

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

September 11, 2007

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 3:10 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

Open Public Meetings Act

Deputy Director Peterson 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, 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."

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

9-11 REMEMBRANCE

Deputy Director Peterson asked for a moment of silence in memory of all those who perish on September 11, 2001. May God bless the victims of 9-11, their families and may God bless the United States.

CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Director Peterson 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 #18 was held at this time.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve the special session minutes of June 5, 2007 and the regular session minutes of June 12, 2007 and June 26, 2007.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated September 11, 2007.

See Page 09/11/07-1A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 09/11/07-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Richard Bruccoliere appointed unclassified, full time County Investigator, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 09/11/07-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Ernest DiGiovanni appointed permanent, full time Field Representative, Senior Citizen Programs, Division of Senior Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 09/11/07-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Arlene Strain appointed permanent, full time Administrative Clerk, Human Services Department.

See Page 09/11/07-1E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Maria Angelo appointed permanent, full time Senior Library Assistant, Library.

See Page 09/11/07-1F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Dana Bivona appointed provisional, full time Family Service Worker, Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 09/11/07-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Peter Kopecky appointed provisional, full time Public Safety Telecommunicator, Communications Division of the Public Safety Department.

See Page 09/11/07-2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jane Duke appointed provisional, full time Housing Assistance Technician, Division of Housing of the Human Services Department.

See Page 09/11/07-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Melissa Alles, Public Health Representative 3, Health Department, granted a leave of absence without pay.

See Page 09/11/07-2D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Kris Saharic, Sheriff's Officer, Sheriff's Office, granted a leave of absence without pay.

See Page 09/11/07-2E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Diane Attanasio, Public Health Representative 3, Health Department, reduction in hours.

See Page 09/11/07-2F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the release of a cash Performance Bond to Perimeter Properties, LLC, in the amount of \$102,035.

See Page 09/11/07-2G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the release of a cash Road Opening Deposit, to TJC & SJM, LLC, in the amount of \$2,000.

See Page 09/11/07-2H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the provider service agreement with Anderson House, to increasing the not to exceed amount by \$21,152.

See Page 09/11/07-2I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #2, for Bid #2006-30, Alterations to the County Arboretum/Greenhouse, with Charles Mann General Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$100,918.33.

See Page 09/11/07-2J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #3, for Bid #2006-31, Alterations to the Deer Path Park Restrooms, with Hahr Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$78,750.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-2K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #11, for Bid #2006-20, Renovations of the Hunterdon County Hall of Records and Southard Building, with Watertrol, Inc., in the amount of \$57,811.30.

Mr. Sworen asked Frank Joseph Bell, AIA, County Architect, how much the County is still withholding on this contractor, from the amount to be paid to the contractor because the windows they installed are incorrect. Mr. Bell has reviewed this issue with the architect on the project, and confirmed the County is withholding enough to correct the windows. He further stated the contractor was not aware there was a problem with the windows until they were installed, and they will correct the problem. He stated the installer, hired by the contractor made the mistake and it will be corrected because at the last job meeting, the contractor was directed to have these windows removed and replaced with nine (9) new windows that fit correctly into the building structure.

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

FINANCE

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2007 Budget, for the Job Access & Reverse Commute Program, in the amount of \$45,242.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 9/11/07-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2007 Budget, for the Kids Are Riding Safe Program, amount of \$1,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, RESOLUTION - Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2007 Budget, for the Human Services Advisory Council, amount of \$10,000.

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

Mr. Melick provided the Board with a copy of an ordinance saying it was his alternative and thoughts to the situation at the golf course, as far as making the necessary repairs and to scope the new project. The hearing for the capital ordinance in the amount of \$2.3 million is coming up soon, and this would be in place of that ordinance and it is a lesser amount to study and scope the project.

Charles Balogh, Jr., County Treasurer asked the Board to consider Capital Ordinance No. 16-07, for repairs at the Heron Glen Golf Course in the amount of \$150,000.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded Capital Ordinance No. 16-07 for discussion purposes.

Mr. Holt said this ordinance is for repairs or needed upgrades to the existing facility at the golf course. He questions what those repairs and upgrades are. Mr. Melick advised it was stated at the last meeting there was discussion on how there were life threatening scenarios at the golf course facility and they are an immediate concern of his. He feels more thought could go into planning what is to be done regarding the clubhouse. Mr. Melick asked Mr. Bell what items at the facility are lift threatening and hazardous. Mr. Bell reported he has looked at the building, and there were a few items he was not able to review as a licensed architect, one being the floor structure. The trailer is tied down and on blocks and that needs to be looked at by an engineer.

Mr. Peterson confirmed Mr. Bell is saying that he did not find any unsafe, eminent harm type of conditions at the trailers. Mr. Bell said there is nothing that is eminent, nothing that would cause anyone grave danger if a hurricane came through the area; he would not be able to say whether the structure would overturn. The trailer is on blocks and it is tied down with wire. He does not know how to calculate that, so an engineer would have to make that calculation.

Mr. Peterson confirmed with Mr. Bell that he did not find any unsafe, imminent harm type of conditions at the trailers. Mr. Bell said he did not find anything that would cause any great danger but he does not know about the overturning effect.

Mr. Peterson asked if there have been any changes to the tie-downs that are causing any concerns. Mr. Bell said his concern is whether the tie-downs are still structurally stable. Mr. Holt feels it would be logical process would be to allocate a small amount of money to have the tie-downs examined and have them certified that they are of sufficient strength for the timeframe to be determined that they will exist.

