

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

June 17, 2008

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 5:08 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Peterson advised: "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 June 17, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 06/17/08-1A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss various personnel issues.

See Page 06/17/08-1B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a potential acquisition in Raritan Township.

See Page 06/17/08-1C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues concerning the Emergency Services Center.

See Page 06/17/08-1D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss issues concerning the County Budget.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 5:09 p.m., recessed at 6:16 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:20 p.m.

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

HART (Hunterdon Area Rural Transit)

Tara Shepherd, HART Director presented the Board with an award from the New Jersey Department of Transportation recognizing the County of Hunterdon as a "New Jersey Smart Workplace". The County is being awarded at the bronze level as commute alternative information was made available to its employees, there are carpooling activities among County employees, and the County continues to work through its Human Resources Department with HART in making this information available to all employees.

Mrs. Shepherd noted the County also received the "New Jersey Smart Workplaces" award in 2007.

PURCHASING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-1E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Award of Bid #2008-15, for the Operation of the Hunterdon County Consolidated Transit System, for a three-year period, in an amount not to exceed \$8,385,925.00.

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

Mr. Sworen asked Kim Browne, Finance Director and Tara Shepherd, HART Director, to see if the Hunterdon County Polytech School could utilize County LINK Buses for trips and report back to the Board.

The Board discussed a requisition to purchase a Digital Photo Identification System for the Sheriff's Office. The Board recalled being told by the Sheriff's Office that this equipment would not cost more than the state grant.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #HC.Sheriff.966, with Card Data Systems, for a Digital Photo Identification System, for the Sheriff's Office, in an amount not to exceed \$11,000.00.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Requisition #23890, with Aramsco, for treatment pods, for the Public Safety Department, for the County of Hunterdon, in the amount of \$16,222.80.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing a professional services contract with Richard Monacchio, MSW, LCSW, to provide Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment for County residents who are eligible to reserve such services, in the amount of \$12,000.

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

Mr. Melick and Mr. Mennen left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP

Shaun Van Doren, Committeeman, Tewksbury Township, came before the Board to further continue the June 01, 2008 discussion on the Township's appeal of decisions by the County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) regarding Open Space Funding pertaining to three parcels in Franklin.

Mr. Van Doren reported that he met with Freeholders Holt and Sworen to review the three properties; and a compromise has been recommended, which is that Franklin Township is requesting the Board of Chosen Freeholders approve the inclusion of the Knesser Farm in to the County's Farmland Preservation Program and uphold the CADB's decision on the two Brady/Stewart parcels. Mr. Van Doren advised the Township will work with the SADC on alternatives for those two parcels.

Rick Steffey, Assistant Planner, County Planning Board, wanted to make sure that the message to the CADB is that they are acknowledged for their decision and that the Board welcomes their input and decisions.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-2D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the inclusion of the Knesser Farm, Block 43, Lot 3.02, estimated 18.2 acres into Tewksbury Townships PIG 3/2003A round for preliminary and final approval, (SADC-\$119,586, Township-\$39,852, County-\$39,852), total of \$199,290.

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

Mr. Melick and Mr. Mennen returned to the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

FINANCE

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-2E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services approves the insertion of an item of revenue in the County's 2008 Budget for the Office of the Attorney General, for an Attorney Identification grant, in the amount of \$11,000.00.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the cancellation of a grant receivable and offsetting reserve balance, for the 2006 Kids Are Riding Safe Grant, in the amount of \$8,157.06.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the cancellation of a grant receivable balance, for the 2005 Kids Are Riding Safe Grant, in the amount of \$878.44 and offsetting reserve for the 2005 Kids Are Riding Safe, in the amount of \$878.62.

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

Item #4, under Finance, a "Dedication by Rider" to the County of Hunterdon for setting up a specific Trust received funds for Project Lifesaver Program was held until July 01, 2008.

PLANNING BOARD

Sue Dziamara, Planning Board Director updated the Board on the Farmland Preservation Program and the activities of the Planning Board.

- The 2007 Hunterdon County Transportation Plan was adopted by the Planning Board at their meeting in June, 2008 and which needs Freeholder approval. Once the final plan has been sent to the State, the County will receive a \$72,000 Grant Reimbursement from Office of Smart Growth that is a carry over from 2003.
- 2008 Draft Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan continues to be worked on. The CADB sent a resolution to the Planning Board requesting approval of the plan.
- The office is following the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan) and the Highlands Regional Master Plan.
- COAH Update: Round Three adopted rule published June 2, 2008. Proposed amendments published in the June 16 Register, written comments accepted until August 15, 2008.
- The Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) Update, new rule adopted May 21, 2008, effective publication date: July 7, 2008.
- A Municipal Breakfast will be held on July 30, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. to discuss farmland stewardship.
- The Planning Awards Program will be held on September 26, 2008.
- A meeting was held last evening on the I-78 Scenic Corridor; Rail Corridor Study.
- A meeting will be held in the Route 12 Assembly Room on June 25, 2008 from 4 to 8 p.m., on the Route 202 Corridor Study.
- The County closed today on the Zeller property under the Hunterdon County Farmland Preservation program. This is the 8th farm to close since January 2008.
- The new 2009 County PIG (Planning Incentive Grant) program is moving forward. The state has made a commitment of \$2 million to each County with the potential for another \$3 million in competitive funds. If Hunterdon received the entire \$5 million from the state, it would only fund 11 of the top farms.
- The Planning Board has submitted to the SADC for \$117,000 in ancillary costs on the traditional Farmland Preservation Program and another \$135,000 in ancillary costs for the PIG program.
- As of April 09, 2008, according to the state's website, Hunterdon County is number one in the state for farms preserved, acres preserved and money spent by the SADC in Hunterdon: (23,688 acres; 273 Farms; \$186 million).

