

**Monmouth County Workforce Development Board
Minutes of June 4, 2020**

Members Present

Robert Connolly, Chairman
Roseann Isasi, Vice-Chairman
Patricia Carlesimo, Trustee
Brian Wallace, Trustee
Paul Dement
Chris Femiano
John Gagliano
Kay Harris
Dallas Hlatky
Rene Kurowski
Tim McCorkell
Violeta Peters
Susan Rakoci-Anderson
Joseph Robinson
Robert Shimko
David Stout
Judy Van Brunt
Benjamin Waldron

Members Absent

John Brown
John Ciufu
Stephen Hornik, Sr.
William Salcedo

Guests

Cyndie Willilams, EAS Regional Council
of Carpenters, Local 254

Staff Present

Larry Sternbach
Yolanda Taylor
Lucy Rivera

CALL TO ORDER & READING OF PUBLIC MEETING LAW:

- Robert Connolly, Chairman of the WDB, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. via a Zoom Meeting due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- N.J. Provisions of the Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and its revisions, were satisfied by publication of a Public Notice in Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger newspapers.

ROLL CALL:

- Attendance was taken with sufficient number of WDB members present to constitute a quorum.

APPROVAL MINUTES:

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting were not distributed to the Board prior to this meeting. Once the staff returns to work, the March minutes will be distributed and emailed to the Board for approval.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- After serving on the WDB Board for 25 years, Steve Hornik, President Emeritus of the AFL-CIO of Monmouth-Ocean Counties, has tendered his resignation.
- Mr. Connolly introduced Cyndie Williams, Representative from the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Local 254. Ms. William's will be appointed to the

Monmouth County Workforce Development Board by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders at their next scheduled meeting. Ms. Williams will be representing a seat on the board as a member of organized labor.

- The Silver Gull Awards have been tentatively rescheduled to August 25, 2020.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Performance Measures:

- The Executive Director announced that the Division of Workforce Development has met or exceeded all of their performance measures. He complimented the Board and the DWD staff on accomplishing the Think Green initiative.

Election of Officers:

- The nomination for the Slate of Officers for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022 was presented at the March 5, 2020 WDB meeting as follows:
 - Chair: Robert Connolly
 - Vice-Chair: Roseann Isasi
 - Trustee: Patricia Carlesimo
 - Trustee: Brian Wallace
- Voting for the Election of Officers will be done electronically via email. (Lucy, please include the results).

Covid-19 Update:

- The Division of Workforce Development has been closed since the end of March.
- Staff has been working remotely answering emails and phone calls, primarily unemployment calls directing clients to the UI website and only providing general guidance. Staff is not allowed to answer any UI questions.
- Staff is scheduled to return to office on June 15th. Office will not be open to the public as of yet. County will be opening in phases.

Post-Covid Recovery Plan:

- On-going discussions are being held on re-inventing the way the Division of Workforce Development will be delivering (i.e., virtual training, zoom meetings, conference calls).
- The WDB Board agreed safety is most important and that all WDB activities will be done virtually until further notice.

Funding:

- New funding expected in June for PY'20 WIOA Ault, Dislocated Worker and Youth
- Funding for WFNJ not expected for several months.

Partnership Awards Dinner:

- The Partnership Awards Dinner that was scheduled for May 13th was cancelled due to the pandemic Other events, such as Alumni Awards, will be decided upon based on future conditions.

Covid-19 Impact and Challenges:

- Several WDB Members expressed how their businesses have been impacted and the challenges they have had to face during the Covid-19 Pandemic. For example:
 - The Food Service, Retail, Hospitality and Tourism have been hit very hard
 - Many lay-offs
 - Major change in the operation of hospitals – The postponement of healthcare issues may cause residual health issues
 - Problems with hiring nursing assistants because of fear of COVID – Have reached out to hire from out of state.
 - The authorization for outdoor dining has been very chaotic and challenging
 - Lack of information has been frustrating because the guidance changes every day.
 - Education has had to transition to online learning – social distancing will be a challenge when schools open in the Fall, because classroom will have a limitation to how many students are in classes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- WDB General Board Meeting – September 3, 2020 – 10:00 AM – WDB Office, Eatontown

ADJOURNMENT:

- ***There being no further business to come before the WDB, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM upon a motion from Patricia Carlesimo. The motion was seconded by Susan Rakoci-Anderson and unanimously approved.***