

**HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

Historic Court House, Main Street County Complex, Second Floor  
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

**January 15, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 5:03 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**PRESENT: MR. MENNEN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN.**  
**ABSENT: DIRECTOR 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 02, 2008, to the Hunterdon Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review and Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Peterson came into the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

**See Page 01/15/08-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss and review executive session minutes of December 2005, September 24, 2007, September 25, 2007 and August 14, 2007.

**See Page 01/15/08-1B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss and review executive session minutes of September 24, 1991.

**See Page 01/15/08-1C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to review the legal issues concerning a budget dispute with the Sheriff.

**See Page 01/15/08-1D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss any legal questions the Board may have concerning employment decisions in the Prosecutor's Office.

**See Page 01/15/08-1E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a legal interpretation, requested by Hunterdon County Polytech, of a provision included in a contract with the County dated December 21, 2004.

**See Page 01/15/08-1F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss litigation entitled: Gensch vs. Hunterdon County Clerk.

**See Page 01/15/08-1G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss appointments to various Boards.

**See Page 01/15/08-1H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss the status of discussions for the acquisition through donation of a parcel to service as the North/East County Library Branch.

**See Page 01/15/08-1I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss land and legal issues in connection with the lease of five (5) houses to the Hunterdon County Housing Corporation.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 5:14 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:11 p.m.

**Open to the Public:**

Director Peterson opened the meeting to the public.

Margaret Anderson of Cherryville-Stanton Road came before the Board to oppose the planned disabled deer hunt. She stated she represents many people who were unable to attend tonight's meeting because of time and the fact that she obtained information.

Ms. Anderson stated upon the advice of a Freeholder she attended meetings of the Parks Advisory Board in both October and November 2007, to ask them to consider advising the Freeholders to cancel the hunt for the disabled individuals. She provided the Parks Advisory Board with a lengthy presentation and said they withheld judgment at the October 02, 2007 meeting, until the November 05, 2007 meeting when 3 of their other colleagues would be present. At that meeting, her request to advise the Freeholders to cancel the hunt was denied.

Ms. Anderson confirmed the Board receives minutes from the County's Parks Advisory Board and is able to see from those minutes that the Parks and Recreation Director, John Trontis, enumerated all the factors as to why the disabled hunt should not be cancelled. Mr. Trontis offered to send that information to the Board.

Ms. Anderson informed the Board that she found out after obtaining the minutes from the Parks Advisory Board's November 05, 2007 meeting that a request was made about having the Parks' staff screen the public in advance of their meetings so that any public request must meet the test of non-discrimination. Ms. Anderson feels her request was broadly mischaracterized and misrepresented to cancel future events. The minutes will show that the Parks' Director deserves credit for both documenting that request and for denying the request. The purpose of public meetings is to discuss a variety of opinions, not to harass, mischaracterize or police. Ms. Anderson pointed out that the Parks Advisory Board member who made the suggestions also sits on the County's Deer Management Committee. People should know that the numerous points presented to the Parks Advisory Board on October 02, 2007, emphasized that there are definitions and degrees of disability that do not interfere with someone's ability to hunt. However there are valid reasons for anyone requiring assistance in handling a firearm or any other weapon used for killing should not be hunting. Ms. Anderson stated that before the holidays she interviewed about 23 people, ranging from Boy Scouts to the Military, Law Enforcement and hunters.

Ms. Anderson feels there has been an attempt to muzzle freedom of speech and it illustrates how the word discrimination can be distorted and used in a self-serving manner. The members of this Parks Advisory Board tried to stifle further public demand to prevent progression of these irrational special interest hunts. She feels the use of firearms should not require assistance. Anyone with a physical or mental condition severe enough to interfere with the proper use of weapons, including needing any assistance to handle such weapons should not be allowed to hunt.

Ms. Anderson questioned if semi-automatic shotguns with 3 rounds would be used. Mr. Trontis advised shotguns are being used. Ms. Anderson said hunting is a privilege not a necessity and feels in this case, a participant should not be exposing themselves and others to risks. A gun safety course on hunters' safety orientation, especially for some participants who may not have hunted in years is not very reassuring. Ms. Anderson asked if the safety course is given in the classroom or the field.

Director Peterson informed Ms. Anderson that the Board is here to listen to her concerns. She can address her questions to Mr. Trontis at a different time.

