

**HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

**July 01, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:09 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

**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 January 02, 2008, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review and The Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

**FLAG SALUTE**

Pledge of Allegiance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS**

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

**See Page 07/01/08-1A RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 07/01/08-1B RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a proposed acquisitions in Bethlehem Township, Delaware Township and Readington Township, by the Open Space Coordinator.

**See Page 07/01/08-1C RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss Court House Security at the Justice Center.

**See Page 07/01/08-1D RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 07/01/08-1E RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a claim under various insurance companies for damages to the Emergency Services/Communications building equipment.

**See Page 07/01/08-1F RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss Sheriff's Sergeants Arbitration.

**See Page 07/01/08-1G RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss various closed session minutes to determine what can be redacted.

**See Page 07/01/08-1H RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a lawsuit entitled: Errickson vs. Hunterdon County and the State of New Jersey, and the Office of the Prosecutor.

**See Page 07/01/08-1I RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a tort claim notice regarding the LINK.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m., recessed at 6:20 p.m., and returned to Open Session at 6:25 p.m.

**COUNTY UPDATE**

**Conferences, Trips, Workshops**

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator explained as a result of the County's 2008 Budget, the Board discussed modifying certain policies and procedures in connection with workshops, conferences and trips taken by the County's personnel. The Human Resources Director, Cheryl Wieder and Mrs. Yard are taking a thorough look at the trips and conferences and will shortly be making a recommendation to the Board. The challenge being faced is that there are certain

hybrids of relationships with different departments, such as Rutgers Cooperative Extension who is part of Hunterdon County but not a Hunterdon County Department and the Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Yard stressed that she and Ms. Wieder will make sure that the policy addresses issues so that there is an equitable way to deal with conferences and trips.

#### **Donation/Food Trailer**

Mrs. Yard reported correspondence was received for a request to donate a food trailer from the Union Fire Company in Lambertville, New Jersey. The Director of Public Safety has inquired what the protocol would be to accept such a donation. If accepted the food trailer would be placed at the County's Firing Range. Mrs. Yard further explained the trailer can also provide office space at the site. The hope is to expand the capabilities of the Firing Range which various police/law enforcement agencies use to qualify. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to accept a donation of a "Food Trailer" from the Union Township Fire Company, for use at the County's Firing Range by the County's Department of Public Safety.

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

#### **PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR/Wireless project**

Frank Joseph Bell, AIA, County Project Administrator and Michael Rasimowicz, Information Technology Department Head, came before the Board to discuss the status of the wireless project.

Mr. Bell reported the wireless project has been discussed since 2006, and more specifically during the last two Freeholders' meetings. Photographs have been provided to the Board of the two locations at the Route 12 County Complex site. In order to stay on schedule for the PARIS grant funds the Board needs to make a decision on the location of the towers.

Mr. Rasimowicz introduced Paul Lobecker, representative from New Jersey Business Systems, who is a vendor for the equipment, already purchased and stored in the County's warehouse.

Mr. Holt stated at the last meeting this technology was described as a "Laser Beam". Mr. Lobecker explained this is millimeter microwave with high frequency on one tower and standard microwave on the other tower. This is the same equipment currently used on the County's 911 tower, as well as what the State Police use of the State of New Jersey uses.

Mr. Melick confirmed the County needs to connection 3 sites, at the Main Street County Complex, Route 12 County Complex and the Route 31 County Complex. He confirmed there is no problem with the Main Street connection. He questioned the cost for changes. Mr. Rasimowicz did receive budgetary estimates for the tower to be moved to the back of the Route 12 location, and the estimates came in around \$340,000. The original tower estimate was \$135,000. Mr. Melick stated he would like to see this done in the most efficient way possible; either way this will be something new on the landscape.

Mr. Mennen confirmed with Mr. Lobecker that the equipment already purchased for this project is not returnable. Mr. Lobecker advised there is a manufacturer's warranty on the equipment and he is not aware of any ability from the manufacturer to take back the equipment. He could replace the equipment if it fails in the first 30 days. The warranty goes on for one year.

Mr. Mennen confirmed Mr. Lobecker's company places the technology on the tower; not the construction of the tower. Mr. Lobecker's company also verifies the required heights and lines of sight. Mr. Lobecker explained the process used to determine height for the towers, a path analysis was performed to determine the distance and that determines the size of the antennas which are needed and the frequency required. Mr. Rasimowicz added that two other independent consultants performed the same analysis for the project; one was a volunteer working with the 911 Center.

Mr. Lobecker confirmed for Mr. Mennen that if the Board chooses to relocate the Route 12 Tower, there would be a fee for the three man crew needed at the tower and a two man crew would be needed at the other location.

Mr. Mennen questioned the life expectancy of this type of equipment for function/maintenance or for technological advancement. Mr. Lobecker explained the FCC regulates which frequencies can be used and the County will get an FCC license for that geographic area for that frequency. He doesn't see any planned obsolescence regarding the frequency by the FCC. There is a mean time for failure of 28 years. Mr. Lobecker thinks the only obsolescence would be if the County wanted its system to add speed in the future.

