

# HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

**April 01, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:05 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**PRESENT: MR. MENNEN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN.**  
**ABSENT: MR. PETERSON**

## **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

Deputy Director Mennen 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 2, 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."

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

**See Page 04/01/08-1A** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

**See Page 04/01/08-1B** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss status of lawsuit with the Sheriff's Office.

**See Page 04/01/08-1C** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss executive session minutes of August 28, 2007.

**See Page 04/01/08-1D** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss possible land acquisition/park purchase.

**See Page 04/01/08-1E** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss status of D & R Greenway Land Trust issue.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into executive session at 4:09 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 6:11 p.m.

## **KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP, Deputy Mayor James Burke**

Mr. Peterson stated that the first topic on the agenda is a discussion on a project in Kingwood Township on Horseshoe Bend Road. He stated that he made a site visit and told Mr. Burke that it was a beautiful piece of property and it was something the County should participate in preserving. Time went by and nothing ever came before the Board as to how it would be done and what the terms would be. Mr. Peterson and Mr. Mennen met with Mr. Burke and Mr. Scott to ask questions regarding this acquisition. Green Acres certified this property at 8.6 million. The Board was originally told that the price of the property should be about 8 million. The Board was told the purchase price was 9 million and the Board was concerned about overpaying for the property beyond its value. The Board's participation will be based on the appraised value. Other concerns involved the roads, bridges and culverts that access that property, which are not conducive to a heavy traffic pattern. The Board is pleased to learn that Kingwood will do a traffic analysis so traffic can be directed down Spring Hill Road and not on the other roads. The town will work with the Board in devising a traffic pattern to discourage traffic from traveling down the other roads from and to the park. Kingwood Township will work with the Board on an agreement on maintenance of the buildings on the property and the property itself. Mr. Burke provided a letter to the Board which stated if the County would contribute 1.5 million to the acquisition, that there is Green Acres funding for the other 1.5 million. The Board's policy on acquisitions of this type has a cap of 2 million dollars and if the Board agrees, they can fund 2 million and Green Acres will fund the other million to come to the 3 million dollars.

Mr. Mennen stated he was pleased with the meeting and that a workable scenario could be found which keeps the County within its cap policy and allows the County to participate. Mr. Mennen visited the site and was impressed by the property and felt that it is an important piece to preserve. He is pleased that it could be worked out.

Mr. Burke thanked the Board for allowing them to be on the agenda and be at the meeting to show support for this acquisition. There is quite a bit of interest in the park, as is obvious from the crowd present, and feels it would be a great addition to the Hunterdon County Park System. The partners are in place and Kingwood is ready to assume the responsibility for the facility once the proposal is reviewed.

Deborah Kratzer, Kingwood Environmental Commission, stated these properties have high ecological value, containing mature forests, unique streams, fantastic use and prime agricultural soils. Kingwood has observed bald eagles in the area and the NJ DEP has documented long tailed salamanders. The high quality of the environmental features of these properties present a unique mix for both active and passive recreation activities which may include biking, bird watching, equestrian riding and carriage trails and hiking. All areas of the properties exhibit at least one high valued feature worthy of preservation. She urged the Board to support the preservation of these properties.

Members of Junior Girl Scout Troop 186 spoke about their hope to see this land turned into a park. If this property was turned into a park, people could see the wildlife that lives there. If the land is sold and homes are built, the roads will be overflowing with traffic and taxes will go up.

Mr. Burke added that the Township Engineer verified that using Spring Hill Road for access and Kingwood Township would widen part of the road to be in compliance. There is one bridge on Spring Hill Road but it should pose no problems.

Mr. Peterson stated that there is a process for the next step in this acquisition. He requested that the Township keep in touch with Mr. Richardson on the process.

