

# HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Main Street County Complex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

**October 06, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 2:02 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

**ABSENT: MR. HOLT, 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 September 24, 2009, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review and Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **FOR DISCUSSION**

#### Inclusion of municipalities in the County's Health Benefits Program

Present: Keith Reggin, Broker/Consultant for Willis and Brian Gulick the Practice Leader in Public Entities for Willis.

Mr. Holt came into the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Mr. Reggin explained that Mr. Gulick is more experienced in potentially setting up these types of programs. Mr. Gulick will take the Board through the pros and cons of setting up some shared services with municipalities; what those implications are.

Mr. Gulick advised the idea of sharing services or pulling together to purchase insurance is a great concept. There are a number of things that would need to be changed/modified in order for the County to do this under their current plan. Currently the County's employees are insured through an insurance contract purchased through Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield; it is a single contract which the County purchases and that is considered an employer/employee relationship so to be eligible a person would have to be a County employee. The insurance is held by Blue Cross and as such the County pays a premium to Blue Cross for that coverage. There is no employer/employee relationship from the County to the municipalities so you could not simply add a town into the County's plan because the County would be acting as the insurer and the County's contract with Blue Cross would be voided.

Mr. Sworen said the contract simply states you must be a member of the County or retired from the County. Mr. Gulick explained to the Board that the County's insurance program cannot be expanded to municipalities due to the lack of employer/employee relationship.

Mr. Gulick further explained the current contract offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield offers the County is unable to accommodate additional entities unless the County absorbs those entities and they actually were actually part of the County. The simple solution of adding them onto the County's insurance plan is unobtainable.

Mr. Gulick said there are different options that can be looked at to pull together costs: (1) there is a health insurance fund or a (2) purchasing coalition. A health insurance fund is where a pool would be pulled together with other towns to purchase insurance. There are certain rules to form such a fund that are dictated by the Department of Insurance in the State of New Jersey such as setting up bylaws, doing a feasibility study, hiring attorneys, doing an underwriting study, benefits development and examination, would all have to be done. Mr. Gulick stated there are existing health insurance funds in New Jersey, such as Bergen County and South Jersey in Ocean County.

Mr. Gulick reported some of the drawbacks from the County's perspective, which is enjoying the relationship with Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield for their network and coverage, and equal to or better guarantees; Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield's network of doctors and hospitals are not offered in any health insurance fund in New Jersey. If the County were to explore a health insurance fund arrangement the Blue Cross and Blue Shield affiliation/network would not be included. Mr. Gulick understands from preliminary discussions with the County that, that is an important part of the program.

Mr. Gulick explained the other part of a health insurance fund is that conceptually, you are self-funding the pool but the risk is that the rates are set on the claims experience of the pool. With a self-funded arrangement there would be a risk tolerance, and the County would have to be able to accept a greater risk, plus or minus. It really depends on what the claims experience is. There will be a margin added to the County's claims experience, so the County would have to potentially increase budget in order to develop a health insurance fund for the purpose of going forward.

Mr. Sworen asked who would set up the health insurance fund. Mr. Gulick stated it could be set up by the County; or it could be set up larger as people are needed to make the investment into the feasibility study which could cost around \$20,000 to \$25,000; the initial start up to get things rolling; critical mass starts at 1,000 employees; so you are looking at the County plus other people. With the County the size of 600/700 people, in order for the County to benefit, the County's size would have to double or triple in size in order for the County to benefit from doing this. This would impact the County's administrative costs and the cost to do business. A factor would be the number of towns interested or the number of people interested in joining and the risk factors associated with those groups and if they are poor risks or healthy risks. The rates would be set on the risk levels.

Mr. Gulick explained that the largest health insurance fund in New Jersey is the State Health Benefits program; it is self insured by the State of New Jersey and they produce a rate for the local government entities and it may insure those local government entities; but the pool itself operates the self-funded pool. The increases to the state's municipalities come this January 01<sup>st</sup> will be 20% on medical, with an average increase including prescription of 18%.

Mr. Sworen stated the increase will be 20.4% increase and a 4.4% increase for schools. Mr. Gulick advised there is a separate fund for School Boards, they bifurcated those two pools.

Mr. Gulick explained even with those increases, the State is still subsidizing some of those rates based on data that was released for State Health Benefits. At that high increase, the rate levels of the State Health Benefits Program are potentially still underfunded for the upcoming year. Merging experience will dictate what rate levels they set but at this point, on paper, they are looking at another sizable increase next year.

Mr. Gulick said if the County were going to consider this, it would have to know if it is pulling in healthy groups or sick groups. He feels many of Hunterdon's municipalities are a part of the State Health Benefits program and in order to look at that risk, the municipalities could individually request their claims experience from the State Health Benefits program. The report costs \$2,000. Mr. Sworen stated \$2,000 to \$6,000. Mr. Gulick stated just \$2,000. Mr. Sworen reported he talked with at least three municipalities who requested this report over two and a half months ago and the state is not providing the information to them. Mr. Gulick explained the state says there is a four to six week turn around time for these reports, depending upon the data.

Mr. Gulick recommended the Board consider a Purchasing Coalition which gets people to band together and approach a Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield to purchase insurance and see what can be done. The Insurance Company will abide by the individual underwriting regulations of rating each group by experience but being part of a Purchasing Coalition and having a tie to the pool that people are buying together, they may offer an administrative rate brake, and they might offer different plan designs. The problem in the public sector is that no two towns ever negotiate the same. Pooling together and agreeing on a standardized level of benefits and taking the ability to have set programs, you can get discounts. They probably won't be sizable but there maybe a couple percent off of the average retail price and it is still predicated on the groups experience.

Mr. Sworen asked if that is a process of the County with municipalities or is it just municipalities by themselves.

Mr. Gulick said the County is the largest piece of the puzzle so the County needs to set the precedent and dictate which way the pool goes or who is part of the pool: are there only two towns or ten towns; how many towns and how many employees and are retirees going to be covered and what is the medical level.

Mr. Gulick confirmed the County is looking for a solution to help municipalities in Hunterdon County. Mr. Sworen agreed saying because the State Health Benefits plan is going up over 20% this year, he asked if there is a better way or cheaper way to do this and is there a straightforward and easy way to do this. Mr. Sworen told Mr. Gulick that he is showing this isn't going to be easy. Mr. Sworen reported Hunterdon County has 23 municipalities that are under the State Health Benefits plan.

Mr. Gulick said even at the 20% increase that those towns will be absorbing come January 01, 2010, the rates are still competitive to the market as he's seen. The State Health Benefit rates being offered to locals are still competitive.

