

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

January 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:00 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: MR. KING, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director King announced: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before January 06, 2015, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 01/20/15-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session appointments to various County Boards and Commissions.

See Page 01/20/15-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a County bid for LINK advertising.

See Page 01/20/15-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a Request for Proposals for Risk Manager.

See Page 01/20/15-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a potential grant application for Cultural and Heritage.

See Page 01/20/15-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a Request for Proposals for Bond Counsel.

See Page 01/20/15-1F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss departmental responsibilities under the County's Table of Organization.

See Page 01/20/15-1G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a directive received by the County Prosecutor.

See Page 01/20/15-1H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss FOP Negotiations for Superior Officers in the Jail.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m., recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: MR. KING, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director King opened the meeting to the public.

Director King asked anyone who wants to take pictures to stay to the front row or behind unless being invited to take pictures for special events. This will prevent people from wandering, taking pictures while the Board is in the process of holding the meeting.

Mr. Walton recused himself at 5:31 p.m. and left the podium.

Andrea Bonette, East Amwell Township resident, questioned the Board concerning the PennEast Pipeline matter, as it would provide no benefits to the residents of Hunterdon County.

Director King explained that Freeholder Walton has left the room because he needs to recuse himself because of the conversation regarding PennEast because PennEast is planning to use a number of JCP&L rights-of-ways and Mr. Walton is employed by JCP&L.

Director King advised this Freeholder Board has had a lot of discussion regarding PennEast. The Board is in concert with a lot of the opinions of various municipalities, their leaders and the residents of the County. The Board is not in favor of some of the tactics nor the lack of communication presented by PennEast with respect to how this pipeline is being negotiated. The Freeholder Board is in agreement with Congressman Leonard Lance's Office that the idea of having public hearings for FERC and only having one take place at Trenton State College (The College of New Jersey, in Ewing, New Jersey) for representing the people in New Jersey on this matter seems to be out of place. This Board supports the idea that PennEast bring an opportunity for public hearings in Hunterdon County, where they plan to do the greatest portion of destruction.

Director King stated the County expects to be submitting comments to FERC within the proper guidelines of their comment period, which ends on February 12, 2015. He has asked the County's Planning Services Division to work through the technical issues associated with this issue and the Freeholder Board will be adding comments to that, as appropriate; stating that most of that will be in opposition to the pipeline.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident, questioned the Board regarding the Clucas Farm agreement which is listed on tonight's agenda.

John Davenport, County Purchasing Agent, explained this is a farming agreement, and as part of the Parkland Program the County leases land to farmers to help cut down costs to operate; so Mr. Clucas will be paying the County a fee to farm the property.

Ms. Sachau asked about Item #4 on the Consent Agenda for a collective bargaining agreement with FOP Lodge #29, Hunterdon County Corrections, for 2012, 2013, and 2014; what is the cost of that agreement to the taxpayers.

Director King stated these people are being paid now, and this is the Board agreeing with their contract. The Finance Department would have to look into the question regarding costs.

Ms. Sachau asked the cost of Item #5, on the Consent Agenda for longevity for employees covered under the CWA Supervisory Bargaining agreement.

Director King explained that the Freeholders go into excruciating detail when negotiating contracts and longevity has been an issue the County has been fighting against forever. He does not believe longevity is a functional use of compensation but it has been a part of contracts for a very long time, so the Freeholders have to abide with the contracts and what they outline. The County is committed by law/contract to do this.

Ms. Gavigan informed the Board that she has gone down to County Bridge E-174, in East Amwell Township, near the Ridge Golf Course, and she has talked with various residents about the bridge and they are very happy; the contractor is doing a great job. Ms. Gavigan commended the County and the Public Works Department and the contractor for doing an excellent job on E-174.

POLYTECH

Dr. Kim Metz, Polytech Superintendent invited the Board to Polytech's Open House on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Also, Career and Technical Education month will be celebrated in February, and a proclamation will be placed on the Board's February 03, 2015 agenda.

Dr. Metz advised a subcommittee of the Polytech Board has been working hard over the last two months, to move along the Strategic Plan, which will be presented to the entire Polytech Board on Monday, January 26, 2015 and the Board will decide where it goes from there.

Mr. Walton brought to Dr. Metz's attention that the County has 33 yoga places and Polytech has developed the 34th. He questioned how Polytech justifies using taxpayer funds to create a class that the provide sector is already providing. Polytech is encouraged to develop science, technology, engineering, mathematics and labor courses that will meet the need for the community and get students good paying job opportunities.