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to direct County Counsel and appropriate County staff to pull together the necessary documentation and analysis to effectuate participation, up to a level of \$2 million which is consistent with County policy to purchase the property in Kingwood Township as open space. The County expects other funding sources as represented to participate, which would include the state piece, the non-profit component, the township component and the Green Acres grant. This is also conditioned upon all three parcels, which make up the entirety of the project, being placed into preservation. In addition, an appropriate maintenance agreement for the buildings and other infrastructures on the site must be created and the Township must acknowledge and memorialize its agreements to perform a traffic analysis and if necessary that the municipality be prepared to undertake whatever is necessary to limit vehicular traffic to Spring Hill Road.

Mr. Sworen confirmed this property would not become part of the County's park system. Mr. Mennen stated he did not envision this becoming a County park. Mr. Sworen confirmed the property would be a cooperative open space purchase.

Mr. Sworen confirmed this property could become a park for Kingwood Township if they chose to do that. Director Peterson confirmed all County residents would be able to utilize the park.

Mr. Mennen further stated and Mr. Sworen agreed that as a condition of the County's contribution of \$2 million plus the Green Acres funds, Kingwood Township would make the property a Township park. Mr. Sworen added that if Green Acres funds are utilized it would be a park, open to anyone at any point in time.

Deputy Mayor Burke stated there is Green Acres funding that can be used on all three separate parcels towards the acquisition.

Mr. Sworen asked if the County is moving to purchase the property or moving to look at purchasing the property. Mr. Mennen confirmed the motion is to agree to purchase based upon acceptable documentation of a maintenance agreement, environmental and all the standard language and caveats placed in the County agreements for acquisition. Director Peterson added that all environmental inspections must be completed in addition to all normal requirements when the County's purchases property. Mr. Sworen confirmed the only thing that would stop this purchase would be an environmental issue or a standard condition not being met or if Green Acres money does not get allotted from the State.

Mr. Mennen added to the motion that all three parcels must be purchased. Director Peterson was under the impression that all three parcels were to be purchased or none would be acquired. He stated the County is trying to memorialize all the conditions that had already been agreed upon, so once they are satisfied the project/acquisition will move forward. Deputy Mayor Burke stated Kingwood Township has agreed to maintain and manage the entire parcel, as well as, taking responsibility for the required modifications to the infrastructure.

Mr. Melick said he feels this is an excellent time to be purchasing property in a down market and he asked if these prices are set in stone. He would like to see the price of the property evaluated today because it is known that the County's assessments are going down. He would like to see the County get the best possible deal.

Mr. Melick questioned who the owners the three properties are. He needs to know because he may have a conflict if they contributed to his campaign or any of the Board members' campaigns. All that is know is they are the Horseshoe Bend LLC. Deputy Mayor Burke agreed to find out the members of the LLC and provide that information to the Board of Freeholders. Mr. Mennen amended the motion to require that the owner(s), consistent with the Municipal Land Use Law, provide a listing of any 10% owners. Ms. Sworen agreed.

Mr. Melick asked the status of the homes/lots located on the property. He doesn't feel there is anyone to purchase the homes for the lots because the market is dead at this time.

Mr. Holt stated he saw this property a year ago and supports this acquisition. He feels this is exactly what the County's open space funding was meant for. This is a partnership, which the County pushes for.

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

Mr. Sworen stated this is a bold step for the citizens and leadership of Kingwood to do this. It is the right time to do this and it's a wonderful piece of property.

Deputy Mayor Burke stated he will get in contact with County Counsel Gaetano M. DeSapio and Kevin Richardson, Open Space Trust Fund Coordinator to get all the items accomplished.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 6:40 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

### **FINANCE**

Director Peterson opened the public hearing on Capital Ordinance No. 01-08.

