

MINUTES

JUNE 25, 2025

**These minutes were approved by the Board of County Commissions on July 23, 2025. Full texts of resolutions appear at the end of this document.*

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren met in Regular/Budget Session in its offices in the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building, Belvidere New Jersey on June 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Sarnoski and upon roll call, the following members were present: Commissioner James R Kern, Commissioner, Deputy Director Lori Ciesla and Commissioner Director Jason Sarnoski. Also attending were County Administrator Alex J. Lazorisak, County Counsel Joe Bell, County CFO Kim Francisco, County Director of Engineering Michael Finelli and Deputy Commissioner Clerk Tracy Matlock.

After leading the flag salute, Director Sarnoski confirmed with the County Administrator that the meeting notice complied with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, the minutes of the Regular Session of May 28, 2025 were approved.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, the minutes of the Executive Session of June 11, 2025 were approved.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT/PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation was read by Mr. Sarnoski.

PROCLAMATION 337-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, PROCLAMATION - HONORING RETIREMENT OF PLANNING DIRECTOR DAVID K. DECH.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

Mr. Sarnoski offered his remarks. He is honored to have worked with Mr. Dech the longest as well as the closest liaison to the Planning and Engineering most of his time here. Mr. Sarnoski added he does not recall seeing Mr. Dech upset or raise his voice. He is one of the most level people that he knows and most knowledgeable. Mr. Dech sat on the NJTPA as Alternate Member for Mr. Sarnoski, most likely voting more than himself. Mr. Dech was always available and returned calls. Mr. Dech truly cares about Warren County and it shows on his Facebook page of his biking all of the roads and alleys in Warren County. Lastly, Mr. Sarnoski stated, "He has the second best beard in Warren County." Mr. Sarnoski closed saying it has been an honor to serve with Mr. Dech. He thanked and wished him in all the best and stated he will always be a part of the Warren County family.

Ms. Ciesla thanked Mr. Dech for always being a huge help to her. There is nothing that he does not know about Warren County. She stated Mr. Dech has been huge resource not only to her but to the entire county as well. She credited Mr. Dech with fighting for Warren County to keep its character for 36 years. She appreciates all of his work he has done for the Planning Board over the years. Lastly, she stated he will be missed.

Mr. Kern remarked as a former Mayor, on how Mr. Dech always being accessible to the local government officials. He helped the local officials understand what was going on for examples with the Highlands Council, Master Plans and interpret what was going on around in the state. Mr. Kern added he always had an open door policy and communicated very well with the municipalities. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Dech for making things seem seamless and it did not go unnoticed. Mr. Kern congratulated Mr. Dech on a well-earned retirement and wished him well.

At this time, the Board presented Mr. Dech with his proclamation.

Mr. Dech took a moment to thank not only this Board but also the previous Freeholder Boards. He appreciates the years of support. He expressed his appreciation of the Planning Department staff that he has had over the years. Would not have been able to accomplish without their assistance. He added the assistance of the employees of Warren County have been tremendous and very helpful and cooperative over the years. Mr. Dech added one of his personal accomplishments was to bike all of the roads in Warren County. Mr. Dech will be preparing to run a half-marathon.

Mr. Tierney spoke of how Mr. Dech has always been a tremendous resource and always supportive of the open space and farmland programs. He added Mr. Dech laid the groundwork for the Warren County Parks systems and trails, which started decades ago in the Planning Department.

Mr. Lazorisak thanked Mr. Dech for his almost 37 years of service and he did a great job. He added Mr. Dech has left a legacy, along with leaving his footprint here, which is impressive as a department head. He congratulated Mr. Dech and wished him well.

The Board congratulated Mr. Dech and they look forward to hearing is last report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

None.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 338-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS.
Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTIONS

At this time, the Board took action on Agenda Items E1, E2, E3 and E5; Agenda Item E4 was acted upon separately.

RESOLUTION 339-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION TO APPOINT AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC., FOR THE YEAR 2025.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 340-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR \$2,894.00 TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING TO COUNTY WELFARE AGENCIES FOR THE 2025 UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 341-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR \$4,526.00 TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING TO COUNTY WELFARE AGENCIES FOR THE 2025 LOW INCOME HEATING ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP).

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 342-25

On motion by Lori Ciesla, seconded by Jason Sarnoski, RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL FOR FEE SIMPLE ACQUISITION OF THE CLIFFORD FARM KNOWN AS BLOCK 86 LOT 67 IN LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP, APPROXIMATELY 107.23 ACRES, FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PURPOSES.

Recorded vote: Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes, James Kern III Abstained

RESOLUTION 343-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #497-24 AUTHORIZING THE WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO APPLY AND ACCEPT FOR A GRANT FFY 2023 STOP VAWA 51-23, WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

Mr. Kern walked a resolution in, identified as Agenda Item E6 and read into the record. RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY AFFORDABLE-HOUSING PROJECT THAT RELIES ON THE USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN TO CONDEMN ACTIVE OR PRESERVED FARMLAND.

