

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

December 11, 2007

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 3:06 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

CONVENE

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 January 02, 2008, 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."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 12/11/07-1A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a possible purchase of property in Lebanon Township.

See Page 12/11/07-1B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a right of way acquisition for the County Route 517/523 Intersection in Tewksbury Township.

See Page 12/11/07-1C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues which have arise concerning the Urbach property in Raritan Township.

See Page 12/11/07-1D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues with the preparation for the final resolution for the contribution towards an acquisition in Union Township.

See Page 12/11/07-1E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss staffing changes in the Health Department.

See Page 12/11/07-1F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an appointment to the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition.

See Page 12/11/07-1G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss issues related to personnel in the Sheriff's Office.

See Page 12/11/07-1H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the release/redaction of various executive session minutes of September 24, 2007, September 25, 2007, August 14, 2007 and December 2005.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 3:12 p.m., recessed at 5:06 p.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 5:11 p.m.

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

COUNTY COUNSEL

Director Muller informed the public that Gaetano M. DeSapio, County Counsel had invited William Schleicher, who has requested an easement across the Columbia Trail to today's meeting but this individual has a new attorney representing him and this item will be tabled until Counsel places it back on the agenda at a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

"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."

Items numbered 1, 36, 37 and 38 were held at this time. The minutes will be held until the December 27, 2007 meeting for consideration.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion approving the payment of all claims as listed on the Claims Register dated December 11, 2007.

See Page 12/11/07-2A

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 12/11/07 – 2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Virginia Travis appointed permanent, full time Senior Clerk Transcriber, Superintendent of Schools Office.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Skye Eckard appointed permanent, full time Senior Clerk Transcriber, Division of Social Services, Department of Human Services.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Danielle Pervy appointed permanent, full time Senior Clerk Transcriber, Department of Human Services.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jeaneen Vega appointed permanent, full time Paralegal Specialist, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Caryelle Lasher appointed permanent, full time REHS Trainee, Health Department.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Mark Bishop appointed permanent, full time Deputy County Emergency management Coordinator, Department of Public Safety.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Gail Bowen appointed provisional, full time Principal Docket Clerk, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Kevin Gonzales appointed provisional, full time Road Repairer, for the Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Ryan Belcastro appointed provision, full time Correction Officer, Division of Corrections, Department of Public Safety.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Corey Garrabrant appointed provisional, full time Correction Officer, Division of Corrections, Department of Public Safety.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Kathryn Siti appointed temporary, as needed Student Assistant, Library.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Marie McGill appointed temporary, as needed Student Assistant, Library.

See Page 12/11/07 – 2M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Todd Woerner appointed temporary, as needed Intern, Health Department.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Robert Ent, Jr., Supervising Engineering Aide, Roads, Bridges and Engineer, leave of absence without pay.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Renee Raffino, SANE/SART Coordinator, Prosecutor's Office, salary increase, in accordance with the grant.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Application for Payment #20, for Bid #2005-29, Alterations and Addition to the Route 12 County Garage with APS Contractor, Inc., in the amount of \$121,040.74.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Application for Payment #3, for Bid #2006-30, Alterations to the County Arboretum/Greenhouse, with Charles Mann General Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$50,902.76.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Application for Payment #4, for Bid #2006-30, Alterations to the County Arboretum/Greenhouse, with Charles Mann General Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$23,729.58.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Application for Payment #5, for Bid #2006-30, Alterations to the County Arboretum/Greenhouse, with Charles Mann General Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$11,622.06.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Application for Payment #21, for Bid #2005-47, Addition and Alteration to the Communications/Emergency Management Center, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$67,655.19.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Application for Payment #4, for Bid #2006-31, Alterations to the Deer Path Park Restrooms, with Hahr Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$40,200.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, Final, for Bid #2006-34, for Resurfacing of County Route 617, in Franklin Township, with Owl Contracting, Inc., decrease of \$360,912.42.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing Final Payment for Bid #2006-50, for the Replacement of County Bridge H-1, on Route 519, in Holland Township, with Flanagan's Contracting Group, Inc., in the amount of \$87,570.82.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, Final, for Bid #2007-20, for Demolition of various structures throughout three County Parks, with SCC Contractors, LLC, increase of \$16,120.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, Final, for Bid #2007-21, for the 2007 Resurfacing and Surface Treatment of various County roads, with Mannon Excavating & Paving Co., Inc., increase of \$33,851.77.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing Final Payment for Bid #2007-21, for the 2007 Resurfacing and Surface Treatment of various County roads, with Mannon Excavating & paving Co., Inc., in the amount of \$88,248.31.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing Final Payment for Bid #2007-30, for the Tree Removal project on County Route 523, in Readington Township, with Andy Matt, Inc., in the amount of \$79,612.03.

See Page 12/11/07 – 3O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving various County professionals be authorizing to sign documents for the Department of Human Services.

See Page 12/11/07 – 4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance.

See Page 12/11/07 – 4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing no stopping or standing of a vehicle along either side of Route 579 (Church Street) in Bloomsbury Borough, when 2 or more inches of frozen precipitation shall fall.

See Page 12/11/07 – 4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving subject to County Counsel review, an award of an RFP to USA Architects for programming, design and cost estimating, as part of the 2008 PARIS funding, of the Records Center addition and renovations, in the amount not to exceed \$42,000.

See Page 12/11/07 – 4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving, upon the recommendation of the County Risk Management Committee, the County's Risk Manual.

See Page 12/11/07 – 4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving, upon the recommendation of the Shade Tree Commission, the Forestry Management Plan.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving, upon the recommendation of the Hunterdon County Planning Board, the amended Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan, as the Master Plan for the County.