Director Peterson is aware that on the west coast there are towers which resemble trees and asked if that has been looked into. Mr. Rasimowicz stated it has been looked at. He has been working with the tower manufacturer for technical specifications and budgetary numbers. This would not be an option for the Route 12 tower because it will be that high. Mrs. Yard advised this would be a costly option if the Board chose to consider it. Mr. Rasimowicz stated the cost would be \$500 a branch.

Director Peterson questioned if the same technology will be used as what AT&T is using on their towers on County Route 617 because his car radio goes static when he goes through their? What will happen to those in the area, will their televisions and radios become static? Mr. Rasimowicz stated he leases the farm next to that property and he has no issues with his radio. Mr. Lobecker said if there is a problem, it would have to be because there is a failure by the equipment on that tower.

Director Peterson opened the meeting to the public, recognizing Raritan Township Mayor, John King.

Mayor King addressed the public with a few statements explaining there has been good informational meetings with the County. In addition, Deputy Freeholder Director Mennen did go to tour the site and Freeholder Director Peterson has taken many of Mayor King's phone calls to discuss this issue. Mayor King advised he still objects to the towers in Raritan Township.

Mayor King said the Freeholders' minutes of July 27, 2007 stated the Township of Raritan does not have a communications tower ordinance because they don't want towers in Raritan Township. Mayor King stated there is no ordinance because Raritan Township does not allow towers in Raritan Township. Anyone who wants to build a tower must go before the Township's Planning Board and ask for a variance.

Mayor King read from the July 27, 2007 minutes: "Mr. DeSapio reported when the County deals with local zoning, the County has sovereign immunity but the County needs to go to the Township Planning Board and make a good faith presentation and attempt to comply with their zoning. It is only when you reach a loggerhead that you need to have a public resolution which says that it is in the County's best interest, or there is an absolute need for the County to trump the local zoning. The presentation made to the local Planning Board is not just a matter of courtesy, it is a legal requirement. Mr. Peterson confirmed the County must show reasonable good faith. Mr. DeSapio advised the County must explain in its resolution why complying would not be in the public's best interest and not achieve the County's objective. He stated that cost could not be the only reason for not complying." Mayor King feels that cost is the only reason for this issue.

Director Peterson opened the meeting to anyone wishing to address the Board on this matter.

Brian Skeuse, 26 Old Hill Road, Raritan Township, thanked the Board for allows people to come and express their views. At the last meeting, Freeholder Sworen stated this was harmless, like a laser light, and it is not.

Director Peterson feels any questions concerning health issues could be addressed as he does not feel they were addressed enough at the May 20, 2007 meeting in the historic Court House.

Mr. Lobecker said the FCC limits the power outage generated. He recalls the FCC recommends a person stays outside of 12 inches in front of the dish if a person has to be there for a prolonged period of time. Beyond that there is no known risk. The towers will be 100+ feet high, so anyone would be more than 12 inches from the dish.

Director Peterson asked why 12 inches from the dish. Mr. Lobecker explained the dish is supposed to transmit and receive, and for the safety climbers who install this equipment, it is recommended they stay 12 inches away from the dish if you are spending an extended amount of time in front of the antenna while it is transmitting. There is no energy to receive only to transmit.

Director Peterson asked if there is a percentage of the transmission that spits off. Mr. Lobecker explained the transmission varies, for distance, at approximately 1 mile it is 6 feet in diameter and the County is going 2 miles so it is probably 12 feet across. All the transmissions will be above 80 feet above ground. He confirmed for Director Peterson that the dishes are 2 feet wide. He explained the width of the beam from transmission to receipt. He stated oxygen absorbs the signal rapidly.

Mr. Mennen questioned who will control the power output. Mr. Lobecker stated the FCC sets the maximum that can be used.

Mr. Skeuse confirmed that one of the distances is 3.08 miles to 3.7 miles, so the beams would be 24' in diameter. Mr. Lobecker stated a microwave running puts out more energy that this does on the tower.

Mr. Skeuse questioned how much money has been spent on equipment that has been purchased to date. Mr. Rasimowicz stated \$369,756 has been spent on the equipment, which was grant funded by PARIS and 2 of the 6 links are up and running.

Mr. Rasimowicz answered various equipment questions for Mr. Skeuse, and noted it was purchased under state contract. Questions were also answered concerning the costs for maintenance of the equipment. Mr. Lobecker informed the Board there is a one year warranty on the equipment and an annual maintenance fee, which covers a 4 hour response, next day replacement and it is roughly \$1,200/\$1,500 a radio times 6, is \$9,000 a year for maintenance.

Mr. Skeuse questioned why emails between a resident, Tim Bart and Mr. Bell have stopped, after receiving such a good amount of information. Mr. Bell explained contact has stopped because of a meeting with Raritan Township. Mrs. Yard stated she responded to Mr. Bart's email, as did Mr. Bell. Mr. Bell stated all questions have been answered to date for Mr. Bart. Mr. Bell informed Mr. Skeuse that the County has been working with Raritan Township for the past month, and the data going back and forth with the Township, caused the County to stop answering questions until it was determined what the County would be doing in order to answer the questions for Mr. Bart.

Peter Cucci, 5 Vantage Drive, Raritan Township, overlooking the Route 12 County Library and Complex. He questioned where the Route 12 tower will be and its height. Mr. Rasimowicz stated the tower's original location is near the Route 12 Off Leash Area and it is estimated to be 220'. The alternate site behind the new Hazardous-Materials Building on Route 12 would make the tower between 260'-270'.

