

BERGEN COUNTY  
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY  
WORK SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019  
COMMENCING AT 4:43 P.M.

FREEHOLDERS PRESENT:

GERMAINE M. ORTIZ, CHAIRWOMAN

MARY J. AMOROSO, VICE CHAIRWOMAN

DR. JOAN M. VOSS, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEMPORE

TRACY SILNA ZUR

DAVID L. GANZ

THOMAS J. SULLIVAN

STEVEN A. TANELLI

FREEHOLDERS ABSENT:

NONE

KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.  
P.O. BOX 213  
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213  
201-336-6200

1  
2  
3 ALSO PRESENT:  
4

5 JAMES J. TEDESCO III  
6 BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

7 LARA RODRIGUEZ  
8 CLERK TO THE BOARD

9 EDWARD J. FLORIO, ESQUIRE  
10 FREEHOLDER COUNSEL

11 JULIEN X. NEALS, ESQUIRE  
12 ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13 MICHAEL SHEINFELD  
14 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY

15 STORM WYCHE  
16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & POLICY  
17  
18  
19  
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21  
22  
23

24 KIM O. FURBACHER, C.C.R., R.M.R.  
25 P.O. BOX 213  
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662-0213  
201-336-6200

I N D E XPAGE NO.ROLL CALL

4

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5

MOMENT OF SILENCE

5

PUBLIC COMMENT

6

(No one wishing to speak.)

RESOLUTIONS

8

ORDINANCE

9

PRESENTATION TO ERIN EMERY OF TEANECK  
HIGH SCHOOL

10

Erin Emery

Dr. Christopher Irving, Superintendent  
of Schools

Jim Nonas, Coach

CLOSED SESSION

20

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The meeting is  
2 called to order at 4:43 p.m.

3 Before we begin our meeting, I ask if  
4 everyone can please take a moment to silence their  
5 phones.

6 Thank you.

7 Will the Clerk please read the Sen.  
8 Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act.

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: In accordance with  
10 Section 5 of the Sen. Byron Baer Open Public Meetings  
11 Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been  
12 provided in the Annual Notice Schedule, which  
13 contained the time, date, and location of this  
14 meeting, copies of which Notices were forwarded to  
15 the official County newspapers, to wit: The Herald  
16 News and The Record, and a copy of which was posted  
17 on the bulletin board in the Bergen County Justice  
18 Center and Administration Building, One Bergen County  
19 Plaza, Hackensack, New Jersey, and filed with the  
20 Office of the Bergen County Clerk.

21 ROLL CALL

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will the Clerk  
23 please call the roll.

24 (At this point in the proceeding roll  
25 call is taken with Freeholders Ganz, Sullivan,

1 Tanelli, Voss, Silna Zur, Vice-Chairwoman Amoroso,  
2 and Chairwoman Ortiz present.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Evidence of a quorum  
4 is present.

5 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Will you all please  
7 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

8 County Executive, would you lead us?

9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,  
10 Madam Chairwoman.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in  
12 honoring America.

13 (At this point in the proceeding all  
14 rise for a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance,  
15 led by County Executive Tedesco.)

16 MOMENT OF SILENCE

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Please remain  
18 standing for a Moment of Silence.

19 Today we remember Jeremy Richman,  
20 father of a child lost during the Sandy Hook  
21 massacre, and Sydney Aiello, one of her classmates,  
22 both of whom were students of Marjory Stoneman High  
23 School at the time of the Parkland shooting.

24 These three are all connected as  
25 survivors of tragedy. Sadly, they all suffered from

1 survivor's guilt. Being a survivor of a horrific  
2 tragedy put them all in a horrible emotional  
3 condition. Psychologists tell us that survivors  
4 often believe they are not deserving of any kind of  
5 emotional assistance. Their internal guilt of  
6 survivorship makes them feel unworthy. An estimated  
7 70 percent of all adults in the United States have  
8 experienced a traumatic event. Here in Bergen County  
9 we embrace "Stigma-Free," and have in place  
10 organizations and people who can help in times of  
11 despair.