Mr. Gulick advised outside the state program, just as the County is doing today, you can negotiate benefit levels and you can change deductible savings and co-pays for savings. You can change different coverage services and negotiate those levels therefore getting lower premiums.

Mr. Sworen stated when he worked on this he was looking at the County's POS program which is similar to AETNA, which is an HMO. The County's POS saves quiet a bit of money over the plan.

Mr. Gulick reported that the County's rates by Blue Cross and Blue Shield are set in their own experience. So the loss runs, historically, for the County have been good; better than the average group; even better than the State Health Benefits program. As such, the County's rate levels are below the state program.

Mr. Reggin advised the County still has a good portion of its employees in the PPO. The County does not get the discounts with the Traditional Plan as it would with the POS plan or a PPO plan.

Mr. Sworen asked Mr. Gulick his opinion if it would be best for the County to look at going towards a Purchasing Coalition or to having municipalities get together as a Shared Service and do a Purchasing Coalition. There is concern about savings taxpayer's money at the local level. He never wanted to jeopardize the coverage and relationship with Horizon or the broker with the County. He questioned how this would work if the County were the sponsor of putting together a Purchasing Coalition. What is the possible damage to the relationships with Horizon and the broker.

Mr. Gulick stated there is no damage. In his initial discussions with Horizon they asked what kind of critical mass is being looking at; how many additional people. They were not shutting the door but Mr. Gulick stated he did not have any information to Blue Cross and because of municipal negotiations the 23 municipalities might not be able to change their carriers, so the 23 could be 10 or 15. Also they need to know the critical mass; who has a high target or low target, and what do they represent.

Mr. Sworen stated there are a number of municipalities that only have 1 or 2 people and some have 50 or 70. The original thought was for the County to act as a sub-broker for the municipalities and to keep things simple with the municipalities doing their own negotiations. Mr. Sworen confirmed that is something that can't be done at this time. He asked what is the critical number for the County to be able to do a Purchasing Coalition. Mr. Gulick stated reported the 1,000 number is for the Health Insurance pool. He stated everyone wants the County's program and if every entity were to get the same benefits, then the administrative credit would be somewhere over the 1,000 employee number, then you would be in a different rating; and you look to get an economy costs of scale on the administrative cost credit. The administration on the health insurance dollar is probably 20%; 80% would go to pay claims. The question is what risk is the 80% claims number and how much will it cost. That is the unknown which will make the program more expensive or less expensive for someone joining the plan. People need to agree on eligibility and on the different parameters. Also there would have to be separate billing units and different benefit levels.

After further discussion, Director Mennen confirmed that the health insurance fund has many barriers to entering; such as hiring an attorney, feasibility study, doing an underwriting study and benefits development. He confirmed with Mr. Gulick that a Purchasing Coalition is devoid of any of those complicated factors. Mr. Gulick stated that would be agreeing to a set of rules/parameters so there are no official documents depending upon the contract with the insurance company that you are agreeing to get a certain rate in trade for something. You could shop your current plan and get a multiyear rate guarantee for x-price for the insurance company but you will have to meet certain parameters and certain enrollment numbers to qualify for a certain rate.

Mr. Sworen confirmed that for the County to consider a Purchasing Coalition the County would have to participate in order to get the 1,000 employee participate number. The County would be the driving force.

Mr. Sworen asked what the cost would be for the County to look at having a Purchasing Coalition. Would the cost be \$2,000 per each municipality? Mr. Gulick stated that is a guaranteed cost if each of the municipalities is with the State Health Benefits program to get data. There could be additional costs for information gathering, copying of data and more.

Mr. Sworen confirmed that Horizon would require that an abstract be obtained for each entity not covered today. Mr. Gulick feels Horizon would want to know what the demographics are; where are they; they would be underwritten individually but give them an administrative break because they are part of a Purchasing Coalition and the insurance will be purchased as a group. The issue will be that if 10 towns are interested, they submit data and 5 of those towns are offered rates better then they currently have and the other 5 are offered rates worse then they have. Do the 5 towns offered worse rates stay in the Purchasing Coalition.

Mr. Sworen confirmed the Purchasing Coalition does not purchase insurance for an experience rating for the entire group. Mr. Gulick explained that each entity will be underwritten for their own merit. Director Mennen confirmed if one entity has a bad year, there maybe an entity that had a not so bad year that will pick up some of the costs. Mr. Gulick confirmed that example and stated the group that had a better year will probably want to go out on its own.

After further discussion, Mr. Melick thanked Mr. Gulick for the information he has provided today stating he did a good and thorough job.

Mr. Sworen stated that currently the County has an agreement with Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield for a contract with so many people and those people must to be County employees. To clarify that, he's confirming that the County could not go back to Horizon in a year or so, and ask to have a new contract which will include people who are not employees or is that something not doable under the insurance code or will it put the County automatically into a Purchasing Group. Mr. Gulick advised it depends; the current contract with Horizon is a fully insured contract which is filed with the Department of Banking Insurance. Horizon has filed these documents and there are eligibility clauses. There is also the employee/employer relationship and the Insurance Department wants to see there is a tie there. To negotiate with Blue Cross to change that definition could be done to expand it for hours worked per week but they aren't going to expand it to independent contractors or dependents. They do cover lawfully wedded spouse and children but you can't open the contract up to girlfriends or friends of the family or something to that effect. Without having an employer/employee relationship; there is no governance on who will be pulled in. It goes back to the County acting as an insurer.

Mr. Sworen thanked Mr. Reggin and Mr. Gulick for the information and knowledge provided today. He confirmed the employer/employee relationship is a key piece of knowledge today that must be followed to qualify for insurance. He is disappointed this will not work the easy way. Mr. Sworen stated the Board would need to have a lot of discussion before it would consider creating a coalition and more research is needed.

The Board thanked Mr. Reggin and Mr. Gulick for their time today.

#### Polytech/NJAC Scholarship

Director Mennen announced that at a subcommittee meeting of Polytech, there was discussion of a \$500 scholarship which is given to a Vocational Education/Polytech student from each of the 21 counties in the State of New Jersey administered by the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) in conjunction with PSE&G. This scholarship was announced to be awarded to a Hunterdon County student, Vince Nicolette. As of this point, the County of Hunterdon has not officially joined NJAC; NJAC has indicated they will not provide the \$500 scholarship to Mr. Nicolette.

Director Mennen advised Mr. Nicolette has been calling Polytech on a continual basis trying to ascertain where the scholarship is.