There being no comments or questions from the press or public Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08-3A**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 01-08**

**RESOLVED, ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES BY THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND APPROPRIATING \$284,500.00 THEREFORE.**

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

### **OPEN SPACE**

Mr. Mennen stated that a subcommittee with Mr. Sworen, Mrs. Yard, Mr. Richardson and himself and also the full Board have discussed the procedure for municipal cooperative acquisitions and the County Cooperative Acquisition Program is being developed to determine a process to be followed for these types of acquisitions. It creates a mechanism for municipalities and non-profits to come before the Board seeking participation in cooperative acquisitions. The concept is grounded in easily discernable processes, rules and timetables.

Mrs. Yard stated that the idea emanated from a meeting in November when Freeholder Director Peterson met with representatives from different venues to discuss a mechanism to equitable, strategically and objectively receive applications from the municipalities. Prior to this, Mr. Richardson was responsible for the screening of applications. The application process will have a start and finish and certain processes to be followed along the course of the application process. The County needs to socialize this process to the municipalities so that all are aware of the process. The process is not statutorily prescribed and can be modified if needed without compromising the objective of the program. Concerns were raised about the funding and how the County funds open space. There are different ways that projects can be funded by the County. The open space tax is one of four funding sources that can be used for open space acquisitions. Out of the 15.9 million we have in our open space tax fund, 15.6 million is earmarked through three different ordinances.

Mr. Richardson added that a decision needs to be made in respect to the new committee's role – what the committee is going to look like and who will serve on the committee, whether it will be a new committee or if the current open space committee will be expanded. The critical component to this program is having a committee. The Board needs to discuss the composition of the committee; reach out to municipalities to obtain nominations for the committee and the Board ultimately needs to appoint members to the committee. Also, criteria for the ranking system needs to be established for the program, procedural documents need to be prepared and outreach to the municipalities to explain the program and implementation of the program. Mr. Richardson recommended a "stakeholders" meeting, inviting people from non-profit organizations as well as municipalities to discuss their specific vision, goals and how the County can meld the program to address their issues.

Mr. Mennen stated the committee to be established will be an advisory committee which will be broad based and regionally diverse and all with the objective of making this process more discernable and allowing the information to the Board to be more complete and well rounded. Mr. Richardson will be an integral part of this committee.

Mrs. Yard suggested establishing a timeline for the plan of action to keep the momentum going on the program.

Mr. Sworen stated the Board needs to decide on all the details of the program prior to going to the municipalities. His concern is that there are rules and regulations which have been set up by

previous Boards which should be re-evaluated by the present Board. In addition, everyone needs to be clear as far as what funding is not encumbered, how much money the County has to work with, and how the funding is distributed. Mr. Sworen also is concerned that the Parks Master Plan was never adopted.

Mr. Holt reiterated that a decision needs to be made as to whether the County will have one committee or whether this will be a separate committee from the present Open Space Advisory Committee. He feels that having a timeline is critical. Mr. Holt also expressed concern over funding and the referendum that will be coming up in 2009 in reference to the County open space tax and should the language in the referendum be revised, and whether or not the Garden State Trust element will be on the ballot for continuation this year.

Mr. Melick questioned how the membership will be determined.

Mrs. Yard said there are discussions as to whether it will be one committee, using members from the current open space advisory committee, or if a separate committee would be appointed, which is to be determined by the Board. This decision has yet to be finalized. The Board has the decision on who to appoint to the committee.

Mr. Peterson added that while all the pieces of putting this together are already out there, it's a matter of putting the pieces into a format. He stated that the funding has nothing to do with the committee's charge – it has to do with how much money is available for the committee to function with. Policies are already in place and can be reviewed and revised. Mr. Peterson viewed this as separate and distinct from the current open space committee because it's two different functions. This program is a critical part of making our community a wonderful place to live by purchasing open space but the process has broken down over time. The time has come to have an open process with known criteria that's open to everyone to see on how the process works and how it came about. There are decisions to be made – how the committee is comprised, how much money will go into the program. His concern is to have committee members who are dedicated to the program and show up for meetings, site visits, etc. His view of the composition of the committee is representatives from non-profits, municipalities, parks and recreation and planning.