Mr. Bell recommended an engineer to inspect underneath to make sure the all the supports are still in good shape.

Mr. Sworen stated since there is a capital ordinance in progress, going through a public hearing and final vote, this would be an additional \$150,000. Mr. Melick feels this would be an alternative to the other ordinance. Mr. Melick said in case the other ordinance does not get adopted at the hearing on the 17th, than the County would have this to fall back on and this is more in line of what he considers a reasonable expenditure to address the problem. Mr. Sworen agreed this would address the current problems at the golf course, but he has a concern having two capital ordinances for the same project. If there isn't an imminent danger and the other ordinance is not adopted, this ordinance would still be needed but he feels a better process would be to consider this ordinance after the public hearing, to determine what the Board wants to do.

Mr. Sworen doesn't know if \$150,000 is the right amount, it could be less and again recommended waiting until after the public hearing on the 17th. He has an issue for having two capital ordinances for the same project at the same time.

Mr. Melick explained he would like this put in place, just in case, the other ordinance for \$2.3 million was not adopted; than at the next regular meeting, this ordinance could be enacted and the County could move forward with the necessary repairs and scoping of what should be done at the Golf Course. Mr. Sworen suggested getting an opinion from John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering before the Board budgets money out of capital. Mr. Holt added that a study needs to be performed regarding the tie-downs. He would prefer to wait until the budget hearing before considering another ordinance. Mr. Peterson questioned the cost for someone to perform an engineering analysis to evaluate the tie-downs. If there is a potential hazard, it needs to be addressed immediately.

Mr. Bell informed the Board that the Purchasing Department did a blanket RFP (Request for Proposals) for professionals that the County could select from, and a specific RFP could be sent to several of those professional, structural engineers and something could be in place for the Board's approval. Mr. Peterson asked if the County has an account where the funds could be taken from for this type of work. Mr. Balogh feels there might be money in some operating budgets for this. Mr. Holt recommended calling the trailer manufacturer and have ask him to come out and see if additional supports are needed.

After further discussion, the Clerk was directed to take the roll call.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded a motion to amend the amount of the ordinance to \$60,000 for repairs to the clubhouse at Heron Glen.

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

Mr. Holt asked Mr. Bell and John P. Davenport, III, Purchasing Agent, to work together in getting an engineer to evaluate the tie-downs on the trailer at Heron Glen. The Board will then have an evaluation and an actual number to consider. The Board agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Yard explained the issue "Opposing the establishment of an Asset Monetization Plan as part of the State's FY 2007 budget" was placed back on the agenda by Mr. Melick, since he read about it in the paper and wondered what the status of this was. Mr. Melick is in favor of adopting a resolution because he does not want the state's assets sold. The state is constantly spending too much money. Mr. Sworen agreed with Mr. Melick regarding spending money but he asked if the Asset Monetization Plan has been read. Mr. Sworen stated no one could have ready it, because it doesn't exist; there is nothing in writing and he knows that because he has asked for a copy from the Governor and from the State Treasurer and he hasn't been able to get a copy yet. There has been a lot of discussion about this and he agreed that the state should not be selling assets like highways and the parkway but there is nothing in writing that is complete that this Board could have an opinion either for or against. If you want to say this Board doesn't want the Toll Roads sold, that is something he could vote for. Mr. Sworen advised he is not going to vote against a plan in the process that has not been identified yet. Everyone is trying to get information on what this plan really is because at this point, no one really knows. On September 20, 2007, the Department of Transportation Commissioner is going to explain this plan to all the business leaders at a State Chamber of Commerce meeting. Mr. Sworen has never heard a definition or true explanation of what this process is other than it may involve selling highways. The resolution before the Board covers many things and while he disagrees with selling the highways; he wants to see a plan in place that he can vote yes or no on.

Mr. Melick advised he agrees with most of what Mr. Sworen has said but the problem is this won't be discussed because as soon as the November Election is over, the Legislature will go into a Lame Duck session and adopt it without discussion. It is better to try and be ahead of the curve. Mr. Sworen said no matter what is done, the Legislature will do whatever they choose to do.

Mr. Holt explained he asked for the Resolution opposing an Asset Monetization Plan to be pulled from the agenda because there isn't enough information on the plan.

Mr. Peterson feels part of the reason that no one knows what this plan is, is because it is a made up word. He said this will probably be some kind of leasing of state assets to cover a budget that isn't balanced. Hunterdon's Senator was able to get the Supreme Court to agree with him, that you cannot bond without voter approval, on the state level, as part of the New Jersey State Constitution, so the state is looking for other avenues to bond without having to obtain public approval. When the state leases the roads, he thinks they are bonding on the state highways for the next 30 years, so the people using those highways will be paying back the loan. This is just a fancy way of bonding, calling it something else and making it sound like a great Wall Street deal.

Mr. Peterson advised the real problem, as Mr. Melick pointed out, is that you need to learn to live within your means or this problem will never go away. He feels Mr. Melick has a point, that by the time the state provides its explanation of what the Asset Monetization Plan is, it will be too late.

Mr. Peterson wants to be on the record as saying he is against using these gimmicks to get around bonding. It is time that the state gets its' budget in order and makes the hard choices so they have a balanced budget every year instead of coming up with gimmicks, whether it is raiding the pension fund, raiding the unemployment insurance fund and so on. This is an outrage, New Jersey is one of a handful of states that did not have a surplus last year and New Jersey has the highest taxes. Most people feel they don't have a voice, but the Freeholders have a small voice and can voice its concerns. He does not think the people of Hunterdon County support the monetization of the state's assets.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded a motion to adopt a Resolution opposing the establishment of an Asset Monetization Plan as part of the State's FY 2007 budget.