WHEREAS, agriculture is a foundational element of Warren County’s economy, culture, and landscape; and

WHEREAS, Warren County has invested substantial public funds in farmland preservation and open-space initiatives to safeguard this irreplaceable resource for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Constitution and the Right to Farm Act recognize the special status of agriculture and the public interest in protecting working farms; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) framework, as interpreted by the New Jersey Supreme Court in the Mount Laurel line of cases, assigns municipalities a constitutional obligation to provide realistic opportunities for the construction of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities have pursued satisfaction of their Mount Laurel obligations by invoking the power of eminent domain to condemn productive farmland for residential developments; and

WHEREAS, the use of farmland condemnation for affordable-housing, erodes the agricultural base that sustains local food systems, and imposes permanent harm on the rural character of Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren believes that the creation of affordable housing should be in appropriate locations such as redevelopment areas, brownfields, underutilized commercial corridors, or other sites that do not require the loss of working farms; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of farmland and the provision of affordable housing need not be mutually exclusive goals, and thoughtful planning can and should advance both;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that:

1. **Policy Opposition:**
The County of Warren opposes, by all lawful means, any affordable-housing or COAH-related project proposed by a municipality that relies on eminent domain to condemn active or preserved farmland for residential development that is not primarily affordable housing.
2. **Legal and Administrative Actions:**
The County Counsel may be authorized to investigate and, when appropriate, pursue or join legal actions, file friend-of-the-court briefs, or take other measures aimed at preventing the condemnation of farmland for such projects.
3. **Coordination with Municipalities:**
County planning and agricultural boards shall provide technical assistance to municipalities seeking alternatives to farmland condemnation, emphasizing infill development, adaptive reuse, and other smart-growth strategies.
4. **Legislative Advocacy:**
The Board urges the Governor and the Legislature to amend state affordable-housing laws and eminent-domain statutes to protect productive farmland from seizure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of New Jersey, the President of the New Jersey Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, the Secretary of Agriculture, the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee, the New Jersey Association of Counties, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, and every municipality within Warren County.

At this time, the Board approved the resolution.

Mr. Kern expressed his concerns with the issue-taking place in Township of Cranberry, New Jersey and areas that cannot satisfy their COAH because of farmland. He is afraid other towns will follow and do the same. Mr. Kern wants this Board and county to make it abundantly clear that this is out of policy and we will fight you. It is crucial that we take this stance and he is proud to support this resolution.

Ms. Ciesla thanked Mr. Kern for bringing forth the issue. She understands we need affordable housing however the use of orchards, vineyards, nurseries, cropland and pasture land as noted in the latest affordable housing guidelines for developable lands. She asked, “Do we want to be known as the Garden State or the Concrete State?” We need to make smart decisions and protect our preserved lands and not build on every square inch.

Mr. Sarnoski thanked Mr. Kern for his quick action on this matter and to make sure it does not happen in Warren County without this Boards input. He added, with a previous item of preserving lands on this evening’s agenda and this resolution of opposition shows, Warren County’s commitment to farmland, farmers and open space and correct development. Warren County plans and thinks ahead and is proactive.

Mr. Kern added one important note and clarification, with Warren County taking this action; he is reminding everyone this is local home rule. Warren County municipalities need to be proactive and take control.

RESOLUTION 344-25

On motion by Lori Ciesla, seconded by James Kern III, RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY AFFORDABLE-HOUSING PROJECT THAT RELIES ON THE USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN TO CONDEMN ACTIVE OR PRESERVED FARMLAND.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTIONS APPROVING SPECIFICATIONS

RESOLUTION 345-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR THE RESURFACING AND REHABILITATION OF A PORTION OF COUNTY ROUTE #678 (SOUTH MAIN STREET) TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG CONTRACT #WC2544.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 346-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIFICATION WC2547 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ROCK SALT/SOLAR SALT FOR THE WARREN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 347-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIFICATION WC2548 AND AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ANTI-ICING & DE-ICING FLUID FOR THE WARREN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTIONS RECEIVING BIDS AND AWARDING CONTRACTS

RESOLUTION 348-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT TO LANDMARK I APPRAISAL OF CHESTER, NEW JERSEY FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES ON THE TERHUNE FARM PROPERTY, BLOCK 1307 LOT 11 IN MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP APPROXIMATELY 66.68 NET ACRES AS LISTED IN THE PROPOSAL, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,235.00.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 349-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT TO JOSHUA D. MACKOFF, LLC OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES ON THE TERHUNE FARM PROPERTY, BLOCK 1307 LOT 11 IN MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP APPROXIMATELY 66.68 NET ACRES AS LISTED IN THE PROPOSAL, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,475.00.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 350-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT TO FINELLI CONSULTING ENGINEERS, A DIVISION OF UTRS, WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY FOR SURVEYING SERVICES ON THE CLIFFORD FARM, LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP, BLOCK 86 LOT 67, APPROXIMATELY 107.23 GROSS ACRES PROPOSED FOR THE FEE SIMPLE ACQUISITION, AS LISTED IN THE PROPOSAL, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$6,800.00.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 351-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT WC2549R FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, FOR AN ELECTRICAL SERVICE UPGRADE AT THE WARREN COUNTY CORRECTION FACILITY TO STRUNK-ALBERT ENGINEERING IN THE CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$21,000.00.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF HELEN BATCH FROM THE WARREN COUNTY AGING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 352-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO THE WARREN COUNTY AGING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL.