Mr. Cucci informed the Board that he purchased his property 19 years ago because of the view. He feels the tower will cause a visual impact for him. He asked if there is an image or study of what this tower will look like on the site. Mr. Rasimowicz provided drawings showing this information and it was passed around to those present in the meeting room.

Mr. Cucci questioned when the tower will be erected. Mr. Bell reported the County has until November 30, 2007 before the PARIS grant's deadline, so a choice has to be made tonight, then if necessary, there could be a revision of documents, then bidding, and construction would start in September, 2007. Mr. Lobecker informed the Board that the warranty for the equipment has not gone into effect yet.

James Tulley, 626 Sidney Road West, Raritan Township confirmed the County's proposed system is 2 units on each tower, with a ring around it for redundancy. He asked what plan is in place if the tower is struck by lightning and the units go out. What would happen if the County lost the Route 12 site towers, who would fix them and what happens to services at all the locations. Mr. Rasimowicz confirmed with Mr. Lobecker that is part of the maintenance agreement. The reality is the County has single points of failure currently with Embarq being the County's local service provider. In the event of an outage there would be same day services (within 4 hours). Mr. Lobecker answered questions for Mr. Tulley regarding the towers stating nothing would happen if the tower were hit by lightning but if a radio were hit by lightning, then it would be lost.

George Wagner, Director, Public Safety, informed the Board that the Emergency Services tower in Cherryville has been struck 16 times by lightning and they have never lost everything on the tower.

Mr. Tulley confirmed Mr. Lobecker is responsible for the radios and nothing else, including what is in the building. Mr. Lobecker said everything from the top of the tower into the building, including preventive maintenance, as well as disaster recovery.

Mr. Rasimowicz confirmed for Mr. Tulley that the County did a feasibility study which looked at other technologies such as wireless, fiber optics, and leased circuits and that information was provided to the Board of Chosen Freeholders who made the decision to move to wireless.

Several people mentioned their cell phones do not work under towers and Mr. Lobecker explained cell phones are not designed to work under a tower because cell link transmissions go out and not down.

Ed Ezwill, 9 Blossom Lane, Raritan Township, stated he works for Johnson and Johnson and they use T-1 lines and they don't need this kind of data and movement and asked what the County is moving between these facilities. What is being shared that needs this speed. Mr. Rasimowicz explained the County is planning for the future. It does have RT-1 lines now but with the County's Finance package, it can't use the electronic requisitions and he explained why. Being planned for are future technologies, voice over IP, video surveillance and more.

Mr. Ezwill asked if the feasibility study could be made available to the public.

Darryll Carmon, 29 Bonetown Road, Raritan Township, stated he has 6 children, 8 to 17 years old, which are home schooled. His family is always home as are the Carmelite Sisters in the Monastery near his home. He asked if the County could do something different from the towers, saying cable is better than the T-1 lines.

Britton Dey, Old Hill Road, Raritan Township, confirmed there will be a blinking light on the tower and asked if it will be on 24/7. Currently the Route 12 Office building lights up his entire house during the winter months. He has resided in the house 40 some years and he has 2 horses and his grand-daughter is very involved in 4-H. He asked if the County can guarantee this won't be harmful to his family or animals and that the lights won't be flashing in his house.

Pam Marsiano questioned why this project has to be decided on this evening. Mr. Rasimowicz explained this project started 2 years ago and it is being funded through a 2 part grant; the 1<sup>st</sup> year money had to be spent by a certain time and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grant year was funding for the towers. The grant allowed the County to combine the two projects into one, with the understanding both phases had to be done to complete the project. Originally, the County looked at running fiber optics throughout the County and received pricing to do that. After attending a meeting with other County Informational Technology departments to find out what they are doing and the cost savings they saw by doing wireless; so Hunterdon reached out to a few neighboring counties for information and the feasibility of doing wireless as opposed to installing fiber optics. The information was brought to the Board. Mr. Rasimowicz stated this is the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting he's been before the Board concerning this project.

Sue Johnson, Plum Brooke Road, Raritan Township, stated she is concerned about the health issue. Many families live in this area and asked the health risks of having this micro-wave beam coming into the neighborhood. Mr. Lobecker explained this technology has been in use for 30 years and compared it to using a micro-wave oven. He said a micro-wave oven, when operating correctly puts out more energy than these radios. To get the same level of exposure you would have to climb the tower and stand in front of the radio dish for a prolonged period of time in order to violate the safety specifications. According to the analysis, nothing is falling out and everything is going to say at least 80' above ground level.

Ms. Johnson confirmed that Mr. Lobecker would feel comfortable living by a tower, with this technology.

Tom Huber, 35 Bonetown Road, Raritan Township, stated he is concerned about the aesthetics; it will be an unsightly tower. He believes the people in the area will take a hit on their property values because of the tower. He moved into the area 3 years ago, and many of the homes they decided not to purchase were near power lines. There are many power lines running through Raritan Township.

Mr. Huber confirmed an FCC license would have to be purchased for each link. Mr. Lobecker stated the FCC license application is enclosed in the price and it is renewed every 10 years at a cost of \$250.