Ms. Anderson said the issue of a hunting license is no guarantee for hunting safety because of unwritten codes and ethics; highly individual hunting behavior which is difficult to legislate. She has been trying to get answers to questions for the past 3 months. Ms. Anderson told Director Peterson her calls have not been returned. Director Peterson informed Ms. Anderson that they did speak. Ms. Anderson stated it was over a year ago and advised that she keeps detailed notes of everyone she speaks with, including dates and times.

Ms. Anderson said people need to be made aware of the National Wild Turkey Federation Organization; the Spruce Run Chapter of this federation has provided support and special equipment in other states. There are also rifles available that allow quadriplegics to hunt, they aim with joysticks and pull triggers by blowing into straws. The gun is in a remote control device. Ms. Anderson stated she wrote a letter an article regarding a quadriplegic hunting and getting his license for hunting.

Ms. Anderson stated she was at the County's Arboretum Friday to obtain copies of minutes of the meeting she attended and she found a flyer for a hunt and was unsure as to when that was approved. She said if you are a hunter you can not get into the woods if you have a disability but you can get out on prime Hunterdon county Park lands to hunt. She is curious as to what this Prime Hunterdon County Park Land is and asked if who is responsible for this because the flyer states the Spruce Run Chapter. Mr. Trontis explained the Wild Turkey Federation put out the flyer.

Ms. Anderson said the only credit the Parks and Recreation Department can take here is to provide an opportunity for the satisfaction for pulling a trigger. The hunter experience is subtracted and if you really look at this that is really what is left. Someone has to position the gun and tell the person how to hold it.

Ms. Anderson informed the Board that she is very disappointed with the Parks Advisory Board and the Deer Management Committee.

Ms. Anderson stated Mr. Trontis has made her aware that volunteers that are involved in this type of hunt to help with the program. The public trust in Wildlife Management can be bought by and turned over to a hunting organization which would pay to hunt. She asked if outside groups could bring flyers to the Arboretum to state their feelings against this program.

Ms. Anderson said the truth needs to be brought forward to the public who is not getting it. People only need to protect themselves six months out of the year and six days out of the week. Ms. Anderson does not think this hunt is done as traditional hunting is done and stated she has not met one person who likes this hunt.

Director Peterson stated that the Board would take everything said under advisement and it will be considered for the next year.

Ms. Anderson then asked why it can't be taking into action this year and Director Peterson stated the Board was unaware she would be coming to the meeting tonight and that she presented many questions. It is hard to deal with this situation without having all of the figures and facts on hand. Director Peterson asked she leave the questions she has and the Board can read them over and go from there.

Ms. Anderson asked for a copy of tonight's minutes. Director Peterson confirmed once the minutes have been approved by the Board they will be released and a copy will also be placed on the County's webpage.

Director Peterson recommended since Ms. Anderson has a good relationship with the Parks and Recreation Department that she can go to them to get her questions answered. Ms. Anderson stated she has been back and forth with Parks and Recreation so she would prefer to have the Freeholder Board obtain answers her questions. She feels that Mr. Trontis said he was going to send a letter to the Freeholders with her questions. Director Peterson asked Ms. Anderson to send him her questions in writing and he will distribute them to his colleagues' so they can make their determination on the questions and they can get back to her with answers.

Ms. Anderson asked if the Board could cancel this hunt. Director Peterson explained at this time, the hunt will not be cancelled.

Ms. Anderson stated she wasted more time coming to this meeting to discuss her issues and concerns and feels that the Board of Chosen Freeholders is a disgrace. She said this behavior is disgraceful.

Ms. Anderson asked the reporter present to place this issue on the front page of the Democrat.

Director Peterson advised this is the first full meeting of 2008 and everyone is trying to get used to the way things are going to be run.

Ms. Anderson asked how to be scheduled to be placed on the Board's agenda. Director Peterson explained the agenda deadline is the Monday the week prior to the meeting being held.

Mr. Trontis informed the Board that he feels of these questions can be answered easily and his regret is that the public is not going to hear the resolution.

Director Peterson brought the meeting back to attention.

#### **PROCLAMATION/HUNTERDON COUNTY POLYTECH:**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 3A**

#### **PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the week of February 01 through 29, 2008, be recognized as Career and Technical Education Month in Hunterdon County.