12 If you or someone you know is suffering  
13 from any form of emotional turmoil, we urge you to  
14 contact New Bridge Medical Center at 201-967-4000.  
15 The trained experts at New Bridge are there 24 hours  
16 a day, seven days a week to provide a wide array of  
17 services to help you or someone you love in a time of  
18 need.

19 We also urge you to reach out to the  
20 Bergen County Board of Mental Health, located on the  
21 fourth floor of this building. Their phone number is  
22 201-634-2750.

23 Thank you.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: I'm going to go out

1 of order and I will go on to the public portion.

2 May I have a motion to open the meeting  
3 to the public?

4 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

5 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

7 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
8 affirmative.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now have a  
12 Hearing of the General Public, with a three-minute  
13 time limit in effect, in accordance with the Bergen  
14 County Freeholder bylaws.

15 The Board Attorney will keep the time.  
16 When the time of the speaker expires, the Board  
17 Attorney will announce the time has expired.

18 Is there anyone from the public who  
19 would like to speak?

20 MR. FLORIO: There appears to be none.

21 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Motion to close.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Can I have a motion  
23 to close?

24 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

1 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
2 affirmative.)

3 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: The meeting is  
6 closed to the public.

7 RESOLUTIONS

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now review  
9 the resolutions to be voted on tonight.

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Resolutions #298-19  
11 through #301-19.

12 Resolution #298-19, you will note, has  
13 been pulled.

14 We also have an addition of #302-19.

15 Would the Board Attorney explain the  
16 reason for this change.

17 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Madam Clerk.

18 As I understand it, Resolution #302 is  
19 a budget transfer, which is the addition, which  
20 resolution is a predecessor to Resolution #298.

21 So once this Resolution #302 has been  
22 approved by the Freeholders, the Treasurer shall  
23 return #298 to the next agenda for the Freeholders'  
24 consideration.

25 Did I say that right, Joe?



1 MR. LUPPINO: Yes, you did. Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. We'll go over  
3 resolutions.

4 Page 2.

5 Page 3.

6 The additions.

7 May I have a motion to accept the  
8 Resolutions on the Consent Agenda as read by the  
9 Clerk?

10 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

11 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

13 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
14 affirmative.)

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call, please.

16 (At this point in the proceeding roll  
17 call is taken and the Consent Agenda is passed by a  
18 unanimous vote.)

19 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes, the  
20 Consent Agenda is approved.

21 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

22 ORDINANCES

23 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go on to  
24 our Ordinance for First Reading and Introduction,  
25 Ordinance 19-09.

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Ordinance 19-09 is an:  
2 "ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON AS A  
3 COUNTY ROAD A PORTION OF JEFFERSON STREET IN THE CITY  
4 OF HACKENSACK."

5 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion  
6 to introduce Ordinance 19-09 as read by the Clerk?

7 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: So moved.

8 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

9 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

10 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
11 affirmative.)

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Roll call please.

13 (At this point in the proceeding roll  
14 call is taken and the First Reading and Introduction  
15 of Ordinance 19-09 is passed by a unanimous vote.)

16 MS. RODRIGUEZ: With seven ayes,  
17 Ordinance 19-09 passes First Reading.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

19 PRESENTATION TO ERIN EMERY OF TEANECK HIGH SCHOOL

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Today the Freeholder  
21 Board is pleased to recognize those high school  
22 students in Bergen County that achieve the pinnacle of  
23 success at their sport - state championships.

24 We are pleased to have with us Erin  
25 Emery of Teaneck. Ms. Emery is a three-sport athlete

1 in soccer, wrestling, and softball at Teaneck High  
2 School. In particular, as a four-year varsity  
3 wrestler, who wrestled mostly boys, she obtained an  
4 incredible 40 career wins against male opponents.

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Earlier this month,  
7 which I remind you is Women's History Month, Ms.  
8 Emery's dream season culminated in her winning the  
9 first ever female wrestling state championship in the  
10 history of New Jersey.