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

Mr. Holt commended the Planning Board saying it took four years to put the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan together. The Planning Board staff did a great job.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 12/11/07 – 4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Opposing Assembly Bill 4393 and Senate Bill 2878 that would require governments requesting bids for construction projects to publish their projected cost estimate range for each proposed project, would mandate that each published cost estimate range be "arrested" to by the individual or firm preparing the bid advertisement, and would restrict the ability of county governments to reject bids.

See Page 12/11/07 – 4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Opposing Assembly Bill 4384 and Senate Bill 2955 that would require every construction contract entered into pursuant the "Local Public Contracts Law" to contain a provision for renegotiation upon the fluctuation of the price of a key construction material.

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

RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 12/11/07 – 4I

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Delaware Valley High School's Golden Regiment Marching Band, on taking 1st Place at the Central Jersey Regional Competition and the New Jersey Group IIA State Championships, and 3rd Place at the Northern States Championships.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 12/11/07 – 4J

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Richard Adesso for having attained the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 12/11/07 – 5A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Christopher Edmund for having attained the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 12/11/07 – 5B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing mark Johnson for having attained the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 12/11/07 – 5C

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Andrew Scheffler for having attained the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

COUNTY update

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator informed the Board, she has no report this evening.

FINANCE

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the budget for the HIV Counseling & Testing program, in the amount of \$44,850.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the budget for the State Health Services Grant, in the amount of \$420,661.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the budget for the New Jersey Historical Commission, in the amount of \$20,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the budget for the Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Task Force Grant, in the amount of \$124,163.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the cancellation of a grant receivable in the amount of \$23,406 and a grant reserve in the amount of \$24,506, under the 2006 County Comprehensive Alcoholism Program.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Bond Ordinance No. 16-07, authorizing the acquisition of real property for open space and park and recreation purposes, in the amount of \$5,300,000.

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

John W. Beckley, Health Director, provided an update to the Board on various projects at the request of Freeholder Holt.

- 8,201 mosquitoes were tested by the County's Mosquito and Vector Control program. They were placed into different pools and nine of those pools tested positive for West Nile Virus. This indicates the West Nile Virus is active in birds in the County. Mr. Beckley confirmed for the Board that there were no human cases nor any horse cases this year. Mosquitoes are looked at because there are emerging new species. He explained the breeding science of the mosquito.
- The Vector Control Unit is also working on the bed bug situation in the County.
- 16 new mothers have enrolled in the pregnancy control outcome program, through the Public Health Nursing program, in the last three months.
- 2 active cases of Tuberculosis have been reported this quarter.
- 5 public vaccination clinics have been held and concluded. Over 2000 doses of flu vaccine have been given out to County residents.
- 48 more low income children have been referred into the County's Dental program. Since 1948 the County of Hunterdon has been supporting a Dental program and it is the oldest public health program in the County. Funding for this program in September Of 2007 and next year the Health Department will be asking for additional funding.
- The Public Health Preparedness Division completed two large drills, the first was "Operation First Things First" and it was a test to see whether it was possible to get emergency medications to all police, fire, rescue and other first responders. There were 28 participating agencies and of those agencies, 16 municipalities were involved in the drill, as well as 6 County Departments and 3 state agencies, the Hunterdon Medical Center, the Flemington Department Store, and over 4,000 simulated doses were provided. The other drill, "the MVP" (the medical reserve core vaccinating the public). The MVP was a pilot for the State of New Jersey, and the state was very involved in setting the drill up and there were 41 MRC volunteers who attended the draining and 22 of them assisted in vaccinating at the Flu Clinics, with the Public Health Nurses.
- A milestone was achieved in building the Medical Surge Capacity. When the HMC has no more room for patients there has to be an alternate site created and supported and with the help of the County's Public Safety Director, George Wagner, the use of the County Jail and the Department of Buildings and Maintenance, space was secured in the Jail basement and delivery was received of medical supplies to supply a Physician and Nurse would need to provide services for 25 patients for 3-4 days.
- The Health Department has received many calls concerning MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) which is a very tough infection that can be life threatening in certain instances, since it was reported that a child died in New York from this.
- The Environmental Health Division has completed its first school laboratory inspections on some of the High Schools and Middle Schools. This was not enforcement but a cooperation inspection which the State Department of Environmental Protected asked be done. Old chemicals were found stored in the school labs that there was no need for. There were two discoveries of chemicals that were potentially explosive and the DEP was called in to contain the material and remove it.
- The State Health Department cooperating with the State Department of Agriculture put out a new statewide farm market Food Safety Requirement document. This is the end result of the issue the County had with the Sergeantsville Farmers' Market doing things that was beyond what was allowable.
- The County Health Department is going to receive \$1000 from DEP to purchase Radon Kits and give them away for free.
- The County has been very supportive of the Tire Clean Up program and out of 270 sites Hunterdon is down to 5 remaining sites. Over 12,000 tires have been removed from the County as part of this program.

PURCHASING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #CountyClerk.945, with Progress Printing Company, for the general election ballots, for the County Clerk's Office, in the amount of \$59,248.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #HCJ.46949, with the New Jersey Fire Equipment Company, for air packs, for the Division of Corrections, Public Safety Dept., amount of \$13,352.40.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #I.T.2853, with Eplus Technology, for networking equipment for Information Technology, in the amount of \$57,832.32.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the rejection of two bid packages, for Bid #2007-49, to furnish and deliver one (1) 2008 Sterling Acterra c/a Chassis with a Vulcan 12 Series 21' steel car carrier roll back body and associated equipment, from East Penn Carrier & Wrecker Sales (Bid "A") and Schwartz Chrysler Mazda.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 7C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of Bid #2007-49, to furnish and deliver one (1) 2008 Sterling Acterra c/a Chassis with a Vulcan 12 Series 21' steel car carrier roll back body and associated equipment, to East Penn Carrier & Wrecker Sales, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$72,754.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