Mrs. Dziamara informed the Board that she did a follow up on the request from North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&DC) for the release of digital parcel ownership information linked to parcel data. She introduced Abigail Jones from the RC&DC should the Board have any questions or need additional information. Ms. Jones had provided the Board early last week with a letter defining the request by the RC&DC.

Mr. Sworen advised he met with Mrs. Dziamara to discuss this request and has no problem with the GIS information being released. While he still has the same concern and doesn't want to give the information away, especially if the information will be used for profit, but that isn't this group is going to use the information for.

Director Peterson recalled a legal question needed to be considered on how the County provide this information to one agency and not another. Mr. DeSapio explained this is a policy issue more than a legal issue. Mr. DeSapio confirmed with Mrs. Dziamara that this is a non-profit agency and they are engaging in a program where they are going to share the results with the County. Mrs. Dziamara stated there will be a data sharing agreement among the parties. Mr. DeSapio confirmed the agency will sign the County's form, designed a few years back, that they will not distribute the material to anyone other than the state.

Mr. DeSapio questioned how this material was to be used and if it would be used to solicit individual property owners. Ms. Jones explained the information will be used in a program being developed by the Resource Conservation and Development Council, which is the River Friendly Farm Certification program, that provides free technical assistance to farmers to implement best management practices on their farms, intended to improve water quality.

Ms. Jones stated the Neshanic River has been cited by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as impaired and the RC&DC are trying to come up with different ways of improving water quality and agriculture has been generally accepted as a good idea and they are using the River Friendly Farm Certification program to meet the RC&DC's goals.

Mr. DeSapio explained if the Board finds that this is a valid public purpose; to promote something that the Freeholders want to accomplish, than it would be proper to give them the information.

Mr. DeSapio thinks another issue to be addressed is, to what extent does the County want to furnish information that enables anyone, whether it is a non-profit or not, to target a mailing for any purpose that isn't the County's official purpose, to individual property owners. This is a policy issue more than a legal issue.

Mrs. Dziamara advised the County has established the procedures to review each request, individually which is why Ms. Jones is present today. The County's policy dictates the process, so there would not be people obtaining this information without coming before the Board for permission.

Mr. DeSapio explained the Board has to decide that it feels this is a valid public purpose that you want to support by providing this information, knowing that the names and addresses are going to be generated in order to send material out to individual targeted taxpayers; which is why it could not be done for a commercial purpose. A non-profit entity which is cooperating with the County's Planning Board to accomplish an objective can be provided with this information. The County's Data Sharing agreement states if this information is going to be used for a particular purpose, and that it isn't going to be marketed to someone else; then it can be provided.

Mr. DeSapio further explained, for Director Peterson, that if other non-profits come to the Board asking for information for a project, the Freeholders would have right to say this doesn't conform to the County's idea of what it wants County resources used for. The Board can disagree and not provide the information.

After further discussion, Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission for the release of digital parcel ownership information linked to parcel data to the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&DC), through the County's GIS Division and the Planning Board, provided a Data Sharing Agreement is put in place first.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-4A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Hunterdon County Transportation Plan as an element of the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan for Hunterdon County.

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

Mr. Melick left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-4B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the proposed acquisition of a Development Easement from Kenneth Smith and Laura Wilson, Block 21, Lot 18.01, in Holland Township, consisting of 32.738 acres, (SADC-\$144,047.20, County-\$42,559.40, Township-\$42,559.40), total amount of \$229,166.00.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-4C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the proposed acquisition of a Development Easement from John Kanach, William Kanach and Susan Thomas, on Block 21, Lot 12, in East Amwell Twp., consisting of 35.900 acres, (SADC - \$236,940.00, County - \$78,980.00, Township - \$78,980.00), total amount of \$394,900.00.

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

Mr. Melick returned to the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Michael Rasimowicz, Information Technology Department Head, came before the Board to provide an update/status of the wireless project. He and Frank Bell, County Project Administrator met with Raritan Township to discuss an alternate plan to the tower project. Raritan Township has proposed an alternate location for the tower on a piece of property, they possibly would own, in hopes for the County to have a smaller tower on that site and possibly, no tower or a smaller located at the Route 12 County property. Mr. Rasimowicz asked the radio vendor to provide some preliminary calculations to determine if that would work. This could work but he is not sure to what degree and stated there would additional costs involved in trying to accomplish this, and it could put the County over its grant amount, which is paying for the project. Mr. Rasimowicz asked the Board for direction on how to proceed.

Mr. Rasimowicz provided the Board with a chart showing how much the project would be over if the towers have to be relocated. He explained these are rough guesses using the numbers supplied to the County from a tower manufacturer that was providing assistance in putting together budgetary numbers. His calculations, not including the unknown costs has the County short of over \$100,000.

Mr. Rasimowicz noted there are some issues as to whether there would be electricity on the property from Raritan Township and if additional networking equipment would be needed. Also, the type of structure that would have to be put up on the Main Street County Complex building might have to be altered to achieve the heights necessary to reach Route 12.

Mr. Sworen confirmed the additional costs would not be covered by the PARIS grant. Mr. Rasimowicz believes the costs would exceed what is left in the grant.

Director Peterson questioned why electricity would be needed when the Board was told this was a laser. Mr. Rasimowicz explained electricity is needed to power the equipment. This is radio equipment that shoots signals. Cabling is needed to be run from the radio equipment into the network equipment, and that provides the connection into the County network.