Director Mennen recommended that the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders provide a scholarship to Mr. Nicolette, from the Freeholders' Miscellaneous Account in the budget. There are funds to be able to provide Mr. Nicolette the \$500 directly from the County.

Mr. Melick agreed saying Mr. Nicolette should not be penalized for the relationship which Hunterdon County has with NJAC. He explained that NJAC does not want to provide all information related to how NJAC is run.

Director Mennen pointed out that the dues for Hunterdon County to join NJAC is in excess of \$5,000 and the amount of this scholarship is \$500.

Mr. Sworen advised there is a \$1,000 internship that NJAC is also offering for technology which is administered through WALMART.

Mr. Peterson came into the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Director Mennen informed Mr. Peterson that there is a request from POLYTECH to discuss a scholarship which is awarded to a Hunterdon County resident in the amount of \$500 that is administered through NJAC and PSE&G and because Hunterdon has not joined NJAC at this point, NJAC has declined paying the scholarship to the named Hunterdon County Polytech student. Director Mennen explained that he proposes the Freeholders pay the \$500 directly to Mr. Nicolette.

Mr. Peterson would like to know how this student got into the process of being awarded the scholarship if the County was not participating in NJAC. Director Mennen advised that Polytech Superintendent, Kim Metz informed him that Polytech has been fielding calls for a number of months.

Mr. Peterson said he would like more information on this; such as the sequence of the events and why this is happening. He is curious whether NJAC is using this as a way to force Hunterdon into paying their membership fee. Director Mennen reported the request is coming from Polytech not NJAC.

After further discussion, Mr. DeSapio advised that legally the Freeholder Board can provide this individual with a \$500 scholarship. Mr. Melick does not want this student to be penalized and recommends the Freeholder Board provide him with this \$500 scholarship on behalf of the County. He would like to know on what authority NJAC is withholding this scholarship which they awarded. Mr. Peterson stated he is not opposed to providing this student with the scholarship on behalf of the County but he agrees the County should get the credit for the scholarship.

Mr. Melick stated he does not feel NJAC has a right to withhold the scholarship and asked if that can be looked into. Mr. Holt thinks if Hunterdon starts to investigate this it will cost more for legal fees.

Mr. Melick advised he would like to see what the Executive Director's, Celeste Carpiano's, expense account that NJAC pays on her credit card.

County Counsel, Gaetano DeSapio informed the Board that a scholarship fund could be established on a very limited duration and there should be contingencies: (1) check with Polytech to see if there are any other outstanding claims for scholarships in regard to any other matter where students are having difficulty in getting their money; so the Board knows the extent of your exposure is and there could be a contingency that there be no others. (2) if you want information the County Administrator could write to NJAC and to Polytech and ask for a copy of the application guidelines for the scholarship as it may answer questions on whether this scholarship was only available to students whose counties are a part of NJAC. Mr. Peterson questioned if that is the case, why would NJAC accept the application from Hunterdon. Mr. Holt noted that last year Hunterdon did not pay its dues until November.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to compensate Vince Nicolette a student at Hunterdon County Polytech for the equivalent of the scholarship he qualified for from NJAC and PSE&G, in the amount of \$500, conditioned on Polytech furnishing the County with an indication

as to whether or not there are any other students in similar situations and if there are, then the matter will be reconsidered before the payment is made. Mr. DeSapio confirmed the County Administrator, Cynthia J. Yard, is also directed by the Board to write a letter to NJAC to obtain a copy of the scholarship application and guidelines.

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

Mr. DeSapio recommended a letter be written Polytech and inform them that Hunterdon County is not a member of NJAC and until such time as that changes they should let students know they should not apply for NJAC scholarships because there is no money. Mrs. Yard was asked to write to Polytech on the Board's behalf.

Mr. Peterson asked Mrs. Yard to find out any information which is available as to why NJAC sent a letter awarding a scholarship.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

**See Page 10/06/09-5A RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss legal issues in connection with the resolution of a dispute concerning the 911 Center.

**See Page 10/06/09-5B RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss staffing issues at the Youth Facility.

**See Page 10/06/09-5C RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss issues related to the closing of property in Kingwood Township from Horseshoe Bend LLC.

**See Page 10/06/09-5D RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to review the Executive Session minutes of June 2, 2009, June 16, 2009, July 21, 2009, August 04, 2009, August 18, 2009, September 01, 2009 and September 15, 2009 to determine what can be released.

**See Page 10/06/09-5E RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a disciplinary issue in the Parks and Recreation Department.

**See Page 10/06/09-5F RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to review discussions with the CWA Union with regard to the resolution which was adopted at the last meeting authorizing discussions concerning furloughs.

**See Page 10/06/09-5G RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss an appointment to the Workforce Investment Board.

**See Page 10/06/09-5H RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss lease negotiations for Polytech in connection with their space leased at Bartles Corner.

**See Page 10/06/09-5I RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss land acquisition concerning County Bridge E-174 and the Wertsville Road project.

**See Page 10/06/09-5J RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss the attorneys who are selected to perform defense work on behalf of the County's insurance carrier.

**See Page 10/06/09-5K RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss the recommendations of Bond Counsel in regard to alternative legal actions which maybe taken concerning financing a portion of this discussion will be taken during open session sometime today.

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



Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-6A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss the status of the Route 523/517 condemnation in Tewksbury Township.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 3:10 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:23 p.m.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

Present: Janet Previte and Lupe Fowler of Human Services.

Mr. Holt advised the people on the Transportation Committee has done a tremendous job but more importantly is that the work done between the meetings has been well done and arduous at best in many cases.

Mr. Holt introduced the members of the Transportation Committee: Janet Previte, Lupe Fowler, Pam Pontrelli who is not present this evening, John Davenport, George Wagner, John Glynn, Kim Browne, Cynthia Yard and himself.

Mr. Holt advised the Transportation Committee met on eight different occasions, averaging between 90 minutes and 2 hours per session. Transportation in Hunterdon County has a \$3.5 million budget of which approximately \$2 million comes from grants and other funds and around \$1.5 million comes from the County's budget.

Mr. Holt reported the County's rural public transportation system was created in 1984 and services were discretionary and the extent to which it is offered is controlled by the County's governing body and its willingness to supplement the available grant funds. There are some services that are totally grant funded and in many cases it is a mix of grant funding, revenue streams and County budgeting.

