

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Main Street County Complex, Second Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

October 07, 2008

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 3:02 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Deputy Director Mennen announced: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before September 30, 2008, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review and The Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 10/07/08-1A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues related to appointments to various boards, committee and councils, (PACADA, LACADA, HHSAC, TAC, Polytech).

See Page 10/07/08-1B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss budget issues and the operational impact of personnel in the Sheriff Office.

See Page 10/07/08-1C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the proposed resolution of the Pizzalato lawsuit.

See Page 10/07/08-1D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a legal issue surrounding a printing contract.

See Page 10/07/08-1E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to review executive session minutes.

See Page 10/07/08-1F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a legal issue with regard to the Open Space Spending Plan.

See Page 10/07/08-1G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss appraisal reports in connection with County Bridge project Q-168 on Pennsylvania Avenue, in Raritan Township.

See Page 10/07/08-1H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues concerning a proposal from FiberTech to utilize County Rights-of-Way.

See Page 10/07/08-1I **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the sale of a small piece property in Holland Township.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 3:05 p.m., recessed at 5:48 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:51 p.m.

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

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. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of September 16, 2008.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated October 07, 2008.

See Page 10/07/08-2A CLAIMS REGISTER

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

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

See Page 10/07/08-2B SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS REPORT

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 10/07/08-2C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Daniel Johnson appointed permanent, full time Senior Technician MIS, Information Technology Department.

See Page 10/07/08-2D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Safiyah Blalock appointed permanent, full time Senior Youth Worker, Youth Facility Division, Public Safety Department.

See Page 10/07/08-2E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Leonard Gilbert appointed permanent, full time Laborer, Parks and Recreation Department.

See Page 10/07/08-2F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Bryan Manning appointed provisional, full time Equipment Operator, Parks and Recreation.

See Page 10/07/08-2G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement for professional auditing services for the 2008 County, Library and Prosecutor's Audits, with Ferraioli, Wielkotz, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A., in an amount not to exceed \$64,300.

See Page 10/07/08-2H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a County Emergency Response Team Volunteer Agreement with Kyle Beasley of the Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 10/07/08-2I RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Opposing changes to the cost share arrangement between the state and the counties for the maintenance of patients in state psychiatric facilities.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 10/07/08-2J RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a portion of property in fee simple, from Block 42, Lot 13, from Janet C. Apgar, in connection with Intersection Improvements of County Routes 523 and 517, in Tewksbury Township, in the amount of \$9,700.

See Page 10/07/08-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Federal Aid Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the resurfacing of County Route 523, in Tewksbury.

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

The Board discussed Item #14, under the Consent Agenda, the Open Space Acquisition Policy, concerning percentages.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Open Space Acquisition Policy.

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

The Board acknowledged all those who were involved in the creation of the County's Open Space Acquisition Policy.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 10/07/08-3C

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Michael Babinski for having attained the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 10/07/08-3D

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

See Page 10/07/08-3E

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing October as County Employees Appreciation Month.

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

COUNTY UPDATE

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator invited Frank Bell, Alan Johnson and Mary Gamatko to address the Board to provide an update of the County's Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program.

Mrs. Yard provided a history, stating that the County of Hunterdon took over the Housing and Rehabilitation program in the County, and assumed the responsibility of the 2007 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant. She has been working with Mr. Bell, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Gamatko saying they have done a stellar job with this program.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that there are still some outstanding issues with the 2004 Small Cities Grant, which is being handled by County Counsel, the Finance Director and herself are trying to rectify that grant.

Mr. Johnson reported, on behalf of Mr. Bell, Ms. Gamatko and himself, that there are currently 26 applicants in the 2007 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation round. Of the 26 applicants, 2 have revoked their applications; 3 have been deemed not eligible and 1 has moved from the original application residence, and 2 have put their applications on hold. There are to date, 18 active applications in the 2007 Grant round.

The following is a breakdown of the procedures that staff follows to get the applicants through the program:

- Receive an application;
- Determine if application is completed and if applicant is eligible;
- Set up initial interview with staff and the applicant to review application and go over the program with them;
- Set up initial home inspection visit;
- Budget estimate;
- Contractor quotes;
- Receipt of contractor quotes;
- Contract;
- Lien;
- Mortgage.