Dr. Metz stated Hunterdon County's Educational Services Commission (ESC) used to offer those types of course, hobby type courses and anytime Polytech has an additional or extra space, they would like to utilize that space in order to bring in more people to come and see what Polytech's programs are about. Polytech does not have many hobby type courses, most of the courses are focused on certifications, national credentials and those types of things.

Dr. Metz stated Polytech does not want to compete with businesses but sometimes, someone will ask to offer a program as an adult education class, as has been done for many years. She will bring Freeholder Walton's concern back to the Polytech Board for discussion.

PURCHASING

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #27395, using State Contract #A-83907, for microwave channel bank equipment for Emergency Services, with R.F. Design & Integration, Inc., in the amount of \$43,884.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #27407, using State Contract #A-83900, for base stations/repeaters for Emergency Services, with PMC Associates, in the amount of \$72,734.40.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2014-20, for Bunker Renovations Phase II, at Heron Glen Golf Course, to Turco Golf, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$148,893.02.

Mr. Walton stated this is not why governments were constituted, to subsidize golf for people. Government was constituted to preserve liberty, public safety, and to provide a safety net the least fortunate; not to subsidize golf.

Mr. Walton recalls this Board has had more discussion about contracts of a smaller amount that was more meaningful to government's germane function.

Mr. Walton recalls the idea of having a golf course was sold to the County as a cash cow, with revenue pouring in. The golf course loses money; it generates around \$400,000 a year in positive cash flow and the County gives at least \$400,000 a year in capital for items like sand for traps; golf carts, and maintenance. From a financial standpoint, it makes no sense for the County to have this golf course.

Mr. Walton said each Freeholder has projects they want to see funded; Mr. Holt would like to see a modern transportation system; Ms. Lagay would like to see a robust economic development office with staff and activities; Mr. King would like to see a more robust park systems; Mr. Walton would like to see a Training Academy. Mr. Walton stated that he, Mr. Lanza and the entire Board shares the sentiment that they don't want to increase taxes.

Mr. Walton feels there are choices to be made; the County can spend \$140,000 for sand or the money can be put towards a training center, parkland, towards a transportation system, towards economic development staff but it is being spent on sand in order to subsidize the middle class so they can have a weekend activity.

Mr. Walton stated the County should reconsider what to do with the golf course in moving forward because in tough times, when we are turning away good people for good programs, that help those in need, this makes absolutely no sense.

Mr. Lanza stated before any of the current members of this Freeholder Board got here, there was a referendum which was passed and the public wanted a golf course and they have it. Is the County supposed to not maintain the course and let the greens get overgrown? Since the County has a golf course, it doesn't make sense to let it turn into an overgrown mess or not maintain it; to not care of the golf course is irresponsible. The County is able to get the best prices for these services by having its Purchasing Department get bids for what is needed, which is to maintain the golf course which the voters asked the County to have. The voters of this County determined what the role of government was going to be with regard to this golf course.

Director King advised he and Mr. Walton disagree philosophically with respect to the role of government but he understands Mr. Walton's perspective is. One can ask whether or not the government should be in the golf business and most would say no but the County is in the landlord business because it does not operate the golf course; while it is subsidized with a variety of different types of services. The County has never figured out the balance between the revenues and the amount of expenditures that are necessary in order to support this golf course to the level needed. Director King stated the golf course is the County's responsibility and as such, the Freeholders are to be the shepherds and stewards of this golf course in the best way possible.

Director King feels the golf course holds not only beauty and open space but provides for expansive recreational opportunities for young and old.

Director King advised in 2015, this Board will take a very close look at the finances of the golf course and will be able to have a quantitative discussion as to whether the golf course is breaking even which was the original intent; and also, what is in the best interest of the Hunterdon County residents; and decisions will be made accordingly.

Director King stated the sand bunkers, listed on tonight's agenda, were approved but were never funded properly and they need to be funded. The current sand bunkers at the golf course have been in place for over a dozen years and need work.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.
(NAY) MR. WALTON.**

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 01/20/15-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2014-23, for Home Health Services, to Open Arms Health, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

See Page 01/20/15-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2014-23, for Home Health Services, to Res-Care New Jersey, Inc., d/b/a Res-Care Homecare, in an amount not to exceed \$150,684.

