

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Main Street County Complex, Second Floor

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

May 06, 2008

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:02 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: MR. PETERSON, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. MENNEN, 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 May 01, 2013, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review and The Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 05/06/08-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

See Page 05/06/08-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss land issues.

See Page 05/06/08-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:04 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

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

COUNTY Update

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator called John Glynn, Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering to sit in on her presentation as he is participating in her update.

Gasoline Usage/Administrative Charge

Mrs. Yard reported two weeks ago the Board asked Mr. Glynn to come up with a reasonable dollar amount to be affixed to each gallon of gasoline used. At the last meeting there was a discussion as to why a municipality who uses 2,000 gallons a month and someone who use 20 or 200, why should they have the same administrative overage. The County has an agreement with the Court Vicinage for gasoline usage and they are charged ten cents per gallon of use to include the administrative cost per gallon, so any of the municipalities or schools that do business with the County are charged an extra ten cents in addition to the base cost charge. Mr. Glynn agreed that this is a reasonable cost and it is already established with the Court System.

Mr. Glynn confirmed with Mr. Sworen that an extra ten cents per gallon is a good starting point for the administrative charge, especially today when shared service agreements with the municipalities are underutilized.

Mr. Glynn stated currently the County adopts a resolution authorizing use of the gasoline but he recommends that money be placed in an account for the maintenance of the equipment.

After further discussion, the Board agreed that an extra ten cents per gallon to the base cost of gasoline charged by outside users is enough at this time. The Board directed Mrs. Yard to contact the person in charge of shared services at the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce to start pursuing these shared service agreements with the municipalities. Also, the Board directed Mr. Glynn to provide the current users of the County's gasoline a 60 day notice that there will be an administrative charge of ten cents per gallon.

Status of County Bridges

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that the contractor working on County Routes 523/612, the River Road project, is asking to close a section of River Road down between Minneakoning Road and 612 and post a detour. The contractor has to run a sanitary sewer line up the road and at times it runs 6 to 8 feet deep. This phase will take 2 weeks and will only be closed during construction hours and reopened at the end of the work day. The detour will come down 523 eliminating a left

turn out to Route 31 and back around to the High School Road or onto Minneakoning Road. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission.

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

County Bridge D-345

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that County Bridge D-345, at the intersection of Sand Brook and Route 523, has been in need of replacement for some time. He has been working with Delaware Township; two public hearings have been held; and the comments in a report done by the consultant and was incorporated into the final product for this bridge. The project has been scaled back to reduce the project and the public hearing on the scaled back project was well received. Also considered was the drainage in the final plans. In June 2007 the Freeholders approved the consultant to do the final plan and as a result of this plan, modifications have to be made. Mr. Glynn advised the Board an additional architectural survey is needed to be completed for several homes in the Sand Brook areas. They consultant is asking for \$7,000 to do additional studies on the historic structures through the area; including the Morris Cottage, a couple houses, an old foundation, the Sand Brook School. Mr. Glynn advised in order to get a wetlands permit the County has to complete the architectural survey form for the State Department of Environmental Protection. It is Mr. Glynn's opinion that this work will have no effect on any potentially historic structure. There is a benefit because the drainage is being moved through the barrel and currently there is a headwall which will be removed.

After further discussion, Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion authorizing a modification for additional work, in the amount of \$7,000, by the consultant for historic sites, in connection with the replacement of County Bridge D-345.

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

Hunterdon County Housing Corporation (HCHC)

Mrs. Yard advised the Board that there have been meetings with the Hunterdon County Housing Corporation and another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss their dissolution plan as there are some outstanding issues that the County has to take care of; including the Penrose property (Kapp Senior Housing on Broad Street in Flemington Borough). Originally the HCHC stated they were going to dissolve on July 01, 2008 and now the date is May 31, 2008.

BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE

Pete Maddalena, Director of Buildings and Maintenance, came before the Board to provide an update on County facilities.

Mr. Maddalena reported he would like to take an inventory of the County's buildings with inferred photography camera in order to get an idea of how thermal they sound for emergency consumption. This would provide information on where the heat and cold are escaping.

Mr. Maddalena advised the County has a good supply of indoor quality instruments that are used for investigations; so the County can dialog carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, relative humidity and temperature. This work will be done over the next several weeks internally.

Mr. Maddalena is working close with Jim Gallos of the County's Health Department to develop a strategy for quick responses to investigate indoor air quality.

Mr. Maddalena reported an underground storage tank has just been removed from the Route 31 County Complex facility with the help of Roads and Bridges. One more tank remains to be removed and it is located between 8 and 10 Court Street. He is waiting on approval from the gas company before it can be removed, because natural gas will be run into those two buildings.

