

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Main Street County Complex, Second Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

April 10, 2007

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 10:03 a.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: MR. MULLER, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON.
ABSENT: MR. SWOREN.

Open Public Meetings Act

Director Muller 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 March 28, 2007, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review and The Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

SOUTH BRANCH PARKWAY

Presentation by the NJDOT (New Jersey Department of Transportation)

State Representatives: Mark Stout, NJDOT Assistant Commissioner of Planning, Gary Toth and John Melei, Project Manager.

Mr. Stout stated they were pleased to be here today to provide an update on the work being done cooperatively with the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering and the local communities on the future of Route 31 in this area. He stressed this is a partnership effort.

Mr. Melei explained Route 31 is two separate projects, the Route 31 integrated land use and transportation plan encompasses the triangle of Route 31, 202 and the river; within that is the South Branch Parkway which is the corridor of the old bypass. In order to scale down the bypass to a two lane at grade road instead of a four lane grade parkway, a lot of other improvements need to be done in the area, which is why this is being looked in a broader prospective, not just a parkway itself. This will also represent a substantial savings in terms of construction costs. Mr. Stout explained this will also fit into the rural landscape better as a two lane roadway following the contours of the land as opposed to a four lane freeway with a huge overpass. DOT took this to the public and found out they prefer this solution for Route 31 and it would also provide an at grade solution at the circle. The project will include intersection improvements for Route 31 and East Main Street in Flemington Borough and extra turning lanes on Voorhees Corner Road in Raritan Township. The South Main Street circle will have yields but no light. Everyone coming into the circle will have to yield. The circles will have roundabouts as they tend to be safer. Mr. Melei informed the Board that the state is planning this construction in 2008 and the conceptual design for the Flemington Circle will be a roundabout and its construction is planned for 2009.

Robert Hauck, Mayor, Flemington Borough confirmed with Mr. Stout that this presentation can be set up for the Flemington Planning Board.

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering feels while this is a fix it isn't a total solution but it gives the community service and safety.

Mr. Toth advised New York State has a lot of roundabouts and they are working there.

Mr. Toth feels the South Branch Parkway would not be under construction for about five years.

The Board asked Mr. Total about the alignment for Park Avenue. The County was working with Flemington Borough on the project years ago and it stopped. He asked what the state has planned. Mr. Glynn explained this project is in the County's Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Toth will look into this and get back to Mr. Glynn.

Director Muller thanked everyone for coming today.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 11:11 a.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 3:02 p.m.

Pledge Allegiance

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Muller 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 #30 was removed from the Agenda.

Items # 1, 29, 32 and 40 were held.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 10, 2007.

See Page 04/10/07-2A

CLAIMS REGISTER

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MULLER.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 04/10/07-2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Michael Piretti appointed permanent, full time Correction Officer, Division of Corrections, Department of Public Safety.

See Page 04/10/07-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Benjamin Walck appointed permanent, full time Correction Officer, Division of Corrections, Department of Public Safety.

See Page 04/10/07-2D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Board of Elections.

See Page 04/10/07-2E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Health Department.

See Page 04/10/07-2F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Human Resources Department.

See Page 04/10/07-2G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Human Services Department.

See Page 04/10/07-2H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Library.

See Page 04/10/07-2I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Planning Department.

See Page 04/10/07-2J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Project Management Department.

See Page 04/10/07-2K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Public Safety Department.

See Page 04/10/07-2L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Purchasing Department.

See Page 04/10/07-2M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Roads, Bridges and Engineering Department.

See Page 04/10/07-2N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Tax Board.

See Page 04/10/07-2O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Weights and Measures Department.

See Page 04/10/07-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Finance Department.

See Page 04/10/07-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in County Counsel's Office.

See Page 04/10/07-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Construction Board of Appeals.

See Page 04/10/07-3D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Freeholders' Office.

See Page 04/10/07-3E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Central Printing and Mail Department.

See Page 04/10/07-3F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Buildings and Maintenance Department.

See Page 04/10/07-3G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the County Administrator's Office.

See Page 04/10/07-3H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Information Technology Department.

See Page 04/10/07-3I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Parks and Recreation Department.

