

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Main Street County Complex, 2nd Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

February 17, 2009

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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 January 02, 2009, 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."

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 02/17/09-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss land and legal issues concerning Hoffman Farm in Holland Township.

See Page 02/17/09-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues regarding the County's policy for sheltering homeless individuals with Human Service representatives.

See Page 02/17/09-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the Prosecutor's Office employees and the issue of being issued an on-call vehicle.

See Page 02/17/09-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues concerning the lease for the Choir School Building.

See Page 02/17/09-1E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the Hunterdon County Housing Corporation and the status of their liquidation.

See Page 02/17/09-1F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the perspective participation of the County in Open Space regarding the Catanzaretti property in High Bridge Borough.

See Page 02/17/09-1G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an email received from OutwithTrout.com.

See Page 02/17/09-1H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to review the Executive Session minutes of December 16, 2008, January 08, 2009, January 20, 2009 and February 03, 2009 to determine what can be redacted.

See Page 02/17/09-1I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss various personnel issues concerning vacation buy back, a voluntary demotion, and a vacant position.

See Page 02/17/09-1J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a possible easement in Kingwood Township.

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 3:07 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HUNTERDON COUNTY POLYTECH

Director Mennen read a proclamation being considered by the Board recognizing February 2009 as Career and Technical Education Month in the County of Hunterdon.

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-2A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing February as Career and Technical Education month.

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

Kimberly Metz, Polytech Superintendent thanked the Board and introduced the three students present with her this evening: Brian Weizneski is a Junior at Hunterdon Central Regional High School and participates in the Polytech Commercial Arts Program. Brian stated he likes the program because he feels it gets him involved and where he needs to be on his chosen career path.

Liz Parsons informed the Board she is a second year baking student at Polytech Career Academy. Once she began the program she was unsure if that was the career path for her but after being in the program she has really grown to love it. After graduation, she would like to start her own business.

Ashley Hunzley is a senior at Hunterdon Central Regional High School and is also a second year baking student at Polytech Career Academy. Going into Polytech has helped her learn a direction for her life, she is hoping to go to the Culinary Institute next year and she has been accepted. After graduating from the Culinary Institute, she would like to start her own business. Ms. Hunzley told the Board that this is a great opportunity to be able to learn how to be more advanced in what you want to do and in getting to know people.

The Board wished Mr. Weizneski, Ms. Parsons and Ms. Hunzley much success in all their future endeavors.

EARMARKED STIMULUS PROGRAM

Presented by: Pam Pontrelli, Human Services Administrator; John Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering and John Beckley, Health Director.

Dental Health

Mr. Glynn reported to the Board that he, Mrs. Pontrelli and Mr. Beckley attended a meeting with Congressmen Rush Holt, as directed by the Board. One issue addressed at the meeting was the large stimulus package and the second issue was called earmarked projects. Congressmen Holt has provided an opportunity to seek federal funding for projects that are not funded by another source. The meeting provided a good exchange of information. Mr. Glynn advised the project discussed for Hunterdon was for Dental Services.

Mr. Beckley explained the key when Congressmen Holt spoke to them was his requirements for earmarked projects was that the projects would need to be supported by the community and they would have to be easily defensible. There were several counties invited to meet with the Congressman, and some counties chose not to send anyone. The timeframe discussed was the 2010 fiscal year. Congressman Holt had informed them that while he gets many earmarked requests and he can only carry a certain number forward to the committee for consideration.

Mr. Beckley informed the Board that in a chat with Congressman Holt after the meeting, he mentioned a Dental Service program and the Congressman was receptive to the idea. The application date for any submission of this earmarked project is February 23, 2009.

Mr. Beckley reported that in August 2008, he was asked to put together a basic business plan for dental services and that has been finalized. He provided copies to the Board. The heart and soul of the dental proposal are in the first few pages, the last 17 pages contains a copy of a statewide directory of Dental Clinics, which is attached to make the point that every County in New Jersey has at least one affordable Dental Plan but if you look under Hunterdon County there is none.

Pursuant to a Freeholders' request Mr. Beckley explored various models and he recalls that back in August there was discussion about portable and potential models being utilized, such as the portable model is being used by the Divisions of Corrections, in the County jail. Mr. Beckley noted that on page 10 of the handout, is a summary of the pros and cons of the three models, which was the best he put together upon interviewing people and looking into them.

Mr. Beckley summarized by saying there is a growing need for affordable dental services in Hunterdon County. Services to be provided would be available to everyone on a sliding cost scale. For instance, someone on Medicaid could go and have free care and someone who is not eligible for Medicaid could go and costs would be based on a sliding scale so they would only pay 40% or 50% or whatever is applicable.

Mr. Beckley informed that Board that present this evening is the Director of Zufall Health Center, who is experienced at running a Dental Clinic in Dover, New Jersey. In order to have this come to fruition in Hunterdon, funding would need to be found for the upfront one time costs to get the facility started at cost and the revenue received will cover the expenses. This type of service would improve the health of the community and would assist the local hospitals. It is surprising

how many children go to the Emergency Room for dental problems. The only barrier seems to be the applied one time start up capital.

Mr. Beckley confirmed the Board needs to feel comfortable with this application and plan and requested permission to apply to the earmarked projects.

Mr. Glynn advised the earmarked projects range from \$50,000 to \$1 million dollars. It is likely that Hunterdon County will get a slim portion of the funds. He thinks that Congressman Holt feels this would be a do good, feel good project.

Mr. Beckley said the current dental program is serving 100 children a year but this could serve over a thousand people so we would be having ten fold the amount of services. He thinks this is a great opportunity and he would like to have a sense from the Board to move forward.

Mr. Sworen thinks part of having gone through this process is we have to define what the final result would be and that can't be done today. He told Mr. Beckley he needs to define the situation, including what would be done to set up the facility and what the start up costs would be. He recommended applying for funds, in the largest amount possible. Mr. Beckley advised all the grant applications are going to ask for a specific explanation as to what will be done.