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

Polytech Superintendent, Kim Metz thanked the Board for their support and invited the Board to the open house at the Polytech Career Academy.

#### **COUNTY UPDATE**

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator brought before the Board Alan Johnson and Frank Bell to discuss the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant which the County took over in July of 2007 from the Hunterdon County Housing Corporation. Recently, a letter was sent from the County to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) informing DCA that the County started its housing rehabilitation program in July, 2007 and 15 applications have been submitted to DCA that would be eligible for the 2007 grant. Mrs. Yard is very pleased to inform the Board that 11 applicants have been certified. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bell interviewed all the applicants, went to their homes and assisted with all the paperwork that was needed to be done so that an inspection could be completed. Cost estimates should start being done tomorrow. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bell will be contacting DCA for a time extension for the 2007 grant, and Mrs. Yard explained there is always an automatic six months extension for these grants.

Mr. Johnson advised the Board that he has found that in many of the applicants are senior citizens and they were passed over in the past. These seniors are looking at this program as a way to stay in their communities. There are many heartwarming stories about citizens who have served the Country and are unable to restore their homes. Things are going to be worked out to help those citizens in this program. Mr. Johnson suggested including the municipal building inspectors and code inspectors in this process so they can be of further assistance when it comes to the applicants in their municipalities.

Mr. Johnson stated this is a learning process and he and Mr. Bell have realized that there are situations that need further investigation to determine what actions can be taken to work out various situations. Mr. Johnson feels this program will only get better and more responsive in time and it will be a great assistance to the County's citizens.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that the 2008 Small Cities Grant became available just as Hunterdon received the 2007 money, so the County is not apply for 2008 money because Hunterdon needs to make sure it can spend the 2007 money. The County is getting good, clear direction from the DCA and is being guided as to how to start the rehabilitation program. Mrs. Yard stated right now everyone involved is taking this very slowly to make sure they get everything completed correctly that needs to be.

**PURCHASING:**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt Motion made by Mr. Melick and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 4A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of Bid #2007-43, to furnish and deliver a Moroney B140 Bookmobile or its approved equal, to OBS, Inc., amount not to exceed \$151,518.

Director Peterson advised he asked Mark Titus, Library Director, to be present for this resolution because some of the Freeholders have questions that Mr. Titus might be able to answer.

Mr. Melick explained he is very familiar with the Library and stated that times have changed from 65 years ago. It occurred to him that the book mobile needs to go out to people and schools who are in need of books. There are LINK buses sitting empty and recommended the County explore the idea of bringing the students/people to the library instead of having a bus going out to various areas. Mr. Titus stated there are school groups that come to the Library. The schools actually coordinate and set up times for students to come to the Library. The Library partners with the schools but the schools coordinate when they are able to come to the facility.

Mr. Melick stated he is thinking about the taxpayer; plus the County has buses available at certain times what could be used to bring people to the Library.

Mr. Melick asked the Board to hold off on purchasing a bookmobile for two weeks.

Director Peterson asked Mr. Titus to explain as to how the bookmobile could be used and if it could be used for more than just schools.

Mr. Titus advised the Board approved this purchase a year ago; and the County went through the process to bid the project. There is still a need for a bookmobile program in Hunterdon County. He agreed Mr. Melick's idea is a good one and should be investigated but he does not see that as what the bookmobile does but feels it could be a part of what is done.

Mr. Titus informed the Board that the bookmobile is a cost effect way to deliver library services to parts of the County that are not easily assessable to the Library. The regional plan is to build libraries that serve more than one community, they could be placed where they can reach a wide area and the bookmobiles would go out to other areas of the County that are not near the libraries. Bookmobile do more of a concentrated business than most of the libraries do. They provide services to people who in need, such as daycare facilities, nursery schools and senior citizen facilities. Bookmobiles are a benefit also for recreation and education.

Mr. Melick realizes this is a new thought but he is putting it out there and if they need to have this instead of the notice of the book mobiles that we have empty buses sitting around during the day. He stated that there are many things the book mobile can do it gets the kids into a different environment and a differently learning environment.