Murtui Lylanti, 1 Cole Court, Raritan Township, asked if the FCC has provided its requirements for the tower. Mr. Rasimowicz explained the County had to do an FAA determination as a preliminary to determine lighting. The FCC licensing for the tower will be applied for once the project is ready for tower construction.

Mr. Lylanti questioned the lighting colors. Mr. Rasimowicz stated that will be given to the County by the FCC and the FAA once the final application is done. Mr. Rasimowicz also confirmed there is no noise or interference.

Mr. Holt confirmed there are 3 complexes connected in Flemington Borough and need to be connected to the Route 31 Complex and the 911 Complex with this technology. He asked if the Route 12 Complex is not set up with this technology, what could be done to connect it. Mr. Rasimowicz stated the County would have to do a leased circuit or fiber which, when JCP&L came out to look at the fiber, it isn't an issue to go down Route 12 to Main Street but there are very rural roads between the 911 Center and Route 12, so JCP&L had to go out into Quakertown and backtrack. Mr. Rasimowicz explained for Mr. Holt that a leased circuit is a T-1, a T-3, or an ISDN line or a DS-3.

Mr. Holt suggested the County move forward in connecting the Route 31 Complex and the 911 Center but to explore other options for the Route 12 Complex. The ultimate goal is to tie all the campuses in and that is still the goal.

Mr. Rasimowicz has talked with JCP&L and there would be a lead time for ordering equipment and cabling because its miles of fiber that would be needed. He feels there maybe a timing issue in getting this project completed by November. Mrs. Yard confirmed with Mr. Rasimowicz and Mr. Bell that the PARIS grant deadline is November 30, 2007, no matter what the County chooses to do.

Mr. Holt suggested pulling the tower out of Route 12, continue to apply the PARIS grant funds to the rest of the project, and see what the counter costs are for the alternatives and report back to the Board at the next meeting in two weeks.

Mr. Mennen questioned if removing the Route 12 Campus in the project will violate the grant. He also asked if 2/3rds of the project were done, how it would affect the project. Bob Thurgarland, PARIS Grant Coordinator, advised he would have to confirm this with the state because the whole concept of the project was total redundancy and disaster recovery, data transmission, and records retention. If the County's intent is to close the communications' loop the funds could probably be used to close 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the project.

Mr. Thurgarland explained the County has looked at this project with the state before and the problem with fiber and any other reoccurring costs is that the grant will only pay for what can be done within the grant period, they will not pay reoccurring costs, annual fees.

Mr. Sworen agreed the process should be continued but look at the Route 12 site in the next 2 weeks at what would be the cost to do fiber from Route 12 to the other two connection points and to determine how that cost compares to what is in the PARIS grant.

Mr. Holt advised Capital Ordinance No. 04-08 authorizing the upgrade of the countywide network for various County Campuses, in the amount of \$1 million, is needed and its adoption allows the County to move forward in whatever the Board approves. At this time he proposes that 3/4ths of this project continue and be put in place. If it is determined a tower is needed at Route 12, a tower can be placed there with two dishes. It is agreed that the end all of this project is to complete it and it be redundant and to do it in the calendar year 2008 or be in the process or have made a decision. The object is to come to a conclusion and move forward. The County has the ability to move forward and focus solely on the Route 12 configuration. He stated it could still be tower or fiber optics. If a separate meeting is needed next week to discuss this, a meeting can be scheduled.

Mrs. Yard confirmed with Mr. Thurgarland that the project needs to be completed by November 30, 2008 with the paperwork going to PARIS.

Mrs. Yard said if Route 12 is being pulled from the PARIS grant, then the County is to get cost estimates for fiber. Director Peterson would like the County to bid out all the alternatives for this section of the project.

Director Peterson thanked everyone for coming tonight.

#### **FINANCE:**

Director Peterson stated this evening the Board has a capital ordinance that must be done in order to have the funding in place for this project. This doesn't mean the money will be spent as the Board is not committed to anything at this time.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-6A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Adoption of Capital Ordinance No. 04-08, authorizing the upgrade of the countywide network for various County Campuses, in the amount of \$1 million.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 8:19 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 8:28 p.m.

**PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR**

**Warehouse/Records Retention Center**

Frank Joseph Bell, AIA, County Project Administrator came before the Board to provide an update on the Warehouse/Records Retention Center. At the last meeting, he mentioned to the Board he would be talking with USA Architects about revising their original proposal and that has been done, and the fee for schematic design revisions is \$15,000; design development/construction document phase is \$70,000; bidding is \$5,000; construction phase is \$30,000; for a total of \$120,000. This work is for the design and construction of the addition to the Records Retention Center. Mr. Bell advised the County received a \$1.1 million PARIS grant and the Board has requested the project be kept within the \$1.7 million to \$2 million range for the construction budget for the project and that was directed in writing to the architect to do that. The architect restructured their fee based on that directive.

Mr. Bell advised the first phase is for a schematic design revision which will downsize the original scheme to bring it within the budget. The architect will provide a site drawing, the building design drawing with elevations and a cost estimate. The funding of \$15,000 for this is within the PARIS funding.

Mr. Bell will have the contract with USA Architects available for Board approval at the next week. The architect will be available to present the information to the Board regarding the first phase and if the Board approves, it can approve the contract for the rest of the work for the project.