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

- There are at least four more days of surface coursing on County Route 615. If the weather remains good the project should be done by Christmas.
- A new wall design is being worked on for the retaining wall in Pittstown.
- Authorization has been received from the property owner in East Amwell Township to acquire the necessary site easement to improvement the intersection at Van Lieu's Road and County Route 514. This will be the state aid project for 2008.
- County Bridge D-437 on Dunkard Church Road is substantially complete, it opened last Friday. Punch list items and final closeout items are being worked on.
- A meeting is being held tomorrow on County Bridge D-345, in the Sand Brook area of Delaware Township, with the utility companies to layout the utility poles.
- The final plans have been received and reviewed for County Bridge M-110 in Milford Borough and they have been sent back for revisions.
- A meeting was held with Green Acres and Fish and Game on InterCounty Bridge B-26-W to get a temporary easement in order to complete the project.
- The County is working with Raritan Township and the Developer in order to find an alternative to reconstructing the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge.
- Mercer County has executed Hunterdon's agreement concerning County Bridge E-141M and E-142M but Hunterdon has not received it yet.
- Additional comments have been received concerning County Bridge A-39 on Mount Salem Road, on the historical cultural resources report. It is felt that the County can make the changes and provide the additional information requested to justify the project.
- Funding in the amount of \$200,000 has been received for the Mount Joy Bridge from the State Department of Transportation. The County is waiting to receive the executed agreement back from Warren County.
- County Bridge R-99 will be done in-house the Spring of 2008. A contract will be needed for the supply of the material.
- A meeting will be held with White Marsh on the canopy and fueling dispensing for the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Glynn did not like the results provided by the first supplier. This is the fueling system for the Arboretum.
- A construction schedule has not been received yet for the Route 623/612 Intersection.
- Negotiations are ongoing for the County Route 523 Intersection. Settlements have been received for 3 of the 8 properties. A stakeout has been done for the utilities where the foundations will be and the utility pole relocation should be worked out within 3 weeks.
- A public information meeting for County Bridge RQ-179, will be held at the Route 12 County Complex, on December 12, 2007, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Money was received from the NJTPA for this project. The plan is to bring the bridge up to 15 tons to allow for school bus operations.

Mr. Glynn informed the Board a call was received today from the Township of Raritan as they lost an engine in one of their Leaf Vacuum Machines. The Board directed Mr. Glynn to obtain the necessary insurances and agreements to loan Raritan Township the County's machine. Mr. Sworen confirmed this is an emergency request from a municipality. Mrs. Yard stated this was discussed by the Board previously and there are guidelines that apply to this type of situation, so that Mr. Glynn can get this accomplished.

Mr. Glynn explained at the request of Freeholder Sworen the numbers for the County's bridges and how they were assigned originally in 1942 by Cliff Apgar, after an inventory of the County's bridges. Mr. Glynn also noted there is a map showing the County's 260 plus bridges and stated the 1800 drainage structures are also on the map.

GRANTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07 – 8A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract with the State Department of Human Services, to administer non-service related aspects of the Personal Assistance Services Program, in the amount of \$33,300.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from the Garden State Underwater Recovery Unit, requesting to hold a Coin Toss on Saturday, December 15, 2007, from 8 am until 3 pm, at the intersection of Route 519 and Bridge Street in Milford, New Jersey. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed the Asset Monetization resolution which was brought before the Board several meetings ago. Mr. Sworen advised he and Freeholder Holt prepared a resolution which strongly opposes selling the state's assets of roads and bridges. Their resolution provides guidance for the state to raise money without raising tolls or selling roads.

Mr. Peterson stated he also drafted a resolution for the Board's consideration. He thinks the real issue is spending and not revenue. Also the state seems to be keeping the Asset Monetization Plan a secret because counties do not know all the details or discussions yet. The last article he read in the Star Ledger said this would be creating another government entity which will have bonding authority. He feels this is a way to circumvent the Constitutional requirement that any bonding receive public approval. He can't support this and believes Hunterdon County should just say it is against the Asset Monetization plan and recommend the state look at spending, not raising revenue, the sales tax or various fees. The state has already raised the tolls on the turnpike which is going to cause truck traffic to increase and it is heavy already. The 202/31 circle is currently difficult to maneuver. He asked the Board to move forward his resolution for consideration.

Mr. Sworen stated the Board was asked to come up with a revision to the original resolution to better address the issues, because the resolution presented in the past (the original resolution and the resolution Freeholder Peterson presented at the last meeting), addressed issues that are not on paper nor have they been discussed, they do not exist. The issues do not exist with the discussions he has had with the Governor, the state leadership or other members of the Assembly and Senate.

Mr. Sworen advised he drafted a resolution against monetization on the fact that the state should not sell or lease the toll roads; the state should have decent toll roads. The state should not raise the tolls either. This resolution clearly speaks to the issues of cost in Hunterdon County. Since the state is looking for money to pay down the state debt, which is increasing by \$3 billion next year, he feels positive suggestions are needed on way to raise money to pay down the debt so there will be less debt service to pay. If you go through the facts of the issues, the Garden State Parkway has not raised its toll in 50 years and the legislature doesn't want to vote a toll increase on the Garden State Parkway because the people who commute on that road, everyday would vote them out of office. Mr. Sworen stated he's personally testified in front of the Senate and Assembly budget committees, about 8 times on those issues and he's testified in front of the Finance Committee of the Legislature on those issues.

Mr. Sworen said the issue is not asset monetization but that the state has spent too much money, more than it had, and it continually spends. In the past 30 years the state has gone against the constitution to borrow money on a number of occasions. If the County is going to address that issue and have an opinion on this issue, he would suggest the County do that but if we are going to talk about monetization, the resolution he's recommended is very clear about what we know about monetization today and gives a solution to it.

Mr. Melick thinks it would be disastrous for the state to sell its assets because the State of New Jersey and even Hunterdon County has not learned its lesson, everyone one who gets elected to anything, all they want to do is spend money. Just look at the school problems for an example. Mr. Melick would support Mr. Peterson's resolution which says not to vote for the asset monetization because while debt might be paid off but within 5 years, the state will incur that debt back.