Mr. Peterson proposed that Mrs. Yard and Mr. Richardson come up with options on the structure of the committee and modification of the bylaws of the current open space committee to fit this committee's charge and present at the next meeting so the Board can make policy decisions.

Mrs. Yard stated that the liaisons will be advised when Mr. Richardson and she meet to gather this information and invite them to join in if they are available.

Mr. Holt added that he wants to ensure that the Board has sufficient time to work on the questions and issues so that it is done right.

The Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 noon to discuss this program further.

### **LIBRARY**

Mark Titus, Library Director, gave an update of what has been happening at the Library. Mr. Titus described a new brochure that has been developed to explain all the services the Library has. This month, there is a wide variety of programs scheduled for the Library. Mr. Titus reported that there are generally waiting lists for the programs offered by the Library. There is huge demand for specific programs. The Library has guidelines to determine the "age appropriateness" of programs and parents are advised of the guidelines when signing their children up for programs.

Mr. Titus the new service "EZ Search", which allows people to search for an item by subject, title and author to retrieve information from the Library's databases and how it can be accessed. You can get articles, books, newspapers through this mechanism.

National Library Week begins April 14<sup>th</sup>. They are preparing for their summer reading club. The Friends of the Library book sale is on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April. Collection dates are April 5<sup>th</sup> at North County Branch and April 12<sup>th</sup> at the National Guard Library.

Mr. Titus stated that the bookmobile is being constructed now and are anticipating it will be available in the last quarter of the year.

### **PROJECT UPDATE**

Frank J. Bell, County Project Administrator, reported that the projects for:

- Deer Path, the Arboretum and Route 12 are being closed out.
- There are a few miscellaneous items to be completed at Route 12 that the contractor needs to take care of.

Mr. Melick left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

- At the job meeting for the Emergency Services addition, 2 additional change orders were introduced. One is for generator exhaust piping in the amount of \$4,055; the other is a split system condensing unit change in the amount of \$1,209. Mr. Bell asked for approval for these change orders.

Mr. Sworen made a motion and Mr. Holt seconded approval of the change order for the general exhaust piping at the Emergency Services addition.

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

Mr. Sworen made a motion and Mr. Holt seconded approval of the change order for the condensing unit change for the Emergency Services addition.

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

- The County Clerk will be moving on April 18 and 19.
- The Everittstown Garage will be out to bid this week with bids returning on May 8.
- Alan Johnson will be meeting with Housing applicants to qualify them on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The budgets for present applicants were done and there was money left over so it's been opened up to new applicants.
- Mr. Johnson will be contacting RVD to get them up to the Communications Center site to get the cardboard and stuff to be recycled cleaned up.

Mr. Melick returned to the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

### **WIRELESS PROJECT**

Mr. Bell and Michael Rasimowicz, Information Technology gave the Board an update on the wireless project. Mr. Rasimowicz stated that the wireless project was started today. The first phase is connecting the Justice Center to Main Street and 8 Court Street. Mr. Bell and Mr. Rasimowicz attended a meeting with the Raritan Township Planning Board and advised them of the upcoming projects. The general consensus was that they understood the projects and would draft a letter with their concerns. Overall, they wanted to know if the Route 31 tower could be moved from the front of the property to the back of the property. Mr. Bell also stated that Mr. Humphries (Township Planner) acknowledged that this was a courtesy review application and the Board concurred with that. Raritan Township's suggestion would be on the Westcott side of the property. Mr. Rasimowicz asked for Board direction on this issue. The Board approved the Westcott side of the property as long as the boring tests verify that it can be constructed there.