Mr. Titus stated the bookmobile started in 1928. Mr. Melick said he would be interested in seeing what the public thinks of this different way to work on this and he wants to come up with other ideas to help the County and the public in the County. Mr. Titus agreed it is an interesting idea and thinks there are some real possibilities that can come of this. He questioned who would be driving the buses. Mr. Melick suggested the library employees. Mr. Melick said he is just trying to think of existing resources so we do not have to spend so much money on a program when there are other things we can do with the program.

Mrs. Yard stated that over two years ago they looked at the bus schedules and those schedules when you talk about buses sitting around they converted it to on demand. When she spoke to Human Services, who controls the LINK buses, she was informed those buses are there because in case of an emergency when someone needs to call last minute to set up a scheduled ride. The Library is already a stop on the LINK bus schedule.

Mr. Holt is confident that the Library Director has already done an analysis of the cost and annual cost. Mr. Titus said if the Board would like, he would provide that information. Mr. Holt confirmed

this information should be provided to the entire Board. Mr. Holt would like to see this because he would like to see if Mr. Melick's suggestion could be taken.

Mr. Sworen likes the idea that Mr. Melick has come up with to expand the services but recommended looking at the cost for drivers as well. Everything needs to be put into the calculation. The bookmobile has been a valuable service to the County for 70 years.

Mr. Titus added that the bookmobile is a good program because many people are unable to get on a bus to come to the library due to disabilities.

Mr. Sworen asked Mr. Melick if he was going to take the responsibility to find out all of the information, including costs with facts and figures or was he going to use the staff of the County because you need to take into consideration how much of the staff's time is going to be used as it also take time, money and effort to do these reports. Mr. Sworen said if Mr. Melick was willing to do that all himself then he would be willing to wait three weeks to come back and discuss this issue again.

Mr. Melick stated this information is available now. Mrs. Yard stated that with all due respect to the Board, all staff is willing to do this research to bring it forward to the Board.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 5A RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #833, using State Contract #A53604, with Danka, for the fleet maintenance agreement for the Canon Photocopying Equipment, for the Purchasing Department, in the amount of \$44,205.96.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 5B RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #PUR.12047, using State Contract #A53591, with Stewart Industries, for fleet maintenance of all Savin Photocopying Equipment, for the Purchasing Department, in the amount of \$17,648.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 5C RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #IT.2845, using State Contract #BW421, with Software House International, for a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement, for Information Technology, in the amount of \$106,347.98.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 5D RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40017193, using County Quote #0127-2007, with the Ohio Bridge Corporation, for galvanized bridge decking for County Bridge M-94, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, in the amount of \$12,492.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 5E RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of an agreement with New Jersey Business Systems, Inc., using State Contract #A61405, for the installation of point to point wireless connection, for Information Technology, in the amount of \$489,708.

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

Motion made by Mr. Sworen and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 6A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Quote #0110-2007, for professional engineering design services in connection with the reconstruction of County Bridge R-123 and approach Roadway of Holland Brook Road, over the Holland Brook, in Readington Township, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, to Keller and Kirkpatrick Consulting Engineers, in an amount not to exceed \$71,082.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 6B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Quote #0111-2007, for professional engineering design services in connection with the reconstruction of Inter-County Bridge T-36-S and approach Roadway of Black River Road over the Lamington River, in Tewksbury and Bedminster Townships, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, to Keller and Kirkpatrick Consulting Engineers, in an amount not to exceed \$95,792.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 6C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Quote #0113-2007, for professional engineering consulting services in support of the development of the County's Transportation Plan, for the County Planning Board, to The RBA Group, in an amount not to exceed \$39,950.

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

Mr. Mennen and Mr. Melick left the meeting at 7:28 pm.

**Farmland Preservation:**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 6D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Contract for Sale of Development Easement from Charles Glashoff, Jr., on Block 17, Lot 36, in Delaware Township, consisting of 25 acres, (SADC- \$150,000, County- \$50,000, Township- \$50,000), total amount of \$250,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 6E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Contract for Sale of Development Easement from Bryan P. Lane, on Block 16, Lot 4, in Holland Township, consisting of an estimated 90 acres, (SADC- \$268,200, County- \$59,400, Township- \$59,400), total amount of \$387,000.

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

Mr. Mennen returned to the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Planning Board**

Mr. Holt brought up an old issue from December, 2007 regarding Delaware Township and the Skeuse Property, saying this was originally brought to the Board in March, 2007 for a 50% and 20% Cost Sharing Grant Agreement. Mr. Holt wanted to relay a message back to Delaware Township to let them know if this would be funded.