Director Peterson confirmed this is radio and not laser. Mr. Sworen explained conceptually this is a beam which can go from one point to another.

Director Peterson confirmed the AT&T towers on County Route 617 are microwave towers. He questioned if they shoot up to a satellite. Mr. Rasimowicz is not sure what AT&T is doing. He added they could have multiple types of equipment on the tower.

Mr. Mennen recalls reading that exercising this alternate option would have implications on the Main Street County Complex and it would require a significantly higher tower. If that is true, has a pulse been taken of the Borough of Flemington, since this is a different municipality. If this going to cause a situation what Flemington Borough would object to. Mr. Rasimowicz said that is a good point; when the County initially discussed this project, he asked the Borough if there were any ordinances concerning antennas. At the time, a construction official said if it wasn't obtrusive, it would not be an issue.

Director Peterson stated the County provided an initial inquiry with Raritan Township and when they saw what the County wanted to do, they had a different reaction. Director Peterson confirmed that Mr. Rasimowicz did not sit down with Flemington Borough to go over the project. Mr. Rasimowicz explained the meeting with the Borough just took place on June 04, 2008.

Director Peterson asked if the project were left the way it is currently configured, what is necessary. Mr. Rasimowicz stated the only thing the County would have to do for this building, would be to purchase additional equipment. No additional height to what is currently on the buildings would be needed, nor an additional antenna structure. The equipment could not be seen from Main Street.

Mr. Mennen confirmed if the project were reconfigured as Raritan Township is asking, then a 40' tower would be needed on the Main Street County Complex.

Mr. Holt asked Mr. Rasimowicz to again go over the scenarios for the wireless project. Mr. Rasimowicz stated scenario one was Route 12 with a 220' tower, Route 31 would have a 120' model pole, Emergency Services' structure would be utilized and there would be no change at the Main Street County Complex. Scenario two is an extra model pole on Raritan Township's property, additional height for the Main Street County Complex, a 120' pole at Route 12 and up to a 140' pole placed somewhere on the ridge between Route 12 and the Emergency Services Center, Route 31 would stay the same, but additional equipment would be needed. Mr. Rasimowicz explained that site work would be needed to make sure this is even feasible. He feels a third scenario would be to move the tower to the back of the Route 12 County Complex, while it would be taller it would not be so noticeable from Route 12.

Mr. Rasimowicz confirmed for Mr. Sworen that if the tower were moved to the back of the Route 12 County Complex, it could possibly be done without going over the grant budget constraints.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Holt would like to see the tower remain at the County's Route 12 property. He would agree to move the tower to the back of the Route 12 property.

Director Peterson questioned why this projects needs to be done. Mr. Rasimowicz explained the project was initially being done to reduce the costs of the lease lines the County has, to expand the services the County has, and the Information Technology staff would be able to look at things like voice override, which should significantly reduce the County's telecommunication's bill for the County. The longer term thought process was to see how these services could be shared with other municipalities and agencies. This was a four or five year plan. Mr. Rasimowicz advised in the grant scheme of the PARIS grant the County has to keep moving forward in improving the County's document management which includes electronic document management, as well. With the County's current infrastructure there would be no way to have an enterprise type of application.

Director Peterson asked what expanded services. Mr. Rasimowicz explained the County has numerous departments that have their own applications that they could share data with, such as Parks and Recreation uses GIS applications; Communications/Emergency Services uses GIS applications and data; there is the video log for Engineering that could be shared with other municipalities; the voice over IP capabilities; video cameras for sites could be done and it could be centrally located. Mr. Rasimowicz stated this project would open up the possibilities for future technology and allows the County to have the ability to look at alternative solutions.

Mr. Sworen added that this project would bring the County to a single campus. The original project was to do fiber optics which would go from 5 or 6 campuses and this would centralize the County's Information Technology services. Mr. Rasimowicz explained the County would be able to centralize the backups because currently there are servers in various County locations which require tapes and tape drives.

Director Peterson asked if this is the only way to do this. Mr. Rasimowicz stated the County looked at fiber which would cost over \$2 million and looked at was not doing anything and continue doing what is being done now in a decentralized manner. His understanding, well before he came to the County, was that the County had initiative to centralize operations and this is a continuation of those efforts.

Director Peterson advised he has a client who provides hardware/software services and is now posting offsite for some major, significant corporations and they are centralizing the same type of applications being discussed today, even disaster recovery type of operations. Some of these companies have worldwide locations where they need to be able to access information on disasters that might occur, so if they have plants in Iowa, Mississippi and so on, they could access the information from a central location to do emergency issues. They are running very sophisticated applications and they are doing it all at one site in a secure, earthquake, fire, hurricane secure site that has its own backup facilities, so no matter what happens they can still operate from any location in the country. This seems more cost effective than the way the County is going about this; to try an centralize a campus by pulling a whole infrastructure when there is already infrastructure built that has competitive rates. Director Peterson stated in the end, the County's whole infrastructure will be in one location, and he assumes the County will have all the applications for earthquake, fire, hurricane and so on, set up to have those types of precautions. Director Peterson said he's asked this question before; isn't there a better way to do this. He added that if the County went outside, it would not be tied to any technology, as fast as technology changes, especially in this area of technology. Director Peterson feels this infrastructure is going to be built on out data technology, radio waves. He was more interested when he thought it was lasers. This structure will be put in place and the County will be limited to its capacities while if the County were using technology and leasing it under some means, as the technology changes, the County could change with it and be at the cutting edge, all the time. He questioned if the County has seriously looked into all the other alternatives and not just looked at the fact that there are some costs involved but whether those costs in the long run really make more sense than building towers through the County.