Mr. Sworen said he agreed with the words about the issues with the state and their problems, however, none of those words and none of those thoughts are in this resolution. He would be happy to take what has been mentioned and put that in the form of a resolution to be offered at the next meeting. The resolution before us now is about a specific, imagined issue and it's imagined because no one has defined it, no one at the state that he has contacted has a definition or paperwork on exactly what this will be. The Governor has said he does not have all the details yet, so the only person who knows is Kris Kollory who will be speaking on it next Thursday.

Mrs. Yard will reword the resolution and fax it to the Board this Friday, for consideration at their meeting on Monday, September 17, 2007.

COUNTY UPDATE

Land Management project

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator informed the Board that over a year ago, a project was started regarding all the land management parcels. It was Mr. Melick thoughts to get this started for all the County's open space parcels. The County reached out to the Soil Conservation District, as the County has a great partnership/relationship with them. Also involved were Parks and Recreation and the Open Space Coordinator, and Mrs. Yard was the Chairperson for the group. All the open space land parcels were listed, and the group went out and viewed the parcels, then compiled the information into "Land Management at a Glance" and Mrs. Yard is currently proof reading the book. This book will tell the County how to manage its lands, which the County is so aggressive in preserving. Soil Conservation provided the minimal and the maximum of land management practices which protects the integrity of the land.

Mrs. Yard thanked Soil Conservation for all their assistance.

PURCHASING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #HumanServices.03901, with Avail Technologies, for an extended warranty for hardware and software support, for Human Services, in the amount of \$17,400.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #ElectionBoard.00030, with Sequoia Voting Systems, for a software license fee, for the Board of Elections, in the amount of \$22,500.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.2792, with Eplus, for a network storage module, for Information Technology, in the amount of \$11,868.75.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of Bid #2007-30, for Tree Removal on Route 523, in Readington, to Andy Matt, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$88,933.50.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing award of Bid #2007-32, for Tree Removal on Route 629, 620 and 619, in the Townships of Alexandria and Readington, to Andy Matt, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$51,953.

Mr. Sworen confirmed with John Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering, that any employee of the County is not taking any of the wood after the trees have been cut. He explained he is asking the questions because they came up. Mr. Glynn advised the tree limbs are chipped, and since the trees are in disrepair, he doesn't feel too many people are going to take the trees. If a property owner does not want the wood, it then goes on the contractor's truck for removal and it is the contractor's responsibility to get rid of it.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing award of Bid #2007-34, for the purchase of replacement Maintenance Equipment for use at the Heron Glenn Golf Course, to Storr Tractor Company, in an amount not to exceed \$72,476.79.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 09/11/08-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of Bid #2007-35, for Roadway Resurfacing and Drainage Improvements of Route 615, in Franklin and Kingwood, to Trap Rock Industries, in an amount not to exceed \$2,175,769.55.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 09/11/08-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing a modification to Bid #2007-08, to update the wing plows on four (4) Sterling L-8500 Dump Trucks, to a hydraulic adjustable push arm, at a cost of \$2,537 per truck, with Robert H. Hoover & Sons, Inc., in an increased amount of \$10,148.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 09/11/08-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional surveying agreement with Van Cleef Engineering, for Block 6, Lots 43, 49 and 49.02, Holland Township, in the amount of \$13,500.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/11/08-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving competitive contract #2007-29 for Certified/Non-Certified Home Health Aide services, to Anita's Angels, for a 2 year period, in the amount of \$10,000.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/11/08-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving competitive contract #2007-29 for Certified/Non-Certified Home Health Aide services, to ANC Care LLC, d/b/a Comfort Keepers, for a 2 year period, in the amount of \$61,500.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 09/11/08-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a competitive contract #2007-29, for Certified/Non-Certified Home Health Aide services, with Visiting Health and Supportive Services, for a 2 year period, in the amount of \$26,000.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