Director Peterson stated the Board would review the minutes of the discussion regarding the pay back policy and said it appears in the minutes that the Board had agreed to the 20%. Delaware Township wanted to go for a greater amount for the Board to consider. The question is whether or not the Board approved or didn't approve the pre-paid amount of this. This is a request for clarification.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion that a resolution be created for this issue.

Mr. DeSapio asked if the Board had already previously made a resolution on this issue. He was informed that it had been discussed but no resolution was made. He advised the Freeholder's should not be the bankers for the municipalities. There was a situation in the Farmland Program

in Bethlehem Township where the municipality pre-acquired the deed of easement and may never get their money because the closing was not conducted with the SADC requirements; plus it was done separately by the municipality. The Township is unable to get the property owner to cooperate. This would be risking money and never getting anything back or never getting the final closing done.

Director Peterson feels the Board would dispute 20% and in the end if the municipality had a problem with SADC giving them the money they owed them, that is the municipalities' problem.

Mr. DeSapio stated if the County does the 20% now, the County would own the deed of easement; and there would not be the risk of not getting anything back from the state. He stated that there is nothing illegal about this but if you start to complicate the process a little bit but you are going to subject yourself to a variety of requests of more actions to take place and the County may lose control in a sense of the structure we already have set.

Ms. Dziamara stated she could get the information from the Township and could bring it to the Board.

Mr. DeSapio stated about a few years back there were a few towns that started to close if the property was on a County Road. There was a policy that the County would not cost share on a deed of easement unless a large portion of the easement was set out.

Mr. James McCue, Delaware Township Committeeman came before the Board to insure them that Delaware would do anything necessary to acquire their assistance on this easement. Delaware is at a May 01, 2008 closing on this 46 acre piece of land.

Mr. DeSapio asked if Delaware is buying the full title or just the easement and he questioned if the County would be paying 20% of the easement cost or 20% of the farm. Ms. Dziamara said typically it is 20% of the cost of easement.

Mr. Richardson stated this property is going through a subdivision, as well as the farmland program and they are already aware of the rights of way. Dealing with this early last year the intent was to go through the SADC and the County cycle process. An application has to be made for the SADC process.

Mr. DeSapio informed the Board that on the list of the Planning Board Director's report is a Raritan Township Farm that because of problems has been waiting to close since 2003. There is also a second farmland in Lebanon Township that has been waiting to close since 2004 and another farm in Clinton Township waiting to close since 2004, where the property owners have gotten the money and the State wants a corrective deed of easement but the County is still unable to work out the right language to be used. The property owners for a farm in Tewksbury Township which was acquired in 2003 still have not received their reimbursement because the Township can not get the bank to subordinate the mortgage to the deed. Plus there is a farm in Alexandria Township from 2007 and one in Bethlehem Township from 2002 where they just gave up trying to get their money. Out of the Planning Board's list, there are seven or eight properties that are still kicking around and now the County has spent all this time in the past year and a half on one property. Something has to be done to get this process along.

Mr. DeSapio stated he has some concerns on this matter but does not want to make it difficult for Delaware Township or for the Board of Chosen Freeholders. He strongly urged that Board to become the bankers.

Mr. DeSapio stated he's aware the Board is trying to develop a policy to help with regard to these types of situations from occurring again. He understands it is hard to say no to the property owners because the Board wants to help people. He noted that Delaware Township is not the only township that has come forward with these types of problems in the past.

Director Peterson stated when the Board had this discussion in the past the same concerns were raised.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to create a resolution confirming the discussion of March 27, 2007 reflected in the minutes.

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

Mr. Melick returned to the meeting at 7:55 pm.

**Open Space:**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 7A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Cost Share Contribution, in the amount of \$98,965.80, toward the purchase of a conservation easement of Block 20, Lot 11, (Csepi), consisting of 26.82+/- acres, with Readington Township.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 8A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the allocation of Capital (Parkland Acquisition) funds for the purchase of Block 50, Lot 12; Block 51, Lots 1 and 5; Block 53, Lot 12 and Block 56, Lot 15, in Lebanon Township, (Pelio), consisting of approximately 244.24+/- acres, in the amount of \$3,553,692.