Mr. Sworen stated the request needs to be broad enough to get the highest dollar amount. He directed Mr. Beckley to specific enough and to have a broader description that will fit any of the categories. If the application is awarded and the County receives \$1 million or \$200,000 that will determine what the next step will be. Mr. Sworen recommended not putting the dental service model in the grant because funding received would depend on the model to be used.

Director Mennen confirmed Mr. Beckley is looking for a green light from the Board of Chosen Freeholders to go ahead to apply for the grant application under some form which is targeted towards a dental health program. Mr. Beckley said the deadline is Monday but he wants the Boards clearance to proceed.

Mrs. Yard questioned Mr. Beckley if there a problem with the application for dental services. Mr. Beckley does not feel there is, saying the content from the grant is coming through the business plan and the Horizon Application it is an online application. He would clearly be copying and pasting in the correct information.

Director Mennen advised Mr. Beckley that the business plan seems to draw some conclusions and recommendations regarding the service provider and clearly the County is not in a position to put this out for bid to or marry itself into any specific grant application. Director Mennen said the information presented and as long as the County has the opportunity to be flexibility to move one way or another regarding services to be provides and that there is document concerning the on-going obligation to the County, he does not have an issue moving forward with the grant recommendation.

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that this is something different and totally unrelated to the stimulus fund.

Mr. Beckley stated this funding could go to another party and not just the applicant. He as the Health Director could fill out the application and name Zufall Health so the grant would go to Zufall. This would be done so the County would not get into how to manage the money once it was received; the funding would go directly to Zufall.

The Board discussed whether the County should be applying for the grant funds or if Zufall Health should apply for the funds and the County would support their application. Mr. Peterson confirmed Zufall could apply for this grant and stated he is unsure why the County needs to apply for this. Mr. Glynn said it is his opinion that Zufall Health could directly apply for this funding. Mr. Beckley stressed that the need for dental services is in Hunterdon County and it would be more representative of the County to apply.

Eva Turbiner, Director, Zufall Health Center came before the Board and stated they are eager to partner with the County. While Zufall is not headquartered in Hunterdon, they will be providing medical services here. She did not feel there wasn't a reason that Zufall could not apply directly but stated she is unsure as to how that would affect the end result of funding.

Mr. Peterson said if the County applies for the funding on behalf of Zufall, then the County is the middleman and he thinks it would be more, straight forward if Zufall applied for it and the County wrote a letter of encouragement to support their application. Mr. Sworen suggested someone contact the staff and ask that question specifically if it would be better for the County to apply for it or if it would be better from Zufall.

Mr. Peterson advised another concern which Director Mennen pointed out is that the County would have to bid out the services. Ms. Turbiner does not believe that would be a problem and stated Zufall is a well known health service provider.

Mr. Sworen recommended the application be made by the County, so the County has ownership of it. The County can write the grant so it does not mention a specific business plan but represents the need, the requirements and the benefits to the County's residents. He feels the application has to come from the County and the application as well and then if it goes successful then this Board will have serious decisions to make. It has a better shot to get there then some other projects may.

Mr. Beckley said this would be brought forward as a public health need rather than a non-profit entity wanting to add more into an area. If the Board is willing he can remove Zufall Health out of the application request and if the County is successful in bringing funding in then it is the Board's decision as to how to provide services.

Mr. Melick said this is a good project because there are many in the County that would benefit from this service but thinks the easiest way to do it would be to leave government out of it because just complicates it. He advised he is speaking experience that if someone from the outside can do it and be straight forward, then the County could support the plan.

Mr. Sworen said we can either support it at the County level or wash our hands completely and a private group can put the request in.

Director Mennen recommended providing Zufall Health with a strongly worded letter of support recognizing the need for dental services in the County for the residents. He asked County Counsel DeSapio to review the letter before it goes out. Mr. DeSapio stated the County often supports applications for non-profits.

After further discussion, Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded a motion approving a letter of support for a grant to be made by a third party entity, Zufall Health, for a dental health program in the County of Hunterdon.

Mr. Peterson said he would personally speak to Congressmen Lance about this issue.

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

Mr. Sworen said that if Ms. Pontrelli, Mr. Glynn and Mr. Beckley need help on getting this application together, they should feel free to contact him since he has done these types of applications before.

Vocational facility/equipment funding

Director Mennen questioned if there are grant funds available for a County Vocational facility and or equipment.

Mr. Sworen advised this would be something that the County has funded and it would be appropriate to apply for a grant. He recommended the County contact a representative from Polytech such as the Vocational Superintendent, to assist in a grant application.

Director Mennen advised he would like to meet with Mr. Sworen and Mr. Bell after the meeting to see if they can come up with some cost estimates.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion that the County assist in applying for a grant with the Hunterdon County Vocational School Education Board, known as Polytech, to help fund funding for the County Vocational facility.

Mr. Melick thinks that an established need to be noted and he would like to see the numbers. Mr. Sworen said the numbers can be put together in a week or so.

Mr. DeSapio advised the Board can make a motion and then speak with Polytech before the February 23, 2009 deadline. He said the County could certainly get an application prepared by February 23, 2009. Mr. DeSapio confirmed this would be a joint application with Polytech.

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

Mr. Melick and Director Mennen recused themselves from the meeting at 5:30pm.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Grant Agreement for the acquisition of a development easement, from Tewksbury Twp., for a portion of Block 5, Lot 12, and a small undesignated parcel in Califon Borough, 67.098 acres, (SADC - \$427,779.72, County - \$142,593.02, Township - \$147,127.26 (pre-acquired), for a total of \$717,500.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing Ronald M. Sworen, a member of the governing body, to sign a Grant Agreement for the acquisition of a development easement, from Tewksbury Twp., for a portion of Block 5, Lot 12, and a small undesignated parcel in Califon Borough.

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

Mr. Melick and Director Mennen returned to the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

FINANCE

Analysis of the Open Space/Farmland 2009 grant awards and the County's cost share

Director Mennen thanked Kim Browne, Finance Director and Margaret Pasqua, County Treasurer for undertaking the task of preparing an analysis and looking into the entire possible grant funding for open space acquisitions and farmland preservation acquisitions.