See Page 01/20/15-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2014-23, for Home Health Services, to Visiting Nurse Association of New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. LANZA, MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. WALTON, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2014-24, for Refuse Disposal Services and Recycling Services, for various County owned Buildings, to Premier Disposal, Inc., amount not to exceed \$486,133.60.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2014-28, for One (1) new or unused Multipurpose Excavator, to Hoffman International, Inc., d/b/a Hoffman Equipment Company, in an amount not to exceed \$290,212.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. WALTON, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Quote #0054-2014, for professional consulting services for the implementation of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant, to Tetra Tech, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$139,200.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Modification #1, to County Bid #2008-38, for parkland maintenance for the Cold Brook Preserve, Block 38, Lot 8, in Tewksbury Township, with Clucas Farms, LLC, amount to be collected annually to be \$2,100.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the professional services agreement with David Ciarrocca, CPA, LLC, for fee accounting services for the Housing Division for 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$13,700.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

ROADS and BRIDGES UPDATE

Tom Mathews, Director of Public Works came before the Board to provide and update of various County road and bridge projects.

- In 2014, the County resurfaced approximately 25 miles of County roads; County Bridge F-45 on White Bridge Road and County Bridge T-36-S on Black River Road were replaced. Bridge RQ-179 on Stanton Station Road and Bridge D-300 on Rosemont-Raven Rock Road were rehabilitated. Pennsylvania Avenue was extended to utilize an At-Grade Railroad Crossing and in doing this a bridge was removed from the County's Bridge Inventory (Q-168). Also, in 2014 the County rehabilitated or replaced approximately a dozen structures with in-house personnel; four were stone arches which were rebuilt and preserved.

- In 2015, the County is still constructing Bridge E-174 on County Route 602 in East Amwell Township; the substructure is completed; the concrete is being cured in the cold weather; the stormwater management facilities are still under construction and the detention basin is around 80% done.
- County Bridges K-110/K-111, on County Route 513, is the structure which collapsed; the final plans and specifications were received today and are under review.
- County Route 513 from Frenchtown to Everittstown will be going out to bid this week.
- In-House projects include L-69 on Newport Road, which will be closed for 8 to 10 weeks. The weather is hindering work; currently it is coated in ice.

Mr. Mathews reported that on tonight's Consent Agenda is a New Jersey Jurisdictional Agreement for improvements to Route 31, Section 6: Minneakoning Road to north of Bartles Corner Road, in Raritan Township. There is no impact to the County or changes, as far as the County; it is just a clerical matter to update their files. Mr. Mathews did question the state on this issue when he called them regarding pothole issues in that area.

For Discussion

Mr. Mathews came before the Board to discuss fuel system upgrades and users of those systems. The existing fuel system management system, how the County keeps track of the fuel – permitting and billing of the users is now outdated and it is no longer supported by the company, so it is being upgraded as part of a capital program. With the new system, there will have to be new “keys” handed out to the outside agencies which utilize the fuel system. Currently there are 26 outside agencies using the County's system. The “keys” are now called “Faubs” and will cost \$8 apiece to have made. With the 26 outside agencies, there exists 177 “keys”; so to replace the 177 current keys at \$8 each, it will cost \$1,400.

Mr. Mathews questioned if the County should charge the outside agencies the replacement fee for their key. Currently the County charges a surcharge of \$0.10 a gallon for administrative fees, including bills and permits.

After further discussion, the Board directed Mr. Mathews to pass the charge onto the users of the County's fuel system.

Director King informed Mr. Mathews that Jason Smith, the editor and columnist for the Bridge Hunter's Chronicles, an online column devoted to historic bridges in the United State, Europe and elsewhere, offers up The Othmar H. Ammann Awards which is given out to historic bridges in a variety of categories and Hunterdon County's Rock Raven Bridge has won the award for 2014 in the category of best example of a restored historic bridge. Director King congratulated Mr. Mathews on the County receiving this award.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director King announced: “All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.”

Item #14 was pulled from the agenda at this time.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated January 20, 2015.

See Page 01/20/15-5A

CLAIMS REGISTER

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of November 18, 2014 and December 02, 2014.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 01/20/15-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Amy Henriksen appointed full time, provisional Social Worker Aging, Division of Senior Disability and Veterans Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 01/20/15-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the collective bargaining agreement with F.O.P. Lodge #29, Hunterdon County Corrections, for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

See Page 01/20/15-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving longevity payments for employees covered under the CWA Supervisory bargaining agreement.

See Page 01/20/15-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Quitclaim Deed on Block 34, Lot 2.10, in East Amwell Township, for Benjamin Cahill, as a sight triangle easement is no longer needed by the County.