See Page 04/10/07-3J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting 2007 salaries for unclassified and/or non-contractual staff in the Rutgers' Cooperative Extension Department.

See Page 04/10/07-3K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving three (3) municipal grant program applications for an allocation of Open Space Trust Funds.

See Page 04/10/07-3L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the installation and operation of a Traffic Control Signal at the Intersection of Bloomsbury Road and Staats Road.

See Page 04/10/07-3M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the release of a Performance Bond to Amorim Construction Co., in the amount of \$1,000.

See Page 04/10/07-3N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the designation of "Through Streets" and "Stop" intersections effecting County Route 625 in Alexandria and Union Townships, and County Route 635 in Bethlehem and Union Townships, and Hampton Borough.

See Page 04/10/07-3O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for Bid #2006-11, for the reconstruction of County Bridge T-61 on Potterstown Road, over the South Branch of the Rockaway Creek, in Tewksbury Township.

See Page 04/10/07-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the State Contract with the Division of Youth and Family Services, increase in day rate for shelter at the Youth Facility, to \$125 per day.

See Page 04/10/07-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #13, for Bid #2005-47, for the addition and alternations to the Communications/Emergency Services Center, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$320,366.44.

See Page 04/10/07-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #6, for Bid #2006-20, for renovations of the Hall of Records and the Southard Building, with Watertrol, Inc., in the amount of \$114,375.44.

See Page 04/10/07-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #10, for alternations and addition to the Route 12 County Garage, with APS Contractor, Inc., in the amount of \$291,662.52.

See Page 04/10/07-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #11, for alternations and addition to the Route 12 County Garage, with APS Contractor, Inc., in the amount of \$225,637.16.

See Page 04/10/07-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the provider service agreement with the North Hunterdon Voorhees Regional High School District, increase of \$10,000.

See Page 04/10/07-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the provider service agreement with the Hunterdon County YMCA, increase of \$10,000.

See Page 04/10/07-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Supporting the renewal of the Garden State Preservation Trust.

See Page 04/10/07-4I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the acceptance of a New Jersey Forest Fire Service Brush Truck, for use by the County.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MULLER.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of March 13, 2007 and the special open session minutes of March 31, 2007.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MULLER.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-4J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement with the New Jersey Institute for Technology, for the construction of the New Jersey Reference Station Program.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MULLER.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-4K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Suzanne Lagay for having served on the Workforce Investment Board.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MULLER.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-5A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing May 21 to 25, 2007 as Bike to Work Week in Hunterdon County.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-5B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing the 135th Anniversary of Arbor Day, as April 27, 2007, in Hunterdon County.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Melick left the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Deed of Easement and Grant Agreement for the Acquisition of Development Easement from Alexandria Township (Stamets), for Block 14, Lot 16, 83.668 acres, (SADC-\$162,255.68, County-\$36,007.36, Township-\$36,007.36), total amount of \$234,270.40.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. PETERSON, MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MULLER.
(ABSENT) MR. MELICK.**

Mr. Melick returned to the meeting.

PURCHASING

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #23436, with Queues Enforth Development, for GIS mapping and control system, for Emergency Services, in the amount of \$52,000.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. PETERSON, MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #23383, using GSA Contract #GS-07F-5843P, with L-3 Communications, for infrared cameras, for the Public Safety Department, in the amount of \$33,867.69.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. HOLT, MR. PETERSON,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.2701, with ESRI, for software maintenance, for the Information Technology Department, in the amount of \$6,400.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. HOLT, MR. PETERSON,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.2704, with ESRI, for software maintenance, for Information Technology, in the amount of \$17,400.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. PETERSON, MR. MELICK, MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #HCJ.46736, with the Hunterdon Medical Center, for medical services, for the Division of Corrections, Public Safety Department, in the amount of \$6,440.25.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON.
(ABSTAIN) MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of Bid #2006-43, for Automated Data Processing Services, for the County Tax Board, to Vital Communications, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$84,000.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. PETERSON,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing an agreement with United Telephone Co. of NJ, d/b/a EMBARQ, to upgrade hardware and software for the 9-1-1 telecommunications equipment at the Emergency Services Center, in the amount of \$364,203.87.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #CC.859, with Card Data Systems, for a Photo ID System, for the County Clerk's Office, in the amount of \$24,610, to be paid for through the Document Fund.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON,
MR. MULLER.**

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering, updated the Board on various County road and bridge projects.