Mrs. Pasqua reported they have reviewed all the lists for the County's traditional Planning Incentive Grant, and the County would need \$2.1 million; for the Municipal Traditional program, the County would need \$1.8 million and for the Non-Profit Planning Incentive Grants, the County would need \$700,000, for a total of \$4.7 million.

Director Mennen noted for those present that Mrs. Browne and Mrs. Pasqua had assistance from Sue Dziamara, the Planning Board Director and Kevin Richardson, the Open Space Trust Fund Coordinator with this analysis. In addition, Mrs. Browne and Mrs. Pasqua contacted the County's staff on the CADB (County Agriculture Development Board) and received from them a full inventory of any and all potential state grants they saw on the horizon. This identifies the possible maximum that the County can apply for. Director Mennen asked what the County would have to do, not to send any money back to the State. He asked what the maximum possible County match would be.

Mr. Melick said last year Mrs. Pasqua put together a lot of figures for the Board, when this need came about. He questioned what areas the funding was taken from in the Budget. Mrs. Pasqua advised \$2 million was set aside from the upcoming tax and the Board would have to direct her as to where the rest of the money would come from.

Director Mennen stated that was not the reason for having this analysis. The information as to what the possible maximum would be that the County could get to match is what is being sought. The Board would discussion later to see where the money would come from after a public hearing. This is just the first piece so everyone knows what the maximum number is.

Mr. Melick said the Freeholders have a tough task going forward to come up with a budget for this County. The economy is in the mist of probably the worst financial recession in a century. It is probably as bad; or more so than the Great Depression. Mr. Melick explained he is concerned and is looking at where the revenues will be coming from in the upcoming year. The Freeholders raided the County's surplus last year so there is definitely less available in surplus for the 2009 budget. In addition, revenues are down from last year and from 2007. This shows a trend that once you take money from the surplus - that money is gone and gone is the ability to put it back. Over the years, surplus was built up, it was a working tool and once it's gone, it's gone. In talking with people, he gets the indication that things will be tougher next year. Last year this Board meant well and cut a lot from the budget but while the Board talked about reducing, it still had the desire to do these things and please people so money was spent. It is now time for this Board to get tough and not purchase items or replace people.

Director Mennen confirmed what Mr. Melick is saying is true. The Finance Department was instructed by the Board to find out this information. This exercise was just so the Board could understand exactly what the maximum potential outlay of a County match is so we can meet all of the funding from the State. This is just the analysis so decisions can be made later.

Mr. Melick said it may be wise for this Board to consider the space tax coming back in order to compensate for the increase of the tax levy that we will have for the budget.

Mr. Holt advised a statement was made two weeks ago to find a way to not send money back to the state. In this analysis there are things showing what would happen and what funds would be left today if the County moved forward. If you look at the ten year analysis of what we spent we have never spent more than what we have been given on an annual basis.

Director Mennen said the purpose to have this on the agenda was not to have the discussion tonight as to where we would have the funds but rather to show that the analysis has been completed and the result of that analysis. This Board will talk further on this information on Monday at the budget session; and then have another discussion after the meeting on Monday. This analysis is to provide the numbers so the Freeholders know what it is dealing with.

Mr. Sworen confirmed that being discussed is not Open Space; it is the Farmland Preservation program. Director Mennen stated that there are no grants in the time line for Open Space.

Director Mennen again stated this analysis was done so this Board could see what the state grants are and how much the County would need as a match for everything.

Mr. Melick informed those present that as a Freeholder, he was on the Board when the County started its Farmland Preservation program and the Open Space preservation program. He is very aware of what the County has been able to preserve and the costs for same. He stated is now concerned about getting the best acquisitions for the money the County has to spend.

PURCHASING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #24175, using County Quote #0007-2008, with Anchortex Corporation, for monocular night vision devices and ballistic rifle plates, for the Department of Public Safety, in the amount of \$12,483.83.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #24182, pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-5DD, with Queues Enforth Development, for software maintenance, for the Division of Emergency Services of the Public Safety Department, in the amount of \$31,665.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #40020744, pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-5DD, with DLT Solutions, for software subscription, for the Division of Engineering of the Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering, in the amount of \$14,758.90.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #Pros.07123, pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-5(1)(g), with Sirchie Finger Print Labs, for surveillance conversion, for the Prosecutor's Office, in the amount of \$34,775.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #Pros.07244, through State Contract No. A-65902, with Laser Technology, for accident investigation and mapping, for the Prosecutor's Office, in the amount of \$11,094.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving County Quote #0121-2008, for professional engineering design services, for the reconstruction of County Bridge W-124 and approach roadway, on Alexauken Creek Road, in West Amwell Township, to Cherry, Weber and Associates, in an amount not to exceed \$108,676.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES UPDATE

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

- The project for resurfacing of County Route 523 from the Intersection of Route 78, will advance to the bidding stage.
- Approvals have been received from the Historic Preservation Office for the wingwalls in Pittstown. This project will advance quickly before there is competition for the stimulus program.
- A meeting will be scheduled in Frenchtown Borough concerning Route 619 once the preliminary design is fine tuned.
- A public information meeting is scheduled regarding County Route 635 in Hampton for March 02, 2009, to be held at the Hampton Borough Municipal Building.

- Bridge B-26-W is being planned for construction in 2009. The County will apply for some New Jersey Bridge Bond funding.
- County Bridge D-345 has been identified as a stimulus project second phase. Mr. Glynn has heard that the stimulus money for the first round has been overextended. The County should find out shortly how much it will be receiving.
- A meeting took place with Mercer County regarding the final design for the substructures of E-140-M. This project will be advanced.
- The County is ready to move forward regarding County Bridge M-110 in Milford. County Counsel's Office has been working with Milford's attorney and it is hoped an agreement will be finalized.
- Mr. Glynn advised a contract modification is needed regarding the reconstruction of County Bridge R-123. There is a farmstead adjacent to the bridge that the Historic Preservation Office wants an estimate on the historical value of the structure. Mr. Glynn feels the structure has been modified with built-in additions but in order to proceed with the project the County must go through the process and provide additional information.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion approving a contract modification with Keller and Kirkpatrick for an Archeological Historical Study in connection with the Reconstruction of County Bridge R-123, in Readington Township, in the increased amount of \$10,465.39.