PROJECT UPDATE

Frank Joseph Bell, AIA, County Project Administrator came before the Board to provide an update of various County facilities and projects. The Board accepted Mr. Bell's report as submitted.

UPS/Emergency Services

Mr. Bell informed the Board that on there was a power surge which damaged multiple pieces of Communications' equipment at the Emergency Services Center. Mr. Bell has been working with George Wagner, Public Safety Director and Mr. Maddalena and their staff in looking at what occurred. A timeline has been put together with the assistance of Harry Heller of Emergency Services. Mr. Bell is trying to get costs from vendors on the equipment. As of today, there is an update that the equipment needs to be replaced.

Mr. Bell explained that on Friday evening alarms went off in the Emergency Services Center and a call was placed to Mr. Maddalena by Jim Reasoner of Emergency Services stating the Center took a hit on something but they weren't sure what happened. The electrical contractor was called and he came out the next day to look at the equipment on Saturday, April 26, 2008 and got on the phone with the supplier of the equipment/UPS device/machine, and adjustments were made. Mr. Maddalena reported that it was found that the UPS device was not restored to commercial power and that it was still running off of the battery backup and that is unusual. It should not have been in the mode that it was. The electrical contractor on the phone Saturday called and was walked through the procedure over the phone with the procedure to put the equipment in bypass mode. This bypass mode left the County unprotected from the UPS perspective but because there were no critical loads, it was acceptable to the Emergency

Services people. The electrician responded back with a technician to troubleshoot and reestablish the UPS to its proper position in protecting the future critical loads. Mr. Bell continued that point voltage readings were being taken on Monday, and it was placed on the second bypass and the voltage had risen and the electrical contractor noticed that and made the determination to turn it off. By that point, there was at least 300 volts going through the system and it was at that time damage occurred to the equipment. On Tuesday, Mr. Bell discussed this issue with Mr. Wagner and Bob Bush from Buildings and Maintenance was called to look at the equipment and comment on his thoughts. On Wednesday, Mr. Bell talked with Mr. Maddalena in order to establish what should be doing and how to approach this situation and what can be done to correct it. Mr. Maddalena called an electrical engineer, James Didado and met him on site on Thursday and spent the entire morning, looking at equipment, at shop drawings and the original drawings and talking with the original engineer from L. Robert Kimball firm, to try and understand what happened and why it happened and how to avoid it in the future.

Mr. Bell advised a reaction to the situation was developed and at this point, the Freeholders need to understand what the next step is in order to fix this. The County has to determine who has preliminary responsibility for the damage and the County must contact the responsible party and their insurance carriers before a claim can be filed; then the County must decide if the equipment should be ordered immediately and get the financial damages back from the responsible party and their insurance carrier or should the County go through the claims process and get the funding at that point before purchasing the replacement equipment. Mr. Bell reported the initial quote of \$365,000 was just for the phone switch and other costs are being established.

Mr. Wagner explained the vendors are not certifying or are not willing to warranty their equipment so they are condemning the equipment in lieu of this unknown damage that they are responsible for. They are not sure what unknown or underlying damages they maybe to the equipment.

Mr. Holt stated the County's course of action in terms of recourse must be decided and in the interim period, with a lead time of multi-weeks, if not months, there is equipment that must be replaced quickly.

Mr. Wagner understands the equipment that was damaged was in the process of being installed; including the telephone equipment and a part of that was the touch screens at the individual stations. He confirmed the data screens were no plugged in at the time the incident occurred.

Mr. Bell confirmed for that the vendors for the equipment have been made aware of the incident. Mr. Wagner explained when the incident occurred a vendor was working on the equipment so they are aware of what happened. The other vendors whom the County feels needs to do assessments have been contacted.

Mr. Maddalena informed the Board that the UPS equipment will be gone over with someone higher than a local representative according to the electrical contractor. He asked that Mr. Didado be present when the equipment is opened and reviewed, to determine if it was wired properly. The flaw could have come from the factory. There are many unknowns but the County has to protect its interest and determine what happened.

Mr. Bell stated the facility is presently operating at the original dispatch location and that will continue. Mr. Bell will gather more information for the Board and report back at the next meeting and a decision can be made then.

Mr. Mennen asked if there will be more information to help guide that decision in two weeks. Mr. Bell believes more information will help in assessing who is responsible but delaying a decision will put off ordering equipment for two weeks. He can explore all the costs and push the vendors for information. There are still vendors that need to inform the County if their equipment was under warranty.

After further discussion, the Board agreed waiting two weeks in order to get a better scope on exactly what the dollars are.

IT Point to Point Wireless System/Tower

Mr. Bell reported at the last meeting the Board directed him to attend Raritan Township's meeting to inform the Township Committee on the IT Point to Point Wireless System tower to be installed in Raritan Township. During the meeting there was discussion on the towers, what should and should not be done. Mr. Bell recommended the Raritan Township Committee meet with their in-house engineer and planner, as well as the tower consultant and a County Representative and that has been done. The Township recommends a minimum tower height and if more equipment has to be added than the top tower can be made higher. The base would be designed for the standards needed in the future.

