

**HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

Main Street County Complex, Second Floor

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

**July 09, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:08 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

Also Present: Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator, Gaetano M. DeSapio, County Counsel  
Michael Rasimowicz, Information Technology and Denise B. Doolan, Clerk of the Board.

**Open Public Meetings Act**

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 July 03, 2008, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review and The Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

**Pledge Allegiance**

**WIRELESS PROJECT continued**

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator informed the Board that his meeting is taking place in order for Mike Rasimowicz and Bob Thurgarland to provide additional information on the wireless project.

Mr. Rasimowicz provided a history and overview of the wireless project; including the direction given to them by the Board and all the alternatives which were considered in the planning of the project. This included comparing feasibility, price and practicality of fiber optics verses wireless.

The pros and cons between the following options: wireless, combination of wireless and fiber with no tower at Route 12; wireless/managed private service; decreasing the height at Route 12 from a tower to a monopole.

Wireless: wireless project pros: already approved by funding by PARIS; no taxable impact; ease and lower costs of connectivity for municipalities and southern county facilities. Cons: community concern about aesthetics and perceived health concerns. Combination of wireless and fiber with no tower at Route 12: pros: satisfies communities concerns and continues to meet the objective of the project; cons: substantial costs and annual maintenance fees; no redundancy; costs not completely covered by the PARIS grant; increased annual maintenance fee.

Wireless Managed Service: pros: no Route 12 tower; no maintenance required by the County. Cons: decreased efficiency of service; installation and monthly costs are not eligible for PARIS funding; no redundancy if 2 circuits fail and purchased radio equipment costs would need to be reimbursed to the state.

Decreasing the height of the Route 12 structure: pros: aesthetics concerns maybe slightly reduced. Cons: would not satisfy all perceived health, safety and aesthetics concerns. County would still need to connect Route 12 to the 911 facility using an alternate system.

As part of the PARIS grant, local municipalities participated in a municipal records management and shared services assessment. 23 of the 26 municipalities in Hunterdon indicated a high interest in participating in the warehouse/records retention project. If the County were to go with fiber, then each municipality would have to pay the cost of the fiber to connect to the County network; but if there were a tower, a wireless project could reach municipalities in the air.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to move forward with the wireless project and having towers at the Route 12 and Route 31 facilities in order to connect the County's operations. Mr. Melick advised this is not the County's money, even if it is PARIS funding, it is the taxpayers' money. Mr. Holt has reviewed the options and feels the wireless project would best benefit the taxpayers. Mr. Sworen stated this has been going on for 1 ½ years and the County has put its best professionals on this project and they have done their research and provided their recommendati

Director Peterson expressed concerns regarding the wireless project. He understands some of the benefits of the wireless project and hopes there can be a compromise. He stated that he has always had a problem with the wireless project.

Director Peterson opened the meeting to the public.

Comments were received from Tom Huber, Jolene Raykoveitz, Brian Skeuse and Brighton Day

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

**Hamden River Bridge**

County Counsel DeSapio informed the Board that Franklin Township will be holding a hearing in connection with the Hamden River Bridge tomorrow night.

Director Peterson left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Mr. DeSapio reported the County received grant funding, \$150,000, to replace the vehicular bridge with a Pedestrian Bridge 30 years ago. The County’s Engineering Division found that the Township wants to abandon the bridge so people won’t use it and move it to another property. Mr. DeSapio advised Franklin is asking the County to look into this matter.

Mr. Melick confirmed the County is concerned about this matter.

The Board directed Mr. DeSapio to attend Franklin Township’s public hearing on the Hamden River Bridge; along with Bill Clothier from Parks and Recreation.

Mr. DeSapio explained that the County can ask Franklin Township to modify the language in connection with the bridge.

Director Peterson returned to the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

After further discussion the Board will determine whether a meeting is needed with the township to discuss this issue after County Counsel reports back to the Board after the Township’s public hearing.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

**See Page 07/09/08-2A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues in the Sheriff’s Office.

**See Page 07/09/08-2B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss litigation with the Sheriff over the budget dispute.

**See Page 07/09/08-2C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss Sheriff’s Sergeants negotiations.

**See Page 07/09/08-2D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss legal issues regarding an agreement from March 2004 with Hunterdon Central Regional High School regarding the purchase of the Polytech building.

**See Page 07/09/08-2E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss the status of a legal arrangement with the Hunterdon County Housing Corporation and its dissolution and the Herman E. Knapp Senior Building.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 5:05 p.m., went into Executive Session at 5:13 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:16 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Peterson adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board