Mr. Sworen questioned if Mr. Melick has read his version of the resolution because that it what his says also.

Mr. Peterson explained monetization is a result of a structural budget deficit and that is why this issue has come up. Monetization makes the problem go away for a little while, but then it comes back; it isn't a cure. The Republican legislatures have put forth over \$2 billion in budget cuts that could be made which would get the state a lot closer to the \$3 billion deficit than the Governor's plan will. The Governor's plan claims to reduce the debt by 50% but then a Transportation Trust Fund will be done; there will be preschool for every child in the state of a certain age, or more; and it goes on. If you give more money to the legislature they will spend it. When the bond issues came up before the legislature about stem cell research, it went from one stem cell research location to five, and the voters voted that down. Everyone saw there was going to be a pot of money and everyone wanted their share, for their part of the state. That is what will happen here, money will be freed up and it won't get spent on reducing the debt. Since the Governor gave his speech at the New Jersey League of Municipalities conference, he has since come out that he wants to have a new agency created which would increase the tolls but they would take the debt and the toll increase would pay the debt that, that agency would issue. It's like some counties have an improvement authority where they circumvent bonding at the Freeholder level by having an Improvement Authority do the bonding backed by the County and the County's rating. This is a way to get around what the state could not do back in November, which was to get the public to support this legislature and the Governor spending more money by bonding. This Board needs to be clear and not talk about spending more money on roads. He agreed there are bridges and highways that need to be repaired but the gas tax is supposed to do that. The state needs to understand there isn't an unlimited supply of money for them to spend; they need to stay within the budget. He feels this is a new way of getting money and is opposed to the idea. He suggests the Board adopt the resolution he drafted.

Mr. Sworen stated the Board discussed this resolution and for the Board to oppose a change and he and Mr. Holt did draft such a resolution. In speaking with Senator Lance last week about this the Senator advised them to not put forward a resolution until the state has a better understanding of what asset monetization is because no one seems to be able to define it.

Mr. Peterson said Senator Lance is on the record against monetization. He was on the record a few months ago and he was on the record back in February 2007, and recently he read in the newspaper that Senator Lance is against asset monetization. Mr. Sworen agreed stating the Senator recommended the County wait.

Mr. Peterson is ready to go forward stating the County needs to be strong about this because this is more than just an increase in the truck traffic that will occur on Route 202 and Route 31 because the state is looking to raise the tolls on the turnpike and the parkway. His resolution is about reducing the spending. Mr. Sworen asked where the resolution says that because the resolution he has in front of him and it does not use the word spending once. He asked Mr. Peterson if he read his resolution. Mr. Peterson stated he has. Mr. Sworen stated his resolution covers all the pertinent issues discussed and gives a positive solution on how the state can do this without hurting all the residents. Mr. Peterson stated he said they should not monetize but economize. The theme of his resolution says that the state has attempted to raise revenue and it hasn't worked; instead of reducing the growth of state government and reducing spending. He will place in the resolution at the end, that the state should reduce spending. He will be glad to add that.

Mr. Holt recommended combining the drafted resolutions, so it addresses spending, economizing the state budget, and tolls. Mr. Peterson stated he can't support a resolution that would say creative new funds to raise additional funds, he's against raising taxes. Mr. Sworen suggested they sit down to come up with a resolution that specifically addresses that.

Mr. Sworen said the state is spending money in inappropriate places. They are taking money from the Transportation Trust Fund and using it to fund things that were never intended to be funded through the Trust Fund. Whatever the gas tax is, it should be spent for road repairs but the state changed that and only approved that a certain amount of the gas tax would be constitutionally dedicated to the roads and any increase in the gas tax can be used for what the state wants. The problem is the spending by the state and the lack of courage to say no.

Director Muller advised there are two resolutions before him and he knows that there are two votes for each resolution; so he would have to be the tie breaker. Director Muller informed the Board that he is going to abstain from voting on this issue because he feels this is a very important item to address but there isn't a uniform consensus on this Board and he feels that a split vote on such a matter is detrimental. Until there can be a consensus between the two parties that will bring forth a five member vote from this Board, then you will get his vote.

Mr. Peterson appealed to Director Muller saying the Board has had this discussion before and this Board has gotten no closer to what you are suggesting. He feels this Board should come to a decision.

Director Muller said he would consider two separate resolutions, taking Mr. Peterson's first.

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, to approve a resolution opposing asset monetization from the state.

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

Mr. Holt suggested that either these two resolutions are merged together to create one document or the two issues should be separated, so we considered just monetization and the other being the state budget. He would support either merging the resolutions or voting on two separate resolutions.

Director Muller asked the Board to make a decision and bring this back to the Board at the next meeting.

County Ethics Policy

Mr. DeSapio stated a month ago Freeholder Sworen asked about an Ethics Policy. About a year and a half ago, the then Freeholder Board adopted a County Ethics Policy which required the Freeholders to recuse themselves from participating in any vote or discussion in connection with an issue that was recommended to the Board by a County board or committee on which a family member sat. Freeholder Melick has been recusing himself under that policy for awhile because his son is on the County's Agriculture Development Board (CADB).