- County Route 615 is currently closed with two culverts being repaired. It should be opened sometime during the last week in April.
- An information session is scheduled for the Pittstown Retaining Wall tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. in the Freeholders' Meeting Room. There is a plan to replace or rehabilitate the wall and money has been placed in the capital budget for the project. There is a plan to bring the driveways down to Route 579, however the driveways are steep. Preliminary discussions have been held with property owners and tomorrow they expect to hear what the final conclusion is on how to service their needs. An alternative would be to repair the upper road, redo/replace the wall.
- The Warren County Freeholders are interested in having a grand opening for InterCounty Bridge L-92-W, to be scheduled for the last week in April.
- Shrub plantings were done on Barley Sheaf Road, and the project is now complete.
- Another public meeting will be scheduled for County Bridge D-345 on Route 523 sometime in May. The project has been scaled back to just the bridge.
- There are 6 structures in Milford that will be evaluated for the impact of County Bridge M-110 near the seafood house. The project is scaled back so that it fits in the existing alignment of the bridge. The information was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office for staff review. The project won't be considered until the summer of 2008.
- The south abutment for the bridge on Union Road in Kingwood Township has been poured and the wings and abutments are up. The second footing will be poured on Thursday and the substructure should be completed in about two weeks.
- County Bridges F-11 and F-12 on County Route 615 are closed, the deck surface has been removed and the slabs should be set next Monday.
- Bids for bridge painting will be received on May 3, 2007.
- Offers have been made for the intersection of River Road and Route 523 and Route 613 and 523. Two of the six property owners have responded and the County will be meeting with them in the field to go over what they are asking for. The right of way acquisitions are going well. Those two intersection projects should be advertised within the next month.
- A meeting is scheduled with Union Township officials and the Department of Transportation concerning Exit 15 at Assistant Commissioner, Mark Stout's Office, on May 03, 2007.
- Friends of the Library will provide \$30,000 for the final landscaping plan cost for the Route 12 Library Headquarters. They are proposing to use blue stone and Freeholder Peterson has some blue stone he would like to donate towards this project. Mr. Glynn was directed to go and look at the blue stone to see what condition it is in and if it is usable.

- The Board was provided a Traffic Data Booklet containing traffic counts throughout the County.
- The annual total costs for construction capital and operations for 2006 was \$10.6 million. Mr. Glynn went through the various projects for the Board.

COUNTY CLERK Update

Mary Melfi, County Clerk, provided the Board with a quarterly report for her office.

- The extended hours in the County Clerk's office started the first Saturday in February. It was so successful an expansion was requested of an additional Saturday and two Thursday nights, which accumulates to 17 additional hours of service to the public.
- During the extended hours, 209 passports have been processed, 174 passport photos have been taken and 19 other various transactions were handled, such as notary, small business registrations and such. The income brought in totaled \$7,300, after taking out the overtime expense and document fund expense.
- Visa/Mastercard started to be accepted on March 01, 2007 and that has been well received by the public. Over \$6,800 has been done in credit card business during March.
- A course, "Searching the Search Room" is scheduled for April 28, 2007 from 9 am to 12 pm in the search room currently located in the historic Court House. Eleven interested parties have signed up for the course.
- The mobile County ID system has been implemented through help from the Purchasing and Information Technology Departments, as well as Freeholder Sworen.
- The My County Poster Contract was held recently, with the theme being "What makes Hunterdon Unique". The awards for the poster winner will be done on April 24, 2007.