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

- The bridge on Mount Salem Road and Mount Jail will be closed for about 60 to 90 days.
- The anticipated start date for Bridge K-137, in Kingwood Township, is March 01, 2009.
- The County is getting quotes on the wing walls at Fox Hill. Once proposals have been reviewed, it will be brought before the Board for approval.
- County Bridge Y-61 in Lambertville is being finished, the superstructure is being sent out for galvanizing.
- The final inspection on the fuel dispensing system for the Parks and Recreation Department will be done tomorrow.
- Bridge inspections have been completed.
- A kick off meeting was held regarding the Warren Glenn project which has been on going for some time. Preliminary plans will be sent to Holland Township again just to keep them informed of the status of the project.
- Plans were submitted regarding White Bridge Road to Franklin Township to keep them informed.
- A meeting was held on February 05, 2009 regarding County Bridges E-174 and E-166 in East Amwell Township. There was discussion on these two projects and the Township is asking for time to come and an open discussion with the Board.
- The County received good support for the sidewalk project in Ringoes and the resurfacing. Very little was said about the preliminary discussion of E-142-M on 518.

Mr. Glynn informed the Board there is money for work to be done on County Bridge E-166 and funding for E-174 should be available shortly. There were a lot of issues raised at the meeting in East Amwell Township and the County is going to try to address those issues. The first public hearing on the bridges took place in 2001 and there have been many changes in East Amwell Township's Board since then. The County has to address the issues raised and Mr. Glynn will contact the Freeholder Clerk, Denise Doolan, to coordinate a time through the Township Clerk, Terry Stall for everyone to meet.

- The County is waiting on construction plans with regard to Rockafellow Mills. The County is going to preserve the truss. Mr. Glynn's office has found one of the original plaques for the truss and it will be erected on the bridge.
- Issues with the contractor, Marvec, and the two subcontractors which have claims are not resolved. This is the Route 523/River Road Intersection project. Mr. Glynn's Office will work with County Counsel to resolve those issues.
- A public information meeting will be held on March 11, 2009, regarding County Routes 519 and 513, at the Everittstown Garage. This project is a four way stop with a blinking light.
- Documents for Routes 517 and 523 should be coming up to bid this month.
- A kick off meeting for County Routes 512/513 will be held on February 09, 2009.
- The other intersection discussed at the meeting was County Route 600 and 612 and that is justification for a signal and lanes to turn out from County Route 600 to Route 612.
- Mr. Glynn reported on the Deer Recovery Plan advising 122 deer were recovered in December 2008. The roads with the higher volume of traffic have more deer related accidents. A pilot program is being formed to gather the deer Thursday through Sunday and placing them in a dumpster on the Drag Strip property. Currently there is an issue on where to take the deer after they are picked up. There are 2 landfills in Pennsylvania that would take them. Mr. Glynn is working with the Recycling Department to confirm this before the pilot program begins. Application has been made for a Solid Waste permit for the truck. The cost would range between \$30 to \$40 per deer and it currently costs \$58 through the contract.

Mr. Holt confirmed once the pilot program for deer recovery is initiated, that the numbers will be documented. Mr. Glynn added the pilot program is to gather information and report back to the Board. Mr. Holt stated he is not convinced that the County can be picking up deer on Thursday through Sunday and still be cost effective. Mr. Glynn advised that the deer recovery contact will be used for the first three days of the week.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that the County has exceeded the amount for the collection of dead deer, which is why they are proposing a pilot program for recovery.

Stimulus Program/NJDOT/County Road projects

Mr. Glynn reported last Wednesday, the County Finance Director, Kim Browne, the County Administrator, Cynthia J. Yard and he went to a meeting at the New Jersey Department of Transportation to hear how the state is going to distribute money to down to the locals.

Mr. Glynn advised several road projects have been identified in the County, which could meet the stimulus deadline. There is a 75 day authorization deadline for the first go round. The money the County was to receive has been overextended its projects.

The projects Mr. Glynn is recommending are:

- Route 512, running from Guinea Hollow to the Somerset County Line, which will be milled and resurfaced.
- A section of Route 517, from where last year's project ended on surface treatment by the signal. A section of Route 517 will be milled and resurfaced from that ending point to the Morris County Line.
- Also, a section of Route 623 in Clinton Township will be completed, running from Regional Road, through the developments out to Route 31. A lot of this is the resurfacing of the slurry seal which is popping off causing potholes. This would be milled and putting back what is removed.'
- County Route 625 starting at the other side of Route 173 by the Pilot Truck Stop, crossing between the bridges (which are the County's responsibility), running from 625 down to Route 513. This is Alexandria and Union Townships, will be milled and resurfaced. Also to be looked at are the traffic pavement markings, signs, guiderail which needs to be upgraded.
- Route 579 in Franklin Township, from Quakertown to Route 12 will be milled and resurfaced. Also to look at traffic markings, signs and the replacement of needed guiderail.

Mr. Glynn reported the second phase of the stimulus would be County Bridge D-345, which probably will not be received.

Mr. Glynn stated his office is currently working on the Category Exclusion Documents (CED) in order to get these projects into the tic. This all has to occur and be authorized within 75 days.