Mr. Rasimowicz agreed technology is going to change but that does not mean you would not continue to use wireless technology, the County would just buy the next generation of the wireless equipment. Somerset County has been doing this for 15 years and they still have their original equipment in place. Director Peterson stated that is his point, it is 15 years old. Mr. Rasimowicz further explained that Somerset County has upgraded their current wireless technology to similar wireless technology that Hunterdon has now. The method will not change but the equipment may change.

Director Peterson doesn't see the benefit of doing this and stated he did not see the benefit of doing this when it first came up over a year ago. He feels the benefit that that there is this money available that in some peoples perspectives is "free money" but it is the taxpayers' money that is being spent, no matter where it comes from, it is not free. Director Peterson feels he has a duty, whether the money comes out of revenue that County raises through property taxes or whether it is the Hunterdon County residents tax money that has been sent to the state through their wages or some other form of tax; or whether it is the federal government that has been given through income tax, or gasoline or excise tax. It is all taxpayer money so the Freeholders have a duty to look at the ultimate costs. After putting up all the infrastructure and put things together and run this, will the County in the end save money. Money is saved if you take out the PARIS grant but if you put in the PARIS grant and calculate that into the cost of what is being done versus alternatives, that there could be short term contracts on and that could be changed as technology changes.

Mr. Sworen told Director Peterson that coming from his opinion and his knowledge base as an attorney, and the companies he works with but his knowledge base is from Information Technology (IT) and he's had 30 plus years in IT designing, creating, understanding, building safe sites, building backup sites, and doing the exact thing that Director Peterson is talking about. The

County could do what Director Peterson is taking about but the County would need at least 12 to 15 more people in IT to do that process to create the infrastructure internally to be able to do those things or to contract outside.

Mr. Sworen said from his expertise knowledge, where the County is today, it is way behind the technology curve in a lot of ways. The County has an operating system but it isn't connected. In order to be more efficient as a County, to save overhead costs and to save people costs, the County needs to become more connected. 5 or 6 separate campuses with only 5 that talk need to be brought together into one unit; as that is the efficient way to do this and it would be a cost savings to have this done. The County needs to be able to handle its data and you could hire an outside first to do this but the cost to hire an outside firm is probably three times more than the County is spending on this entire project. It is a great idea to create an offsite backup but you still need the infrastructure and technology necessary to get it there. The County currently has T1 and IST lines but to do that process the County has to get the data out there and to get the data there you are going to need T3 lines to be able to do the backups but that doesn't solve the problem of having 5 separate campuses that aren't connected.

Mr. Rasimowicz noted that \$500,000 worth of equipment has already been purchased and is sitting in the County's warehouse for this project.

Mr. Sworen stated the County has looked at different ways to bring Hunterdon County up to the end of the 20th Century and this is the most cost effective and quickest way to accomplish that.

Director Peterson agreed he is no expert on IT but he knows those who are at the large corporations have thought this out to the penny and found it was cheaper for them to do it the way they are doing, it is faster, better, provided more capabilities than doing it in-house with their IT Departments and that is why they went to his client. Those companies did not have to expand their employee base. It is inexpensive to do because he is going to eventually switch over because it is cheaper even at his level, than to keep purchasing equipments and upgrades.

Director Peterson stated these are the same concerns that he had at the very beginning of this project and he doesn't feel the County has looked at enough options. He wanted to ask again if there wasn't another way to do this but the County is this far down the road, so there isn't much of a choice.

Mr. Bell advised in order to keep in line with the project the Board needs to make a final choice on the direction it wants to go in by the next meeting on July 01, 2008.

Mr. Mennen stated he inherited this project, and the County has already spent time and capital on it. There are a couple of alternate scenarios outlined and he would like to take a road trip with Mr. Rasimowicz and Mr. Bell to look at the different scenarios. He can't provide a good, qualified opinion without having looked at all the scenarios. Mr. Holt added that Mr. Bell and Mr. Rasimowicz should look at Route 12 to see if there is a viable site and if there is, come up with some figures for the Board to consider at the July 01, 2008 meeting.

Director Peterson recommended Mr. Rasimowicz and Mr. Bell meet with Raritan Township with Mr. Mennen and come to a conclusion and let the Board know.

Mr. Melick stated decisions made regarding towers and cell towers are very contentious.

Mr. Melick confirmed with Mr. Rasimowicz if the tower placed at the Route 12 Complex has to go in the back, it is going to have to be much higher than if it were placed toward the front of the property because there is a big drop off. Mr. Rasimowicz explained when the Route 12 Complex site was originally discussed the site by the Off Leash Area was chosen because it was far enough from Route 12 that it would not be an eyesore from the highway and that it would be a height needed without having to go an extreme but that did not satisfy Raritan Township.

Mr. Melick advised he is willing to hold a special meeting in order to expedite this project because it is time sensitive. Director Peterson would like to know what comes from the meeting with Raritan Township before scheduling a special meeting. Mr. Rasimowicz stated Raritan Township did not seem open to a tower that was taller. Director Peterson feels the County owes it to Raritan Township to sit down with them one more time. Mr. Bell advised Raritan Township did support giving the County an easement on the condemned piece of property/tax sale property on Old Croton Road. Mr. Melick questioned who owns the property. Mr. Rasimowicz said it sounded like a resident but he isn't sure. Mr. Melick advised that is important to know. He asked if someone could do a title search done on the property to find out the status. County Counsel DeSapio suggested asking the Planning Board to look in the tax roll book before the next meeting.