Mrs. Yard stated that Mr. Bell and Mr. Johnson provide one-third of their time to this program and half of Ms. Gamatko's time is spent on the Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation program. The County's program has rolling applications and the key is eligibility. As long as there is money, applications will be accepted.

Mr. Sworen confirmed if there is still money in the 2007 grant, then people can still apply. Mr. Johnson stated at this time, the program is fully allocated because many of the houses of the current applicants are older, and once the projects are started the prices go up.

Mr. Sworen asked if 2008 money is available for projects. Mrs. Yard reminded the Board the County elected not to apply for the 2008 Small Cities Grant because the County is still actively involved in the 2007 grant.

Mr. Sworen asked if people who are needy can apply for this, because if we can, we should be doing that, specifically for heating. With the new gas line going through Frenchtown and Kingwood, there maybe needy people who would have the ability, with help, to switch to a gas system versus oil or whatever else they maybe using. Mr. Johnson said if they were eligible, they could be approved on a deferred basis, so that if money does become available, they would be notified funds are available to hook up to a gas line.

Mrs. Yard advised that because there are still open issues in the 2004 Small Cities Grant that the Hunterdon County Housing Corporation received, the state will not release any funds for the County's program until those issues have been reconciled. Mrs. Yard reminded the Board, there is still the issue of the \$150,000 match that the County has to be very concerned with.

Mr. Johnson stated the County has been trying to set up the program, and Ms. Gamatko has been very striving to have the questions answered before they are even asked, in order to avoid certain situations, such as closing a previous years' grant. A meeting is schedule tomorrow, with the Finance Director, to see what she areas of concern she has found with the 2004 grant, in order to avoid those problems in the future, and to make Hunterdon's program a more rolling program, and to make it such that grants are done in that particular grant year.

Mrs. Yard stated the County has a good relationship with the State Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and the County is reaching out to the DCA with questions, and allowing them to guide the County through the process.

Mr. Bell stated the County is keeping a lot of the work in-house, thus keeping more of the money in the program for applications. Mrs. Yard further advised the grants do allow for \$3,500 to be used for administrative fees per application, and the County does not take those funds from the grant, allowing for more work to be done. The application work is being done by County staff, so the County does not take \$3,500 to process the applications.

Director Peterson stated when the County took over this program from the Hunterdon County Housing Corporation a year ago, it needed to be fine tuned so that the residents were getting the most from it. He is glad to see people being helped.

Mrs. Yard advised the Board that the more successful the County is with the program, the more grant funds will be received from the state to run the program.

Director Peterson commended Mrs. Yard, Mr. Bell, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Gamatko for the way the Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation program is running.

OPEN SPACE

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, four (4) municipal grant program applications with West Amwell (\$27,649.54), Bethlehem (\$48,250), Tewksbury (\$58,259) and Flemington (\$26,107); as well as a nonprofit grant application for the New Jersey Audubon Society (\$100,000).

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

PROJECT UPDATE

Frank Joseph Bell, AIA, updated the Board on various County facilities and projects:

- Waiting on final closeout documents for the Deer Path Park Rest Rooms, the Arboretum Greenhouse conversation and the Route 12 projects. There was a defective toilet at the Deer Path Park and the manufacturer is replacing it under the warranty.
- The County has been meeting with the conflict Attorney on the Emergency Services Renovations/Addition project, to discuss various UPS and delay issues. The Contractor has submitted a Change Order to the Architect for review. This Change Order is for gas piping outside the building. The piping size and regulators are in question because their may not be enough pressure to fully run the generator. I am evaluating this to see if this would be an omission or an error on the architects' part. The Change Order is presently being reviewed by the Architect. The initial cost is roughly \$5,500.00. We will need to have this piping completed in order to obtain the TCO. The County will be working on the parking and drainage once the building addition was completed or near completion. I am working with John Glynn on this phase. The County Survey crew has been out to the site and is preparing a map for drainage and parking. Work on the site will be started in 2009. Start time was revised due to the UPS delays.