Mr. Bell advised the consultant for the Township suggested using a guide tower system instead of a truss tower. The Cherryville Tower is a truss tower. The consultant is recommending a guide tower which would use more ground space so the present proposed location would have to be moved to the middle of a field at Route 12.

Raritan Township Mayor, John King, stated he has respect for the County's professionals and he is glad they were able to meet. This is a situation where meetings have taken place to discuss the proposed solution and that his people have discussed mitigating factors on how to minimize the visual effect on the Township. Mayor King is sensitive to the fact there is a timeline involved with this and that the PARIS grant requires certain kinds of expenditures to be done within a certain amount of time. He wished Raritan Township had been brought into the process earlier, so he is not sympathetic to the time crunch. From Raritan Township's viewpoint, two towers are

to be installed beyond the height the Township would typically allow for any other type of developer or contractor or private enterprise. He feels there are probably other solutions involved so he asked the Freeholder Board to hold off on making a decision or introducing Ordinance 04-08 this evening, in favor of having the professional have an opportunity to meet again and investigate some other solutions that have been brought to the table.

Director Peterson asked if the entire Raritan Township Board has had the opportunity to see the new proposal. Mr. Bell reported this was discussed last Thursday afternoon.

Mayor King reported that James Humphries concurs with most of what has been said this evening. The only other factor is that the Township is now paying someone to join this conversation because they don't have an expert in-house.

Mr. Holt asked the timeline on the PARIS grant versus the timeline on the installation of the towers.

Michael Rasimowicz, Information Technology Director, reported the project is finalized, and built into the RFP (Request for Proposals) is that construction time is 90 days and the RFP's are due back on May 22, 2008.

Mr. Melick is sorry that the Township was not brought into this discussion for the project sooner. Mr. Bell explained the involvement started last year.

Mayor King thinks the involvement started as a June or July 31st email with very big language as to whether or not anything was being considered followed by an email on January 30th asking to become part of a discussion before the Township Planning Board which happened in March, which is the first time he became aware of the project. Since he is the Mayor, he doesn't feel that is good cooperation between the Township and the County.

Mr. Bell stated Mr. Rasimowicz was given direction by the Raritan Township Planner that the County only needed to appear before the Township Planning Board meeting for a courtesy review, which was done.

Mr. Melick agreed that is standard procedure for the County that the County appears before the municipality and informs them of the project. It is a courtesy.

Mayor King does not believe that the PARIS grant August 31, 2008 date is a hard date. He feels that could be extended in order to meet and discuss an appropriate solution.

Mr. Holt recommended taking a few more weeks to review this project with the Township.

Mr. Rasimowicz asked if the consultant for Raritan Township will be putting together a formal report because some of the recommendations made at the meeting were contradictory to the independent report he completed in regards to the type of tower and the height.

Mayor King advised their consultant was not consigned to redesign the County's network. He is confident Mr. Rasimowicz has more than enough skill to come up with an appropriate design for the network. He isn't questioning the technical aspects of this and he doesn't want to keep paying a consultant to vet the County's design. He is aware that the discussions held were limited to the existing solution. The existing solution doesn't consider the Township's needs for trying to maintain a rural quality and not have an entrance and exit point, which is a tower on Route 12. He feels it is reasonable to vet this in a way that makes sure it meets the Township's needs.

Mr. Rasimowicz asked if the adjustments made at the Route 31 County Complex site adequate to the Township; noting that a smaller tower will be used.

Mayor King's understanding is that progress is being made on getting the Route 31 tower so that it is less obvious and it is appreciated so he believes the issue is at Route 12.

Mr. Rasimowicz recommended meeting with the Township engineer and planner in order to not have the Township incur any additional costs.

Mr. Mennen stated the County should do all it can to get as much input in this project as possible. If there is a way to extend the PARIS grant deadline, the County should pursue that tomorrow because it will provide additional time to work through these issues and make it a mutually advance plan.

Bob Thurgarland, PARIS Grant project manager, stated the County could apply for an extension to the grant deadline. He believes the next available meeting of the State Records Committee is the middle of June so an answer won't be received until after the 90 day construction schedule.

Mr. Holt if an application can't be made until June, than the two parties have to come together and agree on something that reasonably works.

Mr. Mennen confirmed with Mayor King that what the Township is looking for with the towers has to do with aesthetics.

Director Peterson asked Mayor King to have the Township professionals and the County's professionals get together immediately to start getting things worked through, in order to have something for the Township Committee to review at Raritan's next meeting. When the

Freeholders meet on May 20, 2008, then a solution can be considered that the Township can agree to and live with.