Mr. Holt informed Mr. Glynn that the timeline has been extended. He explained that at the meeting today, at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and it was advised the clock starts when the President signs the bill; the Department of Transportation (DOT) has to obtain authorization within 120 days of the Stimulus Bill enacted, and 50% of the money can come within 365 days and the NJTPA has to obtain federal authorization within a year. The timeline has been expanded from between 75 days to 365 days. That does not mean the project has to be completed in 365, it means the project must be out and ready to start. The NJTPA funds projects over multiple years but the stimulus package is only for projects that can be funded within this year. The DOT is working diligently to ensure they spend all the money as quickly as possible because when the money is spent out in any given state, the money not used will be moved from state to state. At the NJTPA today they discussed, that there are states in worse financial shapes than New Jersey, such as California. Mr. Holt noted that all this money has to be front loaded and there is a possibility that funding will be able to move from other states and New Jersey is very committed to spending this money as quickly as possible.

Mr. Holt advised \$500 million was submitted from counties and municipalities that was vetted down to \$373 million; \$200 million which can be done in the first 365 days. The initial anticipation was that the TPA (Transportation Planning Authority) which covers Hunterdon County anticipated getting \$150 million and now it has been reduced to around \$140 million. This funding is strictly for highway and bridge projects.

Mr. Holt said Hunterdon County has applied for approximately \$8 million in projects. Mr. Glynn stated he was told Hunterdon will get around \$6.8 million. He can scale the request back in accordance with the budget. Mrs. Yard advised Finance will have to include this funding in the budget.

Mr. Holt feels Hunterdon County has a good change in obtaining a significant amount of the stimulus. Any projects that don't get funded should be kept in mind for the second round of funding. Mr. Glynn stated a consultant has been hired to assist counties with the CED's. Dewberry-Goodkind has been assigned to Hunterdon County. He confirmed with Mr. Holt that any money not spent by states will be moved to be spent by other counties.

Sue Dziamara, Planning Board Director, informed the Board that every municipality is oversubscribed for the funding to be made available.

Mr. Glynn stated there is also a lot of money for upgrading housing in the stimulus package; plus there is money for energy removal sources for buildings. The funding is to be distributed through a formula through a Housing Urban Development group. Mr. Melick confirmed this is not for new housing. Mr. Glynn advised it is for substandard housing, housing that needs to be winterized and upgraded for efficiencies in energy.

Forestry Management Plan

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that each year the Forestry Management Plan has to be reported to the State Division of Forestry. Approval is needed by the Board to sign off on the updated 2009 Forestry Management Plan. The County has to provide an update on what has been accomplished in the County's Tree plan, and this is being recommended by the County's Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the updated 2009 Forestry Management Plan as recommended by the Shade Tree Commission.

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

FOR DISCUSSION

Housing a medical unit at the Everittstown Garage/Zufall Health Center

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that the Zufall Health Center has approached the County requesting space to house a mobile medical unit at a County garage facility. The medical van would be supporting Hunterdon County, Warren County and Sussex County. Mr. Glynn has reviewed this request and feels it could be provided at the County's Everittstown Garage facility. He feels the County will be interested in looking at this medical van as it is a biodiesel van, and it's environmentally intoned. He noted that the heater block would have to be plugged into a circuit and that is the only expense the County would be absorbing.

Mr. Glynn has talked with Sussex County and he will be contacting Warren County, because if this van will be moving around, it may be more efficient to park at those locations when they are moving north.

Mr. Glynn stated a service agreement would need to be approved between the non-profit and the County to provide the space, if the Board approves this concept.

Eva Turbiner, Director, Zufall Health Center advised they received State Demonstration Program Funding from the State Department of Health and Senior Services to purchase and develop a program for a mobile medical unit serving Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex Counties. Low income individuals will be targeted; people with no insurance or Medicaid who need medical care and have trouble accessing services currently existing in the County. There has been a wonderful response from the not for profits and the Hunterdon Medical Center is working with Zufall to develop the operations of the service. The van, as Mr. Glynn stated, will be an environmentally sustainable vehicle which will be biodiesel with solar panels to operate the internal mechanicals. It is being constructed from sustainable/recycled materials. This will be the first such medical vehicle in the country and they are looking to be a model to not only provide medical services but to not injure the environment while providing these services.

Ms. Turbiner hopes to have the medical unit on the road six days a week with a nurse practitioner and support staff providing medical services.

Mr. Holt confirmed with Mr. Glynn that the vehicle will be secured through a locked gate at the garage facility and Zufall would be provided a key.

County Counsel DeSapio recommended before the Board grant approval, that the grant program be reviewed to make sure this can be done on a cooperative basis and not violate the New Jersey Constitution; because the New Jersey Constitution says you can't make gifts to commercial or non-profit entities of public property or funds. Mr. DeSapio advised if the grant program can be reviewed; there might be a tie-in that could be used.

Zufall Health Center was asked to submit the grant program and proposal for the medical unit, so that County Counsel's Office can made a review and justify if this can be done by the County.

Ranking Criteria of the Open Space program

Director Mennen reported the ranking criteria of the Open Space program was discussed two weeks ago, some additions have been made and Freeholder Peterson had recommended that the Open Space Trust Fund Coordinator, Kevin Richardson, incorporate items into the document.

Director Mennen confirmed the Board has had an opportunity to review the modified ranking criteria for the Open Space Program.

Mr. Sworen confirmed Mr. Richardson has done test cases with the modified criteria and asked what the result was. Mr. Richardson said in comparison with the former ranking system under the non-profit grant program, the scores were proportionately different but the factors in the evaluation criteria were pretty just the same and in some instances the score had increased commensurate with the tier ranking system. Other instances remained the same from previous ranking scores.

Mr. Peterson asked about item 6A, regarding support of other municipal bodies. While he likes Mr. Richardson's concepts, he questioned if it's enough to encourage towns to come together; or if there should be more of a bonus. He isn't sure the .25 point on that is enough incentive to get another town to joint in an application. Mr. Richardson said there was discussion in assigning

more weight toward that and it was questioned what a resolution of support would be worth. He tried to accomplish keeping the relative scores proportionate to each of the factors. There are additional points for multiple support in 2 factors: factor number 4 and factor number 6. If you add those or look at those in context to other municipal support and potential funding contribution, Mr. Richardson believes it would set apart projects of regional importance and supported by more than one municipality.