- Painting is again being removed from the Southard Building. The Architect is reviewing the final payment application and closeout documents for the Cornice. The Architect and contractor have contacted the manufacturer of the paint to evaluate why the base paint has a brown color and is peeling. The paint manufacture chemist performed a site visit and took samples of the siding/paint. Apparently, the product used to take off the lead paint was not neutralized enough which caused the browning and peeling. The manufacturer provided recommendations and the Contractor is working on correcting painting. There are three new Change Orders for this project: C.O. 13 is for additional wreaths for the cornice, CO 14 is for repair of the existing foundation and C.O. 14 is for structural damage due to termite damage.
- The County is waiting for approvals to get the Certificate of Occupancy for the Justice Center/revision of space for the Prosecutor's Office. The final inspection should take place shortly.
- The framing for the Everittstown Garage Storage Building Addition is 50% complete. Rough grading is completed, most of the shop drawings have been submitted.
- T&M has sent the TWA permit documents to the NJDEP for the South County Park on July 07, 2008 for review and approval. The County is waiting for DEP's approval. Regarding the Pole Building with restrooms, Mr. Bell met with the Fair Committee several times. The Committee has changes to the plans. He is waiting for them to finalize their comments. Mr. Bell received a call from Roger Everitt advising that he has the final layout available and will call me sometime in September to review the plans. Regarding the Treatment Works Approval (TWA Permit): T&M has received the approved documents from East Amwell Township. T&M will now submit those documents to the DEP for approval. T&M is preparing the following permits: Stream Encroachment, TWA (septic – the design is complete), Wetlands (transition waiver request), Soil Erosion and Storm Water Management (a General Permit from DEP).
 - The PARIS Grant for the Records Retention Center Addition has been approved. The Architect has submitted his contract to Purchasing. We anticipate having the contract on the October 21, 2008 Freeholder agenda for approval.
 - Point to Point Wireless System for Information Technology is being presented to the Board for approval this evening as part of Puchasing's items for consideration.
 - Mr. Bell is working on drafting the plans for the "A Frame" Building to layout the Public Health Nursing (PHN) space. The existing floor plan layout will be completed in CAD this week. The space is being painted and carpeted. Buildings and Maintenance is reviewing options for providing desks/workstations for PHN.

Mr. Mennen confirmed that public health nursing is being placed in the actual "A frame" in the front part of the building.

Energy Audit Programs

Mr. Holt asked if grant funding is available for an energy audit review for various County buildings. The Board directed Mr. Bell to prepare a presentation for the October 21, 2008 meeting on Energy Audit Programs.

Mr. Holt suggested re-engaging the County's Green Committee. The County's Green Committee is an Ad-Hoc committee, and will be putting together a mission statement and when the Committee has things in place, it will make a presentation to the full Board.

PURCHASING

Old Business

After a lengthy discussion with John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering, the Board agreed to the replacement of the following two items.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing that the award of Bid #2008-25, to furnish and deliver a 2009 Case 580 Super M 4-Wheel Drive Backhoe and associated equipment, to Powerco, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$86,125.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing that the award Bid #2008-026, to furnish and deliver One (1) 2009 Sterling Bullet 5500, 4 Wheel Drive, Dual Rear Wheel Cab Chassis and/or Two (2) Sterling Bullet 5500, 4 Wheel Drive, Dual Rear Wheel Cab Chassis with Aristocrat model CS125, 3-4 Cubic Yard Heavy Duty Municipal Bodies and Associated Equipment or approved equal, to Robert H. Hoover & Sons, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$164,254.

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

New Business

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #29904, using State Contract #A-65735, with Stempler Drapery & Carpet, for the installation of carpet at the A-Frame, for Buildings and Maintenance, in the amount of \$11,471.80.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #40019404, using County Quote #0090-2008, with 3M Traffic Control Materials, for pavement markings, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, in the amount of \$18,081.28.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #40019408, using County Quote #0091-2008, with Ohio Bridge Corporation, for bridge flooring, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, in the amount of \$19,797.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of Bid #2008-36, to provide and erect one (1) new 200' high tower and one (1) 120' Monopole or equivalent, to JBL Electric Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$355,000.