Mayor King agreed. Mayor King said there is the illusion of how these towers can be a benefit for the Township because of their placement that the Township can piggyback on that. He stated that has not been discussed in any detail or represented to the Township as an option. That should be part of the discussion now and the Township can take that into consideration over the next two weeks.

Director Peterson agreed and asked the County's professionals to supply that information to the Township.

PURCHASING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of bid #2008-01 to furnish scanning, indexing and redaction services for the County Clerk's Office, to Smooth Solutions, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$54,136.68.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of bid #2008-06 to furnish and deliver a custom UHF T-pass combiner, including a multi-coupler and antennas, to TXRX Systems, Inc. for the Department of Public Safety, in the amount not to exceed \$37,581.92.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional agreement, quote #0026-2008, for the provision of surveying services for the Farmland Preservation program, to Bohren and Bohren Associates, Inc., in the amount not to exceed is \$19,100.00.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 05/06/08-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #CC991, to provide ballot printing for the school election, to Progress Printing Company, for the County Clerk, in the amount of \$38,151.00.

See Page 05/06/08-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #23855, to procure 300 GPS units, to The GPS Store, for the Emergency Services Department, in the amount of \$85,488.00.

See Page 05/06/08-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the following requisition, for the purchase of furniture and fixtures, for the Prosecutor's Office: #40018248 to Knoll Inc. for \$42,752.

See Page 05/06/08-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the following requisition, for the purchase of furniture and fixtures, for the Prosecutor's Office #40018249 to Knoll Inc. for \$37,719.60.

See Page 05/06/08-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the following requisition, for the purchase of furniture and fixtures, for the Prosecutor's Office #40018250 to Kimball International for \$6,230.40.

See Page 05/06/08-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #40018178, for the galvanizing of the steel for Bridge H-93, on Javes Road, in the Township of Holland, for Roads and Bridges, to New Jersey Galvanizing, in the amount of \$16,055.18.

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

FINANCE

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-6A

CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 02-08

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 02-08, authorizing the acquisition of office furniture, fixtures and business equipment, various Departments of the County of Hunterdon, in the amount of \$80,500.00.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-6B

CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 03-08

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 03-08, authorizing the acquisition of computer equipment, for the Information and Technology Department and various other Departments, in the amount of \$138,100.00.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-6C

CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 04-08

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 04-08, authorizing the upgrade of the County-wide network for various County campuses, in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

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

Capital Ordinance No. 05-08 was pulled from the agenda at this time.

(Capital Ordinance No. 05-08, authorizing the acquisition of equipment for the Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation Department, in the amount of \$72,500.00.)

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-6D

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 06-08

INTRODUCTION, Approving Bond Ordinance No. 06-08, authorizing the improvement of various public highways, roads and streets in, by and for the County, in the amount of \$8,050,000.00.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-6E

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 07-08

INTRODUCTION, Approving Bond Ordinance No. 07-08, authorizing the improvement of various bridges and culverts in, by and for the County, in the amount of \$2,685,000.00.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-6F

CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 08-08

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 08-08, authorizing improvements and expansion of the Everittstown Garage storage facility, in the amount of \$450,000.00.

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

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-6G

CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 09-08

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 09-08, authorizing the acquisition of heavy public works machinery, equipment and trucks for the County Roads and Bridges and Vehicle Services Departments and buses for the Human Services Department, in the amount of \$960,000.00.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-7A

CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 10-08

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 10-08, authorizing the upgrade and replacement of various communications' equipment for the Hunterdon County Emergency Management Facility, in the amount of \$273,000.00.

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

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-7B

CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 11-08

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 11-08, authorizing the acquisition of computer equipment and furniture for the establishment of a computer crimes unit for the Hunterdon County Prosecutor, in the amount of \$25,000.00.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 05/06/08-7C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the change of custodian, for the County Clerk's petty cash fund, from Dorothy Tirpok to Mary Melfi.

See Page 05/06/08-7D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the change of custodian in the Sheriff's Office petty cash fund, from William Doyle to Deborah Trout.

See Page 05/06/08-7E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the change of custodian in the Finance Department from Charles Balogh, Jr. to Margaret Pasqua.

See Page 05/06/08-7F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the petty cash fund for Senior Health Services be rescinded.

See Page 05/06/08-7G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing Kim Browne be appointed to the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority to replace and fill the unexpired term of Charles Balogh.

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

Freeholder Melick left the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Item #1, held to check legal issues.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-7G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the proposed acquisition of a Development Easement owned by Barbara Hay, on Block 21, Lots 16 & 16.01, in the Township of East Amwell, consisting of an estimated 57 acres, (SADC - \$410,400, County - \$67,284.31, Township - \$83,437.09, total amount of \$684,000.00.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/06/08-7H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the proposed acquisition of a Development Easement owned by Karl F. Zeller and Jill Richards Zeller, on Block 22, Lot 34, in Holland Township, consisting of 56.876 acres, (SADC - \$253,098.20, County - \$67,284.31, Township - \$83,437.09, total amount of \$403,819.60.