Director Muller reported that the awards for the poster contest will be presented in the historic Court House on April 24, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

- The County Clerk's Office has an opening for a part time Senior Clerk Typist; they are looking for a bilingual employee.
- Through the poster contest, Ms. Melfi, has been asked to talk at various schools about the County Clerk's Office.
- Ms. Melfi read letters received in her office from people pleased with the service provided and how it was provided.
- Sample ballots have been mail out and the process of doing absentee ballots continues. People wanting to vote absentee, can do so this Thursday evening in the Clerk's Office until 7:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, April 14, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Melfi requested outside legal counsel, as a newly elected County Clerk, to assist with her in looking at Title 19, as the laws relate to election. She has sent the proposal for John Carbone who is counsel to the Constitutional Officers Association, to County Counsel's Office. Mr. Carbone has an extensive 30 year specialized practice in government and election law. Ms. Melfi would like to have a better understanding of Title 19, and feels it would be beneficial to not just this election but future elections.

Director Muller and Freeholder Melick stepped down from the podium and joined the audience, as both will be on the primary ballot in June.

Ms. Melfi explained she would prefer to have outside counsel on elections for the Clerk's Office because County Counsel serves at the pleasure of the Freeholder Board and she feels that places him in conflict because the Freeholder Board is his employer.

After further discussion, Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Sworen seconded a motion approving an agreement with John Carbone, Esquire, to provide legal services to the County Clerk for the primary election, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON.
(ABSENT) MR. MULLER, MR. MELICK.**

Director Muller and Mr. Melick returned to the meeting.

GRANTS

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the renewal of the Cancer Control Grant, with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in the amount of \$65,000.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. PETERSON, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN.
(ABSTAIN) MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant agreement with the State Department of Community Affairs, for the 2007 Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Grant, #050157-0071.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. PETERSON, MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK,
MR. MULLER.**

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Whitehouse First Aid & Rescue Squad, Inc., for permission to hold a coin toss on Saturday, April 28, 2007 and Saturday, October 6, 2007, between 8 am and 3 p.m. Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. PETERSON, MR. MELICK, MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN,
MR. MULLER.**

Correspondence was received from the High Bridge Fire Department, requesting permission to hold a coin toss on Sunday, May 20, 2007 and Saturday, November 24, 2007, on County Route 513 between Grayrock Road and Arch Street, from 8 am until 3 pm. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK,
MR. MULLER.**

A request was received from the Somerset Wheelmen Bicycling Club, asking for permission to use County roads to conduct individual time trials on Saturday, May 17, 2007 between 7:30 am until 9:30 am. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK,
MR. MULLER.**

FREEHOLDERS ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Six County Coalition Meeting

Mr. Peterson attended the Six County Coalition meeting sponsored by Morris County where they had the utilities present, electric, gas and telephone, talking about the increasing demand and changes they would have to make to meet that demand. Also discussed were different things utility companies do to promote economic development. It seems the larger houses have more electronic equipment so more power needs to be brought into those areas and that has an impact on the landscape.

Skylands

Mr. Holt received correspondence from the Skylands today; there is also a resolution which he will forward to the Freeholder Board later in the week, concerning the new proposed power line transmission systems. Mr. Peterson said New Jersey doesn't produce electricity it is received from outside the state.

Herman E. Kapp Center

Mr. Holt advised a request will be forthcoming from the Hermann E. Kapp Center and he asked that it be forwarded to the County's Division of Senior Health Services, as well as the County Administrator and Human Resources Director for review. He asked that the letter with their demands be reviewed and report back to the Freeholders the costs and the feasibility. Also provide a list of pros and cons and if it would set a precedent.

New Jersey Association of Counties/Voter Registration

Mr. Sworen reported a letter was received from the New Jersey Association of Counties where they researched finding voter registration on various New Jersey and county websites. There were about eight counties that made it very easy for people to find information concerning voter registration and Hunterdon County was one of the eight.

Bank Robbery/Shooting

Mr. Sworen advised last Thursday there was an incident in the County with an attempted bank robbery and the shooting of an F.B.I. Officer. The County's Division of Emergency Management was the first command unit on the scene, with the command bus and the FBI and Somerset County came to the scene about an hour and a half later. Mr. Sworen stated the OEM group worked very well together and with the other units at the scene.

Meeting Relocation

Director Muller confirmed Freeholder Sworen is working on having a Freeholder meeting located in a municipality. Mr. Sworen stated a number of requests have been received and a meeting will be scheduled in Tewksbury Township in the Fall and in the next few months the meeting will be moved to Clinton, and Lambertville City is also requesting the Board to meet in their municipality.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-8A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the executive session minutes of February 27, 2007 and March 31, 2007 and to determine if they should be approved and what portions should be released.