**Emergency Services Center/911/Addition/Alterations**

Mr. Bell presented Change Order #36, for Bid #2005-47, for the addition/alteration to the Emergency Services/Communications Center. This change order is a result of an architect error.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-6B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Change Order #36, for Bid #2005-47, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., to install a new exhaust fan for the new generator, at the Emergency Services/Communications Center, increase of \$6,964.

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

Mr. Bell informed the Board he will be asking the Board for a special attorney to help with the architect

**FINANCE continued**

**Old Business:**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-6C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, "Dedication by Rider" to the County of Hunterdon for setting up a specific Trust received funds for Project Lifesaver Program.

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

**New Business:**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-6D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Capital Ordinance No. 12-08, authorizing repairs and improvements at Heron Glen Golf Course, in the amount of \$177,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-7A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services approves the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2008 County Budget, for the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, in the amount of \$65,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-7B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services approves the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2008 County Budget, for the Solid Waste Services Tax, in the amount of \$113,665.

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

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND**

Thomas Gilbert of the Trust for Public Land, a non-profit land conservancy, came before the Board to discuss the study of land conservation finance options for Hunterdon County. The Trust for Public Land has helped to create/expand more than 140 parks, in New Jersey. They have assisted in 26 ballot measures in New Jersey and 100% of them have passed.

Mr. Gilbert presented highlights of a study the Trust for Public Land conducted with funds from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to look at some land conservation/finance options for Hunterdon County.

Mr. Gilbert reported in November 2004, Hunterdon County voters approved with 76% support, a five year renewal of the County's Open Space Tax of three cents per \$100 of assessed property value. That tax will expire at the end of 2009 unless it is renewed. Since the passage of the original Open Space Tax in 1999, the County has raised nearly \$45 million and has protected 18,700 acres of land with those funds. The County directly protected 13,806 acres of farmland, 3,255 acres of open space, parkland and conservation lands. The County was able to make grants to non-profits to protect an additional 1,678 acres. Municipalities protected 4,614 acres using County funds.

Mr. Gilbert stated the Trust for Public Land estimates that given the equalized tax value for 2007 of \$21.3 billion and the County renewing the current three cent Open Space Tax would generate an additional \$7.6 million a year for conservation. This would cost the average household in the County \$92, which is the current cost per household. If the voters renew the current tax for another 5 years, it would generate at least \$38 million for conservation. If the 5 year sunset provision were lifted, which is common in most other counties, it would generate at least \$152 million over a 20 year period. Hunterdon County is the only county in the state that has a 5 year sunset provision; most of the other counties either have no sunset or they are at least for 15 to 20 years.

Mr. Gilbert explained with the 5 year sunset, the County is limited, in that it cannot use the tax proceeds to support revenue bonds, which are typically 20 years in duration. Mr. Gilbert calculates that the three cent tax could support \$46 million revenue bonds, if the Board wanted to pursue that option and that may be necessary in order to meet the County's parkland and farmland preservation goals. He estimates the goal of protecting an additional 9,000 acres of parkland, at an estimated cost of \$10,300 per acre would cost \$94 million. If half of those funds could be secured through partners, federal, state, municipalities and non-profits, the County's share would be \$47 million spread out over a 12 year period, the 12 years remaining in the 20 year Master Plan, would cost \$3.9 million per year for parkland goals. The County's Agricultural Development Board has established a goal of protecting 1,500 acres, annually through 2017 at an average cost of \$6,500 per acre, the annual cost to protect 1,500 acres of farmland would be \$9.8 million a year. The cost for parkland and farmland preservation per year would be around \$14 million a year, over the next 9 to 12 years in order to meet the existing farmland and parkland preservation goals of the County. Extension of the current three cent would generate \$7.6 million per year so the County may want to consider bonding as an option in order to meet the goals.

Mr. Gilbert stated based upon the Trust for Public Land's research, there is a strong majority of Hunterdon's voters who have a favorable opinion of the existing Open Space Program and would be likely to support continuing the existing three cent levy for an indefinite period to continue the program.

The top uses for funds that County voters support include protecting drinking water, water quality, preserving open space and natural areas, improving and maintaining County park and recreation land, preserving working farms, protecting wildlife habitat, and preserving historic sites.

Mr. Gilbert advised voters that would make Hunterdon County voters even more likely to support renewing the current levy includes if the voters knew that projects selected for funding would be subject to a fair open and competitive process, that land would be purchased from willing sellers only, and that there would be an annual, independent audit of how the funds are spent.

Mr. Melick advised he has voted for more farmland preservation and preserved more land than any one else on the Board. He has been a big proponent of preservation of land but today it seems the County is purchasing what someone else doesn't want. Hunterdon has saved a lot of land and it was good but going forward, he would not want to go forward with three cents.

Mr. Gilbert said there is a practice other communities have used of having an independent audit conducted. When the voters know that will happen each year it inspires more trust.

Mr. Holt stated he would support moving forward to have a question on the ballot this year to maintain the same level of tax that already exists. He would like to review language for a ballot question. Mr. Holt would like to see the sunset extended for a longer period of time, or make it dedicated.