Mr. Peterson feels if the County is going to try to get municipalities to think regionally, there should be a bonus, such as for the first town to sign up and each after that would get less, so this would include two or three municipalities to come together on a project. There could be a point for each municipality that signs onto a project, up to a maximum of 5 or 6 points. This would encourage towns to work together and forego their application. This would also weed out applications. He suggested using Mr. Richardson's prior recommendation for 2 points, with a point for each additional municipality.

Mr. Sworen questioned why the County would want municipalities to forego their applications to reduce the number of applications. If a town is anticipating a project or purchasing open space, he doesn't feel the County should want to discourage them unless they are really bad properties to purchase for open space. If they are bad properties, the structure of this ranking criteria, will rank them low. If it is a good project, he thinks the County should encourage the projects to be purchased and the numbers will rank out what they are. The next version of the Open Space Tax will allow municipalities to joint together with their money. Mr. Sworen stated he does not want to discourage municipalities from submitting an application. Mr. Peterson does not feel it is discouraging municipalities but rather they are making a conscious decision that a neighboring town's purchase is more important than one in their own municipality. He feels this gets them to think beyond their borders for the greater good of the entire County by thinking what the best property to purchase for the benefit of the entire community. A good example is Windy Acres which if developed to its fullest extent would have created 900 plus homes which would have created a hardship not only on Clinton Township but Lebanon Borough and Readington Township. Those municipalities might have felt a project like Windy Acres was more critically important for the welfare of the three towns. He said people are being asked to plan regionally and not locally and the County should be encouraging that otherwise there is no benefit to it being done and everyone will put a project in.

Mr. Peterson said many Boroughs that don't have open space to preserve, this would give them the ability to have a say in how their taxpayers' money is being spent on projects that would be beneficial to their residents in an area. An example is Milford Borough which is surrounded by Holland and Alexandria Townships and the Paper Mill site in Alexandria would be beneficial to Milford to be preserved. Milford is not going to be preserving anything and would not have an application but could show it is important to their town and taxpayers, who contributed to the Open Space tax and therefore, it would be regional planning.

Mr. Sworen said while he doesn't disagree with Mr. Peterson, he does not think a town should be discouraged from putting in projects. He doesn't know of many requests that have come through that have been frivolous. Everyone has spent a lot of time and effort to plan a good open space project, to build partnerships. Towns have to be encouraged to put in projects and if they don't rank, they don't get the money.

Mr. Holt said under the public support section, there is A, B and C, which is a resolution of support from the municipal governing body, public support and there was a segment that included support from other municipalities and had a bonus point structure attached to it. There are 2 bonus points here and he does not disagree with them being in the criteria; one is in Section 4 and the other is in Section 6.

Director Mennen confirmed Mr. Peterson is not displeased with the concept but that if a municipality joins an application under Section 4 is not the same as in Section 6, which is passing a resolution which could provide up to 5 points but putting in a municipality's money only gets an application up to 4 points. He asked if more a bigger inducement should be on the funding support as opposed to public support.

Mr. Sworen asked if the County has ever had an application where one town bonded or gave money to another town. Mr. Richardson said no.

Mr. Richardson stated municipalities are using their allocations, as well as other revenue sources for their allocations but the multiplier under 4.3.5 is whether or not the municipality decides to use its own funds or another source.

Mr. Sworen said his confusion is on Section 3, concerning use of the municipalities' allocations of County Open Space Trust Fund. Mr. Richardson explained that is the municipal applicant that is asking for additional County cooperative acquisitions, above and beyond what the County allocates.

Mr. Sworen said if money is given to Raritan Township for the Dvoor Farm project, where does it say that Raritan gets the extra points in Flemington Borough donates their money towards the project. Mr. Richardson stated under Section 4.A.3.i, says Raritan Would get additional points if Flemington Borough contributed and used their allocation in partnership with Raritan Township. There is a footnote at the bottom of the page that says municipalities are encouraged to and may use their respective allocations in partnership with a governing municipality.

Mr. Holt said money has always been an integral part of Open Space but it cannot be the soul driving force as to whether a project is valid or not. He suggested looking again at Section 6 A, B, and C and decide whether to juggle those numbers a little bit more.

Mr. Richardson purposed assigning five points to Section 4.A.3, so municipal revenue sources become more weighted and then the multiplier is five, so potentially a project could receive 10 points under that section.

Mr. Sworen recommended regarding Section 4.A.3.i. that the first municipality that comes in with support gets 2 points and the next get 1 point and then it could be reduced back to 4 or 3, which ever is appropriate.

Mr. Richardson will make that purposed change.

Mr. Peterson said in Section 4.3.A.i. it says, not including the use of County allocations including County Open Space Trust Fund. Mr. Richardson explained municipalities have a few different options, they can submit an application for their traditional allocation funds. They also request additional funds under the County Cooperative Acquisition Assistance Program, from their Open Space Tax.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded changes to the Ranking Criteria for the Open Space Program, confirming changes to Section 4.A.3.i. to being 2 points per municipality in and 1 point for each additional for a total of the five points and change Section 6.A.i. to the maximum of four points or three.

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

Public statement regarding the County Agriculture Development Board process

Director Mennen asked County Counsel DeSapio to read the public statement that will be read at the upcoming County's Agriculture Development Board (CADB) meeting, which will inform the CADB as to where the County is in terms of the analysis which was provided by the Finance Department today. This statement explained the Board is digesting the material analysis which has been performed the data supplied with it. No formal action has been taken related to the analysis. The purpose of this statement is to avoid any confusion on the part of the CADB members.

Director Mennen asked for a motion to be made that Mr. DeSapio read the statement.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the reading of this public statement to the CADB at their next meeting.

Mr. Holt said a quick summary of this is that it says the County would exceed the \$2million allocated for 2009. Just for clarification it is imperative that the CADB proceed. The Board knows there are more projects to be considered and the CADB needs to keep ranking them. The Freeholders have not directed the CADB otherwise.