11 [APPLAUSE]

12 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: She is also the  
13 first state champion wrestler, male or female, from  
14 Teaneck High School in 52 years. The fact that Ms.  
15 Emery brought that title back to Teaneck, while  
16 making history, is an extraordinary accomplishment.  
17 She has proven to be a role model to both  
18 student-athletes and wrestlers alike.

19 In honor of her spectacular season and  
20 championship, the Freeholder Board wishes to  
21 congratulate her and wish her nothing but success in  
22 her future endeavors. We thank her for being the  
23 first to create this path so that other women can  
24 follow.

25 [APPLAUSE]

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: County Executive?

2 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you,  
3 Chairwoman.

4 Erin, why don't you come up. Coaches,  
5 why don't you come up, and superintendent.

6 On behalf of the people of Bergen  
7 County, it's my honor to be able to not only  
8 recognize you for your achievements in athletics, but  
9 to recognize you for being the first in many, but as  
10 you heard the Freeholder Chair talk about what you  
11 inspire not only in athletes but in female athletes.  
12 As one of the Freeholders said, celebrating Women's  
13 Month, this is even more special.

14 So, on behalf of the nearly one million  
15 residents of Bergen County, I want to congratulate  
16 you and present you with a commendation that says:

17 "Erin Emery, Teaneck High School.

18 "In honor and recognition of becoming  
19 the 2019 State Champion in wrestling in appreciation  
20 of your dedication in representing the County of  
21 Bergen with the highest level of athleticism,  
22 March 27, 2019."

23 Erin, congratulations, but, most of  
24 all, thank you. Thank you for being a huge role  
25 model not only for student athletes but for people

1 throughout Bergen County. Thank you so much.

2 MS. EMERY: Thank you.

3 [APPLAUSE]

4 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: I know the  
5 Freeholders have a presentation also.

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Erin, on behalf of  
7 the Board of Chosen Freeholders, we have a  
8 commendation.

9 In honor and recognition of becoming  
10 the first female wrestling state champion in the  
11 history of New Jersey, on behalf of the nearly  
12 one million residents of Bergen County, we  
13 congratulate you on this incredible achievement.  
14 Thank you so much.

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 MS. EMERY: Thank you. I appreciate  
17 it.

18 I just want to thank my coaches,  
19 because I wouldn't be here without them today.  
20 Thanks for pushing me. I really appreciate you guys  
21 for all that you did throughout these four years.  
22 And thanks to my parents for just pushing me and  
23 being my support system, even though I'm a pain,  
24 because I love you guys.

25 Thank you, superintendent, for coming.

1 And tech lighting, thank you for coming. And thank  
2 you guys again.

3 [APPLAUSE]

4 DR. IRVING: Thank you so much.

5 Let me first thank the Freeholder Board  
6 and the County Executive for recognizing the  
7 accomplishments of not just an awesome athlete, she's  
8 just a cool young lady. I saw her in the high school  
9 today, and, you know, Erin has a strut about herself  
10 that she carries. She's a confident young woman who  
11 knows where she stands. She knows what she's doing  
12 going into her career, what her career aspirations  
13 are. We're so proud of her at the school district  
14 and as Teaneck's first wrestling champion in almost  
15 four decades, and the fact that a woman brought home  
16 this award.

17 VICE-CHAIRWOMAN AMOROSO: We love it!

18 DR. IRVING: It's indicative of what we  
19 try to strive for as a diverse community. I know  
20 it's indicative of what the women leaders in this  
21 Board strive for, but also what this world is moving  
22 to. I think Erin is a great representation.

23 I want to thank her parents for  
24 instilling the virtues and love in her. And, most  
25 importantly, my staff at the high school for the

1 great work they're doing to make sure all our  
2 student-athletes are indeed student athletes,  
3 students first, athletes second, but this young lady  
4 has made history, and there is always going to be a  
5 first, and she is from Teaneck.