See Page 01/20/15-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a restricted parking space on the westerly side of County Route 579, (Church Street), in front of #43 Church Street, in Bloomsbury Borough.

See Page 01/20/15-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving plans and specifications for Curb, Sidewalk and Terrace Improvements, at the Library Headquarters and North Branch Library Buildings, in Raritan Township and the Town of Clinton; and authorizing the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.

See Page 01/20/15-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acceptance of a 1996 Pierce Quantum Fire Engine deemed surplus by Robbinsville Township, for consideration of \$1.00.

See Page 01/20/15-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Employment and Reimbursement Agreement with Corey J. Fischer, Sheriff's Officer.

See Page 01/20/15-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Jurisdictional Agreement with the New Jersey Transportation Department, for improvements to Route 31, Section 6: Minneakoning Road to north of Bartles Corner Road, in Raritan Township.

See Page 01/20/15-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for County Bid #2014-01, for the Realignment of Pennsylvania Avenue (County Bridge Q-168), in Raritan Township, to Bob Viersma & Son, Inc., in the amount of \$8,667.84.

See Page 01/20/15-6H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Subordination Agreement with Charles and Lois Anderson, for Block 40, Lot 11, in High Bridge Borough.

See Page 01/20/15-6I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of USI for the County's Health Benefits Services.

See Page 01/20/15-6J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving salaries for employees covered under the CWA bargaining agreement for Rank and File.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Walton moves and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 01/20/15-6K

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Douglas J. Woolever for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 01/20/15-6L

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, David Schwab for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 01/20/15-6M

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Ross Traphagen for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 01/20/15-6N

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Garrett James Alpaugh for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 01/20/15-6O

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Robert John MacDonald for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

GRANTS

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-7A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a municipal alliance subgrant agreement for the Central Hunterdon Alliance, with Delaware Township, in the amount of \$31,844.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-7B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a municipal alliance subgrant agreement for the Delaware Valley Regional Alliance, with Alexandria Township, in the amount of \$20,777.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-7C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a municipal alliance subgrant agreement for the South Hunterdon Regional Alliance, with West Amwell Township, in the amount of \$16,108.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. LANZA, MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. WALTON, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-7D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a municipal alliance subgrant agreement for the North Hunterdon Regional Alliance, with Clinton Township, in the amount of \$27,511.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-7E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving the 2015 County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, in the amount of \$256,000 (\$128,000-state funding and a County Match of \$128,000).

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-7F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving the 2015 State/Community Partnership and Family Court Appropriations Award from the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission, in the amount of \$283,709 (\$132,544-SCP Program funds; \$55,550 in SCP Management Funds; and \$95,615 in Family Court Service Funds).

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. WALTON, MR. KING.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-7G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the agreement with Hunterdon Drug Awareness, Inc., increasing the not-to-exceed figure from \$305,164 to \$305,744, due to an increase in Chapter 51 Grant funds.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 01/20/15-7H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving an application with the New Jersey Council on the Arts for a FY 2016 – FY 2018 Local Arts Staffing Initiative “(LASI)” Grant, for an additional grant funded employee in the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. HOLT, MR. WALTON, MR. KING.

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Lebanon Township Volunteer Fire Department, asking permission to hold a Coin Tosses on Saturday, April 04, 2015; Monday, September 07, 2015 and Friday, November 27, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., at the intersection of Bunnvale Road (County Route 628) and High Bridge-Califon Road (County Route 513). Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

Correspondence was received from The Girls on the Run of Hunterdon, Bucks and Warren Counties, again requesting permission to use the Main Street County Complex parking area, for the placement of port-a-johns and as an overflow area for staging, for their Spring 5K, on Sunday, May 31, 2015, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Ms. Lagay and Mr. Walton seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MS. LAGAY, MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Freeholder Walton reported that he and Director King had a conversation with a constituent about the reports that the Freeholders provide. The content of the reports is usually congratulating someone but this is really an opportunity for the individual Freeholders to provide substantive information to the public about what the Freeholders are doing.

Mr. Walton reported the past couple of weeks have been busy regarding the Fire Service; there were seven calls between January 01, 2015 and January 14, 2015; all were major structure fires. Hunterdon County constantly has high profile incidents and dangerous situations where volunteers go out to protect and serve.

Mr. Walton recognized Brayden Fahey, Hunterdon County's Emergency Management Coordinator who concurred that 2015 has had a rough start.