Mr. Sworen feels when the policy first came about it seems to only address two Freeholders at that time. His concern and comment, is that even though he and Mr. Melick don't always agree on issues, he is a member of the Freeholder Board and he's the only farmer on this Board. Mr. Melick is the only person on this Board who has a depth of knowledge on farming, farmland and farming practices, the value of farmland, and much more. Mr. Melick has farmed for a long time, as has his family and his sons have taken that further and they have developed businesses which are very successful. Because of their success and knowledge the Melick's serve on the CADB another board, which according to this policy automatically excludes Mr. Melick from any discussion on farmland. Mr. Sworen stated that Mr. Melick is this Board's most valuable resource on farmland. He asked if this policy could be amended somehow to allow him to participate in discussions concerning farmland. Mr. Melick's input is very important to this Board on farmland. Mr. Sworen feels Mr. Melick is not ethically or morally challenged, if there is an issue where a family member owned a piece of property or a neighbor did, he would recuse himself from any discussion. That is more than sufficient to cover any portion of the ethic's concerns or the ethic's law because Mr. Melick would do that automatically. There is farmland all over the County that Mr. Melick has no interest in but because his son(s) serves on a board, he can't talk about it. That is a disservice to the people of this County. Mr. Sworen would like to see Freeholder Melick a part of the discussion.

Mr. DeSapio advised that provision is not required by state law, the Freeholders were permitted to add that and this Freeholder Board could eliminate

Mr. Melick explained he thinks it would be a mistake to remove that provision from the County's Ethics Policy. It would be taking a step backwards because this isn't only about his position regarding farmland. The CADB does a very good job, and there are farmers on that board. This is about relationships with people and there are other issues that will come up, from time to time, in governmental discussions on the Board that it will be very important not to have families or people with relationships on two boards, this is more than farmland. To take this provision away would be a step backwards.

Mr. Holt stated in County Counsel's memorandum of November 27, 2007, on the County's Ethics Policy, on page two, there is a paragraph that says that the language will not always prohibit a freeholder from voting on a recommendation from a subsidiary or related County board simply because the board or commission contains a family member. A freeholder would only be precluded if the circumstances disclosed a financial or personal interest. Mr. DeSapio explained the paragraph refers to the state statute in the previous paragraph. Mr. DeSapio advised he was saying that the state statute does not require what is in the County Freeholders' Ethics Policy. You can take what is in the County's policy out and still be legal.

Mr. Peterson agreed with Mr. Melick to keep the County's standard, as it is currently. If the Freeholders needed any information, there is another way to obtain it. Mr. Sworen feels that this policy is only directed at one Freeholder. Mr. Melick stated that in the future it might not be.

Mr. Melick said the CADB is very thorough in their discussions and they are very forthright in their opinions of what is farmland or not. Mr. Melick did not think he could improve on their opinions.

Mr. Sworen feels Mr. Melick's opinions would be valuable but since there is no urgency to change the policy, he will drop the subject.

FREEHOLDER REPORTS

211 Call Center

Mr. Holt confirmed the Board has reviewed the email that came in on December 05, 2007, with reference to the 211 Call Center survey by Hunterdon Helpline. Mrs. Yard confirmed she did answer the survey and sent a letter also, as they requested. Mrs. Yard advised Hunterdon Helpline is supported through Human Services RFP process so she sent this to the County Department of Human Services.

NJAC Membership

Mr. Holt stated there was some debate earlier this year concerning membership to the New Jersey Association of Counties, (NJAC). As an alternate liaison to NJAC, he has attended meeting and they are a tremendous asset base to the counties and Hunterdon should be utilizing them and taking advantage of what they offer. NJAC is able to do a lot of opinion generation at a very low cost to the County and they have a very strong voice in Trenton, with respect to all 21 counties. He would continue to support membership in NJAC.

Recycling

Mr. Sworen advised he and Mr. Holt met with Alan Johnson, concerning Solid Waste/Recycling, and they brought the Health Director in on some of the ideas on how to do some of the recycling at no cost to anyone. Part of the discussion was to change the existing plan to move into the future, giving the County more time to react to certain parts of the plan; setting the deadlines further out instead of close because some of Hunterdon's communities do not have any real recycling plans. The discussion was to talk about how to better get the businesses involved in the recycling process and making better recommendations to people on how to do that.

Mr. Peterson stated he read that Morris County's recycling profit comes from mostly apartment complexes and businesses. It isn't easy to recycle as a business and Mr. Peterson's feels the hauler should provide a recycling outlet. He feels that businesses are a big resource for recyclables. Mr. Peterson feels there is no encouragement for businesses or apartment complexes to recycle in the plan. Mr. Sworen agreed that is part of the issue.

Mr. Sworen advised out of 26 municipalities there are around 12 communities that do not have any requirements for haulers to do recycling. The recycling plan needs to be revised because the new recycling plan would require a business to recycle and haulers. A plan needs to be developed to get the recycling done county-wide.

Mr. Sworen stated discussed at the meeting was when the Health Department does their annual inspections, they will have a flyer, with a mail back portion, that has information on recycling. Mr. Peterson said if the County wants to see recycling done it could give a tax break for recycling. Mr. Sworen stated recycling does cost money. It is interesting the recycling numbers you see from the state shows that Hunterdon is not doing so well. The people at the County level do not know where the state is getting its figures. The County isn't allowed to include in those numbers the recycling of asphalt, concrete or building materials in order to achieve the 50% recycling numbers. However, in urban areas the recycling of concrete, building materials and asphalt are counted in their residential numbers.

Mr. Sworen said this is still in the initial discussion and he is working with Mr. Johnson to get a plan prepared so everyone is recycling but at a rate they can afford to or reasonably be able to recycle without a great cost to the individual taxpayers.

Mr. Holt feels the entire plan will be a multi-level plan that can work with numbers that are attainable, with municipalities putting ordinances in place and a structure be put into place because without that you can't build a recycling program in this County that will succeed. Whatever plan that is finally adopted, this entire Board must be behind it.

Mr. Melick stated at the last meeting Mr. Sworen made a statement that Somerset County paid \$2 million. Mr. Sworen advised it was in their business awards brochure last year. Mr. Melick advised when you figure all the costs up, it costs more like \$4 million to make the \$2 million because you need to figure in all the trucks, the capital accounts, personnel, the fuel oil and other items. Somerset might have some people involved from some agencies helping them out but they have a big payroll for recycling. Mr. Sworen agreed saying recycling costs. His municipal costs are over \$12,000 a year for recycling. It costs Frenchtown Borough to recycle but the money they spend saves them around \$25,000 to \$30,000 in tipping fees and recycling is the right thing to do.

