emergency that the government can't run, but
5 it is an emergency for children to play baseball on
6 a field that we've been working on for the last
7 several years. I would not like to stop this
8 project.

9 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Who's doing the
10 lighting?

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Musco. Can
12 someone review that?

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That could be a
14 separate resolution. Yeah, they should do that.

15 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: It's baseball
16 season coming up. We've been working on it. I've
17 been asking for months of when it's going to happen.
18 Every meeting that we put it back, kids are going to
19 lose out.

20 MR. ANTUN: Commissioner, I'm aware
21 of that, of that. And when we come back, we will
22 come back with a recommendation.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Thank you. Also
24 with the basketball, can we find out if they have to
25 have that money to pay the officials when it starts?

1 MR. ANTUN: What is that? Which one
2 is that Commissioner?

3 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: I thought --
4 I'm just giving you the heads up when it comes up.

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Oh, oh, when it
6 comes up. That's a co-op or a purchasing.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's a -- that's
8 just an agreement with this.

9 MR. ANTUN: There is one here for the
10 Boys & Girls Club.

11 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's what I
12 meant. That's it.

13 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And we're not --
14 we're not -- we're not asking that one not to be --

15 MR. ANTUN: No, I know you're not.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: But I'm talking
17 about Purchasing.

18 MR. ANTUN: Commissioner.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Chairman of the
20 purchasing. I want to know for the benefit of
21 Carrie, so she understood on that.

22 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 20.
23 Resolution approving the award of a Fair and Open
24 competitive contract, Otis Elevator Company, for
25 elevator maintenance and repair at the Frank J.

1 Guarini Justice Complex. \$291,412.

2 Resolution No. 21. Resolution approving
3 award of a fair and open competitive contract to
4 Trans USA Inc., preventative maintenance and repair
5 of HVAC units and systems at the Frank J. Guarini
6 Justice Complex, \$1,150,000.

7 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Comment, legal
8 question. How does, can someone ask a question
9 about this if it's not on the agenda?

10 MR. DEPIERRO: It just, it doesn't
11 get on the agenda. Guys don't motion first and
12 second. It's not on the agenda. So he continues to
13 the next paragraph.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: The minute
15 somebody comes in here and tells me that place is
16 opening up next week. I'll move every one of these.
17 But every time I'm on a call about the courthouse, a
18 park, nobody's given me a day when that building's
19 going to open.

20 MR. ANTUN: And we can't give you a
21 day because the courts are not cooperating.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, then
23 there's no room.

24 MR. ANTUN: But to be fair, the
25 reason why we were bringing 20 and 21 before you is

1 because there are systems in that building that need
2 to be maintained, and when the move starts, they
3 have to be operating and in good condition. And the
4 more we keep neglecting it, the worse it's going to
5 get. That's why I really think the Board should
6 reconsider and put these on the agenda. These two
7 items are important.

8 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: I'll sponsor.
9 I'll take your advice. Sponsor Kopacz.

10 THE CLERK: Is that on Resolution No.
11 20 or 21?

12 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: 20 and 21.

13 THE CLERK: We need a second.

14 MR. DEPIERRO: And if I may just also
15 piggyback off of our County Administrator, there is,
16 as we've said before, pending arbitration. This
17 could also add fuel to the other side's arguments
18 that we may not want.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. I'll second
20 it.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Why does it add
22 fuel to their argument? Because this thing is
23 dragged on forever because the courts have not been
24 cooperative, because the courts questioned who's
25 going pay and who would the vendor be to provide

1 certain work in the building. Maybe this meeting
2 more than ever, somebody outside of here questioning
3 who we use to do certain work may not be the worst
4 thing in the world, right? And that may come back
5 to bite us potentially in an arbitration.

6 So instead of worrying about whether this
7 gets on this week or two weeks from now agenda, I'd
8 be a little more worried about that.

9 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: And I second it,
10 but I have questions. I don't understand. If the
11 elevator is not being used, how the hell did it
12 break down?

13 MR. ANTUN: No, it hasn't broken
14 down.

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It says repair.

16 MR. ANTUN: But this is preventive.
17 Elevators have to be inspected. We need to make
18 sure that they're working in working order. This is
19 a multi-year contract. There are systems in there
20 and when something happens, we need to have the
21 person on-call so they can come and service it right
22 away.

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: But what about, it
24 keeps using the word repair, even in '21, the repair
25 the HVAC units. How old are they?

1 MR. ANTUN: No, this is in case of a
2 repair, in case it's needed. Right now it's not
3 needed, but we need to have the service on-call so
4 we can get them in to do it.