### **PURCHASING**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08 – 5A**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the rejection of bids received for Bid #2008-02, to furnish and deliver a John Deere 4WD Loader, or its approved equal, to Roads, Bridges and Engineering, as Jesco Equipment did not meet the County's specifications and Binder Machinery was over the budgeted amount.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08 – 5B**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of Bid #2008-04, to furnish and deliver glass traffic marking spheres, for the Traffic Maintenance Division, of Roads, Bridges and Engineering, to Garden State Highway Products, in an amount not to exceed \$26,520.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08 – 5C**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of Bid #2008-08, to furnish and deliver structural steel, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, to Samson Metal Services, in an amount not to exceed \$25,227.64.

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

Mr. Holt and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08 – 5D**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017745, using Quotation #0024-2008, with Ambion, for tank cleaning solvent, for the Traffic Maintenance Division, of Roads, Bridges and Engineer, amount of \$16,507.50.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

**See Page 04/01/08 – 6A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017963, using State Contract #A-70957, with Fords National Auto Mall, for one 2008 Ford F150 Supercab XL with towing trailer, for Rutgers' Cooperative Extension, in the amount of \$19,768.

**See Page 04/01/08 – 6B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017964, using State Contract #A-70850, with Hertrich Fleet Services, for one 2008 Chevrolet Suburban, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, in the amount of \$29,739.

**See Page 04/01/08 – 6C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017965, using State Contract #A-70850, with Hertrich Fleet Services, for one 2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer, for the Health Department, in the amount of \$19,382.

**See Page 04/01/08 – 6D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017966, using State Contract #A-70870, with Hertrich Fleet Services, for one 2008 Chevrolet Uplander, for the Youth Facility Division, of the Public Safety Department, in the amount of \$16,009.

**See Page 04/01/08 – 6E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017967, using State Contract #A-70850, with Hertrich Fleet Services, for one 2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer, for the Prosecutor's Office, in the amount of \$19,382.

**See Page 04/01/08 – 6F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017962, using State Contract #A-70872, for one 2008 Ford Econoline Wagon S31, for the Route 31 Vehicle pool, in the amount of \$20,860.

**See Page 04/01/08 – 6G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017968, using State Contract #A-70462, for two (2) 2008 Ford Police Interceptor P71 with Base lighting package, for the Prosecutor's Office, in the amount of \$43,310.

**See Page 04/01/08 – 6H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017989, using State Contract #A-70850, with Hertrich Fleet Services, for one 2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer CT 15506, for Engineering, in the amount of \$19,382.

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

Mr. Sworen left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

**ROADS, BRIDGES and ENGINEERING, John P. Glynn, Director**

Mr. Glynn updated the Board on the Route 610 and 513 intersection project in Frenchtown Borough. Mr. Glynn recommended modification of the intersection to eliminate the left hand turn which will allow traffic to flow out of the CITGO gas station and work with Frenchtown in creating six parking spots which were eliminated. This will address all the issues in the resolution received from Frenchtown.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve the revised striping plan.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. 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."

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 01, 2008.

**See Page 04/01/08-6I**

**CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Holt stated that in regard to the next item, that Mrs. Yard received a request for training and travel for this employee which she was reluctant to authorize. It was forwarded to the Health Department liaisons. He requested that Rose Puelle from the Health Department come before the Board at the next meeting to discuss the training request.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08 –7A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Thomas Kachnowski appointed provisional, part time Coordinator of Volunteers, in the Health Department, (granted funded position).

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

Mr. Holt stated that a travel request was submitted for Mr. Kachnowski and he asked Rose Puelle to come to the meeting and discuss the request. Ms. Puelle distributed to the Board a copy of the request, along with Mr. Kachnowski's job description. Ms. Puelle stated the request is to have the new MRC Coordinator attend a National Training Conference for MRC Coordinators. Not everyone is approved to attend this conference – you have to be approved by the Surgeon General. Mr. Kachnowski applied and was approved at the federal level. Grant funds are available to pay for this training. There are training sessions devoted to new MRC Coordinators. Ms. Puelle stated that this individual volunteered over 100 hours before being hired as an employee and has attended 6 MRC meetings. He is at a perfect point to attend this type of training. Most of the 200 MRC members are medical professionals. The coordinator needs to be trained to support these volunteers.