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

See Page 05/06/08-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #21, Bid #2005-39, for the Route 12 Garage, with APS, Inc., in the amount of \$51,566.90.

See Page 05/06/08-9B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #16, Bid #2006-20, for the Hall of Records/Southard buildings, with Watertrol, Inc., in the amount of \$59,958.80.

See Page 05/06/08-9C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #24, Bid #2005-47, for the Emergency Services Building, with DeSapio Construction, in the amount of \$25,875.14.

See Page 05/06/08-9D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing an agreement with New Jersey Transit Corporation to transfer ownership and responsibility of (2) Section 5310, Federal Transit funded vehicles to the County of Hunterdon.

See Page 05/06/08-9E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the following re-appointments to the Human Services Advisory Council: Martha Rezeli, Nancy Schepens, Meghan Randolph, Mark Donlon, Terry Newhard, Katherine Bergacs, Edward Jakubco, Scott Elliott, Miguel Mendez.

See Page 05/06/08-9F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing Art Show Waiver Agreements, with various senior artists, to display art, for the annual Hunterdon County Art Show, at Route 31 County Complex, Raritan Township.

See Page 05/06/08-9G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the release of a Road Opening Deposit to Peter J. Sarsten, in the amount of \$500.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 05/06/08-9H

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Christian Weisenbacher for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/06/08-9I

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Bonnie Duncan for having served as member of the Hunterdon County Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 05/06/08-9J

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Glenn Duncan for having served as member of the Hunterdon County Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 05/06/08-9K

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Kathy Owens for having served as member of the Hunterdon County Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 05/06/08-9L

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Catherine McVicker for having served as member of the Hunterdon County Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 05/06/08-9M

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Robert DeChellis for having served as member of the Hunterdon County Construction Board of Appeals.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 05/06/0810A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant renewal application with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, for HIV Counseling and Testing grant funds, in the amount of \$59,800.00.

See Page 05/06/0810B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant renewal with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, for the Cancer Control grant, for prevention and early detection services funding, in the amount of \$65,000.00.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the New Jersey Citizen Action and Hunterdon County Peace Coalition, request to utilize the Historic Courthouse steps to host a memorial on Monday, May 26, 2008, from 9 am to 2 pm, for the soldiers from New Jersey who have perished in Iraq, Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission to use the County's historic Court House provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

A request was received from Somerset Wheelmen asking permission to utilize various County routes to conduct their championship event. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve use of various County roads provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

Correspondence was received from the East Whitehouse Fire Department, Inc. requesting to purchase diesel fuel and gasoline through the County fuel program. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

SHERIFF'S Office

Undersheriff George Muller informed the Board he is representing the Sheriff, as her father has taken seriously ill. He stated there was a request for the Sheriff to amend her salary budget.

Mrs. Yard advised she sent a memorandum on April 25, 2008, as the Sheriff had written a memorandum on April 22, 2008 regarding her budget to the Freeholder Board, and Mrs. Yard wrote back to her that it would be discussed in Executive Session today. She confirmed it was discussed in Executive Session.

Denise Doolan, Clerk of the Board, reported that she has been out, due to the passing of her mother, so someone else typed the agenda and it was placed on the agenda by mistake. It is nothing more than a clerical error. Mrs. Doolan stated when she came into work this morning, she placed this item where it belonged, under Executive Session.

Mr. Muller stated a request was sent over to the Freeholders about the return of the Attorney ID program.

Mrs. Yard stated the Sheriff's request was received and she reached out to the County Clerk, Mary Melfi, regarding this request because Ms. Melfi has the ID system. Based on an email from the County Clerk, she will work with the Sheriff's Office to get the ID's done and she is willing to work with the Sheriff on sharing the equipment so that it was be used in the mobile vehicle. The County Clerk will share her equipment, so the County doesn't have to carry two sets of expensive equipment.

Mr. Muller doesn't feel sharing would be a good fit with what the Sheriff's Office wants to do with the system because the Sheriff's Office also does the Children ID program and there maybe confliction of dates at different times. The Sheriff's Office has separate cards for the system and it would be purchased out of the Sheriff's Budget but from a grant. The Sheriff's Office is also looking to get a fingerprint apparatus on the side of it, so fingerprinting can be done. The Sheriff's Office would also like to get income from the fingerprinting by using local police departments. There have also been requests from different sports organizations in the Counties who have to have ID's and background checks who are currently pay \$60 a person to go to Hampton. With this equipment the Sheriff's Office could also provide that service.