5 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Can I ask a
6 question? What are the timetables of like the
7 contracts? I see the second one for the Otis
8 Elevator, from what time period to what time period?
9 I'm looking for that.

10 MR. ANTUN: You mean, when does it
11 take effect, Commissioner? Is that what you're
12 asking? I don't see it. Christine?

13 MS. MORO: It'll take effect as soon
14 as we award it, and it's for two years with the
15 option to extend for up to a total of five years.

16 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: So Christine, we
17 don't have any now?

18 MS. MORO: For that? For that
19 building? No, we do not. No. We have elevator and
20 HVAC for the other County buildings, but not for the
21 Guarini.

22 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Okay. Are
23 the other buildings, Otis Elevators too in some
24 places?

25 MS. MORO: No. That's no. No.

1 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: We're just
2 trying to see if we save money by putting them
3 together. Second question --

4 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: If we don't
5 vote on this today, what are we going to do? Push
6 it back to the next meeting or does it?

7 MR. ANTUN: Yeah, I mean, look, if,
8 if it doesn't -- if this doesn't -- if there is no
9 vote on Thursday; and yes, we can come back in two
10 weeks, Commissioner.

11 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: All right. So
12 to be fair, I'm going to pull my sponsor. I wanted
13 to discuss what was going on. Obviously some of my
14 colleagues have some issues, which I respect a
15 thousand percent, but I wanted to at least have a
16 conversation. So I'm going to pull my sponsor.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I'll pull the
18 second.

19 MR. ANTUN: We'll bring this back on
20 the agenda in two weeks.

21 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Excellent.

22 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And look, here's
23 my question. I'd like to know, I'd like to have
24 time to contact Jersey Elevator, Metro Elevator and
25 New York Elevator because evidently you, you deem

1 three non-responsive. I'd be curious to find out
2 why didn't Metro Elevator provide a bid bond? Why
3 didn't New York Elevator provide a bid bond? It's
4 pretty standard.

5 It's not reasonable for someone to ask
6 that question because right now we have nothing to
7 compete this with. And as you know, if there's no
8 competition, you got to worry about whether the
9 price is, it is a good price or not, right? Don't
10 you think competition is good, Mr. Administrator.

11 MR. ANTUN: Yes, I do.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Don't you think
13 it would be good if there was more than one elevator
14 company to compare?

15 MR. ANTUN: I'm not disputing that.

16 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So I'd like to
17 have time to see why and whether there's a way to
18 have more than one. I submit a proposal.

19 MR. ANTUN: I think we just agreed to
20 do that.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Well, no, I
22 agree, but I need to get contact. I'd like someone
23 to contact and try to, I might have to do it myself
24 and find out why they didn't. Why they didn't. I
25 mean, why didn't you put a bid bond? That's a

1 pretty simple question. That's how I know what
2 they're doing.

3 MR. ANTUN: I'll defer to the
4 Purchasing. She may -- she may know, or if she
5 doesn't know, I'm sure she can.

6 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: So we have the
7 Purchasing Committee going to go through all of
8 these in the next two weeks, and we'll move forward
9 on the ones that we are comfortable with. I have no
10 problem waiting another two weeks for the baseball
11 lights. I appreciate colleagues, but I know my
12 colleagues will put the work together.

13 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Carrie, if you want
14 to have another continuing meetings of the
15 Purchasing Committee before that, so we don't wait
16 until the last minute. So everybody, I would
17 suggest that you call meetings where and to have at
18 least four Commissioners or rotate in and out who
19 you feel to everybody's questions are answered to
20 their satisfaction. Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'm sorry. On
22 21, again, two non-responsive. I'd be curious, fail
23 to provide a narrative necessary for evaluation.
24 They may say, I wasn't -- the RFP wasn't clear that
25 you need to provide a narrative? I don't know what

1 they're going to say, but that's a good question to
2 ask someone.

3 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: My suggestion
4 with 21, also Trane, look at their contract real
5 closely. I'm going to get that to purchasing
6 because we've been having a real problem in North
7 Bergen and the Parking Authority with Trane. Make
8 sure that if there's any gaps or anything that
9 they're still going to help service you because
10 we've been freezing for the last three months.

11 THE CLERK: So the record's clear.
12 The sponsors of both 21 and 20 are pulled as well as
13 the seconds, correct?

14 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: That's correct.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And again, in
16 21, both of the others were pulled because they
17 didn't provide a proposal narrative.

18 MR. ANTUN: They weren't pulled.
19 They were deemed non-responsive.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: All right.
21 Deemed non-responsive. I bet you they're going to
22 say, No one explained what a pro -- I thought this
23 was a project narrative. I guarantee you. And was
24 there a venue for them to ask a question as to what
25 meets the requirement of a project narrative or

1 doesn't meet the requirement of a project narrative?