Director Peterson confirmed with John Davenport, County Purchasing Agent that this bid is for both towers, one at the Route 31 County Complex and the other at the Route 12 County Complex.

Director Peterson informed Mr. Davenport that earlier today in executive session the Board discussed a request by a company who uses fiber optics. He suggested the County find out if there is a possibility for the County to also use fiber optics and hold off on awarding this bid. Mr. Glynn stated he will be gathering that information with Aaron Culton of County Counsel's Office. In talking with Information Technology, the fiber optics would be a supplement to the towers, not to replace them.

Director Peterson said he realizes there is a motion to approve this bid, but he asked the Board to not adopt this resolution so that fiber optics can be further investigated, and stated it would save the taxpayers \$355,000. The timelines for the project have been extended, he believes twice, and he doesn't feel they are set in stone and would like to investigate this further. Director Peterson asked for three no votes to provide an opportunity to look into fiber optics again.

Mr. Sworen explained the funding for this bid is coming from the PARIS grant. This has been delayed three or four times and there are time constraints with PARIS to make this happen. Mr. Sworen agreed that fiber optics could be a pack up for the wireless system.

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

Vehicle Accidents

Mr. Melick asked for the Board's approval to have John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering to come up with the five sites in the County that are the most vulnerable to accidents. He explained that today, before coming to today's meeting there was a three car accident on Route 517, at the Dinner Pot area, in Oldwick. This area where the accident occurred is on a bend, with a dip in the road. There was an accident in that area a couple of months ago. Mr. Melick explained he is aware of what is happening where he resides but in order to stay afoot of the safety problem in Hunterdon County he would recommend having Mr. Glynn review traffic reports and determine five areas that need to be looked at that have bad accidents. This would only be to fix problem areas where accidents are occurring.

Mr. Sworen feels this is a good suggestion and confirmed with Mr. Melick that this would only be for County. Mr. Melick said it would be for County roads that the Board has control over.

Mr. Glynn reported in the traffic plan prepared by the County Planning Board there are highlighted areas of links of highway that are highest accident areas. Mr. Glynn stated in all his years with the County, 30+, he has noticed that County Route 517 through the Dinner Pot, is a high accident area and the second area is Route 523 through the Flatwoods. Strong support would be needed from the townships to improve those areas. The last time the County prepared to do the 517 project and it was decided not to advance it. Mr. Glynn stated he would recommend the Board reconsider these projects again.

After further discussion, the Board directed Mr. Glynn to come back with 10 problem areas for the Board to consider and the Board will chose the 5 most dangerous.

Mr. Sworen asked the status of the traffic light in Pittstown. Mr. Glynn explained the delay has been due to utilities. A meeting took place down in Newark with the Bureau of Public Utilities getting the Cable/Comcast company to relocate their lines and now it is Embarq's turn. This has been frustrating for the County to try and manage this.

Mr. Sworen informed Mr. Glynn that in Pittstown, heading south making a turn onto 513 to the right, there is a dip that slides people over when they drive through.

Director Peterson feels traffic lights may only be during certain times of the day, and asked Mr. Glynn if the County could go to a blinking light after a certain time. Mr. Glynn advised the State of New Jersey will not permit that.

Director Peterson informed Mr. Glynn that when a care when over the traffic counts on Route 617, it excited the deer and they rushed, as if being chased by hunters, across the road. He questioned if this time of the year is the best time to be putting out traffic counts, because deer are more active at this time of the year and the counts maybe scaring them, creating a situation.

Mr. Glynn explained the traffic counts are a valuable tool and they are only on the roads for a week. Director Peterson feels when the deer are more active, this time of year, it may not be the best time to put out the traffic counts. Mr. Melick explained there is a system when the counts have to be taken. Mr. Glynn further explained a lot of locations in the County are counted three times a year and some are only done two times a year; so a sampling average is taken.

GRANTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a 2008 Homeland Security Grant application, for the Division of Emergency Services, Public Safety Department, for equipment, in the amount of \$587,065.40, in federal funds.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application with the New Jersey Community Affairs Department, to process requests for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in the amount of \$1,110.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 10/07/08-7C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application for the Comprehensive County Youth Services Grant, with the Juvenile Justice Commission for 2009 funding, in the amount of \$294,427 consisting of "State/Community Partnership" funding in the amount of \$191,117, "Family Court" funding in the amount of \$97,157 and "Juvenile Accountability Block Grant" in the amount of \$5,538.

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

Mr. Melick asked George Wagner, Director of Public Safety, to provide a report on the Homeland Security Grant before final distribution of the funds. Mr. Wagner reported the County working group met with the different entities, and there are different projects that the Fire Departments, Police Departments and so on will be receiving funds for. With every subproject the County will generate a purchase order which will state it is part of the Homeland Security Grant.

Mrs. Yard explained the working group convenes all the stakeholders together and they through a rigorous evaluation. It is a very objective process.

Mr. Mennen left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Milford Merchants Association, for permission to close a portion of Route 519, on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., for their annual Milford Halloween Parade. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

Mr. Mennen returned to the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

A request was received from Robert Hauck, Flemington Borough Mayor, requesting the Board waive the fees for the use of the historic court house. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to waive the fees for Flemington Borough during their presentation to the residents of Flemington on its future.

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

FREEHOLDERS ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Harbinger

Mr. Mennen informed the Board that the Parks Advisory Board and he did not feel there is an issue concerning its delivery. There were two specific issues, one was delivery and the other was frequency.

Mr. Holt would like to authorize Bob Thurgarland, Director of Central Printing and Mail to obtain quotes for delivery through the Observer for two times a year and three times a year for the Board to consider at its October 21, 2008 meeting.

PARIS Grant Award

Mr. Sworen informed the Board that he had the privilege to attend yesterday, an award ceremony in Trenton; the PARIS Grant gave out awards and Hunterdon County won one of the eight awards of excellence for Historical Records Focus. Karla Lamendola, County Clerk's Office accepted the award. Also present from the County at the award ceremony were Bob Thurgarland and Michael Rasimowicz. In recognition of PARIS's remarkable success and its stature as the nation's leading state program for upgrading the security, integrity and efficiency of local government records administration, Governor Jon S. Corzine and Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells presented the second PARIS Awards for Excellence. The Paris Grant awards recognize county and municipal grant recipients who have done especially outstanding work in building and improving the infrastructure of their local government archives and records management functions during the program's second year, 2006-2007. On October 6, 2008 Hunterdon County received the PARIS Grant Award of Excellence in Category IV: Historical Records Focus – County which is awarded to a county government that utilized PARIS funding for the preservation and/or conservation of historical records.

Hunterdon County utilized a PARIS grant in the amount of \$267,552 to implement a treatment plan and to conserve and preserve documents. This project was completed in several phases. First, the county clerk's office inventoried all historical record series, counting pages and folders, assessing the records' conditions and preparing them for conservation. The conservation treatment included unbinding, de-acidifying, mending, individual leafing, encapsulating and re-housing records. In addition, these records were microfilmed so that they could be retired in the Hunterdon County Records Retention Facility. A copy of the microfilm was also donated to the New Jersey State Archives to allow broader research use. The following series were conserved: naturalization records, 1895-1966; road returns, 1777-1969; railroad papers, 1848-97; and miscellaneous records, 1853-1954. The other portion of this project allocated monies to complete the renovation of the county's Hall of Records building that was started in the previous year of PARIS, specifically those building systems involved in the maintenance of historical and public collections, such as the HVAC system, environmental controls, security systems and shelving. Active public records are now housed in proper archival enclosures, in a facility with environmental monitoring equipment.

To date Hunterdon County has received \$4,300,000.00 in PARIS funds for improving infrastructure and records/data management operations and shared services with local municipalities.

Mr. Sworen advised the state is very happy with the way Hunterdon County has been utilizing the PARIS Grant funds and the projects being done.