See Page 04/10/07-8B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the executive session minutes of April 11, 2006 and April 25, 2006 to determine which portions can be released.

See Page 04/10/07-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a lawsuit entitled: MicroSystems vs. the County of Hunterdon.

See Page 04/10/07-9B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible modifications to the CWA contract in connection with activities in the County Clerk's Office.

See Page 04/10/07-9C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the possible acquisition of a 20 acre conservation easement along the Plum Brook in Delaware Township.

See Page 04/10/07-9D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the possible acquisition of land in fee simple in Raritan Township.

See Page 04/10/07-9E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss having a Freeholder Committee to discuss facilities planning with Polytech.

See Page 04/10/07-9F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss filling a vacancy on the Hunterdon County Vocational School District Board of Education, known as Polytech.

See Page 04/10/07-9G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss filling a vacancy on the County Planning Board.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MULLER.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:40 p.m., recessed at 5:33 p.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 5:36 p.m.

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Linda Gangi explained the New Jersey Audubon Society is a non-profit organization which is seeking sponsorship on the Skylands Birding and Wildlife Trails Initiative project.

Ms. Gangi advised Hunterdon County will be featured in the next phase of the Skylands' Birding and Wildlife Trails program. Guides have been completed for the Delaware Bay Shore counties and for the Hackensack River Watershed Meadowlands. The guide won the New Jersey Governor's Tourism award a few weeks ago. These guides provide information for people who are looking to be on vacation and have a two to three day driving loop in New Jersey and know where to stay, eat and shop. Currently the guides can be found on the Skylands' website. Skylands' is planning on doing a guide for Sussex, Warren and Hunterdon Counties.

The New Jersey Audubon Society currently has funding for its website, a printed brochure of driving directions and an overall map providing information on where the sites/trails are located. They are in the process of looking for funding for a printed guide and a business brochure. Monies are currently received from the Federal Transportation and Enhancement fund and they will not fund for businesses. The New Jersey Department of Transportation administers the funds from the Federal Transportation and Enhancement fund for the New Jersey Audubon Society.

Ms. Gangi feels it is well worth an intense marketing effort to promote the County's natural resources as eco-tourism destinations. The land has already been preserved and this guide will help market the natural resources and to make them easily accessible to a wider population and it will make nature based tourism a part of the County's economic development plans. New Jersey sits on the Atlantic Flyway causing many opportunities for birding. There are birds coming in and out of the state in both the Spring and the Fall. There are excellent restaurants and Beds and Breakfasts that can be listed in the guide, as well as historical sites.

Mr. Sworen recommended Ms. Gangi contact the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance. Ms. Gangi stated she has contacted a lot of organizations in Hunterdon, Sussex and Warren Counties. She will be talking with Rotary Clubs and small businesses for support in the future and to provide them with this opportunity.

Ms. Gangi left a draft resolution of support with the Board for their consideration at a later meeting, once it has been reviewed. She thanked the Board for its time.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-10A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Supporting the New Jersey Audubon for its project entitled: New Jersey Skylands Birding and Wildlife Trails project.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MULLER.

Polytech/Facilities

Mr. Peterson recommended that two Freeholders be chosen to meet with the Hunterdon Vocational School District Board, known as Polytech, with regard to facilities for Polytech. After further discussion, it was agreed the two liaisons to Polytech, would meet and report back to the Board and that a specific date would be set so that the Board could talk about the options.

Mr. Melick recommended the County Administrator, Mrs. Yard, be involved because there is no one in the County that has put more time into facilities for Polytech, and she has done numerous studies on their courses, including the introductory studies. Freeholder Holt and Sworen stated they would meet with Mrs. Yard and anyone else following their meeting with Polytech. Mr. Peterson explained at this time, he is trying to make Polytech get the work done.

Mr. Holt said the goal is to get Polytech's Committee together with the County's Facilities Committee to examine the buildings currently owned and what the next step is.