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

- Individual parcel maps are being worked on for Route 579/614. This project will be done using State Transportation Trust funds. The County will receive \$1,275,000 for this project.
- The contractor will be putting the surface course on Route 579 tomorrow and Thursday. The top soil and seeding has been completed and a fine grading will be done after the surface course is down.
- Documents for the resurfacing of Route 523 up to the backside of the intersection improvement for Route 517-523, are with NJDOT. The County is waiting on the Categorical Exclusion document to be sent, so the funds can be spent.
- A meeting was held with Readington Township regarding the 523 project. The last time the County worked through Whitehouse Station, the construction was done at night. Readington will be having a discussion with their Board. There will be a public meeting held on October 04, 2007 to discuss this. There would be an incremental cost for doing the work at night but also to be considered is the traffic that runs through Whitehouse Station. Mr. Glynn will report back to the Board after hearing from Readington Twp.
- East Amwell has asked the County to take another look at Van Luis Road and the Route 514 Intersection; there is a site distance issue with a bank and a fence.
- The County will be meeting with the contractor regarding Bridge H-1 concerning the pavement surface on Route 519; there will need to be a corrective action plan for the pavement.
- A contract modification has been received from the contractor for Bridge D-345. Once the modification has been reviewed, it will be brought to the Board for approval. A permit needs to be applied for through the State Department of Environmental Protection before construction can take place. This project is being looked at for the summer of 2008.
- Preliminary plans are being prepared for the footing for Bridge M-110 in Milford by mid-October.
- Research is being done on the Pennsylvania Avenue Rail Road Bridge. The County is working with the property owner to figure out an alternative to the road. Meetings are being scheduled with the property owners on the other side to set the new alignment for Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Bridge M-112 on Mill Street has been strengthened to allow emergency vehicles to get to the north side, in Milford and it should be opened by Friday.
- Tree work is being done on Routes 523 and 619, removing the Osage Orange trees beginning next Wednesday and the single tree work will begin the first week in October.
- A permit is being worked on for the variable message sign for the County Complexes at Route 12 and Route 31. A footing needs to be designed for the sign mounting in order to get a building permit from Raritan Township.
- The fueling dispensing system for the Parks and Recreation Department is 50% complete. It will probably be purchased as a unit, and installed at one time.
- Right of way issues are going well, there are some interesting counter proposal received for the Routes 517 and 523. Mr. Glynn will put together a package for the Board to review at the next meeting.
- Final design will be done for Bridge RQ-164.
- The County is waiting for DEP's approval on the modified plans for the Route 513/579 project.
- The kick off meeting was held with the contractor for Route 610 (Race Street) in Frenchtown. One utility issue has come up with Elizabethtown Gas, they want to get a gas main to back feed the system in Milford. They have been told they could put in a line and cap it until Frenchtown gives them approval for the back feed, otherwise there is a 5 year moratorium on county openings. Mr. Glynn has not heard back from Elizabethtown Gas. Mr. Glynn will contact Elizabethtown Gas to see what their plans are.
- The Parks Demolition project is underway, the contractor has completed Mountain Farm and Crystal Springs is 80% complete. The next project will be Mechlin Woods. Mr. Glynn feels the contractor will be done in six weeks.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING

SWMP proposed Amendment

Alan Johnson, Solid Waste/Recycling Director, came before the Board for a presentation on the proposed amendment to the Hunterdon County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Mr. Johnson explained that from time to time the County has to amend its Solid Waste Management Plan, as the County has the statutory responsibility in the New Jersey Solid Waste Management Act for handling the solid waste generated within Hunterdon County. The County is now under state requirement, as all counties are within the state, to amend the recycling component of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan.

Mr. Johnson explained the amendment plan before the Board was developed, reviewed extensively and unanimously approved for adoption by the Hunterdon County Solid Waste Advisory Council. The next step would be the scheduling of a public hearing where this document would be sent to all municipalities within the County and they would have an opportunity to voice their concerns, request modifications, and then it would be adopted with approved changes by the Board, then it would be sent to the state for their review and approval.

Mr. Holt questioned if a 50% increase in municipal recycling is attainable. Mr. Johnson stated it is attainable and agreed is a high hurdle but the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been very helpful in the development of this plan amendment. DEP would like the County to make as much progress as quickly as possible but they also understand Hunterdon has a high hurdle to overcome, and it will not be an overnight accomplishment. He does feel it can be accomplished because plastics have been included as being a recyclable commodity and they were not before. Types 1 and 2 plastics are included in the amendment; they are soda and milk jugs. If the County is not reaching its goal, then plastics Type 3 through 7 could be added, which are in the market place but they are not as easy for the County to market. Mr. Johnson wanted to make sure there were viable markets for these materials before mandating the County and the municipalities having a responsibility for recycling these materials. Mixed paper will bring the most money because it is very dense and there are viable markets for that. Mr. Johnson doesn't know what percentage the mixed paper is or the plastics are but there were municipal officials who came up with this because municipalities will be greatly impacted.

Mrs. Yard, Mr. Johnson and Frank Bell, AIA, have been working on the reporting because that is a big vulnerability of the County's municipalities. Education needs to be given to them, and a system needs to be put in place so the municipalities can have a regular reporting mechanism and the County needs to follow up to make sure the mechanism works.

Mr. Sworen said that is part of this, but it isn't the serious part of it. The serious part is getting the information from the haulers and the other individuals; that is the part that needs to be strengthened. Something needs to be in place requiring them to do this. It is difficult to get the numbers in municipalities that have multiple haulers that do the recycling. There are also materials, such as millings which are recycled by the County but do not count. The County milled Route 513, and milled hundreds of tons millings from the road which we sent to the processing plant and they were reprocessed into new material and put back onto the road. For tonnage, that is a major recycling material; the same with stone. The key is requiring the hauler to accurately report that data and it is not being done today.

Mr. Johnson explained with the amendment, some of the responsibilities have been spread throughout all segments of the stakeholders; the County has additional responsibilities, as do the municipalities but the greatest increase is with the generators and the haulers.

Mr. Sworen confirmed with Mr. Johnson that this will cost municipalities more money. Mr. Johnson said it will cost them more because someone has to tabulate the data coming in from each hauler that wasn't collected before. The amendment reinforces the educational requirements. The construction officer must now notify someone applying for a permit of recycling options. While those are clerical tasks, they are tasks that will require additional financial responsibilities from municipalities.