KRISTI BRAY, WC HEALTH DEPT REP. - NO TERM

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 353-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE WARREN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION.

RUTH ANN DALRYMPLE - TERM TO EXPIRE: 06/30/28

GAIL GOMEZ - TERM TO EXPIRE: 06/30/28

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 354-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION APPOINTING RYAN CONKLIN AS DIRECTOR OF THE WARREN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT, CLASSIFIED.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 355-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION APPOINTING KRISTI BRAY TO THE FULL-TIME POSITION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR, CLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR, CLASSIFIED, IN THE WARREN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 356-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION CREATING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AIDE, CLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF FIELD REPRESENTATIVE SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM, CLASSIFIED, WITHIN THE WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 357-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION CREATING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF SOCIAL WORKER, CLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF SOCIAL WORKER, BILINGUAL IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH, CLASSIFIED, WITHIN THE WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

RESOLUTION 358-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, RESOLUTION CREATING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF SERGEANT OF COUNTY INVESTIGATORS, UNCLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING A FULL-TIME LIEUTENANT OF COUNTY INVESTIGATORS, UNCLASSIFIED, WITHIN THE WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE.

Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

Mr. Kern congratulated Mr. Conklin on his appointment to Planning Director and looks forward to working with him in this new capacity.

Ms. Ciesla congratulated Mr. Conklin on his appointment and stated he has big shoes to fill, but she know he can do it, as he has already been a great resource to her as well.

Mr. Sarnoski tasked Mr. Conklin with hiking all the trails in Warren County, since he is a hiker.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

County Counsel Joe Bell only had items for Executive Session this evening.

County Director of Engineering Mike Finelli had a couple of items for this evening. First item discussed was the 2022 Resurfacing project, hoping the project is finished by Friday, June 27, this is weather permitting and dependent upon material availability. There will be miscellaneous items to be completed. Secondly, he provided an update regarding 2023 Resurfacing project, project is currently out for bid, anticipates awarding contract at the July 23, 2025 meeting and have project finished by the end of this year.

Mr. Sarnoski added apologies for anyone that experienced delays with this project. We are doing good work to making it safer with no passing on County Route 519.

County Administrator Alex Lazorisak added this is the most complicated area of County Route 519 to work in/on due to all of the intersecting roads.

County Planner Dave Dech provided the Board with his final report as Planning Director. He provided an update regarding Route 57 and 519 Intersection, the draft Fiscal Year 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project is still being delayed until 2030. He added, New Jersey Department

of Transportation (NJ DOT) will respond to the comments regarding the capital program that included the 57 and 519 Intersection, as well as the rock fall project and retaining wall project on I-80.

Mr. Sarnoski added he would like to see the process get started by the state to purchase the lands in the area of the 57/519 Intersection. Ms. Ciesla reported that there was a bad accident at this intersection, on or about June 13, she will request Lopatcong Township Police Department to forward over the Police Report.

Lastly, Mr. Dech congratulated Mr. Conklin on taking on role of Planning Director. Mr. Dech stated, "Ryan will be a very confident and knowledgeable Planning Director." He continued Ryan has been very supportive over the last couple of years, he is in good hands. Mr. Dech turned it over to Ryan at this time. Mr. Conklin did have an official first report to the Board this evening with a couple of items to report on. First item was on the Comprehensive Complete Streets Public Hearing, hearing had to be canceled due to power outage at this building due to an accident on June 23. Tentatively rescheduled for July 28, official public notice will be sent out, once confirmed.

Mr. Conklin thanked the Board for passing the resolution regarding affordable housing. He has been reviewing housing agreements from the municipalities that have been submitted.

County Public Works Direct Emily Hammer provided the Board with a visual of Lommason Glen Road, White Township as of June 17. Contract is making terrific progress with the wall coming up the slope. Anticipate project to be complete by the fall.

County CFO Kim Francisco had nothing to report this evening.

County Administrator Alex Lazorisak had a couple of items to report on this evening. First item is the vacancy report, nothing out of the ordinary, backfill of vacancies.

Second item Mr. Lazorisak provided an update on is the Bicentennial Event. Set up has begun this week. He anticipates a good event on Saturday. He noted one event had to be canceled due to President Trump being in Bedminster, the hot air balloons will not be allowed to be released, but we can still have the tethered balloon rides.

Mr. Sarnoski thanked Mr. Lazorisak and team for all of their hard work getting this event pulled together.

Mr. Lazorisak offered kudos to Dennis Riley, Art Charlton, Corey Tierney, Jason Abelman, Calvin Insko, Chief Christopher Jones of Washington Township Police Department and Diane Tabert.

Mr. Sarnoski reminded the cancelation of the first meeting in July (July 9) and second meeting of August (August 27).

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Kern commented regarding the Public Notices, legislatures will be voting on a bill to allow publication of our required legal notices to be on county government websites and certain online newspaper publications. We are finally moving away from the paid print advertising requirement. The state will be housing different domains for the different jurisdictions. Bill is sponsored by Senator Scutari and Senator Bucco. Mr. Kern added after this legislation is passed our litigation will need to be canceled. Mr. Kern thanked Mr. Bell for his work with this matter.