Mr. Holt stated to take a piece of property currently not owned by the Township, get it foreclosed upon, get total ownership and be able to build on it 60 days is impossible.

PARIS GRANT UPDATE

Robert Thurgarland, Director of Central Printing and Mail, and the PARIS Grant Coordinator came before the Board to provide an update of the PARIS grant.

Mr. Thurgarland advised Hunterdon was one of the only County's to be funded for facilities improvement for 2008 by the state due to the very limited funding in this round.

Mr. Thurgarland stated in the grant application were proposals to try and maximize the available funding. The cost estimates from USA Consulting, provided in February 2008, were \$2.8 million. At the time he and Mr. Bell felt that it was excessive to a certain point because there were items in the application that could be scaled back but it was appropriate to leave them in the application for illustration purposes. There was language in the application giving the Board the right to reserve to change any of the configurations, as long as, the basic deliverables of the facility are met. What is being looked at is to use existing funding to revisit those estimates to bring the costs down and get a tighter figure for the Board when the grant funds do become available around the first week in September, 2008.

Mr. Bell explained the County would go back to the architect, who has already been hired, to refine his proposal for the design of all the construction documents, bidding documents and contract administration.

Mr. Bell advised they are looking for direction from the Board in order to get a proposal from the architect for the next Freeholder Meeting, than the Board can decide how it wants to proceed. The PARIS grant application was received at \$1.1 million which would go towards the funding of the construction of the addition to the Warehouse/Records Retention Center.

Mr. Thurgarland stated one of the driving forces when the first series of municipal assessments was done; there was a high need and want from municipalities for off site storage. The municipalities do not have the capabilities themselves and can't afford it. With the PARIS grant and direction from the State and the Division of Archives and Document Management and the Secretary of State is to have counties act as municipal hubs for secure storage for documents, historical documents and permanent records which would be more cost effective than having them do it themselves, which would not be fundable at the municipal level. The state is looking at this as a shared service initiative with municipalities. Unfortunately given the state's budget this year, the shortfall pulled \$10 million out of the PARIS grant, so municipalities were not able to leverage their maximum eligibility this year, however, it is thought that funding will be put back into the PARIS project, so there could be cost sharing from municipalities using their grant funds to reimburse the County.

Director Peterson confirmed Mr. Thurgarland and Mr. Bell to come back at the July 01, 2008 meeting with another proposal from the architect for the Warehouse/Records Retention Center for the Board to consider.

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. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated June 17, 2008.

See Page 06/17/08-8A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 06/17/08-8B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Mariana DeMartinez appointed permanent, full time Family Service Worker, Division of Social Services, Department of Human Services.

See Page 06/17/08-8C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Eric Faulstitch appointed provisional, full time Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Health.

See Page 06/17/08-8D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Stephanie Wheeler appointed provisional, full time Senior Clerk Typist, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 06/17/08-8E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Summer Nature Program Leaders, Parks and Recreation.

See Page 06/17/08-8F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Summer Nature Program Assistants, Parks and Recreation.

See Page 06/17/08-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Board of Elections Office.

See Page 06/17/08-9B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in County Administrator's Office.

See Page 06/17/08-9C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in Buildings and Maintenance Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Central Printing and Mail Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Freeholders Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Construction Board of Appeals.

See Page 06/17/08-9G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the support staff in the County Clerk's Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the County Counsel's Office.

See Page 06/17/08-9I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Finance Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Health Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Human Resources Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Human Services Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Information Technology Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Library Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Parks and Recreation Department.

See Page 06/17/08-9P

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Planning Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Project Management Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Public Safety Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Purchasing Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Roads, Bridges and Engineering Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Surrogate's Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Tax Board Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Sheriff's Department.

See Page 06/17/08-10I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2008 salaries for unclassified and non-contractual employees in the Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 06/17/08-10J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving longevity payments for 2008 for unclassified and non-contractual employees.

See Page 06/17/08-10K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving project application and Project Certificate for payment #17, for Bid #2006-20, to Watertrol, Inc., for renovation of the Hunterdon County Hall of Records and the Southard Building, in the amount of \$149,751.54.

See Page 06/17/08-10L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving project application and Project Certificate for payment #25, for Bid #2005-47, to DeSapio Construction, Inc., for the addition and alternation to the Communications/Emergency Services Center, in the amount of \$51,563.51.

See Page 06/17/08-10M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving plans and specifications for Resurfacing and Drainage Improvements of County Route 514 in the Townships of Raritan and East Amwell, County of Hunterdon.

See Page 06/17/08-10N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing execution of the Subordinate Agreement subordinating the mortgages of the County of Hunterdon to the mortgage soon to be given to Countrywide Bank, in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.00.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of October 23, 2008.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of June 03, 2008.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/17/0811A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-001, with Hunterdon County Human Services, for the Administration Grant, in the amount of \$25,225 in federal funds, \$427,650 in state funds.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 06/17/08-11B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-060, with S.H.I.P., in the amount of \$10,800 in State funds, \$8,000 in County funds.

See Page 06/17/08-11C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-062, with Hunterdon County Mr. Fixit Program, in the amount of \$14,299 in federal funds, \$3,328 in State funds, \$29,764 in County funds.

See Page 06/17/08-11D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-054, with Care Coordination, in the amount of \$3,262 in federal funds, \$47,722 in State funds.