Mr. Sworen said there is a difference between commercial and private recycling. He doesn't understand the new rulings/discussions being had on the state about this. He was very familiar with the former rules and regulations from DEP that the counties were responsible for setting what the recyclables would be for commercial. It was clear from the state what the recyclables would be for residential but the County has to set the rules for what was recyclable. Hunterdon County only set a rule to recycle cardboard. He asked if that rule been amended as a law or has the process been amended to change the process and if it is what is it today and what is the County going to do. Mr. Johnson advised the materials that were mandatory on the commercial side were the materials that were on the residential side; plus cardboard; plus high grade office paper. Pages 15 through 17 of the amendment lists the recycling materials for all waste streams including residential, commercial, industrial and institutional recycling.

Mr. Sworen questioned who will be enforcing recycling. Mr. Johnson stated under the hierarchy of solid waste management, specifically recycling management of the state, the materials are designated by the Municipal Recycling Ordinance; that would be the first line of enforcement for what recycling is not taking place. Mr. Johnson confirmed for Mr. Sworen that pages 15 through 17 are mandated by the County as mandated materials. Mr. Sworen said this can't be mandated by the County if the enforcement is under a municipal ordinance. If the County is mandating this, then the County would be the enforcement tool.

Gaetano M. DeSapio, County Counsel explained the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority discussed this a few months ago, and he feels the statute says that the County has the responsibility for designating what must be recycled and the statute makes it mandatory, once the Solid Waste Plan has been adopted and approved by the Commission of the State Department of Environmental Protection. The statute says the municipalities must implement the recycling plan and the statute is silent as to the procedure to use to compel a municipality to comply with the plan if they don't.

Mr. Sworen said since the statute is silent; who pays for the enforcement. Hunterdon has 26 municipalities and none of them have recycling police. He does not want to put something in place if there is no way to enforce it and if there is no control it.

Mr. Johnson explained each municipality in the County has a mandatory recycling ordinance in place. If municipalities are not enforcing recycling at this point, they are in violation of their own ordinance. He explained to Mr. Sworen that if a municipality is going to adopt the ordinance and in the proposed plan amendment, a municipal official is identified as to who would be responsible for enforcement. The level of enforcement a municipality wants is upon the municipality. If a municipality is having difficulties meeting their recycling goals, they might have to have an enforcement program that is more intensive. The responsibility is through the municipalities through their municipal recycling coordinator.

Ms. Sworen questioned what happens after initially. Mr. Johnson explained if requested by the municipality the County can be requested to come into the municipality and conduct the enforcement activities at cost to the municipality.

Mr. DeSapio confirmed with Mr. Johnson that there are two ways that the County is going to jeopardy or in a political dynamic where the Freeholder Board is going to have to consider whether the County will pay for a portion. One is if the DEP says the County adopted this plan that says x, y and z will be done and the statistics from Hunterdon County don't reflect that the plan is being actively implied or enforced; then if the County had grant money coming to it the DEP could not give the County those grant funds. The DEP could use grant funds as leverage against the County and Mr. DeSapio explained that has been done in the past.

Mr. DeSapio said if the DEP gets the political support to be aggressive in regard to enforcing recycling in New Jersey, they can bring a penalty action against the County to say it is not implementing the County plan even though the primary responsibility for the actual implementation rests with the municipalities. The County would be faced with bringing an enforcement action against municipalities that are noncompliant and it causes a political situation or municipalities could come to the County and say they can't afford to enforce recycling, then the County would be faced the possibility of having to think about funding this.

Mr. DeSapio questioned if the County had discussed to talk with the municipalities to determine they are supportive of this amendment? Mr. Sworen stated the discussion was held with the recycling community and the Solid Waste Advisory Council. His concern is that the County is coming up with a "law" and if the law isn't followed there is a penalty. He would like to make sure the County has successfully covered all the issues before the law is put into place; so there isn't a process put in place to do x, y and z and it can't be met; or if it isn't met that there is an enforcement component that there isn't going to be any enforcement. How this is going to work need to be defined better.

Mr. Sworen stated if this County plan is going to cost the municipalities more money than he feels this Board needs to put funds in its budget for that because then this Board is passing its budget onto the municipal budget. This Board should not be doing that. If this is a state mandate, then we should be going after the state to pay for this. Since there is an enforcement issue with penalties involved, then Mr. Sworen thinks the County needs to be very clear on how this will be enforcement and that it be communicated downward because there are a lot of rural farmers who get rid of their own trash. He questioned how to get the farmer to recycle unless they want to. He stated some municipalities have 5 or 6 haulers and asked who is going to look in the bags to make sure recycling is being done. Who is going to enforce recycling on the businesses, stores and restaurants? He is concerned about the penalty phase.

Mr. Sworen feels the process is great because we have to recycle. He thinks there maybe many people not recycling, both residential and commercial and they should be. There are hundreds of restaurants in Hunterdon County that aren't recycling cardboard, glass or aluminum. They are just tossing it out and it needs to be recycled.

Mr. Johnson feels there are several things the County has to do before getting to enforcement and they are education, raising the awareness for recycling, and the County taking some of the burden. Bring proposed in this plan, is when a restaurant food inspection takes place or any Health Department inspection takes place, that as part of the food inspection, it be checked that the garbage is being handled correctly including the recycling component. Mr. Johnson feels that will raise the awareness that the County wants not just the garbage handled correctly but also the recycling, including the handling of bottles and cans. The County did not take that responsibility before and now it is. Municipalities currently have it on their books that they have to have some responsibility for enforcement of the mandatory recycling ordinance; it is a shared burden as the County is assuming more responsibilities than it did before.