Ms. Ciesla took this opportunity to thank Mr. Kern for his involvement with the Public Notices and Mr. Lazorisak and team for all the planning, logistics and security for the Bicentennial. She hopes to see everyone at the event.

Secondly, Ms. Ciesla has read the updated guidelines for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) legislation. The opportunities have been opened up to other wireless and satellite providers. New Jersey will be providing more guidance with the possibilities of getting everyone hooked up to high-speed internet.

Lastly, Ms. Ciesla spoke with Senator Kim when he visited the Town of Phillipsburg. She discussed the issue of degradation of cell service within Warren County.

Mr. Sarnoski wished everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July. He also encourage everyone to be on the lookout for various upcoming 200th celebrations happening in our county, as well as anticipate the 250th celebration of our nation.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sarnoski invited anyone who to come forward with Public Comments, he reminded the public of the four minute time limit for each person as well asked not to repeat comments.

First speaker Guy Citron resident of Califon, Hunterdon County on behalf of Voices for Justice, he came before the Board to request a proclamation affirming the Rights of All Person in Warren County. He read the proposed proclamation:

Warren County Proclaims Rights for All Persons

All persons in the United States are entitled to due process and equal protection under the law, including citizens and all persons within its jurisdiction, regardless of immigration or citizenship status as guaranteed by the constitution;

All persons should feel secure knowing that while carrying out their official public safety responsibility Warren County government officials and public safety departments adhere to the rule of law and not subject residents to intimidation, cruelty or entrapment;

The Warren County Board of Commissioners should affirm its commitment to upholding the constitution rights of all persons in Warren County and call for all government actions including those of federal agencies to strictly adhere to the law, respect local jurisdictions.

Mr. Citron urged the Commissioners to understand their moment in history, as with other parts of our state and the country, ICE officials and extremists impersonate them and may be taking people from out county unlawfully. As duly elected officers of the county for the people this is cause for your representation. This proclamation, which reflects our most basic humanitarian, religious and civic duties, is that. He asked that the Board work with them, ICE is taking innocent people, along with United States citizens, and illegally detaining at facilities with little public oversight. He asked the Board to stand with them and stand with your neighbors and on true American common ground. He thanked the Board for their time, consideration and service.

There were an additional eleven (11) members of the public of whom came forward to encourage/request the Board pass a proclamation Warren County Proclaims Rights for All Persons, as well as discuss their concerns with the Board. The following public members were in attendance and spoke during Closing Public Comment: Robert Falcone resident of Long Valley, Viveka G. Aftrolle resident of Mount Olive, Bob Larson resident of Long Valley, Marin Martin resident of Hackettstown, Anne Perry resident of Long Valley, Tomas Cambara resident of Panther Valley, Margaret Penza resident of Morris County, Monica Scott resident of Lopatcong Township, Adam McGovern resident of Mt. Tabor, Tyler Powell resident of Franklin Township, Hunterdon County and Martin Keane resident of Independence Township.

PRESS COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 359-25

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, N.J.S.A.10:4-12 at 7:11 p.m.
Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, the board adjourned Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 7:41 p.m.
Recorded vote: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by James Kern III, seconded by Lori Ciesla, and there being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

County of Warren
Board of County Commissioners



Proclamation

HONORING DAVID K. DECH ON HIS RETIREMENT
AS WARREN COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR
JUNE 25, 2025

WHEREAS, David K. Dech began employment with the County of Warren on November 28, 1988 as an Assistant Planner in the Warren County Planning Department, and was named Senior Planner September 9, 1991 before he was appointed Planning Director as of February 23, 1995; and

WHEREAS, David K. Dech earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Pennsylvania State University in 1986 and a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning at Rutgers University in 1993; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career of 36 years and seven months with Warren County, David K. Dech has exemplified the highest standards of public service, performing his duties in an unshakable fashion with efficiency, flexibility, and professionalism, and is the most senior department head with more than 30 years in that position; and

WHEREAS, David K. Dech has been willing to take on projects and duties whenever needed, serving temporarily as 911 Coordinator until the position could be filled, sitting as Co-Chair of the County Computer Advisory Group, assuming the role of Solid Waste Coordinator, and later adding Recycling Coordinator to his duties; and

WHEREAS, David K. Dech led numerous significant planning initiatives, including Strategic Growth Plans, Open Space Plans, Farmland Preservation Plans, Environmental Resource Inventories, and Transportation Master Plans, and has skillfully guided the County through three iterations of the State Plan and the implementation of the Highlands Act in 2008; and

WHEREAS, David K. Dech has also earned the respect of his peers throughout the State of New Jersey, serving as President of the NJ County Planners Association in 1998, as Co-Chair of the Structural and Non Structural Sub Committee of the Delaware River Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force in 2006 and 2007, and currently as Vice Chair Treasurer of North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development; and

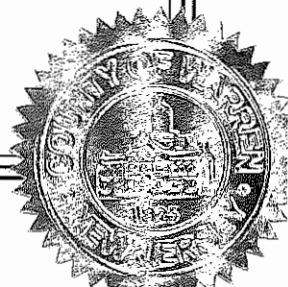
WHEREAS, it is worthy of note that David K. Dech has bicycled on every single street, alley and road in Warren County, gaining a ground-level perspective on our County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren honors David K. Dech for his years of distinguished service, congratulates him on his retirement, and wishes him many happy years enjoying the next chapter of his life.