Director Mennen said the Board will not take any action between now and Thursday, but will be reading the analysis. The Freeholders want to let the CADB know what is being worked on and that they are to continue their work.

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

COUNTY UPDATE

Golf Course Fees

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator informed the Board that John Trontis, Parks and Recreation Director is here tonight concerning information about golf course fees.

Mr. Trontis advised that Heron Glen golf course is getting ready to open, weather permitting in twelve days. He met with the course staff today and directed them to print course material that did not include prices for 2009. The course playing card has been upgraded and every player gets the material on how to play the hole but without price information.

Mr. Trontis informed the Board that Kemper Sports Management, the course manager, provided a market plan and a detailed list in 2008 and he was going to roll that into the purposed budget for 2009 but they he saw that all County Department budgets were to be cut by 10% and he thought in all fairness he would ask the Golf Course to do the same. Kemper submitted a revised budget cutting back their budget by 10%. Mr. Trontis stated the cost of operating the golf course has increased substantially, just by the price of petroleum products and golf balls. What was anticipated is a need to cover those costs, which have been encountered in 2009. He is recommending a price increase of \$1 dollar a round for County residents and \$2 dollars a round, for 18 holes for non County residents. This is the same information submitted with his budget, on February 03, 2009.

Mr. Peterson asked if the increase was in reaction to the 10% reduction in budgets. Mr. Trontis said it was not and advised it was a request for increased fees sent by Kemper Sports Management, in September 2008. Mr. Trontis advised the golf course walks a fine line because the County wants to provide an affordable experience for the residents and at the same time the course has to be self sufficient. It is difficult to raise the course price by \$1 dollar for a senior citizen. He has also tried to hold the junior rounds for students that come after high school. He

does not want to raise those fees at all because Heron Glen is supposed to supply an affordable experience and support the sport of golf.

Mr. Trontis stated Heron Glen is fortunate because it is almost at the number of saturation; two years ago the number for available rounds was 92 and it is very close to that number. If you look at other Counties that offer similar facilities, there are fewer tee times booked. He thinks this budget is a good compromise and will costs and still be fair to the residents.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve fees and rates for Heron Glen Golf Course for 2009.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-12A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application with the NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services, for a Senior Farmers' Market Mini Grant for 2009, in the amount of \$3,285 (\$1,200 state funds and a County Match of \$2,085).

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-12B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application for the FY 2008 and FY 2009 Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC Rounds 10 & 11), with New Jersey Transit for \$197,544 in federal funds and a County Match of \$197,544, for a total for 2008/2009 of \$395,088.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Mennen 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."

Items #11 and 14 were held at this time.

Mr. Melick stated on the Consent Agenda are personnel items and he wanted to know if Human Resources have looked at these items.

Mrs. Yard reported the Freeholder Board has talked about these items before; these people are going from provisional to permanent in title; also there is a replacement for one of the Sheriff's Investigators that had left.

Cheryl Wieder, Human Resources Director informed the Board that some of the positions were discussed and approved by the Board last year in the summer and are just being filled now and one person is moving from provisional to permanent.

Mr. Melick said he just wants to follow protocol with the budget and accepts the information from Mrs. Yard and Ms. Wieder.

Mr. Peterson said the Board is fulfilling its promised. If there are positions that are necessary to be filled then the Board would fill them.

Mrs. Yard advised the one position for the Sheriff's Office had been approved as the Board approved 16 Sheriff's Officers.

Mr. Peterson stated a letter was received from a gentleman that stated he would take lesser pay to be a Sheriff's Officer and he asked if there person was considered.

Ms. Wieder advised that was a person who had taken the alternate route for the Sheriff's Office and he would have to go on the Civil Service list but there are no vacancies.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve Claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated February 17, 2009.

See Page 02/17/09-12C

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 02/17/09-13A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Raffaella Tozzi appointed unclassified, full time Sheriff's Investigator, Sheriff's Office.

See Page 02/17/09-13B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Carl Schottman appointed permanent, full time Senior Mail Clerk, Central Printing and Mail Dept.

See Page 02/17/09-13C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Laura Kroon appointed provisional, full time Park Naturalist, Parks and Recreation.

See Page 02/17/09-13D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Elisa Petrigliano appointed provisional, full time Victim Witness Counselor, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 02/17/09-13E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Frank Emanuele appointed temporary, as needed Instructor, Division of Emergency Management, Public Safety Department.

See Page 02/17/09-13F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Kevin Calvo appointed temporary, as needed Instructor, Division of Emergency Management, Public Safety Department.

See Page 02/17/09-13G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Ryan Ziemba, acting Crew Supervisor, Traffic Maintenance Division, Roads, Bridges and Engineering, salary adjustment.

See Page 02/17/09-13H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the reappointment of William Powell as the Emergency Management Coordinator, Division of Emergency Management of the Public Safety Department.

See Page 02/17/09-13I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement with Gaetano M. DeSapio, Esquire, to serve as County Counsel, for 2009.

See Page 02/17/09-13J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement with Cynthia Jacobs, Esquire, to serve as special legal counsel, in connection with a Tort Claim.

See Page 02/17/09-13K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the plans and specifications for County Route 523/517 Intersection Improvements, in the Township of Tewksbury.

See Page 02/17/09-13L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Freeholder Director to sign the "2009 Budget Statement Certification by Welfare Agency" for the Human Services Department.

See Page 02/17/09-13M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to advertise County Bid #2009-03, to furnish and deliver structural steel, for the County Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-13N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #1, for Bid #2008-36, to provide and erect one (1) 220' tower and one (1) 120' monopole or equivalent, for the County's wireless project, with JBL Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$64,500.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 02/17/09-14A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing J. Matthew Holt, a member of the governing body, to sign a Contract for Sale of a portion of property in fee simple, from the Dewey Girls, LLC, in Tewksbury Twp., in connection with Intersection Improvements of County Routes 523 and 517.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from Somerset Wheelmen, for permission to conduct the Readington Time Trials on County Route 629 (Pleasant Run Road), on April 11, 2009, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting approval provided this event is coordinated through the County Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

The High Bridge Police Department sent correspondence asking permission, on behalf of the Borough of High Bridge Business Association, to use County Route 513 between Fairview Avenue and West Main Street, during their Soap Box Derby. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approval provided this event is coordinated through the County Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

A request was received from the Health Director, for permission to attend the 2009 Winter State Association of County and City Health Officials meeting, on March 12 and 13, 2009, in Washington, D.C. (as President, all expenses, including travel, hotel, per diems, etc. will be paid for). Also asking for time off with pay. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission.