See Page 06/17/08-11E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-032, with Information and Assistance, in the amount of \$10,183 in federal funds, \$3,759 in State funds and \$25,105 in County funds.

See Page 06/17/08-11F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-064/065, with Senior Health/Preventative Health Services, in the amount of \$23,543 in federal funds, \$113,731 in County funds.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/17/08-11G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2009 Recreational Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities grant application with the NJ Department of Community Affairs, for the Parks Department, in the amount of \$11,541.65 in State funds and \$2,308.35 in County funds.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Three Bridges Volunteer Fire Company to purchase fuel for fire trucks at the County's cost, plus administrative fees. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this is coordinated through the County Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

A request was received from the NJ Citizen Action and the Hunterdon County Peace Coalition for permission to use the steps of the Historic Courthouse for a memorial display for soldiers who have lost lives in Iraq. This request is a reschedule of a previous date. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

FREEHOLDERS ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Route 523 Construction

Mr. Melick reported the Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering has informed him that Readington Township has agreed that the construction for County Route 523 would best be done after the evening rush hour and before the morning rush hour, for the work being done through Whitehouse. A meeting was held with the Township Committee and Chief of Police of

Readington Township and this decision was made.

Fuel Costs

Mr. Melick advised the \$4.00 a gallon cost for fuel oil is creating problems for the public and it is rippling down to the County. The County's consumption of gasoline has gone up from January to June comparing 2007 to 2008. It has gone up by a couple thousand gallons, by volume and price. He would recommend the Fleet Management Committee meet to discuss where the gasoline is going and the Board can discuss it at the next meeting. Mr. Holt felt that was a good idea.

Revenues/Budget

Mr. Melick advised the County anticipated certain revenues but the County Clerk's Office is off in revenue. He has talked to two assessors and they are being asked by constituents to back off on their assessments and in some cases the request is being granted because the resale values are down. The County should not wait until January to think about the budget the Freeholders should start thinking about the budget now for next year. Mr. Melick noted he will be talking to the Finance Department about this.

Cameras/Garages

Mr. Melick advised Roads, Bridges and Engineering has received cost estimates for camera installation for the Route 12 gas pump and it isn't cheap. A camera network/video recorder with installation could cost up to \$10,000.

Mr. Sworen stated he has talked to the IT Department about this and the state uses a recording system but there are cheaper ways to go such as a camera system that someone would have to unload that costs around \$1,000. The other system can be adjusted for evening/nights and it would be a very good system. The question is whether this system is needed or not. He confirmed the County has multiple fuel stations. Mr. Sworen recommended placing cameras where the largest increase in fuel is being scene. Mr. Melick suggested this be analyzed by the County's Fleet Management Committee. Mr. Sworen agreed. Mr. Melick asked Mr. Sworen to talk with the Purchasing Agent and the Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering on this issue.

County land/farming

Mr. Sworen stated at the October 23, 2007 meeting he asked who is farming the County's lands and what the arrangements with them are. Mr. Sworen again asked for a listing. Denise Doolan, Clerk of the Board will get that list for Mr. Sworen and the Board. Mr. Sworen advised an issue that came up during the NJAC (New Jersey Association of Counties) Conference last week was that there are organic farmers looking to lease/utilize open space and farmland.

Shared Services

Alternate vehicles

Mr. Sworen reported Shared Services was the topic that kept coming up at the NJAC Conference. Middlesex County has an interesting program, they place \$25,000 into a grant fund for municipalities to encourage them to purchase alternate fuel vehicles/hybrids. Every municipality is eligible for two (2) \$500 grants to help purchase an alternate fuel or hybrid vehicle. If Hunterdon were to consider such a program, it would cost the County \$26,000 to encourage the use of less polluting hybrid type vehicles. Middlesex County has been successful with this program.

Leasing equipment/crews

Mr. Sworen stated Atlantic County is saving taxpayer money and making money by leasing their equipment to municipalities but they don't just lease the equipment, under the shared service agreement they provide a County crew with the equipment. Atlantic County is saving money because they have crews that aren't being utilized so the employees are being funded by municipalities. This reduces overhead for the municipality because they don't have to purchase certain equipment or retain employees. This is a win/win for the municipality and the County taxpayers. Mr. Sworen would like Hunterdon to discuss this further.

Health Department

Mr. Sworen stated John Beckley, Health Director also attended NJAC and presented a very well attended session for the Health professionals across the state. He was a chief presenter.

Mr. Sworen reported the Shared Services meetings were the largest attended meetings.

Recycling

Mr. Sworen advised two items that were well attended for Shared Services was different ways to accomplish recycling and sharing GIS on the County level with municipalities.

Mr. Sworen advised he brought back a lot of information from NJAC which he will be copying and distributing to everyone.

Open Space/Ballot Question

Mr. Sworen advised a meeting was held with a consultant concerning whether to go on the ballot this year with a question concerning Open Space. It appears it would be in the County's best interest to go out this year with a ballot question for Open Space and leave the question open ended. Hunterdon is the only County that has a capped Open Space Tax. The consultant feels through the polling they did, is that this question would be strongly supported in Hunterdon this year.

Mr. Sworen recommended this Board start thinking about and putting together a question for the November Ballot and it should be done before August.

Mr. Mennen said as a Board the Freeholders authorized the Trust for Public Lands to do some studying, at no cost to the County, and report back. The Trust is now in a position to formally make a recommendation, unless there is an objection from anyone on the Board, he would recommend the Trust come before the Board to do that in order to stay on the August timeline.