Mr. Walton advised that the Fire School Training Center Committee held its first meeting and they meet with the architectural firm that will be doing the programming and they will be meeting at the end of the month to meet with all the potential users of the Training Center.

Mr. Walton stated the County's first Budget Committee meeting will be held this week; he and Freeholder Lanza will be meeting with Beth Schermerhorn, Chief Finance Officer; George Wagner, Chief of Staff and various Finance individuals to begin the process of the budget.

Mr. Walton is aware he is harping about spending when it comes to the budget, and the entire Board is very conscious about what is spent but departments should not hesitate to ask for items to keep our employees safe and to provide them with the tools they need to do the job they are assigned to perform. He does not want to have an employee not come home at the end of the day.

Mr. Walton advised all the staff present, please pass along to those not present that if there is something your department/division needs that will make the staff's job easier and protect them and keep them safe; please ask for it in the budget. Whether it is ergonomics in the office or tools for the road crew, the County wants to make sure its employees are safe.

Mr. Holt reported that he and Freeholder Lagay were assigned to begin working on economic development for the County and they had their second meeting this morning and they are beginning to develop a strategy. There will be some content from them and the County's Planning Services Division in the next month to six weeks, on the direction for the County to go in.

Director King thanked the staff present this evening. There is no requirement for some of those present to be here but they attend anyway and he appreciates that.

Director King stated he is very optimistic for 2015 as this Board is very interested in an acute and direct approach to accomplishing issues around the budget. There are finite timelines around the budget that the County is trying to execute. The budget should be effective.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director King opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident, questioned if there has been a study done with regard to gas prices declining, as far as the operations of the County.

Mr. Holt said from a budget standpoint, the County can look into 2015 as the budget is done and project on a 2015 number that will provide some savings but budgets should always be considered in a multi-year strategy and a multi-year strategy is not to ever anticipate that in 2015 \$1.89 is going to be where gas will be two years from now. A more intelligent process would be to take some decrease in terms of what may be seen in terms of need for gasoline and remember what is not spent will return to surplus which can be used in future years.

Ms. Sachau questioned the Board regarding the award of the quote to Tetra Tech with regard to the implementation of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant.

Brayden Fahey, Office of Emergency Management Coordinator explained currently the County has a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan which incorporates 23 of the 26 municipalities in County; three municipalities chose not to participate when the plan was drafted in 2010. As part of the Sandy Recovery Act, the County received a grant for \$200,000 to renew this plan and the plan must be updated every five years and it has to be approved by FEMA and the State before it can be acted on.

Mr. Fahey advised FEMA views mitigation in three different ways, there is pre-disaster mitigation; there is the hazard mitigation grant program that delivers federal funds after a disaster; and there is severe competitive loss. Regardless of which avenue funding is received through, the plan has to be in place; every jurisdiction has to have an approved plan from FEMA in order to qualify for those monies.

Ms. Sachau informed the Board that she supports Freeholder Walton's comments with regard to the golf course and she supports the comment that government should not take business away from private business.

John Anderson, JCP&L Representative, informed the Board that JCP&L will be having its Power Systems Institute Open House on February 03, 2015 at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC). This institute is where JCP&L/First Energy partners with RVCC to run a Line School which is a two year degree in Utility Technology and the students spend part of their time working academically at the college and there is also Line School Data training and then they could become a Lineman, which is for both lines and substation workers.

Mr. Anderson stated JCP&L has a critical facilities database and the Everittstown Garage, South County Garage and Building #1 at the Route 12 County Complex are listed in that database, so they are priority when there is a storm in terms of restoration.

Director King instructed Mr. Anderson to make sure that Dr. Kim Metz, Polytech Superintendent gets a copy of the information regarding the Line School.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident, asked if the Board would consider having a dog park at or near the South County Park. There may be an opportunity to raise private funds to get fencing installed.

Mr. Walton stated there is a dog park just south of Flemington. This is the County's most used park.

Terry Wright, Reporter for the Hunterdon County Democrat questioned the Board about taking photographs during the public meeting.

Director King explained it has been found that the constant taking photographs during the meeting was disrupting. He has had conversation with the entire Board on this matter.

Mr. Walton agreed that having pictures taken during the meeting can be distracting at times.

Mr. Lanza also agreed this is disruptive and the prohibiting of photo taking is not meant to be punitive, the Board is trying to keep the free flow of the meeting going.

Mr. Wright stated his intent is to get good photographs of the Board and that can't be done if one is restricted to where they can sit or stand.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director King adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board