Mr. Holt reported transportation was broken down into five categories. They considered in-house versus outsourcing, cost analysis, the Shuffle Service was considered separately on its own, the committee considered the cross-county bus route services, the specialized services for medical transports and coach transports and they worked on a summary of the expenses and reviews. Inclusive in this was dialog with many other counties and their transportation systems. Mr. Holt offered a very special thanks to the Somerset County Transportation System and the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders for opening their doors for several hours one day to provide a tremendous road trip. That event helped the Transportation Committee review the materials received and it also assisted in the concurrence that this Committee put together.

Mr. Holt explained the outsources versus in-house, the contracted costs for services is \$3.3 million and if the County were to do this itself, the in-house cost which would be inclusive of administrative expenses, fuel and bus maintenance costs which is around \$575,000, there is a differential plus or minus \$400,000. By differential, it is believed by the Transportation Committee that Hunterdon County could run the operation for less money that is being currently contracted for; however; the recommendation at this time is not to bring the transportation services in-house.

Mr. Holt explained that while \$400,000 plus or minus sounds like a tremendous amount of money, for the County to entirely absorb this operation which runs 16 hours a day, 6 days a week, honestly \$400,000 could be used up rapidly. In fact, the County could find that the expenses exceed as government is not necessarily the most efficient manager of funds in some cases. Mr. Holt added that with the budgetary constraints the County is under, it is not felt the County is ready to absorb this so the recommendation is to remain contracted for the operation of the transportation system. The next time the County will bid out for the operation of the transportation system is in 2011.

Mr. Holt advised 4 routes of the Shuffle Service are run and 2 of them are 80% County funded. Of the annual cost of \$320,000 about \$256,000 is County funded. This equates to an average cost of \$67 per hour. Mr. Holt advised Shuffle Routes 16 and 19 are the same essential routes, they are duplicates of each other and they run entirely in Flemington. The entire route takes up 120 minutes and they are responsible for moving people to the Hunterdon Medical Center, Hunterdon Healthcare, Health Quest and anyone is invited to ride and the fare, which was increased in 2009, is \$2.00 for unlimited boarding. That fare is similar to what Somerset County charges and it is also similar to what a New Jersey Transit Zone fee would be.

Mr. Holt stated Shuffle Routes 20 and 21 are entirely grant funded through JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) and they operate later in the afternoon, during the evening and on Saturdays. One of those routes runs until 11:00 p.m.

Mr. Holt reported the recommendations on Routes 16 and 19, the primarily County funded units, are to reduce those hours of operation. Somerset County is able to have a daily analysis of who is riding where, stop by stop and Hunterdon is working on doing that needs assessment, which will enable Hunterdon to make future scheduling decisions by looking at hours of operation and potentially modifying the second Shuffle run to determine what is really needed. It is felt that more riders can be put on the bus and save money with reviewing the schedules.

Mr. Holt said regarding Routes 20 and 21, if the grant funding stops the service stops. Also being considered is the same type of ride analysis to determine if a small vehicle can be utilized. Even with grant funding Hunterdon is looking to reduce hours, saying that Somerset County only runs its service until 8:00 p.m. Mr. Holt reported the Transportation Committee also looked at carving a piece out of the contract because there could be a 33% savings if the County handled this piece. Aside from the savings of around \$150,000 to \$175,000 out of the \$450,000 budget; is that unlike the entire County system, this is felt to be a manageable system and it is felt that with the use of a dispatcher, the same service can be provided. This would be a matter of drivers and dispatching and the Transportation Committee is recommending to the Freeholder Board for future consideration that this could be advantageous for the Board.

Mr. Peterson asked what the ridership is by hour during the evening. Are the later hours worthwhile to continue? Mr. Holt said yes; in some senses the time for the later hours are there; there are specific locations needed such as Health Quest where there are employees utilizing those services. Mr. Holt again stated the later hours are entirely grant funded and if they were carved back would save grant dollars. He explained there are not a lot of places those grant dollars can be applied to because it is specific to the JARC grant.

Mr. Holt informed the Board that part of the increased record keeping which is currently going on will be to determine whether the utilization until 11:00 p.m. is necessary.

Mrs. Yard explained the County's Transportation System is very complex, the way it is handled, tracked and reported to the grants. Hourly are assigned to each route. The County knows exactly how much it costs. Any change in any of the routes or backing off an hour can be calculated. It is known that some trips are more expensive than others. This is a very sophisticated system as far as tracking it.

Mr. Peterson understands this is grant funded but suggested it could be expanded during another time period. Mrs. Yard advised the Transportation Committee did try as part of the JARC grant.

Mr. Holt explained unlike a number of the other grants the County receives where there is the flexibility where the funds can be applied regarding ridership but JARC is very specific.

Mr. Peterson stated he is aware there are some people who have difficulty getting on a bus to go to work and back during the peak hours and he wondered if those resources could be reallocated. Mrs. Yard advised the Transportation Committee is looking at that but the JARC dollars tie the County's hands.

Mr. Holt advised that some of the riders headed out during standard daytime hours are not riding on JARC funded buses; they would be riding on the standard bus. That is an issue and the Committee is looking at Routes 16 and 19 to better understand the ridership and the locations/stops to determine if stops are being made where it isn't needed. Also, individuals are allowed to have a daily on and off all day. At this point, it hasn't been tracked where someone gets on and off and when they get back on at. This research will help refine some of that data.

Mr. Holt reported that the County offers north, south, east and west routes for the Cross Country bus route services and two vehicles are currently used for that. Between 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. those cross country routes run on demand. The per trip cost can be anywhere from \$7.84 to \$2.26 on the 18 different routes. It is felt some of the hours of operation can be reduced and the costly routes will be analyzed for reduction or elimination. There are 6 evening socialization and leisure type of routes and one of those routes is a special route to the Clinton Shop Rite and WalMart. That route has been discontinued because there is a WalMart opened in Flemington.

Mr. Holt reported that the special lighthouse run to the Clinton WalMart has been discontinued. That was one of the most expensive routes in terms of ridership and cost per rider. Many of those riders can be rerouted to the Flemington WalMart.

Mr. Holt reported there is a contract with the ARC of Hunterdon County which has not been adjusted since the 1980. Counties subsidize/fund the ARC utilization. The County's agreement with ARC costs the County in excess of \$500,000 and the County receives back around \$190,000. A discussion has been held with ARC to increase those numbers. Mr. Holt explained that the numbers are similar to what other counties are experiencing.

Mr. Holt informed the Board that the Transportation Committee has three different recommendations with reducing some hours, rerouting some routes and ARC will increase their contribution by \$10,000 in 2010.