WDVR

Mr. Sworen informed the Board that history has been made, as last Saturday, the Heartlands Hay Ride had their 400th live show on WDVR, the County's local Country and Western live music station. This is the Grant Ole Opry of Hunterdon County.

Conference

Mr. Melick reported the County Administrator received a request for two (2) different County employees to going to the same conference in North Carolina and they want different modes of transportation and it is costly. He recommended since there are probably several different Counties who have professionals who are going to attend this conference that they carpool and use a van to get there. He asked if the County Administrator could encourage that. That would be a shared service. Mr. Holt asked that this information be shared with the Board.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Peterson opened the meeting to the public.

Michele McBride, Union Township Environmental Commission thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Ms. McBride explained she is present concerning the Milligan Farm draft cost sharing resolution from December 11, 2007.

Ms. McBride read a prepared statement, not provided to the Board in written form. She asked the Board to reconsider the resolution and to not tie the resolution for Milligan Farm to Exit 15 and questioned how funding is given and recommended ranking the properties.

Mr. Mennen informed Ms. McBride that he has stated publically that he doesn't think the two issues should be joined. Either it is a valid piece of property for preservation or it isn't.

Mr. Mennen said concerning how open space funds are doled out; the County has spent the better part of four or five months working on this and the County is already in the process of doing a criteria to rank properties and having a detached, impartial body to make recommendations to the Freeholders to aid in making the open space funding decisions.

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded a motion to disconnect or remove the link between the funding for the Milligan Farm and Union Township's consent to the road project.

Director Peterson informed Ms. McBride that he's been advocating for Union Township for funding for the Milligan Farm since he first came to the Freeholder Board almost three years ago. He never thought the funding should be attached to another project that is unrelated to the acquisition of land.

Director Peterson also advised he has been trying for around six or seven months, for the County to put together an Open Space Preservation Program which would provide a systematic way of appraising properties in order to obtain better appraisals and better true value for the properties. These reforms need to be done now. These issues are critically important to the quality of life in Hunterdon and the taxpayers being confident in how decisions are made at this level regarding open space acquisitions. He will continue to be an advocate and push for the changes not to tie open space to another project and to have a program that is open, equitable, accountable and understandable by everyone.

Director Peterson feels major changes have taken place in Union Township and he's seen it in the traffic patterns on the Route 78 Intersection where the Pilot Truck Stop is, formerly Johnny's Truck Stop. The few times he's been on that road, he has found it has been more difficult. There is a lot to having those types of facilities in a neighbor, especially with the easy on and off to Route 78 and the issues that can bring.

Mr. Holt informed the Board and those present that he has 15 years of history with this project. He served as Mayor of Clinton Town and was intimately involved in almost 10 years of negotiations with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to get Exit 15 realigned, which was the first of 3 phases to help solve, at that time what is occurring at Exit 12, which is the backup of vehicles onto Route 78.

Mr. Holt stated he vividly recalls what happened on October 31, 2003, the school bus accident which occurred which was the final push that finally got DOT off the dime to move funding to start the first process which was the realignment program.

Mr. Holt believes the entire Board received an interesting email from a resident of Union Township, which blamed both Franklin Township and the Town of Clinton for the problems at Exit 15. Mr. Holt stated for the record that all the development of the Wal-Mart and that area is in Franklin Township, it is not located in the Town of Clinton.

Mr. Holt stated at the time of the Exit 15 realignment program was put together, there were 2 additional phases planned strictly for Exit 15 and Exit 15, the 2nd phase was to improve the Frontage Road project, and inclusive in the project was work on the eastbound side of the

highway and the 3rd phase, which is still on the books for Exit 15 which would eventually allow the Wal-Mart Plaza to have ingress and egress directly onto Route 78 without impacting anything in Union Township or the Town of Clinton areas. These 3 projects were tied together.

Mr. Holt reported there are a series of studies going on now, on Exits 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 20 which are involved with the DOT to impact the interchange effect on Route 78 on all those intersections. As this project has moved forward, the Pilot Truck Center was put into place and as Exit 15's realignment occurred and that intersection from an A rated intersection to a B rated intersection, which did solve a lot of problems for the Town of Clinton. The Pilot Center has created an identical problem on Exit 12 that occurred at Exit 15 many years ago and that is that many times during the day, there is traffic spilling out onto the highway system.

Mr. Holt stated because of the national truck stop situation at Exit 12 on the eastbound and westbound sides, there is an identical situation that was at Exit 15, and it is driving vehicles into the area.

Mr. Holt advised the Frontage Road project, in addition to its impact to Route 78, was also looked at based on its impact to Union Township driven by the 2 state facilities (Edna Mahon Correctional Center and the Hunterdon Developmental Center) and at the time the realignment program was being done and the 2nd phase, Frontage Road, was being done, there was a traffic study done at that time by the State of New Jersey. He feels the state should have been able to look at its employees records for the facilities based there, would be able to look at their data records to determine where employees lived to figure out who comes from the west and who comes from the east but that wasn't done, the study was done with a series of colored markers on windshields with a series of spotters to determine where vehicles were going and how they came out of the facilities. At that time, it was determined there were about a minimum of 650 trips a day out of the two facilities and they took one of two directional turns, one being through the traffic light at Wal-Mart and through Exit 15 or making a right turn going up Route 513 and coming through the back roads of Union Township, past the schools and past the municipal building. The data collected by the State continued to support and promote the Frontage Road project as an extension project.