Mr. Melick explained the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority adopted their budget today and the County will get some money back from recycling but it isn't much.

Mr. Holt said the issue is that the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is saying that every County in the state is responsible to institute a recycling program that increases the tonnage by a certain percentage and in Hunterdon that is 50%. When Hunterdon puts forth a plan, it should have some possible way for the County to succeeding.

Emergency Services/911 Center

Mr. Sworen reported to the Board on a meeting last week with the architect for the Emergency Services Renovations/Addition. Frank Bell, AIA, County Project Administrator, should be recognized for taking the County's interest to heart against an architect who wants to know why he isn't getting paid, instead of solving the problems with the Emergency Services Center. There was no heat at the Center last week because of delays in the project the heating system that was supposed to be hooked up for the main building wasn't hook up. When this was discovered at 10:30 pm, the County's Buildings and Maintenance Director, Pete Maddalena, went and purchased from Wal-Mart some oil heating units so that the people working through the night could do their jobs. Mr. Maddalena put in a temporary system to pump hot air and air circulation into the building. Work to do the pipe and install the new unit will displace people in two offices for a short time, and that will be done next week.

Open Road

Director Muller recognized Bob Leed, from OPEN Road (Religious Organizations Accepting Disabilities).

Mr. Leed was glad to see the OPEN Road proposal on the Board's last agenda and asked why it was tabled.

County Counsel DeSapio explained the proposal was reviewed and it has to be restructured a little to meet the legal test before the Board can do this. A meeting took place this morning with Human Services representatives to discuss this and the Human Services Administrator is putting together an outline of how this could work, which she will share with the Freeholder Board at the

next meeting, so the Board can make a decision. Mr. DeSapio stated he would be glad to share that with Mr. Leeds ahead of time, so this can be discussed at the next meeting.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:20 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

Director Muller recognized Adam Duckworth and Maria Naccarato, of Lebanon Township.

Mr. Duckworth explained he and his wife are here tonight to request permission to install a small portion of their septic system within the County right of way. When they purchased the house they were aware there was a failing septic system and the sellers previously had a 2 bedroom plan approved by the County Health Department and at the time they talked to a septic engineer and looked at the existing approved plan and there was plenty of room for a 3 bedroom system. They purchased the house because there could be a 3 bedroom residence and they redesigned the septic and the County Health Department also approved the plan. When the survey staked out the marks for the excavator he mentioned that it seems too close to the road and he thought it would be in the County right of way. On the original plan received from the sellers and the plan resubmitted, the right of way was listed incorrectly.

Mr. Duckworth stated they have exhausted all their options at this point and are requesting permission to install a small portion of their septic approximately 6' into the right of way and it would still be 15' from the edge of the road into the property.

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering informed the Board that Tom Mathews and engineer in his Department has looked at this. The County's policy is not to have features constructed in the County's right of way. Mr. Mathews feels the design can be messaged and relocated outside of the right of way.

Mr. Glynn doesn't think it would be wise to grant waivers to build infrastructures in the County's right of ways. If improvements had to be done some day to the road, the County would have to deal with a septic system.

Director Muller confirmed the septic design could be redesigned so it would not go into the County's right of way.

Mr. Duckworth thanked the Board for its time.

Skylands of New Jersey Tourism Council

Director Muller recognized Guiliano Iannatelli, Executive Director, of the Skylands of New Jersey Tourism Council, seeking matching grant funds for their 2009 projects. Ms. Iannatelli confirmed the Board has received a binder from the Skylands of New Jersey, which is a compilation of some of the things Skylands has been working on this year; it consisted of some articles in magazines, newspapers, as well as some of their web-efforts.

Ms. Iannatelli advised the Skylands of New Jersey Tourism Council is a nonprofit 5013C and was founded in the early 1980's when one of the governor's broke up New Jersey into various regions and they felt this would be a good way to market New Jersey. Their members and various Board members are from all counties and several of the Chambers and their members consist of owners of large hotels and small bed and breakfasts. Because some of their funding comes from the members' dues, they do highlight them and because they have received funding in the past from the State of New Jersey, they also market the area as an entire destination and do not disclude anyone, whether they are members or not. Skylands tries to promote the best it can, the entire Skylands region which consists of Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Hunterdon and Warren counties.

The Skylands is entering into a new grant cycle and the Tourism Council is invited to submit a grant proposal for a Destination Marketing Organization. The state is no longer supporting the council, and there used to be six, because a lot of other organization; like the Meadowlands has become its own destination, marking the Meadowlands, not just the gateway region.

Ms. Iannatelli explained this Destination Marketing Organization is being opened up to the Chambers of Commerce, Regional Councils and other organizations that are marketing destinations.

Ms. Iannatelli asked to talk about two of the projects the Skylands would like to do for fiscal year 2009, which begins July 01, 2008. The Skylands would need to apply by January 25, 2008 for that funding. One of the major projects they will be concentrating on is on and around the Delaware River. She believes this project will be of great benefit to the counties that are on the Delaware River. People may not care what state or county they are in but they do know a destination like the Delaware River. There is a image study report that was done by the state several years ago and it shows that 97% of the people know and have heard of Atlantic City and 98% of those people can properly locate it and the Delaware Water Gap is number seven on that list. 67% of the people who were surveyed have heard of the Delaware Water Gap and only 74% of those people that have heard of it can properly locate it. The draw is the name the Delaware River and the Delaware Water Gap that will be used as the destination. A focus of this piece will be to drive tourism to the downtowns. There are a lot of towns that are trying to revitalize, not just for the present but for future generations.