Mr. Muller stated the Sheriff's equipment would be able to provide a backup to the County Clerk's equipment should her system go out. This equipment would be purchased through a grant, in the amount of \$11,000.

Mr. Muller stated currently the Children's ID program is using a polaroid camera and it also needs to be replaced.

Mrs. Yard confirmed with George Wagner, Public Safety Director that the system used at Emergency Services allows a picture to be taken and the ID card would have to be mailed to the person.

Mrs. Yard confirmed that the County Clerk is willing to work with the Sheriff's Office cooperatively.

Mr. Muller stated he had talked with the County Clerk before the Sheriff's Office went out to secure the information, because he got information from her regarding her system. This is a chance to pick up this equipment for no cost.

Director Peterson said the Board had concerns the last time it considered this about long term costs with the equipment which not make it worthwhile to purchase.

Mr. Muller advised last time, it was a good decision not to purchase the equipment because it wasn't a good system to purchase but now with the new system, it is greatly improved. He confirmed for Director Peterson and the Board that this system is different than what was proposed a year ago.

Mr. Muller confirmed for Mr. Sworen that this is the same system the County Clerk has but the Sheriff is getting additional pieces to do fingerprinting.

Mr. Muller advised the Board that the Attorney General sent a directive to all Sheriff's in the counties in the State of New Jersey that they want all Sheriff's to do the ID program for attorneys and each County would receive up to \$11,000 toward the purchase of this equipment.

Director Peterson confirmed there are no supplemental costs associated with this system. He would like the opportunity to review the new information on this system and directed the Clerk of the Board to place this issue on the next agenda for Board consideration.

Director Peterson asked Mr. Muller to reach out the Public Safety Director and the County Clerk to see if there isn't a way to use this to better the County's entire system by getting something the County doesn't already have with the \$11,000 grant from the Attorney General.

Mr. Muller informed the Board that what is being considered is a great system and it would provide backup for what the County presently has.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Peterson opened the meeting to the public.

Maj. Charles Taylor, resident of Pennsylvania, representing the Junior Air Force ROTC program at Hunterdon County Polytech Vocational School. Maj. Taylor is here, along with parents and supporter of the ROTC program, to request support for a program that is being terminated at Hunterdon County Polytech, the Junior ROTC program. This program is not duplicated in any of the other County schools or feeder schools to Polytech. He understands there has been a lot of discussion at the Polytech Board of Education and it comes down to, not what the community or strategic planning but it comes down to current enrollment which then translates to dollars and cents.

Maj. Taylor stated the program has not been allowed to evolve in past three years and as business men and managers, it is known if you start a business you don't necessarily make a profit in the first or second year and possibly not even the third year. When the contract was signed with the government, a lot of study was done prior to that and it took between 3 and 7 years to get the program in the County. That contract says that you are required to have two instructors and from the Air Force side of the program, they give three years to build the program because it's understood it takes two people to build the program, to build the enrollment which in turn brings in the funds to possibly break even. The Polytech Board of Education never filled the second position; they asked for an Air Force waiver the first year and enrollment was initially 7 students. There were 18 signed up in the April timeframe and by September there were 7. The following year, after one year of him doing the program the number was increased to 10. Maj. Taylor said through his planning, it was determined the program could be offered to Hunterdon Central Regional High School on their block scheduling system to develop a feeder into the program.

Maj. Taylor advised during his second year, he had 10 students plus 25 feeder students. The program is determined to be cut because next year's projected numbers, which are not final yet, show 6 half day students, along with 25 feeder students (HCRHS). Cost wise, there is a net loss and this year, with the low numbers there was a profit by his estimate, which do not take into account maintenance and operations fees. The students have painted the facility to upgrade it and the parents came in to help with the upkeep on maintenance on the building because it was requested work orders were denied.

Maj. Taylor explained that hiring a second person to assist him in doing the program would provide visibility. This is not just a curriculum; it is a program that affects the community. Even with the limited number of students in the program this year, they have performed around 160 hours of community service; they have collected \$1,500.00 for St. Bernard's Parish School System in Louisiana; and with the limited marketing that he's been able to do the program is getting more known in the public by the students performing color guard and there are at least 5 functions this month where they will perform color guard.

Maj. Taylor asked the Board to support this program and do whatever is possible as Freeholders to help this program survive and to possibly overturn the decision. This is a dollar issue. The estimate this year, is that \$40,000 will be lost for the other teacher. It is truly unfair to the community for students to have this program waived in front of them, they have joined and now to have it taken away.

Maj. Taylor thanked the Board for its time and if there are any other question to now

Mr. Holt conveyed to Maj. Taylor that he heard at a Eagle Court of Honor this past Saturday, that Hunterdon Central Regional High School might considering picking up the program that Polytech did not.