Jason J. Sarnoski, Director
Board of County Commissioners

Lori Ciesla, Deputy Director
Board of County Commissioners

James R. Kern III, Commissioner
Board of County Commissioners



**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**
Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519 South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 338-25

On motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

Be and it is hereby resolved that Master Voucher Certificate **For Certification / Ratification for Payments No. 2025-24 and 2025-25, dated June 25, 2025**, in the amount of **\$4,298,633.62** including payrolls, allowances, bills and investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers by the Board of County Commissioners.

2025-24	6/18/2025	\$1,009,163.46	
2025-25	6/25/2025	<u>1,761,780.07</u>	
TOTAL			\$2,770,943.53
Delta Dental - July	6/16/2025	\$41,024.13	
TOTAL-OTHER			41,024.13
Payroll	6/12/2025	\$1,486,665.96	
TOTAL WAGES, FRINGE, MEALS			<u>1,486,665.96</u>
GRAND TOTAL			<u>\$4,298,633.62</u>

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(D1)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 339-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE
NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.,
FOR THE YEAR 2025**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ryan Conklin is hereby appointed as the alternate voting member, representing the County of Warren, to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc., at those meetings when Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski is unable to attend during the year 2025.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(E1)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 340-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD TO
EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR \$2,894.00 TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE
FUNDING TO COUNTY WELFARE AGENCIES FOR THE 2025
UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND**

WHEREAS, the Warren County Department of Human Services, Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Services, wishes to enter into an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the anticipated 2025 Universal Service Fund; and

WHEREAS, funding is available for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Department of Community Affairs has subsequently awarded Warren County \$2,894.00 to provide administrative funding to county welfare agencies for the 2025 Universal Service Fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren that the Director of the Board is authorized to execute the grant agreement with the NJ Department of Community Affairs for a total of \$2,894.00 to provide administrative funding to county welfare agencies for the 2025 Universal Service Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the persons whose names and titles appear below are authorized to sign the agreement and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

Mr. Jason J. Sarnoski, County Commissioner Director
Alex Lazorisak, County Administrator

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(E2)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 341-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD TO
EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR \$4,526.00 TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE
FUNDING TO COUNTY WELFARE AGENCIES FOR THE 2025 LOW
INCOME HEATING ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)**

WHEREAS, the Warren County Department of Human Services, Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Services, wishes to enter into an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for the anticipated 2025 LIHEAP funding; and

WHEREAS, funding is available for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 and,

WHEREAS, the NJ Department of Community Affairs has subsequently awarded Warren County \$4,526.00 to provide administrative funding to county welfare agencies for the 2025 LIHEAP Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren that the Director of the Board is authorized to execute the grant agreement with the NJ Department of Community Affairs for a total of \$4,526.00 to provide administrative funding to county welfare agencies for the 2025 LIHEAP Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persons whose names and titles appear below are authorized to sign the agreement and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

Mr. Jason J. Sarnoski County Commissioner Director
Alex Lazorisak, County Administrator

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(E3)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**
Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 342-25

On a motion by **Lori Ciesla**, seconded by **Jason Sarnoski**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL FOR FEE SIMPLE
ACQUISITION OF THE CLIFFORD FARM KNOWN AS
BLOCK 86, LOT 67 IN LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP,
APPROXIMATELY 107.23 ACRES, FOR FARMLAND
PRESERVATION PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of County Commissioners has determined that the property known as the Clifford Farm, located on Block 86 Lot 67 in Lopatcong Township and consisting of approximately 107.23 acres is available for fee simple purchase; and

WHEREAS, the farm is located adjacent to the Warren County Agriculture Development Area (ADA) and other preserved farmland immediately to the north; and

WHEREAS, the farm is located within the Highlands Planning Area, the Highlands Agricultural Resource Area, and has been identified as a High Agricultural Preservation Priority in the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the farm contains approximately 91%, or approximately 97.5 acres, of Prime Soils and is nearly 100% tillable; and

WHEREAS, pressures from development have significantly heightened the degree of imminence of change of land use in this area; and

WHEREAS, preservation of the farm would encourage the survivability of production agriculture in Lopatcong Township and Warren County; and

WHEREAS, a professional independent appraisal was performed on the property; and

WHEREAS, proof of competing purchase offers from developers was provided; and

WHEREAS, the landowner has accepted the offer by the County of total purchase price of \$2,450,000; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of the property for agricultural preservation purposes will be funded through the Warren County Open Space, Farmland, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren as follows:

1. The Board hereby grants permission for the purchase of this property.
2. The cost of the acquisition is Two Million Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$2,450,000.00), subject to the terms, conditions, and adjustments contained in the purchase agreement.
3. The Board Director or Administrator of Warren County is authorized to sign the purchase agreements and any and all documents necessary for the acquisition of this property.
4. That a future development easement will be secured on the property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that adequate funds for the purchase price funding depending upon final surveyed acres in the amount of \$2,450,000.00 in account #03895-5067-8952502-5067 have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer.