Mr. Holt reported that Specialize Services, the Medicaid transports in 2009 cost \$340,000. In the past the County had restrictions on a number of times a rider could utilize the out-of-county medical services, for seniors and disabled. Earlier in the 2000 decade, the Board of Freeholders waived those restrictions. There are currently 18 volunteer drivers for these service transports. The Transportation Committee has tightened up the evaluation of these requests. Over the years, the requests have decreased tremendously. Mr. Holt reported the County's Transportation Committee continues to closely monitor and coordinate the best utilization of the medical trips and scheduling. A needs assessment and cost analysis will be done for non-Medicaid, out of county special medical trips. Currently every medical trip is a guaranteed drop off time and pick up time; being considered is a guaranteed drop off time one way but for the return schedule they are going to try and coordinate several riders for pick up, so a rider may have to wait to be picked up. Also, for non-Medicaid medical trips eligibility should be limited by age and if you between 18 and 59, and you present a medical certification that precludes you from obtaining a

Driver's license and you are over 60, you are covered 100%. Somerset County does not qualify people who are 18 to 59 if they have a driver's license.

Mr. Peterson questioned if someone were between 18 to 59, and could not drive due to surgery or something to a medical service; how would that be handled. Mrs. Yard said if someone is unable to drive, there is always an exception. Mr. Holt added someone could also have a suspended license. There are instances of exception. Mr. Holt said the Human Services staff does an excellent job in assessing on an as needed basis and they will continue to take care of people that need to be taken care of. There are some cases where the system can be abused and there are controls to be put in place so that does not happen.

Mr. Holt informed the Board that the 2009 projected funding for transportation was around \$3.7 million and the County's share was around \$1.3 million. The 2009 expenses were \$3.3 million and in 2010 funding is projected to be around \$3.6 million. Also, Casino Revenue funding is dropping at an amazing rate.

Mr. Holt stated it is believed that the savings the County will see will come through the year 2010. The recommendations from the Transportation Committee will carry some savings, but won't be completed projected in 2010. It is felt the savings will allow the reduction of costs by returning funds to surplus. This does not mean there won't be decisions that this Board has to make that may be difficult.

Mr. Holt reported they are looking at evaluating the fleet and how to reduce vehicles. If 4 vehicles can be reduced the average cost savings would be around \$20,000; if Easton Coach can discuss with the Facilities Evaluation Committee some way of allocating County space and alternative software is being looked at and they are looking at renegotiating the cost with Easton Coach for the Shuffle; being considered is increasing mid-day downtime. Mr. Holt stated the major issue this Committee is asking the Freeholder Board is for the Human Services Department to be allowed to start to work on some of the recommendations in the Transportation Committee's report and bring it back, item by item and during 2010, begin to document the savings. Also, it is believed that the Transportation Committee should be re-commissioned to work on items for the 2011 County budget to evaluate the savings, changes made and see the impact of the changes and relook at the 2011 transportation contract and if it is felt the County should or should not take over that contract.

Mr. Holt thanked the members of the Transportation Committee for all their hard work.

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to task the Transportation Committee to move forward with the stated recommendations by Freeholder Holt.

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

#### **FOR DISCUSSION**

The County Planning Board is requesting the Board of Chosen Freeholders adopt a resolution of support of the Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-8A**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Supporting the Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009.

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

#### **Interpretation of the County's Policy on implementation of 2010 Open Space Ballot Question.**

Present: Kevin Richardson, Open Space Trust Fund Coordinator.

Director Mennen informed Mr. Richardson that there is confusion concerning some of the language in the recently improved Open Space Ballot Question; specifically phraseology to "develop, improve and maintain County and municipal lands for recreation and conservation purposes".

Mr. Richardson said he would like to clarify the meaning of "maintain" so that it is clear that the County is talking primarily with capital maintenance expenditures such as the purchase of equipment, materials and supplies necessary for the long term care and public use of recreation and conservation purposes as opposed to maintenance which could include administrative labor costs or expenses by other full time/part time or seasonal employees.

Mr. Richardson has some reservation about the County's trust funds being used to fund paid positions, whether it is for labor or repair maintenance personnel versus the actual capital expenditure of equipment, supplies and materials related to the use and ongoing care of those recreation and conservation lands.

Director Mennen stated before getting into the substance of the definition; he asked Mr. Richardson how he would propose, if this Board did come to a conclusion with regard to the interpretation of those various terms, clarify that interpretation. Would it be in the policy manual?

Mr. Richardson advised it was his initial thought that it would be clarified in a revised policies and procedures manual which outlines the criteria and eligibility of maintenance of municipal recreation and conservation lands, since the ballot question is specific to maintain and develop improve only applies to County and municipal lands acquired for recreational and conservation purposes.

Director Mennen confirmed the Board has had the opportunity to read Mr. Richardson's submissions on this issue. He asked if the Board had any thoughts or questions for Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Sworen advised the County has some municipalities that do not have the opportunity to purchase anymore open space so the money allocated to them, they won't be able to spend on purchasing open space. In order for these municipalities to maintain the open space they currently have in terms of improving parks could they put in equipment, or in a field, or whatever they choose to do with the money that goes back to them. It would not be used to fund a clerical position or such.

Mr. Richardson thinks it is relatively clear what is meant by "develop" and "improve". It was just a question of maintain because it could be maintenance which means labor costs, people responsible for maintaining those lands.

Mr. Sworen confirmed if a municipality has a park that maintenance of park equipment would be included under this question that they would be able to replace equipment that doesn't meet code. Mr. Richardson feels the purchase of equipment is more capital in nature, it is long term and has a specific lifespan and it could be inclusive in "develop", "improve" or "maintain".

Mr. Melick questioned if a clubhouse would fit into this.

Mr. Richardson said if there was an existing clubhouse or someone wanted to build a clubhouse and it was for the "development," "improvement," and "maintenance" of the public's use of recreation and conservation lands that would be discussed, reviewed and recommended ultimately by the Open Space Advisory Committee if it is submitted by a municipality. He has recently talked with Freeholder Sworen and confirmed this would not necessarily extend to County owned lands which comes under the purview of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in terms of what gets approved or developed on County parkland; that would still be a capital budget request submitted by the County's Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Holt confirmed Mr. Richardson is asking for clarification on the definition of the Ballot Question.

Mr. Holt suggested that since Director Mennen and Freeholder Sworen worked on the Open Space policy that they may want to take a stand in creating the definitions for the Ballot Question by working with Mr. Richardson and once the question is clarified, it can be brought back before the Board.