Maj. Taylor explained after the parents had a meeting and attended the Hunterdon Central Regional High School board meeting, Central's board decided to ask Dr. Brady to look into that. In the meantime, Polytech made their announcement two weeks ago and the information went to the Air Force.

Mr. Holt informed Maj. Taylor that he was informed that at Polytech there is a space issue. He asked Maj. Taylor to advise him about his space requirement.

Maj. Taylor reported the Junior ROTC has enough classroom and storage space at the current time; the only space issue where there was a problem this year, was the marching and drilling. It is not a requirement to have in-door drilling space; you are required to have a location. The parking lot is fine; as long as it is roped off and it is not being used for parking. That can't be done at Polytech.

Mr. Holt asked if there is a space requirement with regard to the storage of weapons.

Maj. Taylor stated he has a work order in the process from October; the weapons are currently stored in a locker, in a room, which requires a different key because of an alarm system and also, because the Air Force requires this. The work order was written up and the lock smith that changed all the locks at Bartles Corner School has changed the locks at the Central Campus, and he has asked to have the locks changed for his building. That room has a separate key to that door that not everyone has. It is a perfect legitimate storage area for those weapons.

Maj. Taylor understands the building he is currently is, would be used by veterinary services.

Mr. Holt explained to Maj. Taylor that the Freeholder Board only makes a contribution towards the Polytech School and those funds are not designated what it should be used for; it is simply a contribution towards their budget.

Mr. Sworen added that his role as Polytech Liaison, is that he cannot tell the Polytech Board what to do, he is only there to represent the Freeholder Board. The direction this Board has given Polytech is that if there isn't the enrollment for a specific class or if it's a small enrollment to no longer carry that course; it's supposed to be lean. Once Polytech's budget is approved, they make all their own decisions.

Jeanne Pricarro came before the Board and advised her son Sean is in the Junior ROTC as a Hunterdon Central Regional High School student. The parents present this evening are looking for any stop gap measure because this was such a late and sudden decision; and because the students are passionate about this and it does built a lot of character. This is a wonderful program that helps the students. There are over 200 schools on a waiting list for this program and Hunterdon County Polytech was fortunate enough to be awarded this program two years ago with a three year commitment from Polytech. The parents are looking for a way to continue this program for at least, one additional year. Ms. Pricarro understands the Air Force funds all the operational expenses for the program and half of Maj. Taylor's salary. The Air Force provides funding for everything that would be unique to Junior Air Force ROTC such as flight simulators, the field trips, the uniforms, all books, all curriculum and even curriculum changes.

Ms. Pricarro asked the Board to use whatever influence it might have at Polytech to inquire further as to why the program is being eliminated and if there is anything that can be done to get it re-instated.

Cathy Secial, Readington Township resident came before the Board, stated that she has a son and a daughter at Hunterdon Central Regional High School and her daughter joined the ROTC. There has been a positive change in the way she carries herself and we are so proud of her. Ms. Secial stated the parents only found at a week ago that the program is being eliminated. The students are already enrolled in ROTC; her daughter had her senior year plotted out and knew what she was going to do in college; she was going to move into ROTC in college and that isn't happening now. She asked the Board to see if Polytech can stop this and give the parents a chance to keep this program in Hunterdon County.

James Decalleo, a cadet at the Citadel came before the Board, stating he is a mid-shipman in the Marine Corp and the ROTC has paid for his entire college tuition. Mr. Decalleo said he was shocked to hear that Polytech would consider removing the Junior ROTC program. It provided him with foundations to be successful at the Citadel. Mr. Decalleo feels his is a finished product of the Junior ROTC. It is disheartening to hear the program will be eliminated. He asked the Board to please help the program because it helped him. This is an investment in the future of the students.

Mr. Mennen explained there is the initiative to not just maintain the program there currently but to add, by virtue of the Air Force requirements a second instructor. While this Board is not vested with the authority or the prevue to make those decisions, he personally, evidenced his support of the program beyond these decisions. This Board in the past, truly has given a charge to the Polytech Board to find ways to maximize utility and to maximize space and that means if there are single digits of enrollment in the face of other programs that have 20 or 30 students, it is hard to continue those programs. Mr. Mennen felt there was a time to reassess and strengthen the marketing and outreach of Polytech during three year lease. The idea was to try and come up with ways to strengthen these programs and to justify programs. Unfortunately the Junior ROTC program doesn't have just a space concern but it's also the requirement to have another instructor.

Mr. Mennen offered to work with Maj. Taylor to find a way to continue to make this program work. There are discussions with Hunterdon Central Regional High School to fold the program into their school. That might resolve some space concerns or it might create different space concerns.

