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THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
DISTRIBUTION OF PARK COMMISSION OCTOBER 13, 2020 WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

1. President Stuart Lasser
2. Vice President Richard Seabury, III
3. Commissioner Anthony N. Abrantes, Sr.
4. Commissioner Julie C. Baron
5. Commissioner Betty Cass-Schmidt
6. Commissioner William A. Cogger
7. Commissioner Jonathan Kalafer
8. Commissioner Edward G. McCarthy
9. Commissioner Mathew Tal
10. Executive Director David D. Helmer
11. Freeholder Liaison Stephen S. Shaw
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THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MINUTES

300 Mendham Road

Morris Township, New Jersey

President Lasser called to order the 899th meeting of the Morris County Park Commission at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, held “**Virtually**” in the Auditorium at the Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Morris Township, New Jersey.

Instructions to connect to the Live Stream

1. You may use any web enable browser (computer, tablet, smart phone, etc.)
2. Go to <https://www.morrisparks.net/live>
3. Click on “Park Commission Public Meeting – Live”
4. You will now see and hear the live video.

The public was able to try a test in advance of the meeting by following the steps above that were published on the Park Commission’s website and with the legal notices to the Star Ledger and Daily Record.

Executive Director Helmer then read the following notice: PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice of this meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday the 13th day of October 2020 has been provided by publication in the *Daily Record* and *The Star-Ledger* by posting said notice in the Administration Building of the Morris County Park Commission, at the County Courthouse, by filing a copy of the same with the Morris County Clerk, and by posting an Agenda on the Morris County Park Commission website.

Executive Director Helmer reported that the Commission’s Public Workshop Meetings do not have a Public Hearing session.

ROLL CALL

The following were present:

Executive Director Helmer	President Stuart Lasser
Deputy Executive Director Vitale	Vice President Richard Seabury, III.
Park Counsel Suminski	Commissioner Anthony Abrantes, Sr. (Phone)
Chief of the Park Police DiPietro	Commissioner Julie C. Baron
	Commissioner Betty Cass-Schmidt
	Commissioner William Cogger
	Commissioner Jonathan Kalafer (Phone)
	Commissioner Edward McCarthy
	Commissioner Matthew Tal

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

President Lasser led those present in the salute to the flag.

President Lasser welcomed Morris County Sheriff, James Gannon, who introduced the following:

Undersheriff Mark Spitzer

Aaron Tomasini, representing the Superior Officer Association, Local 151

William Peralta, representing the PBA, Local 151

Director Helmer noted for the record the following attendees are present:

Freeholder Liaison Stephen H. Shaw

Morris County Administrator John Bonanni

Morris County Assistant Administrator Deena Leary

Morris County Treasurer Beti Bauer

Morris County Director of Employee Resources Allison Stapleton

Morris County Special Counsel Steve Trimboli

Morris County Park Police Chief DiPietro noted that the following Officers are in attendance:

Park Police Lieutenant Robert Kranz

Representatives from Park Police PBA 264:

President David Brown, Patrolman

Vice President Kyle Koster, Patrolman

Treasurer/Secretary Christian DiGiralomo, Patrolman

Edward Koster Jr., Sergeant

Chris Cole, Corporal

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Helmer reported that today's Workshop meeting agenda has only one subject matter which will be a presentation provided by Morris County Sheriff Gannon with a question and answer session on a Personnel matter related to park security. The only resolution on today's agenda is the one placing the Workshop meeting in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Lasser asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 86-20 (**Attachment No. 1**) placing the Commission meeting into Executive Session pursuant to provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (5), (6), (7) and (8), the pertinent provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act."