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

**ROADS AND BRIDGES UPDATE**

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges & Engineering, presented the Board with updates:

- Rt. 615 from Rt. 12 up to Pittstown they are going to reduce the actions on the wall for the next meeting. On the Rt. 523 intersection they have begun work and have found out they will be able to bid on this project soon.
- The signal project the department is finalizing the plans and specs for the 523 through Whitehouse Station. The working hours are from 8:30- 4:30.
- In Milford they are finalizing the plans and this is phase two of these plans and they should have them back shortly.
- The B-26 Project with Warren County, they had a very good meeting with the Fish and Game folks and have a clear direction on how to hand this.
- In-house projects are going to go out on Friday to work on the R95 culvert project with Kingwood, Raritan and Readington for the three projects they have listed for this year. John Davenport has put together the contracts for these meetings and the kick off meeting is schedule for January 26, 2008. They are continuing to negotiations for the rights of way and just need to finish the Rt. 523 project.

Mr. Glynn reported on a problem at the Mine Brook which is affecting other projects. The Township is asking for assistance such as mulch and stone. Asked for direction from the Board to see if the department should participate on this project and supply them with stone and mulch and leaves. Mr. Glynn said he would be glad to supply what they need but needs directions from the Board of Chosen Freeholders on how to go about this matter.

Mr. Glynn feels that the Mine Brook is in need of repair and this would be a good project to get involved with since it affects so many other parks in the area that we do work with.

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion approving in-kind services of organic and material for manpower in connection for the Mine Brook. The Township is to provide Mr. Glynn with a resolution of what definitive support and supplies are needed.

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

**CONSENT**

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."

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of August 28, 2007, January 04, 2008 and January 09, 2008.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 8B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Rose Ann Freund appointed permanent, full time Principal Account Clerk, Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 8C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, William Weinreich appointed permanent, full time Bridge Repairer, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

**See Page 01/15/08 – 8D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Holly Fimiano appointed permanent, full time Youth Worker, Youth Facility Division, Public Safety Department.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Michael MacIntyre appointed permanent, full time Senior Building Maintenance Worker, Buildings and Maintenance.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Jaren Sucigan appointed permanent, full time Laborer, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Joseph DeJesso appointed provisional, full time Bridge Repairer, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Roberta Kestenbaum appointed provisional, part time Administrative Analyst, Human Services Department.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, James Mackin appointed provision, full time Bridge Repairer, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Donn Brown, Roads and Bridges, salary adjustment (acquired CDL).

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Sherrill Peterson, 4H Program Assistant, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, hours adjustment.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Linda Stampoulos, Supervising Program Development Specialist, Human Services, hours adjustment.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Cindy Rochman, Clerk Typist, Senior Services Division, Human Services, hours adjustment.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9J**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Robert Sanchis, Laborer, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, granted a leave of absence without pay.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9K**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Stephen Raymond appointed temporary, as needed, Public Safety Telecommunicator, Division of Emergency Services, Public Safety Department.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9L**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving project application for payment #7, Bid #2003-38, for final payment, to Edma Steel, Inc., for structural and miscellaneous steel work, for the Renovations and Addition to the Route 12 County Library Headquarters, in the amount of \$6,150.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9M**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving project application for payment #20, for Bid #2005-39, for Alterations and Addition to the Route 12 County Garage, with APS Contractor, Inc., in the amount of \$79,980.54.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9N**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving change order #28, for Bid #2005-47, Addition and Alterations to the Emergency Services/Communications Center, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., for labor and materials to connect existing New Jersey Transit automatic transfer switch to new generator system, increase of \$641.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 9O**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving change order #29, Bid #2005-47, Addition and Alteration to the Emergency Services/Communications Center, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., for labor and materials to increase the size of existing service for the NJ State Police System to existing electric system, increase of \$1,126.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving change order #30, for Bid #2005-47, Addition and Alteration to the Emergency Services/Communications Center, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., for labor and materials to install a metal platform over the top of the parapet wall with a return ladder on the roof side, including patching through the parapet wall for attachment, increase of \$1,671.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a letter of agreement with Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, for 2008, for substance abuse prevention and education programming through the County's Municipal Alliances, in the amount of \$167,287.28.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Human Services contracts for 2008, for the RFP #0080-2008, to various vendors, pending receipt of contracts and review by County Counsel.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an agreement with Sundance Music, Inc., for a performance by Tom Chapin & Friends, at Deer Path Park, as part of the "Music Under the Stars" concert series, on July 17, 2008, in the amount of \$4,200.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an agreement with the Hunterdon Harmonizers, for a performance at Deer Path Park, as part of the "Music Under the Stars" concert series, on June 26, 2008, in the amount of \$3,000.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an agreement with Terry "A" and The Bid Band Sound, for a performance at Deer Path Park, as part of the "Music Under the Stars" concert series, on July 03, 2008, in the amount of \$3,200.