Mr. Mennen said there is a lot of pressure on the Polytech Board to perform and some of that was placed upon them by this Board and some was placed upon it by the State and some came from themselves in an effort to be as efficient as they possibly can be. Mr. Mennen is sure this is not a decision the Polytech Board came to lightly.

Mr. Mennen said he is willing to help but he is also cognizant of the pressures that the Polytech Board feels and he is cognizant of the constraints this Board is under on how far the County can inject itself into that process. The Freeholders are willing to listen to suggestions. He understands this is a sad reality but at the end of the day, it is reality.

Mr. Melick stated everyone here is very dedicated and he doesn't know who the Polytech Board makes its decisions but society as a whole is in a squeeze. The economy is not what it used to be. The Freeholders do not have any control over the Polytech Board other than trying to make them as efficient as possible. Mr. Melick advised he would rather see this program in one of the sending districts to Polytech; then it could be migrated from North Hunterdon High School to Hunterdon Central Regional High School. There is a conflict here between the sending districts and Polytech and both are using taxpayer money. People move out of Hunterdon County every day because the taxes are too high. Hunterdon County has a depressed income base.

Maj. Taylor informed the Board that the only reason he runs this program is for the students. He also has questioned why this program isn't in a school setting. His goal isn't to keep the program at Polytech or Hunterdon Central Regional High School, but it needs to stay in the County.

Director Peterson confirmed with Maj. Taylor that the Air Force is willing to commit to another year.

Gaetano M. DeSapio, County Counsel stated from a public relations point of view, the Air Force is not going to get into an argument with Polytech to run the program another year, when they have 200 school waiting for the program. He confirmed that the contract with the Air Force required Polytech to have two instructors from the beginning and it was waived.

Director Peterson feels Polytech should have planned for this program, financially and otherwise to fulfill the 3 year agreement with the Air Force for the Junior ROTC program. Issues have been raised here and there is a lack of communication between the parties and there is a lack of coordination with the schools. Unfortunately, these issues need to be addressed but not by this Board and Director Peterson doesn't know if anything this Board does or says at this point, will change the outcome. If Polytech decided to end the program, it is hard to change a whole board's mind. No matter what is done at this point, the program is ending.

Mr. Holt suggested the Freeholders reach out to various Hunterdon Central Regional High School Board members, as moving the program is just logistics since the only thing that separates the Polytech School from Hunterdon Central is the parking area.

The Board thanked the parents and Maj. Taylor for coming this evening.

FOR DISCUSSION

Hunterdon Land Trust Feasibility Study

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders -discussed the Hunterdon Land Trust feasibility study for 2008 ballot question and directed the Clerk of the Board to send it to the appropriate parties.

Modifications to I-78, Exit 15

Mr. Holt reported that this Freeholder Board adopted a resolution last year asking Union Township not to object to modification to Interchange I-78, Exit 15 which are desperately needed. Union Township wrote a letter to the County regarding this matter which Mr. Holt reported on and which he hand delivered to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). Union Township's letter outlined problems they had with Frontage Road and at the end of the letter Union Township acknowledged that the project needs to move forward and they would work together with the State going forward. Mr. Holt feels this Board needs to determine if this language meets the criteria the Board asked for. There have also been newspaper reports and minutes from meetings Union Township had as New Jersey Transit was doing a series of municipal meetings around the County, their minutes reported the project should be continued. There is also a clarification from Union Township Attorney, Peter Jost, explaining what his interpretation of the meeting was. Currently, the County

authorized a letter be drafted to Mr. Jost and ask, because there has been a difference of opinion on reports on Union Township's position, for a clarification of their position.

Mrs. Yard reported that Denise Doolan, Clerk of the Board sent a letter to the Union Township Mayor asking for clarification concerning Union's position on this matter and he wrote back to her.

County Counsel, Gaetano DeSapio, read the letter which Mrs. Doolan received from Mr. Jost.

Mrs. Doolan reported to the Board, that her letter informed Union Township that the County was in receipt of minutes of the NJTPA stating that Union Township was opposed to the Frontage Road project and Exit 15 and Mrs. Doolan asked the Township for a clarification on this matter, because there had been information received from another source stating Union Township was supporting the project.

Mrs. Doolan advised Peter Jost, Union Township Attorney responded saying that Union Township is still not supporting the Frontage Road project. The letter states that although Union Township is currently opposed to the NJDOT and Hunterdon's plans to extend the south side of Exit 15, on I-78, Frontage Road, Union Township has not made a final decision with regard to this project.

Mr. DeSapio stated if Union Township says it's still opposed, then they are opposed.

Mr. Holt advised last week the NJTPA came to Union Township and toured the area for the project in order to determine what Union's concerns are. The county and township representatives were present during this tour.

Mr. Holt reported the NJTPA is moving this project through their process, so there is design and construction money for the project.

FREEHOLDERS ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

There were no reports at this time.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board