Director Muller advised Dr. Leo Klagholtz was hired years ago to prepare a complete overview of the Polytech Organization and curriculum. He feels the report will show that it is desirable to have all vocational education located on one campus. Director Muller recommended Mr. Holt and Mr. Sworen go through the report with Mrs. Yard as she was very involved with the project. The Clerk was directed to pull the report prepared by Leo Klagholtz concerning the vocational school and its facility.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 5:53 p.m., returned to Executive Session at 5:56 p.m. and reconvened in Open session at 7:00 p.m.

FINANCE

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-10B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Budget be read by title only.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. PETERSON, MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. MULLER.

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-10C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider for the Open Space Tax.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. PETERSON, MR. HOLT, MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. MULLER.

Director Muller opened the public hearing for the 2007 County Budget. There being no comments or questions from the press or public, Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to close the public hearing.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. SWOREN, MR. MULLER.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-10D

COUNTY BUDGET

ADOPTION, Approving the 2007 County Budget.

Mr. Melick reiterated his statements made during the introduction of the budget, saying it is inappropriate to spend \$3 million on a clubhouse for the golf course considering the state of affairs with the County's taxpayers. It is not in the best interest of the taxpayers to be competing with private industry who pay taxes. He asked if there is another Freeholder who would agree with him to stop a bond issue. This is an unnecessary expenditure of \$3 million.

Mr. Peterson confirmed the County is not bonding for the clubhouse today; all that is being done is that the capital plan is being approved.

Mr. Peterson said the Freeholders discussion during the capital budget process was that information would be obtained to see if it was cost effective, if it made sense to build, whether it would pay for itself or not and at that time a decision would be made as a Board whether four people felt it was something to do. Mr. Holt agreed saying in order to do that, you have to put

money in the budget. Mr. Peterson continued saying this is something that has to be looked at but no decision has been made yet, except to look into it. His understanding is that this needs to be looked into because the current structure being used at the golf course is not in the best condition and something needs to be done instead of another patch job. Mr. Peterson stated the Freeholder Board needs to decide what will be done and how to go about doing it.

Mr. Peterson confirmed that even though the Board is budgeting the funding, it doesn't mean the funding has to be spent; whether it is for roads and bridges or a golf course. The request needs to come to the Freeholders and it has to be justified. He feels this currently Freeholder Board looks at what is being purchased, asks questions, and debates whether items are needed. This Board has had healthy discussions on purchases and doesn't just approve what the departments ask for. This Board considers the budget and the items the departments ask for.

Mr. Peterson advised the Freeholders went through the County's budget line by line this year and asked questions of the departments. He feels that is going to be the budget process in the coming years also. There is no one on this Board that wants to place the County in debt unnecessarily and if the County does go into debt, its going to have to be for a very good reason, and its going to have to be justified for him to vote for it.

Mr. Melick asked Charles Balogh, Jr., County Treasurer the next step. Mr. Balogh stated once the budget is adopted there will be requests from the departments to have ordinances prepared for the capital projects.

Mr. Holt said the department is not going to request a clubhouse until it has been looked at, reviewed, numbers studied, projection on revenue prepared, and at some point, if the numbers work out, the department may submit a request.

Mr. Melick said there were plans here earlier and the County architect was asked to spend some time on the clubhouse and cost estimates were prepared. Mr. Holt explained those were the original set of plans for the clubhouse and confirmed that a few of the Freeholders want to take a look at what was done. He stated funds have to be put into the budget to make the project move forward. No one can predict once this is looked into whether there will be a clubhouse or two more trailers to replace the existing ones; plus restroom facilities. Right now the trailers at the golf course need to have something done with them. Mr. Sworen concurred with both statements.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. PETERSON, MR. MULLER.
(NAYS) MR. MELICK.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-11A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving the amount to be raised by taxation for the County's Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK,
MR. MULLER.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/10/07-11B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving the amount to be raised by taxation for support of the Operating Budget for the County Library.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON.
MR. MULLER.**

Questions answered for the press regarding the budget.

Mr. Melick noted for the record that this is the first Hunterdon County Budget that has been approved with a "AAA" credit rating.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders returned to Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:22 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Muller adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board

Held until 4/24/07

40. RESOLUTION - Approving a modification to the provider service agreement with Hunterdon Behavioral Health, increase of \$414,037.