Mr. Sworen asked if this was the only training this year. Ms. Puelle stated that it's the only training in this grant cycle. Mr. Melick expressed his concern about sending an employee to Oregon for a training session and not somewhere else closer.

Mr. Sworen asked questions regarding Mr. Kachnowski's background. Ms. Puelle filled the Board in on his background and experience. He has had experience in emergency preparedness, is a HAM radio operator, and has even participated in emergency response drills.

Mr. Peterson asked what this person would be trained in at the conference. Ms. Puelle outlined the sessions and meetings included in the conference. Mr. Peterson asked if any of these programs are held in New Jersey or Pennsylvania. Ms. Puelle stated she believes there are regional conferences but they don't cover the federal issues.

Mrs. Yard stated that the policy states that those employees that are approved and authorized can apply to attend training and/or conferences. She added that she had an issue with someone who is newly hired and in their working test period being endorsed to attend a conference out of state. She did not feel comfortable approving this request and forwarded it to the two liaisons. One thing the County has asked is that department manager plan and determine what the best conference for staff to attend. The purpose of grants is to improve and increase services and programs. The ultimate decision on this request is the Board's.

Mr. Holt stated that in a volunteer program such as MRC it seems that grant funding being spent to educate the educator is exactly the mechanism used to increase programs and services. The greater trainer we have in front of volunteers the greater the effort we will get out of them.

Mr. Peterson feels that the Board has a fiduciary duty to spend funds, whether from taxes or grants, as wisely as possible. When it's the taxpayers' money, it is the same as if it's our own money. Training is a good thing but it should be done as locally as possible and as reasonable as possible.

Mrs. Yard asked Ms. Puelle if this individual needs certification or licensure and is he required to get CEU's in his position. Ms. Puelle stated the MRC Coordinator title does not require CEU's to her knowledge.

Mr. Holt stated that if we have an opportunity to train, we should train. This opportunity allows this grant funding to be used to improve programs and services within the MRC by giving the best training that we can.

Mr. Peterson would like to see if courses are offered closer to here before making a decision on this.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve this training request.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08 – 7B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Elizabeth Erwin, Senior Librarian, Library, leave of absence without pay.

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

Mr. DeSapio commented on the next resolution. Normally when an agreement is made with other counties, the Freeholders adopt a resolution and this agreement is signed by the Purchasing Agent, which he may have the authority in Sussex County to do. This involves lending one of our vehicles to Sussex County and the contract does provide that Sussex County is going to indemnify us but he is concerned that the Purchasing Agent signed the agreement.

Mr. Melick moved the following resolution contingent on the Sussex County Board of Freeholders ratifying the agreement. Mr. Sworen seconded it.

**See Page 04/01/08-8A** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an Agreement for the Loan of Transit Equipment with Sussex County, for one 2001 Bluebird Bus, to assist the transit dependent resident of Sussex County. A fire destroyed several of Sussex's buses.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08-8B** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a 15 ton weight limit on County Bridge R-24, on Mill Road, in Readington Township.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08-8C** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Supporting an application by HART for Safe Routes School programming, eleven schools have been identified for this programming.

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

Mr. DeSapio was asked to contact Dick Cushing, Clinton Township's attorney, to determine what pending litigation may be coming forward. Sue Dziamara, Planning Director, advised the Board that this resolution supports the municipal efforts along the 78 corridor to apply for and pursue scenic byway designation.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08-8D** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Supporting Interstate 78 municipalities in their application for Scenic By-Way designation for the Interstate 78 transportation corridor through Hunterdon.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 04/01/08-8E** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an agreement with David Errickson to serve as Chaplain at the Division of Corrections for 2008, in an amount not to exceed \$15,600.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

**See Page 04/01/08-8F** **PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing April 2008 as National Autism Awareness Month in Hunterdon.