RECORDED VOTE: Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes, James Kern III abstain

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(E4)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 343-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #497-24 AUTHORIZING THE
WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO APPLY AND ACCEPT
FOR A GRANT FFY 2023 STOP VAWA 51-23, WITH THE STATE OF NEW
JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND
PUBLIC SAFETY**

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2024 Resolution #497-24 was adopted authorizing to apply and accept the Subaward of \$14,969.00 with a match of \$24,253.00. For an approximate project total cost of \$39,222.00 for a project under the State of New Jersey Victims STOP VAWA-51-23; Grant Period 7/1/24 to 6/30/25; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Administration Department has reviewed the accompanying application and has approved said request from the Warren County Prosecutor's Office; and

WHEREAS, the project is a joint effort between the Office of the Attorney General Department of Law and Public Safety and the Warren County Prosecutor's Office for the purpose described in the application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that:

1. As a matter of public policy the Warren County Prosecutor's Office wishes to participate to the fullest extent possible with the Office of the Attorney General Department of Law and Public Safety.
2. The Office of the Attorney General Department of Law and Public Safety will receive funds on behalf of the applicant.
3. The Office of the Attorney General Department of Law and Public Safety shall be responsible for the receipt and review of the applications for said funds.
4. The Office of the Attorney General Department of Law and Public Safety shall initiate allocations to each applicant as authorized.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(E5)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 344-25

On a motion by **Lori Ciesla**, seconded by **James Kern III**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY AFFORDABLE-HOUSING PROJECT
THAT RELIES ON THE USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN TO CONDEMN
ACTIVE OR PRESERVED FARMLAND**

WHEREAS, agriculture is a foundational element of Warren County's economy, culture, and landscape; and

WHEREAS, Warren County has invested substantial public funds in farmland preservation and open-space initiatives to safeguard this irreplaceable resource for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Constitution and the Right to Farm Act recognize the special status of agriculture and the public interest in protecting working farms; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) framework, as interpreted by the New Jersey Supreme Court in the Mount Laurel line of cases, assigns municipalities a constitutional obligation to provide realistic opportunities for the construction of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities have pursued satisfaction of their Mount Laurel obligations by invoking the power of eminent domain to condemn productive farmland for residential developments; and

WHEREAS, the use of farmland condemnation for affordable-housing, erodes the agricultural base that sustains local food systems, and imposes permanent harm on the rural character of Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren believes that the creation of affordable housing should be in appropriate locations such as redevelopment areas, brownfields, underutilized commercial corridors, or other sites that do not require the loss of working farms; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of farmland and the provision of affordable housing need not be mutually exclusive goals, and thoughtful planning can and should advance both;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that:

1. Policy Opposition:

The County of Warren opposes, by all lawful means, any affordable-housing or COAH-related project proposed by a municipality that relies on eminent domain to condemn active or preserved farmland for residential development that is not primarily affordable housing.

2. Legal and Administrative Actions:

The County Counsel may be authorized to investigate and, when appropriate, pursue or join legal actions, file friend-of-the-court briefs, or take other measures aimed at preventing the condemnation of farmland for such projects.

3. Coordination with Municipalities:

County planning and agricultural boards shall provide technical assistance to municipalities seeking alternatives to farmland condemnation, emphasizing infill development, adaptive reuse, and other smart-growth strategies.

4. Legislative Advocacy:

The Board urges the Governor and the Legislature to amend state affordable-housing laws and eminent-domain statutes to protect productive farmland from seizure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a certified copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of New Jersey, the President of the New Jersey Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, the Secretary of Agriculture, the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee, the New Jersey Association of Counties, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, and every municipality within Warren County.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(E6)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 345-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
AND AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR THE
RESURFACING AND REHABILITATION OF A PORTION OF COUNTY
ROUTE #678 (SOUTH MAIN STREET) TOWN OF PHILLIPSBURG
CONTRACT #WC2544**

BE IT RESOLVED that the plans and specifications for Contract #WC2544 for the Resurfacing & Rehabilitation of a portion of Warren County Route #678 (South Main Street), Town of Phillipsburg are hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Engineer is hereby directed to advertise for bids for the above project at least 10 days prior to the receipt of bids in THE STAR-LEDGER.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(F1)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 346-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIFICATION WC2547 AND
AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ROCK SALT/SOLAR
SALT FOR THE WARREN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that specification WC2547 for rock salt/solar salt for the Warren County Road Department is hereby approved

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Purchasing is hereby directed to advertise for bids for the above in The Star-Ledger.

Funding for this contract will be provided in budget account 012900/5125 – Road Department M & R Materials

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(F2)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 347-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIFICATION WC2548 AND
AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR ANTI-ICING & DE-
ICING FLUID FOR THE WARREN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that specification WC2548 for anti-icing & de-icing fluid for the Warren County Road Department is hereby approved

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Purchasing is hereby directed to advertise for bids for the above in The Star-Ledger.