Director Mennen said whether Mr. Richardson drafts something or he and Mr. Sworen work with Mr. Richardson, they need to have a sense of what the pulse of this Board is in order to do the job right, in terms of definition and the interpretation of the phrases. He confirmed Mr. Sworen stated a concurrence with Mr. Richardson's interpretation that it would not extend to salaries and things of that sort but would be available for capital purchases such as tractors, mowers and trucks. Mr. Richardson added also such as items of playground equipment/apparatus or structures and facilities related to parks.

Mr. Holt said he would agree to that as long as there are tight guidelines with regard to what the items are and possibly percentages for same because he feels the public's intention is the money should go for land. The reason for the wording of "development" and "improvement" was to look beyond the next few years to the point where there are x-number acres of lands which are preserved. He recalls that in 2007 Freeholder Peterson saying that at some point in time there has to be a plan for what can be done with the land. Mr. Holt explained that as the County's needs change the language may change.

Mrs. Yard asked the Board if they would like Mr. Richardson to draft something and bring it back to the Board.

Director Mennen advised he isn't sure he shares entirely, the interpretation. He's not sure his interpretation of "develop" or "maintain" extends to the purchase of a lawnmower or a dump truck. He anticipated the building of a trail or taking action if a parcel became overgrown with an invasive species. Director Mennen said if he were to draft something, that would be his standpoint but he would be happy to exercise the will of the Board as a whole but we need to be clear on what that will is.

After further discussion by the Board, Director Mennen directed Mr. Richardson to draft a policy so that he and Mr. Sworen can review it, and then it will be brought back to the Board no later than November 04, 2009.

#### Historic Structures

Director Mennen confirmed Mr. Richardson had a question regarding historic structures. He would like to see this folded into the same methodology that is being done with the other clarification. Mr. Richardson agreed.



Mr. Richardson informed the Board that he had an opportunity to talk with Stephanie Stevens of the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission about historic structures and there are a few things she had suggested which could be put in a proposal for the Board to consider.

Mrs. Yard advised that when the County looked at the plan, the Cultural & Heritage Commission was included in the review process and they are to recommend to the Board of Freeholders on an annual basis. Mr. Richardson feels this was for the advent of the removal of County and municipal owned historic properties and potentially entertaining requests by private interests and private property owners.

Director Mennen directed Mr. Richardson to provide a first draft of this policy to Mr. Sworen and himself in the next week for review. This is to be discussed by the Board at their November 14, 2009 meeting.

**OPEN SPACE**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-10A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving, upon the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, one Municipal Grant to West Amwell Township, in the amount of \$28,359.61 and one Non-profit Grant to Hunterdon Land Trust, in the amount of \$84,000, for the allocation of FY 2008/ CY 2009 County Open Space Trust Funds.

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

County Counsel DeSapio recommended that in the future that Mr. Richardson break the resolutions of this type into two sections, one for the municipal grant and the other for the non-profits.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-10B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving, upon the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, three supplemental funding requests, from current allocation of FY 2008/CY 2009 Open Space Trust Funds to Bethlehem Township, increase of \$11,932.61 to the previously approved amount of \$48,750; New Jersey Conservation Foundation, increase of \$4,024.80 to the previously approved amount of \$207,720; and the New Jersey Audubon Society, increase of \$3,000 to the previously approved amount of \$54,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-10C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving, upon the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Board, a request by Tewksbury Land Trust to assign and convey its real property interest in Block 30, Lot 4.01 (n/f Devlin parcel) after closing to the Upper Raritan Watershed Association.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-10D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Green Acres Application for a loan in the amount of \$1,975,000 and/or grant in the amount of \$7,148,350 to further the Hunterdon County Open Space Plan. The County would provide a County Match of \$1,000,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-10E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the Freeholder Director to sign Amendment No. 7, to the Green Acres Agreement for an additional \$1,000,000 in matching (50%) grant funds to continue with the Open Space Plan Acquisition.

Mr. DeSapio advised one or more of the Freeholders have had questions about this in the past and he wanted to make sure that the Board has had an adequate opportunity to examine this. The statute says if the County uses either Green Acres funds or County Open Space funds to acquire property that all of those parcels are to be encumbered by Green Acres requirements. Mr. Richardson has provided a list to the resolution.

Mr. DeSapio advised the last time a Freeholder raised this issue, it was agreed and thought that in the future as the County acquires parcels they would be given some examination on whether or not the Board wants to break up or subdivide the parcels to keep certain portions of them free of the Green Acres restrictions. An example would be if property were purchased with a house, the County may want to subdivide the house off and fund that acquisition with money other than Open Space funds so the house can be sold later or use it for other County purposes.

Mr. Richardson informed the Board that only those lands that are owned, held and used by the County for recreation and conservation purposes get listed on this inventory. The property in Franklin Township known as the Drag Strip property was never intended or used for recreation or conservation purposes and therefore, does not get included on the inventory. The same with the County's libraries and other facilities. With any acquisition, it would require the certification and availability of other funds if the Freeholders made a decision not to encumber a portion of the property.

Mr. DeSapio feels if the County acquires property in the future, that a study be done as to what the future uses might be because there are ways to message this in order to use Open Space funds to acquire a portion of the property and other portions of the property that the County may want to use for other purposes can be set aside but they have to be set aside before the closing.

Mr. Melick would prefer not to purchase improvements, as they cost money and cause problems.

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

Mr. Melick recused himself from the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

### **FARMLAND PRESERVATION**

Sue Dziamara, Planning Board Director, reported that the County's Agriculture Development Board (CADB) is asking the Freeholder Board to make a decision on the cost share for the Shaun Pfiefer/West Amwell Township application. The reason the CADB is asking the Board's guidance because this is a fee simple acquisition and the CADB told the applicant they will contribute their 20% on the easement value only. West Amwell had two appraisals done and one came in at \$10,500 per acre and the other came in at \$7,000 per acres. The CADB was not comfortable in averaging the two appraisals to use that price. The CADB suggested that the Freeholder Board authorize them to hire a review appraiser who would review the two current appraisals to determine a certified market value. Mrs. Dziamara advised that typically the state issues a certified market value in this manner. Her staff estimates it would cost \$3,000 to \$5,000 for a review appraiser. The option values for West Amwell Township have been \$10,000 to \$13,000 an acre over the past three years.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Holt recommended a price of \$8,750 per acre which is the difference between the two appraisals. The Board agreed.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-11A RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing final approval to the proposed County cost share at easement value for the fee simple acquisition of property known as Block 8, Lots 20 and 36, in West Amwell Township, consisting of 130 acres, (SADC - \$825,000, County - \$227,700, Township - \$447,300), total amount of \$1,500,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-11B RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing a proposed acquisition of development easement from Philip and Anna Felix, Block 14, Lot 23, in Kingwood, consisting of 175 acres, (SADC - \$750,000, County - \$250,000, Township - \$250,000; shortfall of \$325,000 to come from RFPP Funds (Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Fund Program), total amount of \$1,575,000; and authorizing County Counsel to prepare a Municipal/County Cost Sharing Agreement.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-11C RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing a proposed acquisition of development easement from the Henry Boss Estate, Block 15, Lot 7, in Holland Township, consisting of 135 acres; (SADC - \$567,000, County - \$189,000, Township - \$189,000), total amount of \$945,000; and authorizing County Counsel to prepare a Municipal/County Cost Sharing Agreement.