**See Page 04/01/08-8G** **PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Declaring May 2008 as ALPHA-1 Awareness Month in Hunterdon.

**See Page 04/01/08-8H** **PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Proclaiming May 08, 2008 as Hunterdon County Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in Hunterdon.

**See Page 04/01/08-8I** **PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Declaring May 2008 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the County.

See Page 04/01/08-9A

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing Kyle Weber for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 04/01/08-9B

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing Hugh Joseph Prentice for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/01/08-9C

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a New Jersey Council on the Arts application for the "Local Arts Program", for FY2009-2011 funding, to provide County Arts Agency Support and Re-granting Support through the Cultural & Heritage Commission.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/01/08 - 9D

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, for 2008 Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities, in the amount of \$5,000.

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

A request was received from Lucy Bush, requesting permission to use the Historic Court House steps on Thursday, May 01, 2008, for the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual National Day of Prayer. Also requested was the use of an electrical outlet. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Buildings and Maintenance Department.

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

Correspondence was received from Readington Township for permission to close a portion of County Route 523, (from Route 22 to Mountain Road), on Monday, May 26, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., for the Township's Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to approve this request provided it is coordinated through the County's Roads, Bridges and Engineering Department.

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

The Green Brook Racing, LLC, is requesting permission to use County roads on Sunday, September 07, 2008, from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., for their second annual BUCKMAN Sprint Distance Triathlon at Round Valley Recreation area. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion granting permission provided it is coordinated through the County's Roads, Bridges and Engineering Department.

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

Somerset Wheelmen, USA Cycling, Inc., is requesting permission to use County Route 620, to hold "The Somerset Circuit Time Trail" on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion granting permission provided it is coordinated through the County's Roads, Bridges and Engineering Department.

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

**COUNTY UPDATE**

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator updated the Board on the County Resident Prescription Savings Program. Minutes were researched and it was discovered that the County presently offers a resident prescription savings program. Mrs. Yard spoke to Human Services and the program was approved when Angelo DiOrio was the Human Services Administrator. Flyers were sent out with newspapers. It's a different program than the one being offered by Bergen County. The County does not track the program or administer the program.

**FREEHOLDERS ASSIGNMENT REPORTS**

Mr. Sworen reported that in a discussion with the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance (HLTA), the ballot question came up concerning the preservation of open space, farmland preservation and preservation of historic structures. There is a grant that the HLTA can receive where a firm could come in and research ballot questions. If the Board is interested, the HLTA will come and make a

presentation o this. Mr. Mennen stated the firm gives you names of firms, helps suggest language, and does some nominal polling. The deadline for the grant is August 1, 2008. Mr. Sworen stated the letter from the HLTA is to the Public Trust requesting them to make a presentation to the County without comment. Mr. Holt asked that this be arranged for the next meeting. Director Peterson would like to look at the timing of this.

After further discussion, the Board agreed a letter should be sent to the Public Trust under Director Peterson's signature.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders at 9:31 p.m., returned to Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 10:41 p.m.

Mr. Holt stated that the County Clerk has asked the Board to revisit her budget and restore the \$5,000 cut. He also questioned the NJAC membership and if it was discussed and if the membership dues are in the budget or not.

Mrs. Yard stated she sent an email to Mr. Holt and Mr. Sworen that stated that the Board wanted Mr. Sworen to represent from his experience to present what some of the accomplishments were. Information provided by Celeste Carpiano at the March 14 meeting was forwarded to all the Freeholders.

If the Board decides to go forward with the NJAC dues, there is money available to cover this.

Mrs. Yard reported that Finance advised all departments, using a list of where cuts were being taken, what dollar amount their budget would be reduced by and requested that each department review the line items and make adjustments.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders returned to Executive Session at 9:31 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 10:50 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the board, Director Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board