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing Capital Ordinance No. 15-07, for the construction of a clubhouse at the Heron Glen Golf Course, in the amount of \$2,300,000.00, be rescinded.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion made to approve claims in accordance with the claims register dated January 15, 2008.

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

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11H**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing Stephan Aaron Collaro for having attained the designation of Eagles Scout.

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

Mr. Mennen left the meeting at 8:50 pm.

**GRANTS:**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 11I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an application for the receipt of a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in the amount of \$1,190 to assist low income County residents.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 12A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an application for the acceptance of a Universal Service Fund CWA Administration Grant from Community Affairs, in the amount of \$1,190, to assist in processing of Universal Service Fund check replacements generated through the Family Assistance Management System.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 12B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an amendment to Area Plan Grant #10-025/026, for Congregate Meals and Home Delivered Meals, increase of \$4,525 in state funds and a decrease in federal funds of \$4,525 and a decrease in participant funds of \$2,145.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 12C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the revised funding request for the CDC Grant reflecting recent staffing changes.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 01/15/08 – 12D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the FY 2008 County Aid Program application with NJ DOT, for the amount of \$1,561,000, from the NJ Transportation Trust Fund for the Resurfacing of County Route 514, in East Amwell and Raritan Townships.

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

Mr. Mennen returned to the meeting at 8:54 pm

**FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Creation of a Health Care Review Committee.**

Director Peterson stated the creation of a Health Care Review Committee has been an issue that was discussed for a number of years. He recommended this committee be created and that it consist of the Human Resources Director, Finance Director, Purchasing Agent and an employee that will be picked at a later date. He further informed the Board that he has a friend that has been in this business for a number of years and who is no longer in the business but would be willing to look over the plans the County receives, so that the County could be sure it is picking the best plan. The Board had no objections. .

**Paris Grant**

Frank Bell, AIA, Project Administrator came before the Board to discuss some issues regarding the PARIS Grant. The schedule for the Records Retention Center: application needs to be submitted by February 22, 2008, than it will be reviewed. It will go to capital on January 28, 2008 and come back before the Board on February 05, 2008 to discuss cost estimates prior to the application being submitted to PARIS by Bob Thurgarland, PARIS Coordinator for the County. Mr. Bell confirmed that this does not commit the County to spend the entire grant funds. There are a few things they feel need to be changed on the floor plan.

Mrs. Yard reported the County's Facilities Committee is meeting next week and plans need to do be explored for the Board of Election's expansion.

Mr. Sworen confirmed this expansion includes other departments such as Information Technology and with the wireless project but the PARIS money is going to be used to expand the Warehouse/Records Retention Center, so that the Information Technology Department can become part of this plan. This will help the IT Department so the servers are not all over the County. It will keep them centralized. He confirmed this does not affect the GIS Department.

Mr. Bell stated the study does not commit the Board to build for this project; it is simply showing the Board the plans created in order to get ready for the PARIS Grant. Hunterdon can apply for up to \$2 million through PARIS.

Mrs. Yard stated emails have been received from Mr. Bell and Mr. Glynn that signs are needed to assist people entering the Route 12 County Complex in finding the Board of Elections.

Mr. Sworen informed Mr. Bell that the plans look like this will be a plain building that will function for the County's needs and that is what this Board is trying to do with the buildings; to make sure that they can function .

#### **FREEHOLDER ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:**

##### **Route 78/NJTPA**

Mr. Holt stated he and Ms. Dziemara attended the NJTPA meeting yesterday. There are 5 areas that are seen as the heaviest truck stop areas and the North Jersey truck stop, along Rt. 78 is one of them. Clearly there is a concern about creating a safe way for these truck stops to be functioning. There is much more to be done at the stops on the turnpike and that will be looked at this year by the NJTPA. He and Ms. Dziemara are on the project organization committee and they have four projects on the list for Hunterdon County to be looked at and there was discussion yesterday that they need to work more diligently for safety and flooding issues. Ms. Dziemara stated yesterday that she would send a letter to NJTPA to let them know who is on the committee.