Funding for this contract will be provided in budget account 012900/5125 – Road Department M&R Materials

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(F3)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 348-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT TO LANDMARK I
APPRAISAL OF CHESTER, NEW JERSEY FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES
ON THE TERHUNE FARM PROPERTY, BLOCK 1307 LOT 11 IN
MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP APPROXIMATELY 66.68 NET ACRES AS
LISTED IN THE PROPOSAL, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,235.00**

WHEREAS, The Warren County Agriculture Development Board has developed a list of Property for preservation for the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, Warren County is interested in obtaining appraisals on various properties as listed in the proposal; and

WHEREAS, land appraisals are required by the State Agricultural Development Board prior to negotiations for acquisitions in order to be eligible to receive Cost Share Funding for Farm Easement Purposes; and

WHEREAS, said appraisals will be in accordance with the Agriculture Retention Program Appraisal Handbook, and the Uniform Standard of Professional Appraisal Practice;

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded in accordance with N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4, as a fair and open contract; and

WHEREAS, Landmark I Appraisal was pre-qualified as an appraiser by WC2487FO on November 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, adequate funds are available in account 03895/5067, – Open Space – Preliminary Expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners as follows:

1. The agreement between the County of Warren and Landmark I Appraisal, in the amount of \$2,235.00 to prepare an appraisal on the land listed be accepted.
2. The Commissioner Director is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.
3. Notice of this action shall be published in THE STAR-LEDGER, as required by law, within ten (10) days of adoption.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk

Alex J. Lazorisak

(H1)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 349-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT TO JOSHUA D. MACKOFF, LLC OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES ON THE TERHUNE FARM PROPERTY, BLOCK 1307 LOT 11 IN MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP APPROXIMATELY 66.68 NET ACRES AS LISTED IN THE PROPOSAL, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,475.00

WHEREAS, The Warren County Agriculture Development Board has developed a list of Property for preservation for the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, Warren County is interested in obtaining appraisals on various properties as listed in the proposal; and

WHEREAS, land appraisals are required by the State Agricultural Development Board prior to negotiations for acquisitions in order to be eligible to receive Cost Share Funding for Farm Easement Purposes; and

WHEREAS, said appraisals will be in accordance with the Agriculture Retention Program Appraisal Handbook, and the Uniform Standard of Professional Appraisal Practice;

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded in accordance with N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4, as a fair and open contract; and

WHEREAS, Joshua D. Mackoff, LLC was pre-qualified as an appraiser by WC2487FO on November 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, adequate funds are available in account 03895/5067, – Open Space – Preliminary Expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners as follows:

1. The agreement between the County of Warren and Joshua D. Mackoff, LLC, in the amount of \$2,475.00 to prepare an appraisal on the land listed be accepted.
2. The Commissioner Director is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.
3. Notice of this action shall be published in THE STAR-LEDGER, as required by law, within ten (10) days of adoption.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk

Alex J. Lazorisak

(H2)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 350-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT TO FINELLI CONSULTING ENGINEERS, A DIVISION OF UTRS, WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY FOR SURVEYING SERVICES ON THE CLIFFORD FARM, LOPATCONG TOWNSHIP, BLOCK 86 LOT 67, APPROXIMATELY 107.23 GROSS ACRES PROPOSED FOR THE FEE SIMPLE ACQUISITION, AS LISTED IN THE PROPOSAL, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$6,800.00

WHEREAS, the County of Warren will be purchasing in fee simple Block 86 Lot 67, Township of Lopatcong to be permanently preserved as farmland; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land Preservation requested and received multiple cost proposals to survey the subject properties in accordance with the Uniform Standard of Professional Surveyor's Practice; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded in accordance with N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4, as a fair and open contract; and

WHEREAS, Finelli Consulting Engineers, A Division of UTRS, was pre-qualified as a surveyor by WC2486FO on November 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, adequate funds are available in account 03895/5067, – Open Space Trust – Preliminary Expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners as follows:

1. The agreement between the County of Warren and Finelli Consulting Engineers, A Division of UTRS, in the amount of \$6,800 to prepare a survey on the land listed be accepted.
2. The Commissioner Director is hereby authorized to execute said agreement.
3. Notice of this action shall be published in THE STAR-LEDGER, as required by law, within ten (10) days of adoption.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk

Alex J. Lazorisak
(H3)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 351-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT WC2549R FOR PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERING SERVICES, FOR AN ELECTRICAL SERVICE UPGRADE
AT THE WARREN COUNTY CORRECTION FACILITY TO STRUNK-
ALBERT ENGINEERING IN THE CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$21,000.00**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the professional engineering services of an engineer for an electrical service upgrade at the Warren County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.) requires that a resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "professional services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded in accordance with N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4, as a non-fair and open contract: and

WHEREAS, Warren County has received all necessary documentation to allow award of this contract including the Business Entity Disclosure Certification, Certificate of Compliance With Campaign Contribution Law and the Determination of Value and these forms are on file; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Purchasing has certified that this contract meets the statute and regulations governing the award of such contracts; and

WHEREAS, adequate funds are available in account 0424A508-5062

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren in the State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The agreement between the Director of Public Works of the County of Warren and Strunk – Albert Engineering, of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, for professional services for the above project, in the approximate amount not to exceed \$21,000.00 per letter of agreement and outline of hourly rates, fees and expenses, currently on file in the Office of the Director of Purchasing, be made part of this resolution by reference and approved and entered into by the Board on behalf of the County of Warren.
2. The Director of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby authorized to execute said letter of Agreement by signing same.
3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a Professional Service under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (40A:11-5(1)(a)(i) because the services are to be performed by or persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession.