Commissioner Cass-Schmidt made the motion to go into Executive Session, which was seconded by Commissioner Cogger and unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Freeholder Shaw noted that the Freeholder Board recognized that the Morris County Park System is the best in the State and one of the best in the Country. It's unique, well managed and a crown jewel of Morris County. The Freeholder Board and the Administration are obligated to review all county services and strive for better and more efficient ways to benefit the residents of Morris County. The Covid-19 pandemic has magnified that obligation, which has led to the formation of

a Covid-19 Strategic Planning Committee to review all Morris County services and what impact and challenges it could represent. The review focused on the delivery of those services and the financial impact over the next six years. Prior to the Covid -19 pandemic, on February 26, 2020 a Law Enforcement Analysis Committee was established and was tasked to review the feasibility to merge the Park Police with the Sheriff's Office. The Covid-19 Strategic Planning Committee validated the need to conduct a study.

Of note is that this study is different then the one performed 10 years ago since it was developed without Freeholder or Consultant input.

The County Law Enforcement Analysis Committee (CLEAC) had meetings with the Executive Director Helmer, Chief DiPietro, Lieutenant Kranz, Sheriff Gannon, Undersheriff Spitzer and Administration which generated a report that was presented to the Freeholder Board on June 24, 2020. The Freeholder Board requested that further synergies and analysis be undertaken. A presentation was made on August 7, 2020 to the COVID-19 Strategic Planning Committee, followed by a presentation to the Freeholder Board on September 9, 2020. At that meeting it was the consensus of the Freeholder Board to proceed with the merger. A meeting was held on September 21st (President Lasser) and on September 22nd (Finance Chair Cass-Schmidt and Commissioner Cogger) which was attended by Executive Director Helmer, Chief DiPietro, Lieutenant Kranz and Sheriff Gannon. It was recommend at that time that a presentation be made to the full Commission at this workshop meeting to provide an overview of the finding, development of agreements and next steps.

Sheriff Gannon noted that the request for a study to merge the Park Police with the Sheriffs' Office was brought up at the February 26, 2020 Law Enforcement Analysis Committee meeting. He would like to thank the Executive Director Helmer, Chief DiPietro and Lieutenant Kranz for their involvement.

Sheriff Gannon provided a PowerPoint presentation consisting of nine slides outlining the timeline, details, synergies and financials of the proposed merger and what are the "Next Steps".

Sheriff Gannon noted that he is not ever interested in a Police Department taking over local police services. This merger will retain the services the Morris County Park Police currently provide to the Park Commission and residents of Morris County.

It is noted that this is not being considered "Shared Services" rather a "Merger". The statute provided under N.J.S.A 40:37-11.6 – Abolition of County Park Police Force the protection of the Officers as it pertains to Civil Service rank and seniority.

Discussion followed and concerns were raised by the Commissioners regarding the proposed merger and the impact it would have on the response time, flexibility, and public services the Park Police currently provides for any given special event or occurrence in any of the parks within the Morris County Park system.

CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

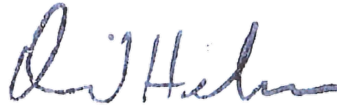
The Commission meeting returned to open session on the motion of Commissioner Baron, and it was seconded by Commissioner Cogger and unanimously approved by voice vote. The items discussed in closed session will be printed as part of the minutes as soon as practicable.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS ---NONE---

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Baron made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Seabury and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Helmer".

David D. Helmer
Executive Director

MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 86-20

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Morris County Park Commission on this 13th day of October 2020, that:

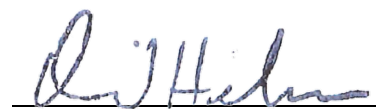
1. Prior to the conclusion of this regular meeting of the Morris County Park Commission, which regular meeting has been opened to the public, the Morris County Park Commission shall meet in Executive Session, from which the public shall be excluded, to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition, and report of counsel, as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (5), (6), (7), and (8), the pertinent provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act."
2. The time when the matters discussed pursuant to paragraph #1 hereof can be disclosed to the public is as soon as practicable after the final resolution of the aforesaid matters.

October 13, 2020

MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION



Stuart Lasser
President

 , I, David D. Helmer, Executive Director of the Morris County Park Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Morris County Park Commission at a meeting held on October 13, 2020 at the Park Commission offices, 300 Mendham Road, Morristown, New Jersey.