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

Mr. Peterson recused himself from the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and Mr. Melick returned to the meeting.

Update on the Highlands' Conformance Process

Director Mennen advised correspondence back and forth with regard to the County's obligation, whether it was for comments or other specific action taken with regard to Highlands' conformance. The Board felt Mrs. Dziamara could provide an update as to where this issue is.

Mrs. Dziamara informed the Board that in January 2009, the County submitted a notice of intent to petition for plan conformance within the Highlands' Preservation area. In May 2009, the County Planning Board submitted a Planning Assistance Grant for the initial assessment program in the amount of \$15,000 and in August 2009, the deliverables for that grant were delivered and it was accepted in September 2009 and the County was told to process its bill; so the County has submitted for the \$15,000 initial assessment grant.

Mrs. Dziamara informed the Board that on tonight's agenda is a grant request to apply for the 2009 Plan Conformance Grant from the Highlands Water Protection Council in the amount of \$20,000, which could be increased to \$50,000.

Mrs. Dziamara advised the comments were due to the Highlands' Council yesterday concerning the land development regulations but she did not feel comfortable in submitting comments at this time. The County planners have been meeting with the Highlands' Council on a regular basis.

Director Mennen confirmed those comments were solicited within the last week or two. The turn around time was one week. Mrs. Dziamara reported they were received the last Friday in September and they were due on Monday. Mr. Sworen confirmed the land development regulations were over 51 pages and an answer was expected in a week.

Mrs. Dziamara explained to the Board that she felt like the discussion at the Highlands Council meeting on Friday was beneficial. There were issues brought up by many of the other involved counties. The deadline for submission of all of the Plan Conformance documents is December 08, 2009. Mrs. Dziamara reported she had a long discussion with the executive director of the Highlands' Council, Eileen Swan, today, and she asked the County to do the best it can. The forms are where they need to be. Mrs. Dziamara told Mrs. Swan that Hunterdon would make those documents fit Hunterdon's policies and objectives and that she was convinced there would be some language shifts; one area is where they talk about making preservation of land in the Highlands a priority. Mrs. Dziamara feels that based on the history of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders that it was felt Hunterdon would support preservation in the Highlands but at the expense of the preservation efforts in the rest of the County, she wasn't sure the Board would agree to that. Mrs. Dziamara advised that is one of the issues the Freeholders will be asked to weigh in on.

Mrs. Dziamara stated her office will continue to go through the land development regulations of the Highlands' Council. It will be taken to the Planning Board and she will report back to the Freeholder Board and the Freeholders Board will be asked approve the submittal to the Highlands' Council the first week in December 2009.

Director Mennen confirmed with Mrs. Dziamara that even though the date for submission of comments was this past Monday, this continues to be a work in progress with more information to come from the Highlands' Council. Mrs. Dziamara has told the Highlands' Council that Hunterdon would be adjusting the language that is in the draft documents and they replied that as long as they know what is being done, they will work with the County.

Mr. Peterson returned to the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

**FINANCE**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-12A**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 09-09**

**INTRODUCTION, ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS AT HERON GLEN GOLF COURSE FOR THE HUNTERDON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, BY THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND APPROPRIATING \$170,000.00 THEREFORE.**

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-12B**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 10-09**

**INTRODUCTION, ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING IMPROVEMENTS AND RENOVATIONS AT VARIOUS COUNTY FACILITIES, BY THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND APPROPRIATING \$150,000.00 THEREFORE.**

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



Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-13A** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2009 Budget for the Subregional Transportation Planning Program, in the amount of \$51,904.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-13B** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2009 Budget for the Highlands Plan Conformance Grant, in the amount of \$20,000.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-13C** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2009 Budget for the Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Task Force Grant, in the amount of \$30,831.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-13D** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2009 Budget for the State Health Services Grant, in the amount of \$265,438.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-13E** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2009 Budget for the Section 5311 Grant, in the amount of \$404,993.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-13F** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services approves the County's Matching Funds for the Section 5311 Grant, in the amount of \$134,998.

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

**PURCHASING**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-13G** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2009-17, for Maintenance and Repair Materials for Roads and Bridges, to Campbell Foundry Company, amount not to exceed \$8,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-13H** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of Bid #2009-17, for Maintenance and Repair Materials for Roads and Bridges, to Flemington Bituminous Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$118,000.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-14A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2009-17, for Maintenance and Repair Materials for Roads and Bridges, to Oldcastle Precast Pipe, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$22,000.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-14B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2009-17, for Maintenance and Repair Materials for Roads and Bridges, to Stavola Construction Materials, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-14C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2009-17, for Maintenance and Repair Materials for Roads and Bridges, to Tilcon New York, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$154,000.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-14D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2009-17, for Maintenance and Repair Materials for Roads and Bridges, to Trap Rock Industries, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$56,000.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-14E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a modification to the professional services agreement with Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc., for additional work, not a part of the original agreement, in connection with scoping and development for the replacement of County Bridge E-166, Route 602 over the Back Brook, in East Amwell Township, increase of \$20,200.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-14F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the County to serve as the Lead Agency for Cooperating Pricing Agreements with the local government units within the County.

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

**ROADS and BRIDGES Update**

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

- County Route 523 running from Lipton Tea, Inc. up to Pleasant Run Road, the contractor started work on Monday, clearing trees, then grading will be done on some of the banks, and the top course should be done by next spring.
- The veneer is complete on the retaining wall in Pittstown. All road work and milling will be started next week with a railing to be installed the following week.
- Final plans and specifications for County Route 635 will be on the October 20, 2009 agenda. The start date for this project is expected to be March 15, 2010.
- The preconstruction meeting for Resurfacing various County Roads has been held. The contractor should provide a schedule shortly. The contractor expects to be done by Thanksgiving.
- Work on Inter-County Bridge B-26-W is being held up due to utilities. There are a couple utility poles that need to be reset because the contractor can't work within the proximity of the power lines.