Ms. Iannatelli stated there are a lot of grass roots efforts being done, such as the Morris Canal and the Musconetcong are pushing for a national Morris Canal and Musconetcong Heritage Corridor. A project like this will probably come to fruition seven to nine years from now. Ms. Iannatelli said the Skylands feels their project can also encompass these smaller efforts, and help boost or bring to light their features.

Pennsylvania has expressed an interest in promoting across river and on this Skylands project there is interest from the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau, and they are seeking grant money on their side of the river, so the cost of the project would be split.

The Delaware River Wild Scenic has some funding available that they would put forward so the Skylands could obtain matching funds. The matching fund is every \$1.00 Skylands raises of non-state money; they will give them \$4.00. This money will be used for the promotion of the area.

Ms. Iannatelli met with the Warren County Freeholders last month and they have committed \$2,000 if the other counties commit the same amount. Heritage Conservancy has expressed interest and it's not known if their role would be the collection of data or use of their resources or financial aid, is not known yet but they are interested in the project as a whole.

Ms. Iannatelli advised Skylands would also like to pursue an Eco-Tourism tract because she feels that is where these counties shine. There is not one county that does not have a strong eco-tourism effort. Skylands also has a page on their website where people can ask for brochures and she provided the Board with a copy of the brochure. Skylands feels there will be a push for the return back to nature.

Ms. Sworen asked Ms. Iannatelli why she is here this evening. Ms. Iannatelli advised she is seeking funding for the matching grant and asked if Hunterdon would be willing to match the \$2,000 that the Warren County Freeholders are willing to contribute if the other counties come on board, and that money would be used to apply for the grant, in order to receive a 4 to 1 match, and they would promote the Skylands Region and get tourism up and running.

Ms. Iannatelli confirmed for Director Muller that she has not talked with Sussex County as yet but she has been in communication with their Chamber of Commerce President and they are going through a transition right now. Director Muller asked her to keep Hunterdon posted.

Mr. Holt confirmed with Mrs. Yard that there is a grant process and the Skylands would need to go through this. Mrs. Yard advised their grants that are administered in the County and this request would have to go through the County's budget process. Ms. Iannatelli advised the grant can be seen on-line. Mrs. Yard confirmed the grant says the Skylands has to pony up a certain amount of money to apply for the grant. Ms. Iannatelli advised Skylands can apply for any amount up to \$300,000 but Skylands must raise non-state funds. Mrs. Yard confirmed Skylands has represented in this binder provided to the Board, how else they will raise funds and does the grant ask Skylands to explain their fund raising or where they will be receiving money from. Ms. Iannatelli confirmed she must outline in the grant and show proof of fund deposited into their account to be used to obtain the matching funds. If Skylands isn't successful then Hunterdon would not be held to their commitment. Mrs. Yard asked if there is a criterion in the grant that says you have to put up such much money. Ms. Iannatelli said there is not specific amount.

Mrs. Yard asked Ms. Iannatelli to provide a list of where funds are being solicited from. Ms. Iannatelli is aware the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission has been approached but she does not know the outcome or if it falls within their guidelines or not.

Mrs. Yard asked where the grant is being initiated from. Ms. Iannatelli stated it is from the New Jersey Office of Travel and tourism which takes a segment of their budget, which comes from the Hotel Tax and puts it into a grant program. Mr. Holt said there are advantages to the Hotel Tax, which raises revenue from non-New Jersey residents. He feels the talk of tourism and eco-tourism will help to bring money into the County from the outside. He feels it is interesting there is a four to one match. Whatever the process is at this point for the 2008 budget cycle, he would recommend that that Ms. Iannatelli be directed to craft an official letter of request for consideration. He asked Mrs. Yard the process. Mrs. Yard explained the request should be sent to her, and it will then end up in the Finance Department because when the budget materials are gathered, all requests that are received are a part of the Board's budget binder for consideration.

Mrs. Yard informed Ms. Iannatelli to write a request, provide a copy of this binder with all its information, and state the intent, how it will impact in Hunterdon County so the Freeholders, who are the guardians of the taxpayers' money, can review this.

Mrs. Yard asked how competitive this grant is and asked if because it is generated from the hotel tax does that mean it is not as competitive as some other grants. Is this the first year the grant has ever been offered or is there some type of history. Ms. Iannatelli explained there are two types of grants, there is a cooperative grant that is available to anyone, such as for a County fair or an event or a brochure to promote tourism. This is the first year the grant is being opened to anyone that foresees or fits the mold of a destination marketing organization. Being found is that people don't know Hunterdon County or Warren County but they do know the Delaware River or Morristown or the Water Gap. Mr. Holt stated they know Frenchtown. Ms. Iannatelli stated Frenchtown is one of Skylands members.

Mr. Holt offered to provide Mrs. Yard with his Skylands book which has more information on them.

Mrs. Yard stated this Freeholder Board looks at the grants to increase services or programs and with that comes measurable objectives, so if this Board says it wants to contribute, then there is the expectation that there will be certain milestones that your organization would reach or at least strive to reach. Mrs. Yard will read the Skylands book and will reach out to Ms. Iannatelli.

Ms. Iannatelli said there is the dual analytic software on her website and it will say who came to the website, when they came from and more.

Ms. Iannatelli stated if she is unsuccessful in getting this grant, she will break it down into smaller components and apply several times for the cooperative grant. She stated she has a Plan A and a Plan B and if it fails, she will try something else.

Mr. Sworen confirmed this is the first time that Ms. Iannatelli came before the Board requesting funds.

Ms. Iannatelli explained the grant is now getting competitive and it is being opened up to Chambers of Commerce and the Meadowlands. It is a competitive grant.

Director Muller asked Ms. Iannatelli to get in touch with the County Administrator on the grant process.

Union Township- Milligan Farms

Present: Frank Mazza, Union Township Mayor, Committeewoman Patricia Dziubek and Peter Jost., Union Township Attorney.