6 County Coalition Meeting

Mr. Holt advised that he and Freeholder Mennen attended the 6 County Coalition meeting last week where there was an exceptionally good report and dialog with the New Jersey Association of Counties, (NJAC). He asked that the NJAC invoice be placed on the October 21, 2008 agenda for consideration by the Board. Either Hunterdon will be a part of the organization and pay its' dues for 2008 or not.

Petition RE: COAH

Director Peterson reported the Planning Board Director sent an email concerning a petition asking Governor Corzine to issue an Executive Order granting municipalities a one year extension to file their fair share plan with the Council of Affordable Housing. The petitions ask to have the COAH rules coincide with the Wastewater Management Plans. Director Peterson said it

makes sense and the thought behind this is you can't plan for COAH before a municipality does its Wastewater Management plan. Petitions are needed by December 01, 2008 to give them to the Governor. Director Peterson advised he will be signing the petition tonight.

Director Peterson directed the Clerk of the Board, Denise Doolan, to reach out to the Planning Board Director to draft a resolution for the Board's consideration at the October 21, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Mennen asked if there is a resolution that applies to the issue of mandatory conformance at COAH rules. At this time, without a municipality taking some affirmative action, they are looking at the need to do something for December 31, 2008 and a year later, all the Highlands conformance will come into play. Mr. Sworen advised the December 31, 2008 deadline for the Highlands has been changed by the Governor but he isn't sure of the date. Director Peterson advised there is an Executive Order which was signed, several weeks ago, where Hunterdon's plan trumps COAH. Mr. Sworen advised the New Jersey League of Municipalities will be going to court in the next three weeks to try and move this forward. The process needs to be changed and he feels that is the problem.

East Amwell, Equestrian Farm

Director Peterson informed the Board that several months ago he attended a ceremony for an Equestrian Farm in East Amwell Township. This farm had entered into a contract with a company to have solar panels placed on the farm at no cost to the property owner and in return for having the solar panels placed on the farm the property owner received a reduction in their electricity. The solar panels generate electricity, it goes into the grid, and the property owners buys electricity at a discount from the company that placed the solar panels on the farm at around 20% less than the rate, the current market rate set by the Utility Authority.

Director Peterson feels this maybe a way for Hunterdon County to go "green". It is a green resource which would not cost the County anything and it the County would save money on its electric bills. This could be a win/win since its green energy and it is renewable and it would save the County money at no cost to the County. This could provide energy independence for the County.

Director Peterson advised he did speak with the County's Purchasing Agent today on this because there is a contract issue and the question is whether Hunterdon can contract out for 20 years. If it is determine the County can't do this, he would recommend petitioning the legislature to put a caveat into municipal statutes regarding purchasing/leasing to permit something like this.

Mr. Sworen stated he did some research on this and he agrees with the idea and agreed this is something the County should be looking at. A large field would be needed and the County needs to look at this company and other companies also. He feels that the property owners who enter into these contracts have the obligation to go after grants and the grants get rebated back to the company. The grants for government entities are different than the grants to individuals. It confirmed it would be a 20 year lease; the market value is 20 years.

Mr. Holt advised there is an informal group at the Planning Board working on green sustainability. Worked on this past Spring was a mission statement and it should be brought forth to the Freeholder Board to give the committee some credibility. The group would then be able to come before the Board with some in-house projects that could be attained at no cost to help improve the environmental ability of Hunterdon. Mr. Holt said he would like to charge the County Administrator, Cynthia Yard, to be involved with this group and the group would report to her.

Mr. Sworen state the League of Municipalities has a committee on this, and they could assist the County. Also, NJAC has been working on this process also. Mr. Sworen also knows of a firm that does the same work.

Mr. Melick confirmed that any business owner could do this also. The economics of this could provide a benefit to the County.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to arrange for a presentation.

Questionnaire/Nominees to Boards, Committees, Council, Agencies, etc.

Mrs. Yard reported to the Board that a questionnaire has been drafted for people nominated to the County's various boards, committees, councils, agencies. The Board will review the questionnaire and get their comments back to Mrs. Yard.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

At this time, no one was interested in addressing the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION continued

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders returned to Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board