6 Thank you very much.

7 [APPLAUSE]

8 COACH NONAS: Erin has been wrestling  
9 since she was a little girl, watching her brother and  
10 then eventually taking it. Her brother ended up  
11 stopping wrestling, but she kept going.

12 Watching her year after year, four-year  
13 varsity wrestler on my team, earning a spot over  
14 everybody else on the team, and finally get her  
15 chance to shine when they decided to allow a girls  
16 state championship.

17 From the beginning of the year, I said  
18 she's our ticket, and we cashed it in this year.

19 Thank you, Erin. Awesome job.

20 (Whereupon, the presentation is made.)

21 [APPLAUSE]

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder, do you  
23 have any comments?

24 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Sure.

25 I just want to congratulate you and

1 your family on a job well done. I know I constantly  
2 talk about it, I have three daughters, and it's great  
3 to see when women do things that people say you can't  
4 do. It's just a great example. It makes my life  
5 easier, I can go home and say, look what she did.

6 My daughter is also a student athlete  
7 at Pascack Hills. She's a starting pitcher. So if  
8 you play Hills, you need to strike out against her.

9 But best of luck in your career. I  
10 understand you want to pursue a career in nursing,  
11 another noble profession, so congratulations.

12 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Yes.

13 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: I'm just so proud  
14 to say we're here to see what you did.  
15 Congratulations.

16 MS. EMERY: Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Tanelli.

18 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Thank you,  
19 Chairwoman.

20 He's joking. The two of us up here  
21 know the labor intensive effort that you had to put  
22 in for the four years wrestling. It's about time.  
23 Everybody that knows wrestling and follows wrestling  
24 knows that we just came off two incredible weeks  
25 where we had 2 four-time state champions in



1 New Jersey, undefeated state champions win national  
2 championships for Rutgers University. So there's a  
3 lot of firsts going around.

4 It's unreasonable that it took New  
5 Jersey this long to have their own girls state  
6 championship. We're ranked between third and fifth  
7 around the country as far as the state's  
8 participation in wrestling.

9 So I want to congratulate you on being  
10 the first. I hope you're the first of many, and that  
11 they're really going to push this to where we get  
12 much more participation. Instead of making it a  
13 novelty, let's make it a regular full-blown sport  
14 with full participation. I hope it gets so big you  
15 need your own weekend in Atlantic City.

16 Congratulations.

17 MS. EMERY: Thank you.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Voss.

19 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Athletics is so  
20 important, it makes you into a well-rounded person.  
21 I think when your superintendent said you're a  
22 student first and an athlete second, they go  
23 together, and it's wonderful.

24 I've been around for a long time, and I  
25 was an athlete when I was a young girl, but 50 years

1     ago, girls did not get any recognition. Girls sports  
2     were pushed to the back. We had to fight for every  
3     little thing we possibly could, including using the  
4     gym and the track and field. So it's so wonderful to  
5     see you become such a role model, as I said to you on  
6     the floor, that, you know, you're going to be an  
7     inspiration to all girls. And you have to all  
8     remember, we're 53 percent of the population, so  
9     let's do 53 percent of the great things.

10                     Thank you.

11                     MS. EMERY: Thank you.

12                     CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Freeholder Amoroso.

13                     FREEHOLDER AMOROSO: Well, you are a  
14     trailblazer and we are so proud of you. As mothers  
15     and women and elected officials, we are so proud of  
16     you, and just keep on keeping on.

17                     MS. EMERY: Thank you.

18                     FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: I am a theater  
19     person, so for me I keep thinking of, you know,  
20     anything you can do, I can do better, and you just  
21     proved it by being the first in Teaneck in the last  
22     40 years to bring home a state championship. I am  
23     just so proud of what you've accomplished and look  
24     forward to seeing the next chapter that you write for  
25     yourself and those who will follow you as well.