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

A request was received from the County Clerk, for reconsideration of membership dues to the International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT), in the amount of \$175/year. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approval.

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

Director Mennen stated that there was a letter that went to everyone from the Delaware Valley Beads Society, requesting relief from the insurance requirement.

Mrs. Yard stated that what happens when a request like that is received it is given to the Senior Center to consider and then they talk to the Board about it. Once that has been done a discussion will take place with Pete Maddalena, Buildings and Maintenance Director, since it is on a weekend and someone is needed to open and close the building. Mrs. Yard does not believe the issue was about the insurance as much as it was about the fee.

Director Mennen confirmed the County is working on this, and noted the event isn't until June. He asked that the Board be kept updated regarding this issue.

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Hunterdon County Cheerleading squads

Mr. Sworen wanted to state for the record that he wanted to congratulate the local high schools and junior highs, saying there were four Hunterdon County schools that placed in the top ten for cheerleading in the Country: Delaware Valley took 5th place, Hunterdon Central's Junior Varsity took 2nd place, and he noted that is the highest placing that any cheerleading squad has done in New Jersey ever; North Hunterdon placed 8th and Readington's Junior High placed 8th.

Joint meeting with Polytech

Director Mennen reported the Freeholders will hold a joint meeting with Polytech on Saturday, February 28, 2009, to hold a strategy session. He is hoping for a spirited and fruitful discussion.

Assembly Seat Vacancy

Director Mennen advised those present that on Saturday, February 21, 2009, the Joint County Committees for Hunterdon and Warren Counties are going to meet to select a replacement for Marcia Karrow's Assembly Seat. He stated that there are two Freeholder Board members up for that seat and wished them good luck.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Mennen opened the meeting to the public.

East Amwell Township – Bridges/Wertsville Road

Francis Gavigan, resident of East Amwell Township, came before the Board and thanked Mr. Holt for coming to a meeting at East Amwell Township on February 05, 2009, which was so well attended that people were standing out into the hallway and lobby to hear the discussion.

Mrs. Gavigan advised she was disappointed at what was reported by the County's Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering concerning County Bridge E-166 on Wertsville Road. Residents are upset and circulating petitions against this project. East Amwell is seeking support of a scenic byway designation. This is not only a scenic area, there is a historic home and tourists are attracted to the area. Mrs. Gavigan stated in the area are also two businesses that are struggling in this economy and this project is going to have a major impact if the County moves forward.

Mrs. Gavigan advised the Board that the tone of the discussion at the end of the meeting was that this was going to come back to the Board and the message sent out was if it is not broken do not fix it. If the County needs to fix anything, fix the bridges only, not the roads. A big issue is the timeline. The County is doing a similar project in Tewksbury Township which is only taking nine week verses the nine months that is planned for East Amwell's project.

Mrs. Gavigan asked that the County table this project for next year and that the project be redesigned to take into consideration the limits of the roads alone and not mess with the roadway and the alignments. There is a preserved property at Dutch Lane but this alignment will be an intrusion. She is unsure if a historical and archeological survey was completed.

Mrs. Gavigan advised she just talked with Mr. Glynn in the hallway and he told he they are not going to budge on the road alignment and that the Freeholders won't cancel this because if they do the County will have to reimburse the state.

Mrs. Gavigan stated she did more research today and there is an East Amwell Bridge that is on the New York Times List as one the worst bridges in the Tri-State area and it is the Bayless Bridge, the bridge that would be the real byway detour.

Mrs. Gavigan stated she has downloaded the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation's rules and these bridges and feels there is no need to have such a timeline like this. She questioned if the bridges on Wertsville Road have safety or structural issues. Will they be restored as they were in the 1700's. What about the costs. She asked the Board to please spend the money wisely and if it doesn't need to be spent, do not spend it.

Mr. Holt said when he left the meeting he called Director Mennen and suggested they meet so they could discuss what had gone on at the meeting in East Amwell Township. Then they could move forward from there and inform the rest of the Board. He also instructed Mr. Glynn to communicate with Director Mennen as to what needed to be done, when it needed to be done, the costs and what the impact would be if it changes.

Ms. Gavigan informed the Board that in terms of the number of people, the number of strength of argument, that she has accurately communicated the tone of the community level to the Board.

Mr. Holt said the meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and he left at 9:00 p.m. and that was the only topic discussed. He does not want it to be portrayed as an angry crowd. He thought everyone was very well controlled and very direct in their response and that no one was repetitive.

Ms. Gavigan said another request was sent to Roads and Bridges regarding County Bridge E-174 that something be done there that would allow no passing on that road because it is very bad.

Open Space

Mr. Jim Britewell from the Siera Group thanked the Board for reconsidering their position on Open Space. He wanted to request a few clarifications get into the analysis. It is his understanding that there is one final round due out this spring and he was wondering if any from Hunterdon County had been included this evening.

Mr. Britewell heard the Board mention Farmland Preservation and was wondering if the County asked Green Acres what properties were outstanding for Hunterdon County and if they were included in the analysis as well. He had heard there was \$700,000 in funding that could be used from Green Acres and was wondering if opportunities such as this are being looked at for Hunterdon County. He hopes these questions can be addressed in the Board's analysis.

Director Mennen stated that he is quite certain that the instructions to Mr. Richardson included such information was clear and that they will be included.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 8:20 p.m., returned to Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 9:15 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 9:15 .m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan Clerk of the Board