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Okay. Mr. Clerk,
4 22.

5 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 22.
6 Resolution approving Addition No. 1 to a Fair and
7 Open Professional Service Contract, Remington
8 Vernick Engineers for improvements to the Pehorn
9 Creek Pump Station, \$105,040.

10 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Where is that?
11 Where is Pehorn? Where is it?

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: He'll be back
13 soon. Watch and see. But I get it. We meet twice
14 a month. Does that get on the agenda?

15 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No. Sponsor.

16 MR. ANTUN: Do you require an
17 explanation on this?

18 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll put
19 sponsored for this purpose of discussion.

20 Mark.

21 MR. KATARYNIAK: Commissioners, this
22 is to cover additional work expenses resulting from
23 a grant that was pursued through the Department of
24 Community Affairs, DCA. We additionally --
25 initially hired Remington and Vernick to do certain

1 repairs to the sanitary sewer pump station. When
2 repairs became more extensive on the inspection, we
3 sought grant money. So we received a \$5 million
4 grant through the DCA, which required additional
5 design work to be done. This covers that additional
6 design work to be done. So the extra is to cover
7 the additional work.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Let's just edit
9 some of the other additions.

10 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: We'll revisit
11 it in the next two weeks.

12 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yep, okay.
13 We'll make a motion to pull.

14 THE CLERK: Well, there's no sponsor
15 or second, Commissioner, right there. So there's
16 nothing.

17 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: It was a
18 sponsor and second to discuss it.

19 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: It was to discuss
20 only. Sponsor, second.

21 THE CLERK: Are you pulling your
22 sponsorship?

23 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yeah, I'll pull it.

24 MR. ANTUN: Yes, it goes into the
25 pile.

1 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And again, just
2 on this, when you bring it back, explain why their
3 proposal to you is dated in April of 2025, and your
4 recommendation to us is in March of 2026. Did
5 somebody lose the paperwork for several months? I
6 think you should be prepared to answer that when you
7 bring it back on the agenda. Any time an item has
8 stuff that's dated more than 30 days in the past.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 23.
10 Resolution authorizing request of six months
11 extension for the time for the New Jersey Department
12 of Transportation FY2023 Local Freight Impact Fund
13 Grant Agreement.

14 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: Sponsor.
15 Kopacz.

16 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Second.

17 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 24.
18 Resolution awarding grant funds to the Boys and
19 Club -- Boys and Girls Club of Hudson County for the
20 Summer Basketball Program, youths between ages 6 to
21 14, June 29th, 2026 to August 7th, 2026. \$58,000.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole.
23 Board as a whole.

24 THE CLERK: Board as a whole?

25 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Board as a whole,

1 yes.

2 THE CLERK: Resolution No. 25.
3 Resolution authorizing contribution to El Circulo
4 Hispano Americano Softball League, \$250 -- I always
5 screw that up, but anyway.

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Yraida, you and I?

7 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: That's Martine to
9 Primo (ph). Okay. That's me and Yraida.

10 THE CLERK: I will turn it over to
11 the Administration. Mr. Chairman, I have one item,
12 and that is to allocate the Community Development
13 Block Grant Program Year 2025.

14 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Can we defer
15 because I have an item I want to put on. Where's my
16 item? And then because some Members have to leave.

17 THE CLERK: Okay. That would be
18 resolution at this point, No. 26.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's a
20 donation one I need.

21 THE CLERK: We have two forms of
22 that, which one are you putting forth, Commissioner
23 O'Dea?

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Authorizing
25 contribution to the House of Hearts Network 1,500

1 for a youth mental health conference.

2 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: I thought we're
3 doing it for 250 because that's the rule.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I've never seen
5 a written rule in any document, so I'm proposing
6 this one. If I get a sponsor second and voted,
7 fine. If not --

8 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No, no. Can we
9 table to discuss, Bill?

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, the thing's
11 coming up in a couple of weeks. Well, I think the
12 motion to put this one at 1,500.

13 COMMISSIONER KOPACZ: I'm going to
14 second it, Stick. I read through it. It's a --
15 it's for students in high school and college. So
16 it's not just a sponsor. It's an active where
17 they're going to be at Kean University. So it looks
18 like a wonderful project. I don't want to hold any
19 students back. So I'm going to second it, Stick.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's a mental
21 health program. You're talking about a mental
22 health court.

23 COMMISSIONER BASELICE: Oh, it's for
24 mental health?

25 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: That will be Resolution
2 No. 26, Commissioners. I'll turn it back over to
3 the Administration. Thank you for the chance. Oh,
4 I need a sponsor and a second on them. So that's
5 Kopacz and O'Dea?