Mr. Sworen thanked Mr. Gilbert for doing this study and for the Land Trust figuring out a way to make this available to the County. It is valuable to the Board. He supports creating a ballot measure this year for the same three cents, open ended question. The ballot language needs to be worked on, so as to convince voters that this is going to open the process up more in terms of maintaining open space. He stated he is not a big proponent of bonding for the land costs versus paying as we go, land is not going to get any cheaper than it is today. Hunterdon needs to continue its strong work for open space and farmland preservation. Hunterdon did not get to be number one farmland preservation in New Jersey without trying hard. He would like to see this move forward.

Mr. Mennen asked about the decision of 2008 versus 2009. The current ballot question does not sunset until 2009. Mr. Gilbert stated under state law the ballot question has to be given to the County Clerk 74 days in advance of the November Election under state law, so August 22, 2008 is the last day to present this to the County Clerk for inclusion on the November Ballot. Typically there is a greater turnout during a presidential election, as this year is.

Mr. Mennen questioned if the concept of the Board is to have a question on the ballot in 2008 or 2009. If the Board is not inclined to move forward in 2008, then the Board has year to discuss this. If the Board wants to move forward in 2008, then he would recommend a subcommittee be given the charge to develop a draft question. The subcommittee could be comprised of the Open Space liaisons, the Open Space Coordinator and/or Parks and Recreation, they could discuss language that can be talked about as a full group.

Director Peterson took a consensus of the Board and a majority of the Board is recommending the ballot question be done in 2008. Freeholders Mennen and Sworen were asked to be the Board's representatives as the Open Space Liaisons and to work with Mr. Gilbert on language to be considered at the next meeting. Mr. Holt suggested the Open Space Trust Fund Coordinator also be on the subcommittee. The Board agreed.

Mr. Melick asked if this money could be used for condemnation of land. Mr. Sworen stated he would not support condemning land for open space.

#### **PURCHASING**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-8A**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #Health.3629, with Sanofi Pasteur, for influenza virus vaccine, for the Health Department, in the amount of \$32,112.50.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-8B**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of Bid #2008-22, for Automated Data Processing Services, for the Tax Board, to Vital Communications, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$143,172, for a two year period.

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

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-8C**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an agreement for professional engineering design services, for the reconstruction of County Bridges E-140-M and E-142-M, and approach roadway of County Route 518 over the Stony Brook, in the Townships of East Amwell and Hopewell, to Greenman Pederson, d/b/a Keller and Kirkpatrick Consulting Engineers, in an amount not to exceed \$112,178.

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

Mr. Melick left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.



### **FARMLAND PRESERVATION**

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-9A**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Grant Agreement with West Amwell Township, (Holcombe), for Block 5, Lot 15, in West Amwell Township, consisting of 54.7340 acres, (SADC-\$361,244.40, County-\$120,414.80, Township-\$120,414.80), total cost \$602,074.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-9B**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Grant Agreement with Reaville East Farm, LLC, for Block 80, Lot 13, in Raritan Township, consisting of 56.040 acres, (SADC-\$437,112, County-\$116,563.20, Township-\$174,844.80), total costs \$728,520.

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

Mr. Melick returned to the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

### **COAH**

Mr. Sworen informed the Board that there have been questions about COAH. COAH is a municipal responsibility. The Planning Board staff has been assisting municipalities by collecting information. He thanked the Planning Board staff for doing this work which helps the County's residents.

Mrs. Yard advised, for the record, that months ago Mr. Sworen asked her to contact Michael Capabianco, of the Chamber of Commerce about this. Mrs. Yard told Mr. Capabianco that this would be a perfect opportunity for the municipalities to get together and either regionalizes or work together and Mr. Capabianco wrote and indicated that wasn't something that the Chamber was going to get involved with.

Mrs. Yard feels this is an ideal opportunity for a shared service concept and providing technical assistance but Mr. Capabianco, the Shared Service Coordinator, has said that isn't something the Chamber doesn't want to get involved with.

Sue Dziamara, Planning Board Director said the Planning Board will continue to try and stay current with the information currently available and they will develop that and provide it to the municipalities and be a resource to them.

Mr. Sworen thinks there is going to be a lot of information necessary, as a multitude of lawsuits gets filed. He feels municipalities suffering from COAH will join in the lawsuits.

Mr. Melick returned to the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

### **OPEN SPACE**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-9C**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a purchase contract for Block 49, Lot 47, in Franklin Township, from Anthony Malinowski, in the amount of \$75,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-9D**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, three Municipal Grant Program applications and four Nonprofit Grant Program applications.

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

### **ROADS AND BRIDGES UPDATE**

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

- Route 523 through Whitehouse Station, work will be done in the evening, so do not travel the road on July 7, 2008 between 7:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.
- Bids are due on July 17, 2008 for the Manner Road project.
- There is an agreement with Readington Township concerning working on Banks Street, it is a parking area opposite the library.
- Bids were received for the County's surface treatment project.

- Drainage projects have been discussed with Delaware Township. One project is in the village of Sergeantsville. This project has the concurrence of the Township but it was not included as part of the County's surface treatment project but the overlay can be done because the drainage has to be completed. Mr. Glynn asked for authorization to negotiate with the proposed low bidder to complete this work prior to resurfacing, in the estimated amount of \$80,000. The amount of the contract with the vendor for surface treatment for various County roads is \$1.5 million.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to include the area in Sergeantsville, Delaware Township in the surface treatment project of the County, with the low bidder, Trap Rock Industries, in an additional amount, not to exceed \$80,000.