Mr. Jost stated at the last meeting the Board asked him to prepare a resolution setting forth the facts of the acquisition for Milligan Farms in Union Township, as well as the other sources of income the Township is receiving on this acquisition. The resolution will advise the items to be covered by this resolution include its benefits and the undertakings by the Township, and the representations by the Township. Mr. Jost stated the resolution has been supplied to County Counsel, Gaetano M. DeSapio, and he has added some additional language after consulting with the Board. If the Freeholders act on this resolution tonight, Mr. Jost will take it back to the Township Committee for consideration. Union Township will be meeting on December 20, 2007.

Ms. Dziubek assured the Board, on behalf of the Union Township Committee, that the consensus is that they have a vision for the entire County and the integrity of Exit 15. They are not looking at this with narrow vision or with blinders on opposing everything that is coming into play. She feels Union has met proactively and are still very active in the discussions to see this project through and to move it forward.

Mayor Mazza informed the Board that in principle Union Township is definitely not against what the County is asking for, however, he said Union has upheld what it needed to do. Also, Union has not ignored anything that has come up about the NJTPA (North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority) and has been on board with everything that has come up. Mayor Mazza stated there are some meetings Union attended with the NJDOT (New Jersey Department of Transportation) and the NJTPA and Union still has some issues that need to be resolved and answered. Union is still waiting for a follow up meeting with the NJDOT and NJTPA on issues they have at Exit 12 and Frontage Road.

Mr. Holt asked Union Township to remember that the County is also here to be a resource with Union Township in working with the NJTPA and the NJDOT and this is not just about Exit 15. It may have started with that but the issue of Exit 12 came up during a meeting and the County is willing to be a resource to Union Township on this.

Mr. Holt advised in May the NJDOT came to Hunterdon County and met with Union Township, Franklin Township and County staff to look at the whole region and get a better understanding of what is planned for the region and the NJDOT and NJTPA can start look at Route 78 Corridor and all the exits. He agrees that as Exit 15 is resolved, which has been on the book for a decade, it isn't the only resolution that has to happen on Route 78, because Exit 12 now has become an issue/problem that the County and the Township should be working together with the NJDOT and the NJTPA in supporting Union Township in getting them here to resolve this issue as well, and Exit 7, Exit 11, Exit 20 and all the others. Jointly, together the County and the Township can move the state in making this correction and hopefully the funding will be put in place.

Director Muller stated he appreciates Union Township's dedication and effort to bring this to a conclusion today. Union has done an outstanding job in working with this Board and in representing the people of your municipality and the County.

The Board discussed the dollar amount to place in the resolution, with Freeholders' Peterson and Holt agreeing to \$1.5 million which would be less than 20% of the net acquisition price after taking out the farmhouse and the affordable housing; plus this is the County's more traditional way of contributing. 20% works out to \$1.6675, so this would be less than 20%. Mr. Sworen confirmed at the last meeting the Board said it would not exceed \$1.5 million.

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 12/11/07-15A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing a partnering with Union Township toward acquisition costs of "Milligan Farm", permanently preserved open space, of 85.592 acres, in the amount of \$1.5 million to be utilized by Union Township to reduce the bonded indebtedness of the Township in connection with the acquisition.

Mr. Melick stated he is uncomfortable with this and doesn't see the reason behind this. This is taxpayer money.

Mr. Holt can see the impact if this isn't done, with 200 homes to be built. This would not only impact Union Township but the surrounding communities.

Mr. Melick said it comes down to political clout because there is nothing adopted by this Board on how to handle these requests. A process is needed for allocating these funds. There will be more municipalities coming to the Board with these types of requests and he doesn't feel the Board has an adequate background in which to do this. The times are in a housing slump and people are looking for the County to bail them out, prices have gone down, and the County is the buyer of last resorts.

Mr. Peterson agreed with Mr. Melick on the general terms and that is why he brought to the Board that it changes the way the program is done. To take everything out and do it like the County does the Farmland Preservation program and that there be a committee that people can bring their properties they want to preserve as open space or as a park, and the committee would grade them based on criteria. The ultimate decision would come to the Board but the Board would be able to rely on the criteria. Mr. Peterson stated he raised concerns about appraisals and there needs to be a way for them to be reviewed so there is oversight, someone watching out for the County's pocketbook. Also, there should be a planner or an engineer that before the appraisal is done, would go through the property, look at the zoning for the property and determines based on roads and the infrastructure how many houses could actually be built there and provide that information to the appraiser, so he isn't guessing, the appraiser would know more and be able to provide a better appraisal.

Mr. Peterson advised the County Administrator is working on this program, for open space to be scored. He currently owes Mrs. Yard more information on this, to assist her. Mr. Peterson hopes by early next year the County will have a program put together that can be set into motion, so the County doesn't become contributing to whoever can fill the meeting room. Mr. Sworen agreed this system is needed.

Mr. Melick stated the procedures are not in place and look what this Board has done already. Mr. Peterson stated a procedure will be in place, very early next year, to score open space and park properties and it will be a more sophisticated way than is currently used.

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

Social Services

Director Muller recognized Rose Leverton came before the Board to inform the Board that the Division of Social Services has done something to mess up her receiving help for her electricity. In December she received a notice that she would no longer be receiving SSI benefits that she would only be receiving Social Security. She lost her Medicaid benefits on October 30, 2007.

Director Muller explained to Ms. Leverton that the Home Health Aide that comes to her home for 4 or 6 hours a week is paid for through taxpayer dollars, not Medicaid. The County has nothing that will pay for more than 6 hours. Director Muller said the Federal or State government would have to have some meet with her to review her case to see if she is qualified for more services.

Director Muller asked Ms. Leverton what she wants the Board to do for her today. Ms. Leverton asked the Board to find out why she can't get any money for her utility bills for 2006. She has reapplied for these services. Mr. DeSapio informed Ms. Leverton that there is a federal government appeal process for Medicaid.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Muller adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board