Mr. Holt explained there is an issue that exists at Exit 12, there is an issue on Frontage Road, and there is an issue with respect to Union Township and there is currently money, for a number of years, that will allow the entire region to be looked at and studied and hopefully improved. The original concept of Frontage Road was simply Frontage Road and what is to be looked at is now the ability to incorporate Exit 12 and Pilot and the east side of Route 173 to see how this project can now become all encompassing for Union Township to do an improvement that is not just Frontage Road but has Frontage Road, Exit 12 and all of that to get improved as one project for the solution to what is Exit 12.

Mr. Holt advised through his involvement on the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and the Governor's mandate to NJTPA and NJDOT, there is now a 10 year plan that has been established by NJTPA at the Governor's direction which has never existed before with regard to funding. The Governor mandated a 10 year and advised the funding available.

Mr. Holt stated there is a solution in Union Township that is necessary for Exit 12, Frontage Road and Pilot which is inclusive to the quality of life in Union Township. He has a grave concern that if the funding is removed from Hunterdon County for Union Township, it will not come back and there will not be a solution for Exit 12 or anything of that nature. While it may seem that there is a pry bar being used to keep Union at the table, he can assure you that the purpose is to try and find a solution for the entire region, it is not to shove Frontage Road down anyone's throat but to look at it from an entire project position to see if what was done at Exit 15 can be done at Exit 12, which has dramatically improved the quality of life of Clinton Town and West Main Street.

Mr. Holt stated the North Jersey 13 counties get 72% of the NJDOT's funding and the NJTPA prioritizes the projects and determines where funding is spent in any given year. After 25 years, the NJTPA has a new Executive Director. He was successful this year in getting the new Director to come to Hunterdon County on April 20, 2008 and half the time while in the County they spent in Union Township on Frontage Road, on Exit 12 all the way down to the Pattenburg Exit, they went into the Pilot Center and they drove so the new Director could get a visual on what the size of this project should be if it becomes a project, as opposed to what it originally was, which was Frontage Road.

Mr. Holt advised he has been working with the Union Township Committee and the Attorney for Union, Peter Jost, to bring NJDOT, NJTPA, County Officials, Mr. Mennen and himself, as NJTPA members, to Union Township to do exactly in Union Township what was done in the Town of Clinton, which was open up the maps, open up the project and start to analyze and look at what the real problems are and what are the solutions and if this can be solved. The NJTPA has agreed with the County that as many of Union Township's issues on both sides of the highway should be included in the project if possible. He is waiting on a NJDOT coordinator to sign off on 3 or 4 dates chosen for this meetings and he hopes to have a date chosen by tomorrow.

Mr. Holt said the intent has been to ensure that the immediacy of the problem, and everyone is aware of the problem, is dealt with and that some sort of project begins and that the funding stays in Hunterdon County. If this funding is lost, we should try to go after solutions for Exit 12 but based on the 10 year plan, it is highly unlikely that it would resurface in the next 20 years.

Mr. Holt apologized saying that is the short version of the history of how the project got to this point.

Mr. Holt stated that the language in the Resolution does not ask for Union Township's consent. The language said the County looked for the Township to not object.

Mr. Holt stated his sole concerns is making sure all parties stay at the table long enough to find a solution. That has been his intent from day one and it still remains his intent.

Mr. Melick recalls the accident and he can't forget it. It is clear to him what needs to be done, the Frontage Road should be extended down to the intersection so that state employees. He's looking at this as what is good for the community of the Town of Clinton, Franklin Township, and Union Township together. This is not a one municipality problem. The portion of Union Township in this project is a vital portion and this issue has to be corrected. This project needs to be done for the community as a whole. This is a community problem and the Freeholders represent a lot of communities.

Mr. Melick is happy to hear from Mr. Holt that the NJTPA is involved in this issue and he hopes it gets corrected. He confirmed the resolution language stated the County did not want Union to object to the project.

Mr. Holt is hopefully that within the next two weeks, there will be a first meeting date to get all the parties together. Mr. Jost has told him that Union Township is looking for a solution to the situation.

Mr. Holt spoke to Mr. Mennen saying he would like the motion to release funding to Union Township for the Milligan Farm to be unanimous and he asked to hold off for 2 weeks, and a maximum of 4 weeks to bring this motion up again, because he believes that within 3 to 5 days that a meeting will be set up with the County, NJDOT, NJTPA and Union Township and he will report back and feels the County will find itself in a position where everyone can move forward.

Mr. Holt asked Mr. Mennen if he would allow a 2 to 4 week period, with a report coming to the Board, prior to the motion put forth.

Mr. Mennen explained the motion put forth breaks the link apart. He doesn't see any reason, no matter what happens. The issue is everyone is talking about sitting around the table. Everyone is talking about embracing this concept with a regional standpoint and a regional viewpoint, so while there maybe progress in 3 to 5 days, it doesn't get away from the fact that this creates a precedent. We are linking open space projects/preservation projects with something unrelated.

Director Peterson feels the governing body of Union Township is looking for solutions, and doesn't think they would not show up to the table to talk about solutions. He sure the governing body of Union Township will do the right thing and come to the meetings and participate. If Union doesn't like any of the proposals does that mean the County will continue not to give them the funding for Milligan Farm or do they have to agree. The question is does Union have to agree with whatever the state comes up with to get 3 votes or to just get them to the table. He feels Union will attend meetings because they have issues with Exit 12 that they want resolved and they will be there to resolve it. If Union has to agree to whatever the DOT wants, that might be different. What DOT wants maybe worse for their community than the issue to be resolved. He doesn't see that 2 or 4 weeks will make a difference. He agreed with Mr. Mennen.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 9:15 p.m., returned to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 10:23 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board

EXECUTIVE SESSION