Mr. Sworen stated there is a very profitable restaurant that doesn't recycle and won't recycle. Does the County close them down or does the municipality close them down? If there isn't a penalty, this plan will be difficult to enforce. Mrs. Yard confirmed with Mr. Johnson when this was discussed previously, it was agreed that the municipalities were going to be put on notice to inform them that "such and such restaurant" isn't recycling and inform them that it has to be corrected and someone has to correct it; and if it isn't then the costs will be borne by the municipality. Mr. Sworen advised there is no clear penalty on who will enforce this. Mr. Johnson advised if a municipality chose not to act, the County would be putting at risk grant funds that would also benefit the other 26 municipalities in the County. He questioned if that was fair.

Mr. Sworen said the question is how to enforce this. He hates to put out bad law, so a process has to be in place for this to work. He wants to make sure as this moves forward to the public hearing stage, that those pieces are in place and that it is clear to municipalities who has what responsibilities and what the penalties are. DEP has never stepped forward with the penalty piece. Recycling is very important. He has worked for years to increase the recycling in the County.

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that a model ordinance has been developed by the DEP and it will be specifically tailored to Hunterdon County and it will be developed in conjunction with the Solid Waste Advisory Council. That could be the avenue where the penalty structure is further developed.

Mr. DeSapio advised sooner or later, the County risks a confrontation with the municipalities if they cannot afford to enforce recycling or won't, are the Freeholders going to budget for enforcement or will the Freeholders have the County do the enforcement and back charge the municipalities which he feels the County has the legal authority to do. He asked the Board to review whether the standards that are being set are reasonable or not. Mr. DeSapio recommended the Board also think through what will be done once this amendment is adopted because knowing DEP, if the County is ever short of its annual recycling goal, they will demand it be fixed and the County has to decide how it will fix it and if the County will be initially spending money for enforcement or direct the municipalities to spend funds to enforce it in their municipalities or is the County going to do the enforcement and back charge the municipalities. All of this creates an awkward political environment for the County and the Board needs to think this through more than it needs to outline penalties in the amendment.

Mr. DeSapio recommended the Board talk with the Health Director, John Beckley, as he feels there maybe funding under the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) grant that could be applied towards enforcement. It could cause controversy, similar to the controversy with the municipal farm stands because once the Health Department is asked to do something; they do their job as directed.

Mr. DeSapio advised the Freeholders have to decide if what they are asking the municipalities to do is reasonable and you also have to decide whether you will be able to deal with making them enforce this, if they don't enforce it on their own. Once this plan has been adopted it cannot be changed with the DEP's approval.

Mr. Sworen feels the biggest challenge is to get those who don't recycling to recycle and the education piece of this amendment. He is not sure if this amendment has funding in it for education but he feels there is a County responsibility to do education because it is the County pushing this forward. Education is going to be required whether it is through publications or other forms, as this goes forward the County bears a responsibility to education the people on recycling.

Mr. Peterson questioned if there is a penalty for not recycling in the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) amendment? Mr. Johnson explained there isn't as it is set by municipal ordinance. Mr. Peterson confirmed it is the municipality which adopts the ordinance and must set up for their enforcement. Mr. Johnson further explained there is a model ordinance being developed by the County for adoption by municipalities which would allow them to set a penalty and way to enforce this.

Mr. Holt stated he would like to have time to re-read this amendment again, after hearing today's comments. He recommends placing this back on the agenda in two weeks, and that will allow time to look at any recommended changes and the Board could then establish a public hearing date. Mr. Holt said whatever the County presents, it needs to be attainable, sustainable and it needs to be able to be accomplished.

Mr. Johnson confirmed for the Board that the SWMP Amendment will be sent to the municipalities for a 30 day review and comment period.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to place this issue back on the September 25, 2007 agenda for further discussion and to set a public hearing date.

Deputy Director Peterson opened the meeting for public comment.

George Hornback of the City of Lambertville, on Lambertville's Recycling Committee and their Environmental Commission, stated today's discussion focused a lot on enforcement. In Lambertville feels the primary focus is the incentive to recycle. Lambertville does all its own recycling and there are two receptors the recycling is taken to, one is Colgate and they pay \$20 a ton for single stream recycling. The single stream consisting of everything, unbundled papers, no sorting of the recycling materials and it can all be in one container. This is a profitable program and the key is to educate not only the public but businesses.

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that he is planning a field trip to Colgate later on in the month with the Hunterdon County Solid Waste Advisory Council.

Mr. Sworen reported that Somerset County does recycling and they make a lot of money from recycling. Somerset is involved with a recycler that runs Somerset's recycling program. The profits made by that group go back to the County. Hunterdon had tried Countywide recycling and it worked well but then a judge decided County inmates be paid minimum wage versus what they were being paid and it made the program too expensive to continue.

Mr. Sworen feels Colgate is a great idea and feels the County maybe able to form some kind of agreement with them or get a direction for haulers to go to, like Somerset County does.

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-11A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Grant Award from the State Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, for FY07 Homeland Security funding, in the amount of \$534,816.24.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 09/11/07-11B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application from Merck & Company, Inc., for Health and Wellness Screenings, through the County's Senior Health Services program, in the amount of \$17,850.

See Page 09/11/07-11C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application for grant funds from Merck & Company, Inc., to address community health priorities identified in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), through the Health Department, in the amount of \$15,700 for 2008.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded thlee:

See Page 09/11/07-11D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application for grant funds from the State Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, for funding for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE/SART) project, in the amount of \$100,435, (Federal funds-\$83,696, County Match-\$16,739).