Director Peterson confirmed that Delaware Township has agreed to this. Mr. Glynn advised the Township had a meeting and it was agreed to.

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

- A meeting will be scheduled with Frenchtown Township concerning Route 619 project through Harrison Street by the school.
- A meeting is scheduled with a property owner tomorrow night regarding County Bridge M-110. The project is scheduled to be bid shortly.
- A meeting will take place tomorrow with Warren County regarding L-97-W, the Stevensburg Bridge.
- The first go around regarding the Multi-Purpose Trail for Parks and Recreation has been reviewed. It will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.
- County Bridge R-99 on Pleasant Run Road is an ongoing project. The box culvert should be set by July 11, 2008, not the 14<sup>th</sup>. The project is 3 days in advance of its schedule.
- Bridge inspections are being done by the TransSection, formerly the Leichtenstein Group.
- There is a conflict with AT&T regarding County Route 612 Intersection project. AT&T needs to relocate a utility line.
- Paving is being finished on Junction Road.
- The Pittstown project will begin on July 21, 2008, this is the signal work and there will be delays.
- Final plans have been received for County Routes 517/523. Modifications are needed then the project will be ready to go. It is ongoing for compensation for one property owner on the project, but other than that the negotiations are wrapped up.
- Mr. Glynn provided a construction schedule for the Route 523 project.

Mr. Glynn reported the West Amwell Fire Company is requesting permission to purchase fuel through the County's shared services program. The Board agreed subject to coordination through Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of June 17, 2008.

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

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

**See Page 07/01/08-10A CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the Social Services Funds Report for May 2008.

**See Page 07/01/08-10B SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS REPORT**

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

**See Page 07/01/08-10C RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Joseph Kvarita appointed permanent, full time Family Service Worker, Division of Social Services, Human Services Department. (replacement hired off Civil Service)

**See Page 07/01/08-11A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Joshua Burk appointed permanent, full time Road Repairer, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**See Page 07/01/08-11B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Kevin Gonzalez appointed permanent, full time Road Repairer, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**See Page 07/01/08-11C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Robert Hanley Jr. appointed permanent, full time Road Repairer, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**See Page 07/01/08-11D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Donn Brown appointed permanent, full time Road Repairer, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

**See Page 07/01/08-11E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Kyle Zenlea appointed permanent, full time Assistant Planner, Planning Board.

**See Page 07/01/08-11F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Chris Botzan appointed permanent, full time Senior Mechanic, Roads, Bridges and Engineering. .

**See Page 07/01/08-11G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Barbara Chilmonik appointed permanent, full time Housing Assistance Technician, Housing Division, Human Services Department.

**See Page 07/01/08-11H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Joseph Pacella appointed provisional, full time Social Worker Aging, Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

**See Page 07/01/08-11I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Edward Regan appointed provisional, full time Field Representative Senior Citizens Program, Division of Senior Services, Human Services Department.

**See Page 07/01/08-11J**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Treacy Everitt appointed temporary, as needed Clerk Typist, Rutgers' Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon.

**See Page 07/01/08-11K**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Alysia Pinkerton appointed temporary, as needed Clerk Typist, Rutgers' Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon.

**See Page 07/01/08-11L**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Renee Jackson appointed temporary, as needed Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation.

**See Page 07/01/08-11M**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Marc Katz, Public Health Representative, Health Department, adjustment of hours.

**See Page 07/01/08-11N**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Diane Attanasio, Public Health Representative, Health Department, adjustment of hours.

**See Page 07/01/08-11O**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Donna Kahlke, Senior Library Assistant, Library, leave of absence without pay.

**See Page 07/01/08-11P**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Change Order #1, for Bid #2008-12, for Safety Improvements to Route 579 with Route 513, in Alexandria, Franklin and Union Twps., with Z Brothers Concrete Contractors, Inc., increase of \$6,125.

**See Page 07/01/08-12A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Change Order #36, for Bid #2005-47, for the Addition and Alteration of the Emergency Services/ Communications Center, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., increase of \$6,964.

**See Page 07/01/08-12B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the acquisition of a portion of property, in fee simple, along with a drainage easement, from Block 44, Lot 20, from John Brady and Joyce Brady, for the amount of \$20,000.

**See Page 07/01/08-12C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Joint Transportation Agreement with the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, and contract addendum, to provide transportation on a selective basis and generally, as an addition to established special education transportation runs, to be arranged for and processed through the LINK, at no cost to the County.

**See Page 07/01/08-12D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an Equipment Lease Agreement with New Jersey Transit, for 3 Section 5310 Federal Transit Administration funded vehicles, for use in the County's Consolidated Transportation System, the LINK.

**See Page 07/01/08-12E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an agreement with Readington Township, for improvements to the Bank Street Entrance to County Route 523.

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

**GRANTS**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-12F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a grant agreement to accept PARIS grants, totaling \$1,100,000, for the purpose of assisting the County and its constituent municipalities in the preservation, conservation and improvement of the electronic/technological and physical management and accessibility of public records.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-12G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-013, with the Legal Services of Northwest Jersey, to provide legal assistance to seniors, in the amount of \$11,751 in federal funds and \$1,286 in local funds.