6 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Kopacz.

7 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What number is
8 that?

9 MR. ANTUN: Just to clarify. Number
10 26 is the contribution to the House of Hearts
11 Network for \$1,500.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Correct.

13 THE CLERK: Yes. Thank you.

14 MR. ANTUN: Is there another one?

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: No, no, no.
16 Someone had done a \$250 and a \$1,500.

17 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: No, no, this is a
18 conference. Okay.

19 MR. ANTUN: I only -- I only have the
20 one.

21 THE CLERK: Yes, that will be No. 27.

22 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: Where is it? We
23 don't have 27.

24 THE CLERK: No, no, no. 26 is, if
25 you remember, Commissioner O'Dea wanted to do this

1 first. And now I'm turning it back over to you.

2 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: He's turning it
3 back over to you, Abe.

4 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: 27?

5 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: 27 is what your
6 next resolution is.

7 MR. ANTUN: Okay. What I have is
8 authorizing the acceptance of Program Year 2025 for
9 the Community Development Block Grant. This takes
10 effect on July 1, 2025. And it also allocates the
11 dollars to the municipalities and to the various
12 not-for-profits.

13 Yeah, if you remember that we, you may not
14 recall this, but this is the one where community
15 development and held up the approval. We submitted
16 these, this application last year. They gave us the
17 approval a couple of weeks ago, but it's retroactive
18 to July 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2026.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It's an
20 individual that spent dollars in anticipation of
21 this?

22 MR. ANTUN: I'm sorry?

23 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Did entities,
24 projects, expend dollars in anticipation?

25 MR. ANTUN: No, because we never --

1 we never gave them the money. Most of this money
2 goes to the municipalities, you know, East Newark,
3 Harrison, Kearny, West New York.

4 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: It goes to them
5 for eligible programs?

6 MR. ANTUN: That's correct. That's
7 correct.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Spend it as they
9 wish.

10 MR. ANTUN: That's correct. It's
11 eligible programs.

12 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: And are they
13 able to invoice us for a period of time before
14 today?

15 MR. ANTUN: Before today? Yeah.
16 It's retroactive to July 1, yeah.

17 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: What I just
18 said.

19 MR. ANTUN: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: That's the
21 question I asked. Okay. Okay. I would assume many
22 of them are.

23 MR. ANTUN: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I assume many of
25 them assumed it's eventually --

1 MR. ANTUN: I thought -- I thought
2 what -- what I thought you were asking me is that I
3 thought you, you were asking me, did they spend the
4 money, and they had not spent the money because we
5 didn't award it to them yet, but -- but if they have
6 an eligible project and, and it goes back, yes, it
7 can be, it fits within that time.

8 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: So in my
9 clarification, they could have expended the money in
10 anticipation of this funding coming and at risk if
11 they didn't, that they would not get reimbursed.

12 MR. ANTUN: You know, Commissioner, I
13 don't know if that is applicable. I don't know if
14 somebody here.

15 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Someone here can
16 answer that from that department.

17 MR. ANTUN: That I don't know, what
18 you just said.

19 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: I'll sponsor.

20 CHAIRMAN ROMANO: O'Dea and Basalice.

21 MR. ANTUN: Erin Ross will answer
22 that question.

23 MS. ROSS: Yes. Good evening. The
24 agencies were not given the funding. They may have
25 incurred the cost as of July 1st, 2025, but we

1 couldn't guarantee funding until we received
2 notification from HUD, but they can go back
3 retroactively, retroactively to July 1st. If they
4 have incurred a cost that are applicable to the
5 program.

6 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Right. So if
7 they incurred a cost, let's say they had to pay that
8 cost. Do we reimburse them for a cost they paid?

9 MS. ROSS: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER O'DEA: Thank you. That
11 was my -- you answered the question more simply than
12 the Administrator, because you're much more in tune,
13 I think.

14 THE CLERK: Commissioners, I have
15 nothing further.

16 MR. ANTUN: Abe? Going once before
17 anybody? Any commissioners? Motion to adjourn.

18 COMMISSIONER APONTE-LIPSKI: Motion.

19 THE CLERK: All in favor. We are
20 adjourned.

21 (Whereupon the proceeding is then
22 concluded at 5:48 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No.
30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New
Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein
are from the notes taken by me of a Caucus Meeting
of the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners,
held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026; and that this is a
correct transcript of the same.



SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR
A NOTARY PUBLIC of the
State of New Jersey
I.D. No. 2283786
Commission Expires 2/4/27

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