Mr. Melick asked about the status of Exit 15 on Route 78. Mr. Holt advised he spoke about this yesterday, and stated that the Township has been in contact with NJTPA to set up a meeting and they are working on drawing up conclusions.

##### **Time Limits**

Mr. Melick suggested a time limit be placed on the public during open session. He suggested a 3 to 5 minute per person time limit. The public can submit material for the Board to consider.

Director Peterson explained he has given this a lot of thought over the last year because sometimes there are people who come in and take more than five minutes to say what they need to say. Director Peterson said he thinks the public has a right to state what is on their mind to the Board of Chosen Freeholders and that the Board is here to listen to each person. It is important that the public feels they have a trust in the government and know that what they have to say will be heard.

Mr. Melick stated that there are other people in the public that are coming into this meeting for items already listed on the Board's agenda, and they need to be taken into consideration also.

Mr. Sworen stated that in New Jersey that there are statutory requirements in New Jersey on public meetings. It states that there be a place where the public can speak about their concerns and thoughts but no where in there does it state that there can not be a limit on how long the public can speak. He said most Boards set a limit on people and how long they speak based on the amount of time they allow and how many people from the public have come to speak. So based on the amount of people from the public coming to speak if there are five people they can divide the time up that is given for the Open to the Public. They should be required to present the Board with material in advance so they have time to address the material in the meeting because sometimes people come in and the Board is unsure as to who to listen to and who should speak first and so on.

Director Peterson agreed with Mr. Melick that it would not be too much to ask the public to submit materials they have in writing or to schedule a time to appear before the Board. He stated that there were no people here this evening and he felt Mrs. Anderson should have been able to talk.

Mrs. Yard confirmed the idea for the public to put their concerns in writing so that the Board can review them prior to the meeting is good but what Mrs. Anderson wanted to do was to have her questions answered on the spot.

##### **Planning Board Round Table**

Mr. Mennen began to speak about the Planning Board Round Table and that the Board should be going around the towns to get the public informed on this issue since the main issue being brought up are the Highlands. He said this meeting was very eye opening for him because from here you are told the impression that the County Planning Board is only here to deal with issues on County land but this is a forum for the vacillators that are effected by the Highlands. This is a chance for people to come and share their ideas on this issue. The meeting is from 6pm to 8pm and is a continuation of what started last year for the Round Table. This is a resource for the public and they should not see it as a road block.

##### **Green Table Open Space/Echo Hill**

Mr. Sworen stated that Thursday morning is the Green Table Open Space at Echo Hill. The 911 Center they have put the carpets in however there is still a heating issue. He stated that Frank Bell had been doing a lot of work and recommended George Wagner to get the architectural firm to respond to the problems. He has been working on the recycling issues and found some distributing issues and asked Alan Johnson to address these issues. Once the program went away it seemed that the process to recycle in the County failed. There is a contract where recycling and the purchase of the large containers to be placed in the County buildings. Some offices had stated that they had no recycling bins and Mr. Sworen feels this is an issue and that there needs to be a plan to help address this issue for the departments. There is going to be a policy put forth and he would like the Board to agree to the policy that each department or office space has recycling bins. There are 100 containers that had been paid for yet he has no idea where they are and we are already paying RVV to recycle for the County. By the next meeting, RVV wants to have some kind of insight or report as to what the Board of Chosen Freeholders plan to do.

**Tourism**

Director Peterson stated the County did receive a letter from the Chamber of Commerce in regard to money from the Grant Fund for Tourism. Skylands had come before the Board awhile back and asked the Board to do this as well. Director Peterson personally would like to have an in County group working on this. It needs to be in by January 25<sup>th</sup> which is before the next meeting.

Director Peterson proposed a resolution be made on this issue for the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Library/Bookmobile**

Mr. Trontis reported to Mr. Melick that he would submit the reports requested on the bookmobile earlier tonight. Mr. Melick asked for a summary for the in County and out of County use.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders reconvened in Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 10:55 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board