4. A notice of this action shall be published in The Star-Ledger, as required by law, within ten days of its adoption.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(H4)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**
Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519 South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 352-25

On motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO THE WARREN COUNTY
AGING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren hereby appoints the following individual to the Warren County Aging Services Advisory Council.

Appointment:

Kristi Bray
WC Health Department
Oxford, NJ 07863
No Term

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(12)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**
Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519 South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 353-25

On motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
WARREN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren hereby reappoints the following members to the Warren County Special Services School District Board of Education:

Reappointing

Ruth Ann Dalrymple
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Term to expire: June 30, 2028

Gail Gomez
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Term to expire: June 30, 2028

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(13)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 354-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING RYAN CONKLIN AS DIRECTOR OF THE
WARREN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT, CLASSIFIED**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that Ryan Conklin is hereby appointed as Director of the Warren County Planning Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appointment shall be made provisional pending qualification through promotional examination in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Personnel Regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointment shall be effective June 26, 2025 and that this position be established on Grade 17, 40 Hours per work week, at an annual salary of \$116,000.00.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(J1)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 355-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING KRISTI BRAY TO THE FULL-TIME
POSITION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR, CLASSIFIED,
AND ABOLISHING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF ASSISTANT PUBLIC
HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR, CLASSIFIED, IN THE WARREN
COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
NURSING**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that Kristi Bray is appointed to the full-time position of *Public Health Nurse Supervisor*, classified, in the Warren County Health Department, Division of Public Health Nursing, subject to NJ Civil Service Commission examination procedures, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 4A:4-1.1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that a full-time position of *Assistant Public Health Nurse Supervisor*, classified, is hereby abolished.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that Kristi Bray is appointed to the full-time position of *Public Health Nurse Supervisor*, classified, at an annual salary of \$94,036, effective June 26, 2025.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(J2)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 356-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

RESOLUTION CREATING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AIDE, CLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF FIELD REPRESENTATIVE SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM, CLASSIFIED, WITHIN THE WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren, that a full-time position of *Community Service Aide*, classified, is created within the Warren County Department of Human Services, Division of Aging & Disability Services, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that a full-time position of *Field Representative Senior Citizens Program*, classified, is hereby abolished.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren that the full-time position of *Community Service Aide*, classified, is created and established on AFSCME Local 3287, Range 0840 and made effective June 26, 2025.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(J3)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 357-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION CREATING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF SOCIAL
WORKER, CLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING A FULL-TIME POSITION
OF SOCIAL WORKER, BILINGUAL IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH,
CLASSIFIED, WITHIN THE WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AND
SOCIAL SERVICES**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that a full-time position of *Social Worker*, classified, is created within the Warren County Department of Human Services, Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Services to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that a full-time position of *Social Worker, Bilingual in Spanish and English*, classified, is hereby abolished.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that a full-time position of *Social Worker*, classified, is created and established on Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 1032, for supervisory and non-supervisory employees of the Warren County Department of Human Services, Division of Temporary Assistance and Social Services, Range 19, and made effective June 26, 2025.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(J4)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519, South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 358-25

On a motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 25, 2025.

**RESOLUTION CREATING A FULL-TIME POSITION OF SERGEANT OF
COUNTY INVESTIGATORS, UNCLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING A
FULL-TIME LIEUTENANT OF COUNTY INVESTIGATORS,
UNCLASSIFIED, WITHIN THE WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE**

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:157-10 et seq. and 2A:158-1 et seq., the Prosecutor shall recommend all positions and structure within the Prosecutor's Office to maintain efficiency and daily operations; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren, that a full-time position of *Sergeant of County Investigators*, unclassified, is created within the Warren County Prosecutor's Office to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that a full-time position of *Lieutenant of County Investigators*, unclassified, is hereby abolished.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners that a full-time position of *Sergeant of County Investigators*, unclassified, within the Warren County Prosecutor's Office is created and established on the 2025 PBA Local 331 Salary Guide and made effective July 3, 2025.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(J5)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**

Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building
165 County Route 519 South
Belvidere, NJ 07823

RESOLUTION 359-25

On motion by **James Kern III**, seconded by **Lori Ciesla**, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren at a meeting held on June 25, 2025.

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12**

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of County Commissioners is subject to certain requirements of the *Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6*, et seq., and

WHEREAS, the *Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12*, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board hereby excludes the public in order to discuss such matters. The general nature of the subjects to be discussed are as follows:

- (1) *Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and Attorney-Client Privilege*: Items to be discussed include: Status of various litigation: Liaci Litigation, Bullock Litigation, Garcia Litigation and Lopatcong Township MOU with Sheriff.
- (2) *Matters Relating to the Purchase, Lease or Acquisition of Real Property*: Covanta Site and Bastedo Property.
- (3) *Matters Relating to the Collective Bargaining*: Retirement Health Insurance, AFSCME 671 – Supervisors and AFSCME 3287A – Dispatchers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board shall disclose to the public, as soon as practicable, the contents of the discussions after the final disposition of the matters discussed.

RECORDED VOTE: James Kern III, Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski: yes

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

_____, Clerk
Alex J. Lazorisak
(01)