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

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-12H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-046, with the Hunterdon County Housing Repair Program, to provide safety related home rehabilitation and repairs, in the amount of \$9,919 in state funds and \$9,919 in local funds.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-12I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC-Round 8) contract with New Jersey Transit, for \$81,448 in Federal funding, and a County match of \$81,448, for a total amount of \$162,896.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

**See Page 07/01/08-13A**

## **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an application with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, for program funding for various habitat improvement projects on 48+ acres, at the South Section of the Point Mountain Reservation.

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

### **FREEHOLDERS ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:**

#### **Hunterdon Bar Association/Historic Court House**

Mr. Sworen reported that the Hunterdon Bar Association requested some time ago to have a display in the historic Court House and there is an issue concerning access. Mrs. Yard confirmed for Mr. Sworen that the Bar Association's request was approved; she wrote a letter to them, showing a blueprint of where they would be located. Mrs. Yard advised that Aaron Culton of County Counsel's Office is working with the Bar Association on an agreement. Mr. Sworen said the request was approved and the issue is there isn't a signed agreement. He will report that to the Bar Association. County Counsel DeSapio will find out where the agreement is.

#### **Polytech/LINK Buses**

Mr. Sworen reported he was at a Polytech meeting yesterday and 5 LINK buses showed up and were parked in the parking area. Some stayed 5 minutes others were there for 45 minutes. He stated the buses weren't picking anyone up. Mrs. Yard feels it might have been dead time. Mr. Sworen stated the buses were idling with their air conditioning on. Mrs. Yard agreed they should not be parking there and she will contact the Human Services Administrator on this issue. Mr. Sworen asked Mrs. Yard to remind them that it is wasting fuel.

#### **Polytech Appointment**

Mr. Sworen advised the Board that Polytech, at the meeting yesterday, brought up the reappointment of Valerie Burns and asked the status. No action taken by the Board.

#### **Budgetary Issues/Sussex County Resolution**

Mr. Mennen advised a resolution was received from Sussex County regarding budgetary issue regarding the Prosecutor's Office and he asked County Counsel DeSapio to look at it and advise if Hunterdon County should consider a resolution of support. Mr. DeSapio stated he has reviewed this resolution and he would recommend Hunterdon adopt a resolution of support. Mr. Mennen feels the Board should be able to review the resolution.

Mr. Holt stated the Board did adopt a resolution concerning the Bigley and the Board should make sure it doesn't have conflict with resolution already adopted. If there is no conflict, the Board should adopt the resolution.

#### **Lawsuit/COAH**

Mr. Mennen stated there is a lawsuit that is about to be initiated by a number of municipalities in Hunterdon County with regard to COAH. The question has been raised on whether Hunterdon will pledge some level of support. Mr. Mennen feels the municipalities are owed an answer and whether the County will participate on some level. Clinton Township is the lead agency.

Mr. Sworen advised there is a lawsuit by the New Jersey League of Municipalities where they have asked all municipalities in New Jersey to participate for a \$500 buy in to initiate the lawsuit and get the process started. He noted that the counties are not named in COAH. He questioned if there should be a financial deposit to either the New Jersey League of Municipalities or to the lawsuit by Hunterdon's municipalities. Hunterdon should continue to support through information provided by the County. Mr. Mennen agreed the County should provide in-kind and technical support.

Director Peterson suggested that the Board invite a representative from the municipalities to come and talk to the Board about their COAH lawsuit, to explain the issue at the next meeting. The Board agreed. The Clerk of the Board, Denise B. Doolan, was directed to make the arrangements.

#### **Budget**

Mr. Melick recommended to the Board that the Finance Department be invited to the next meeting to provide a half year break out of the County's budget and to point out where there might be cause for concern.

Director Peterson directed Mrs. Doolan to invite the Finance Director and County Treasurer to the next meeting to provide a report to the Board on the comparison of the year to date estimates and actuals, on the revenue and spending side.

#### **Raritan Valley Rail Coalition (RVRC)**

##### **Route 78 Study**

Mr. Holt reported the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition met yesterday, Mrs. Dziamara attended with him, and they have lent their support to something that Hunterdon has been saying for awhile, that New Jersey Transit's Route 78 Study should continue. The RVRC has decided to look at the multitude of items that are studied and help New Jersey Transit refine down, and get a couple of items moving forward. Vehicle totals have declined and ridership has increased which is due to the cost of oil prices.

**RVRC/High Bridge complaint**

The RVRC began working on the complaint from High Bridge Borough with regard to New Jersey Transit and the idling of engines through the night and early hours. Data will be compiled from High Bridge Borough to assist the RVRC in taking a stand to help nudge New Jersey Transit into solving these issues.

**RVRC/Rail Service**

The RVRC is looking at putting back rail service from Lambertville City to Flemington to Bound Brook. The RVRC has decided to place this topic on their agenda. Mr. Holt will keep the Board updated.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Director Peterson again opened the meeting to the public. There were no comments or questions from the press or public at this time.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 9:47 p.m., returned to Executive Session at 9:52 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 10:30 p.m.

The Board agreed to notice their July 15, 2008 meeting to start at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board.