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from SAFE in Hunterdon requesting permission to use the historic Court House steps on October 16, 2007 from 6 to 7 p.m., for their annual Candlelight Vigil. SAFE, is also requesting permission to again use a podium, light and microphone. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve use of the historic Court House steps, a podium, light and microphone by SAFE in Hunterdon provided this event is coordinated through the Hunterdon County Department of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Frank Joseph Bell, AIA, County Project Administrator, informed the Board that due to various additions to the equipment for Information Technology additional wiring is needed at the Emergency Services Building Addition/Renovation project. Mr. Bell advised Freeholder Sworen attended the project meeting where there was a lengthy explanation for the need for this wiring. The architect on the project has reviewed this, as well as the Emergency Services people and the Department of Information Technology. A price has been obtained from the contractor of \$44,980, to pull additional wiring for all the equipment at the facility. Also, being increased is the number of spares in the building so they can be used in the future; or if something breaks down it could be hooked to the equipment.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-11E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #22, Bid #2005-47, Addition/alteration to the Emergency Services Building, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., increase of \$44,980.

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

FREEHOLDERS ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

RVCC – Opening of a new building at RVCC

Mr. Sworen reported that the Bi-County Community College between Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, Raritan Valley Community College, will have an opening for their new building on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. He feels someone from this Freeholder Board should be present to represent Hunterdon. Freeholders' Sworen and Peterson serve on the RVCC Board of School Estimate. Mr. Sworen and Mr. Peterson will discuss this at a later time. Mr. Melick noted that he was on the Freeholder Board when this venture started back in the early 1980's and feels it was one of the best decisions a Freeholder Board made.

Mr. Sworen advised former Freeholder Nancy Palladino gives her best wishes to the staff. He saw her on Saturday, and she looks rested and happy.

Flood Issue

Mr. Sworen reported he will be attending a meeting on Thursday, with the DEP regarding flood issues. Hunterdon's counterparts in Delaware and Pennsylvania and New York will be at the meeting and all will talk about the issues regarding flooding, the reservoir problem in upstate New York and the flood mitigation issues. Mr. Sworen will report back to the Board after the meeting.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened in Opens Session at 5:47 p.m.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Reaville Church

Michelle LaMarr, Esquire, introduced herself as the attorney for the Presbytery of New Brunswick and she is present this evening because of the Reaville Church. Ms. LaMarr advised the Presbytery of New Brunswick owns the property which is the Reaville Church. The Reaville Church is being administered at this time by an administrative commission of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and under New Jersey statute all property of churches in a Presbytery are the property of the Presbytery and she is the legal counsel to the Presbytery.

Mr. Sworen advised he understands the property issue but he was told the church has been closed and no longer exists as an entity but the property is an entity. Ms. LaMarr stated Mr. Sworen is correct; she is here on behalf of the Presbytery and its Administrative Commission which is charged with the caretaking of the Reaville Church property.

Also present, Guy Stobbler who is interested in purchasing the Reaville Church, the church property and the property next door to it, for a performing arts center.

Mr. DeSapio informed the Board he has drawn a resolution for the Board's consideration with regard to a deed dated December 30, 1982, where Ervin Hockenbury and his wife, Vilma, sold a parcel known as Block 82, Lot 7.02 in Raritan Township to the First English Presbyterian Church of Amwell. The deed contained this provision: "This conveyance is made upon the express condition that the within described property shall be owned and used by The First English Presbyterian Church of Amwell, and it alone, for its purposes for a period of not less than 50 years from the date hereof. If within said 50 year period The First English Presbyterian Church of Amwell shall cease to exist, or if its existence shall continue but the within described premises shall cease to be owned by it, or shall for any other reason whatsoever, not be used by it alone, for its purposes, then upon the happening of any of such events, all the right, title and interest of The First English Presbyterian Church of Amwell shall cease and determine, without re-entry by the grantors or their successors, and the title to the property shall vest in the County of Hunterdon, a political subdivision of the State of New Jersey, the same to be used for recreational purposes."

Mr. DeSapio stated the County has determined that it has no Recreational purpose to which it can put the property. Therefore the County cannot comply with the condition of the gift. Therefore the County elects not to accept the gift and must regretfully decline the gift and thanks Irwin and Vilma Hockenbury and expresses its deep appreciation to them.

Mr. DeSapio explained this resolution does hereby release the Freeholders from any and all interest the County has in, and to, the property as a result of the Deed dated December 30, 1982 and recorded in Deed Book 887, page 620 on January 10, 1983.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-12A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Recognition that the County and the Board of Chosen Freeholders have no interest in the Reaville Church property.

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

Ms. LaMarr thanked the Board for their consideration and action this evening. She asked if the Board has any surveys or research on the property, which the Parks Department may have done would be helpful. The church dates back to the 1700's. Mr. Sworen stated the Board did not asked the it's Parks and Recreation Department to research the property.

Health Insurance

Mr. Peterson called forward Michael Pierce, Insurance Broker, to provide his second part of his presentation on an alternative to health care insurance. The last time Mr. Pierce came fore the Board he provided an overview and he was asked to provide more information on how his program could be implemented.

Mr. Pierce said his proposal embraces innovation. The health insurance delivery in the country is going from the old style HMO's to the Health Savings Accounts and the HRA's (Health Reimbursement Arrangement). The style being presented today is the HRA style plan. The \$6 million that the County is currently paying (blue line) and the red (hra account) and the gold shows the County contributing the difference with the deductible and co-insurance threshold. In the gold, what happens to the employee is that everything is the same as it always was, in fact its

better. The things they have co-pays on and so forth are eliminated. That is the baseline which provides the ability to look at the trends going forward and how powerful that is.