1       Congratulations.

2                   CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ:   I just want to  
3       congratulate you again.   It is an incredible  
4       achievement.   I have a daughter that plays soccer,  
5       she's on two teams, and I push her every day, because  
6       I know how important the sports are for young ladies.  
7       I think in the future we're going to see a lot more  
8       equal representation, not only, like I said when we  
9       spoke before, in government or in business but also  
10      on the athletic field.   So thank you so much.   Thank  
11      you for being a trailblazer, and thank you for  
12      setting an example to all women.   And you're right,  
13      wrestling will be the next big sport for women.  
14      Thank you so much and congratulations again from all  
15      of us here at the county.

16                   Thank you.

17                   [APPLAUSE]

18                   CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ:   Okay.

19                   FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN:   Chairwoman?

20                   CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ:   Yes.

21                   FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN:   Before you go  
22      into Closed Session, did we sponsor #301 as a Body of  
23      the Whole?   I don't think that was sponsored.   I  
24      would like to go back and have us sponsor that as a  
25      Body of the Whole.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Thank you.

2 FREEHOLDER VOSS: Yes.

3 MR. FLORIO: The record shall so  
4 reflect, Freeholder.

5 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you,  
6 counsel.

7 CLOSED SESSION

8 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We will now go into  
9 Closed Session for approximately 20 minutes, and then  
10 we will return to Public Session.

11 Will the attorney briefly state the  
12 matters for which we will be discussing in Closed  
13 Session.

14 MR. FLORIO: Thank you, Chairwoman.

15 The Board will receive updates on  
16 several legal matters from the County Counsel's  
17 Office.

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: May I have a motion  
19 to go into Closed Session?

20 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

21 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Second.

22 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

23 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
24 affirmative.)

25 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Okay. We are in  
3 Closed Session at 5:05 p.m.

4 (Whereupon, Closed Session is held.)

5 (Open Session resumes at 5:21 p.m.)

6 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Back in open session  
7 at 5:21 p.m.

8 MR. FLORIO: We're on the record.  
9 County Executive.

10 COUNTY EXECUTIVE TEDESCO: Thank you.

11 Again, just as a follow-up to the  
12 Closed Session, the update that you got from County  
13 Counsel is part of the strategy that we've employed  
14 when this administration and the Freeholder Board  
15 changed, in order to look at taking work and keeping  
16 work in-house, especially on the County Counsel side.

17 The results that you just heard earlier  
18 in Closed are part of those good results, that we're  
19 doing more work in-house and we're having success  
20 keeping that work in-house.

21 So where we need to get the expertise  
22 and send it out, we definitely will, but it shows  
23 that the in-house counsel is very competent and can  
24 go across the street into court and be successful.

25 I'm very proud of the County Counsel

1 department for stepping up and having that great  
2 success and showing folks that we do have a very  
3 good, solid County Counsel group of attorneys and  
4 will continue to use them as we go forward.

5 So thank you, Freeholders.

6 FREEHOLDER SULLIVAN: Thank you, County  
7 Executive.

8 FREEHOLDER SILNA ZUR: Thank you,  
9 County Executive.

10 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: There being nothing  
11 further to come before this meeting, may I have a  
12 motion to adjourn?

13 FREEHOLDER GANZ: So moved.

14 FREEHOLDER TANELLI: Second.

15 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: All in favor?

16 (All present Freeholders respond in the  
17 affirmative.)

18 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRWOMAN ORTIZ: We are adjourned at  
21 5:22 p.m.

22 (Whereupon, the Work Session is  
23 adjourned at 5:22 p.m.)  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, KIM O. FURBACHER, License No. XIO1042, a Certified Court Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Court Reporter, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim record of the testimony provided under oath before any court, referee, board, commission or other body created by statute of the State of New Jersey.

I am not related to the parties involved in this action; I have no financial interest, nor am I related to an agent of or employed by anyone with a financial interest in the outcome of this action.

This transcript complies with Regulation 13:43-5.9 of the New Jersey Administrative Code.

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KIM O. FURBACHER, CRCR, CCR, RMR  
License #XIO1042, and Notary Public  
of New Jersey

My Commission Expires:  
7/11/19