Mr. Pierce said to drop down to the projected annual savings, \$6 million with the current plan, the new style would be just over \$5.1 million and then with the employer contributing to the gold level (that's the \$5.7 million); that is a \$332,000 savings in year 1. Going across that column (441 in year 2)

(Matt stopped the discussion to ask for an explanation about the gold line.)

Mr. Pierce stated that is an important point. The Health and HRA accounts – the health reimbursement arrangement. This is a new style health insurance – you are going from a \$20 ticket to the buffet where people are oblivious to what the real cost of their medical insurance to consumer driven health care. Consumer driven health care has people go through a buy consumption process, similar to anything else they buy. In that style, deductibles and co-insurance are overlaid on HMO's and then the employer can allow the employee to pay for that, entirely, which would be the red line or pay for those deductibles and co-insurance themselves, which is the gold line. In that respect the gold line is still at a savings and then the behavior of the employees is that they would pay and get reimbursed through that corridor. By doing that they have to think through, what am I doing here because they are now actually spending real money that is being reimbursed back to them. That is the degree in the change of behavior which is nominal one in terms of going forward and having benefits at a level where an employer can continue to provide them. The health insurance issue is a national crisis at this point. The government has the ability to tax to raise dollars and the tax payers are looking to their leaders to deliver services as efficiently as possible so that this level of innovation – going forward that the gold line represents no conflict whatsoever with the employees and that is the savings that accrue go to the employer entirely.

Mr. Pierce said earlier at the last meeting we were speaking about the health savings accounts and that money is the employees that have the savings bucket. None of that is illustrated here, this is just a decision to go from an HMO to the HRA. That is what this is projecting out to be. The numbers are really big. To come back to the projected annual savings in dollars and percentages, the 332 corresponds with the gold line and going across that the 441, the 582, the 699 and the 851. Those are conservative estimates in terms of real dollar savings.

(Mr. Pierce stated these savings could pay for the clubhouse.)

Mr. Pierce this is an extremely flexible arena and customizable solution that is able to be implemented. For the employees themselves, say you have a population of 600 and 200 are interested in migrating to the health savings accounts, those could be rotated in over time and then the consumer driven behavior is what keeps the costs down ultimately. If they don't over consume beyond what they really need. The percentages 5.5% becomes 6.5% - 7.5 and 8.25% up to – just under 9%. That is the difference in those two trend lines – getting off the old mentality to the consumer driven healthcare. The technology to deliver that – the benefit mall, which is general agency, is the biggest general agency in the United States. There are 2 million people on the plan – a hundred thousand different companies across the country and the ability to see of these who will be parts in customized employee statements with the third party administrator that the health insurance delivery industry has really evolved. The technology is there to deliver this in a way that is friendly to the consumer and the user and the employee and that is easy to implement for the employer.

Mr. Pierce asked if that makes sense. In terms of just seeing the general future and the magnitude of the dollars involved because if we are looking at the dollars going across, the savings in terms of doing anything beyond this conservative baseline could be even more. What it is doing is embracing what is going to occur something in the future anyway, sooner. By adopting it now, the savings and the educational process begin now. That is really the backbone of the successful implementation of this, is a proactive program of education to, at the executive level here, the management level and then through the workforce. In terms of the strategy to achieve that, the broker serves at the discretion of the employer. His ability to do that would be by being appointed as the broker, structuring the program and spending the ensuing months to go through this.

Mr. Sworen has mentioned during the break that they had just changed to the plans to prepare to move in this direction - can be done in an orderly and timely fashion, so it is proactive with the employees and in a cooperative approach.

Mr. Pierce feels what he has presented gives a birds eye view of the future. You see how big the dollars are and that waiting is just losing money. If you go back to the 80's which was the old style indemnity insurance, and the HMO's were in the offing that everyone was resisting and now we are all there. It's the same phenomenon with this, to bring it in sooner is to benefit sooner. There is no holding all of this back. It's just a question of when, not if.

Deputy Director Peterson informed when the County does its Request for Proposals for health coverage, the County will list what it expects so the agencies are aware. Mrs. Yard stated the County Treasurer and Human Resources Director work with the carriers.

Mr. Pierce thanked the Board for its time.

County Golf Course

Deputy Director Peterson asked Mrs. Yard about the DEP water issue for the Heron Glen Golf Course.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that she has until September 23, 2007 to answer the DEP. She has talked with Mr. Glynn and they talked with Jason from Kemper Management at the golf course. She stated that Kemper Management uses Penelope Althoff as a consultant for the golf course. Kemper Management does not feel the County overused its water allocation and that there are two or three different wells and Jason was going to gather the information and discuss it with Ms. Althoff. Mr. Glynn also does not feel the County overused its allocation but it is being looked into.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/11/07-14A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss security related issues concerning the planning for a Bioterrorism and OEM exercise.

See Page 09/11/07-14B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the minutes of April 24, 2007, February 14, 2006 and February 26, 2007, and the release of portions the minutes.

See Page 09/11/07-14C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with the Sheriff's Office Sergeants.

See Page 09/11/07-14D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues and the allocation of space in the historic Hunterdon County Courthouse.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 8:04 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Deputy Director Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Mrs.) Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board