- County Bridge D-345 has been on the books for quite sometime, it is now moving. The precast units should be set October 26, 2009. The superstructure to the bridge is gone and the work for the foundations is being done.
- The railing is going up on County Bridge M-110 in Milford and paving will be done this Thursday and Friday of this week. The project along with punch list items should be completed within the following week.
- The contractor for the emergency repairs to County Bridge T-88 and T-102 has begun to mobilize at the site and expects to be on site October 13, 2009. The steel should be ready to be picked up on October 20, 2009. The anticipated completion of this bridge should be November 25, 2009.
- The Water Street project is underway, the easterly abutment. There was an issue with a 40 foot utility pole; it will be undermined by about 6 feet. A meeting was held with the utility and they will be putting in a 50 foot pole so the project can continue.
- The in-house project, County Culvert D-329, on Pine Hill Road, was closed on Monday, October 05, 2009 for reconstruction.
- The railing system for County Bridge P-169, on Kingwood Avenue in Frenchtown, has come in. Installation of the pedestrian railing on the downstream side will start on October 13, 2009.
- County Culvert U-42 on Main Street in Union Township is now open.
- Comments have been received from Franklin Township on County Bridge F-45, on Whitebridge Road and they are being incorporated into the plans.
- Negotiations continue for right-of-way acquisitions for County Bridge E-174, in East Amwell Township.
- Authorization has been received from the Federal Highway Administration about going to construction for County Bridge RQ-164, on Rockafellows Mills Road. This is the truss bridge across the South Branch.
- Final documents need to be executed by the contractor for the County Route 523/612 Intersection in Raritan Township by Lipton Tea.
- The utility work for County Route 517/523 with Embarq and the cable company to relocate the line is scheduled for this week. The contractor is scheduled to remobilize on October 12, 2009. Also, JCP&L has completed their work.
- Federal Aid projects will be County Route 512 and Route 517 to be considered one project and another will be Route 623 and 625. These projects have been sent out for approval.

Mr. Glynn informed the Board he is looking for approval for emergency funding for County Bridge L-36, in the amount of \$10,938.28, T-88 in the amount of \$235,591 and T-102 in the amount of \$325,532.31. Mr. Glynn reported there is a good chance the County will be reimbursed for the work which is ongoing. The County has made application and the state is looking for an official request, in the amount of \$572,061.59 which includes all three projects.

Denise Doolan, Clerk of the Board informed the Director that this grant for emergency funding is listed under the Grant portion of the agenda for approval this evening.

#### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT/H1N1 Update**

John Beckley, Director, provided the Board with information on the H1N1 preparation in the County.

- Nationally 27 states currently have widespread H1N1 activity. New Jersey is not among those states.
- The feds are still saying the timing, the spread and the severity is uncertain.
- As of the last week in September, there were 11 reported pediatric deaths in America due to H1N1 complications.
- The H1N1 vaccine is entirely safe and effective despite what is reported in the press. It is equal in efficacy and safety to any other seasonal flu; it is made exactly the same way. There have been rumors and unfounded fears related to taking the new vaccine because it is perceived by some as being "new". It is no different from any other new seasonal flu vaccine that has new components each year.
- The nasal spray vaccine is being shipped this week around the country. There will be news reports of the first doses of that vaccine which is squirted in the nose. Only 3 million doses were made nationwide.
- The injectable vaccine which will be the lions share of the doses do not have a ship date yet. They are expected in late October.
- The final decision was made a week or two ago, that for children under 10 years old, they will need two doses a month apart; people 10 years old and up, one dose.
- The objective remains to vaccinate as many people as possible; as quickly as possible.
- Mr. Beckley thanked the Freeholder Board for processing the grant budget revision listed on this evening's agenda which will pave the way for the County to accept the additional funding of \$256,000.
- The Health Department tried to place an initial order for the injectable vaccine yesterday but the system would not take the order because they are not accepting orders. Now, the County has to apply to the state for an order and the state places its order each day to the CDC.
- The Health Department was advised this week by the state that the County has to support an antiviral medication program for underinsured and uninsured County residents. Any individual who has a prescription from their doctor for an antiviral course of treatment or prophylaxis, who is uninsured or is insured but does not have a prescription plan, then participating pharmacies will fill that prescription and charge a modest dispensing fee and then those pharmacies will certify to the Health Department

that they provided free medication and the Health Department will re-supply the pharmacy. A letter was sent to all pharmacies, statewide, inviting them to voluntarily participate. It is expected that at least a handful of pharmacies in Hunterdon will participate.

- Based on surveillance data which the Health Department tracks each day, there is not seen any significant flu activity in Hunterdon as of the past week.
- The Health Department Community Clinics have not been announced yet because they need the assurance that there will be enough vaccine on hand.
- A data entry project is required in order to reorder the vaccine. The County will have to demonstrate accountability for all the doses received. Through the Human Resources Director, a request was placed for any County worker who is in a clerical job title, who would like to make overtime to volunteer to become a data entry clerk after hours and in the evening and if need be, they can work on Saturday mornings. So far, there are 27 volunteers. A group email has been created and they were contacted and informed they are on a register of data entry team members. Training for these people will be this Thursday evening and Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. The training takes half an hour.
- The Health Department is still looking for vaccinators. There are not enough qualified vaccinators to staff all of the clinic dates. They are looking for another 30 community residents who are qualified and licensed as health care providers to give vaccinations. A colorful ad will be placed in this weeks Hunterdon County Democrat reaching out to the members of the community who are licensed physicians, nurses or nurse practitioners.
- Pregnant women are at high risk and must be vaccinated.
- Young children under 6 months cannot take the vaccine so they have to be cocooned. So all their caregivers or anyone who has interaction with the infant has to be vaccinated so they are protected from getting infected.

Mr. Peterson asked how long it takes, once someone has been vaccinated, to be protected. Mr. Beckley stated one week.

Director Mennen confirmed with Mr. Beckley that the purpose of the Call Center, which was previously discussed and approved for funding, is to have a central location for people to answer the phone and would have access to Doctor's appointment books whether it be electronic or whatever; so that the Doctors and their offices could focus on the medical aspect and not have to worry about answering calls.

Director Mennen asked if there are any limitations on the Doctors that could participate in that "Call Center" service. Mr. Beckley stated they need to have compatible software in the practice, called NextGen.

Director Mennen asked if the software is what is used by most Doctors? Mr. Beckley advised it is one of the recognized software programs. He is not sure how common it is. Director Mennen asked Mr. Beckley to guess whether half or more than half of Hunterdon's Doctors may use this software? Mr. Beckley stated that all of the Hunterdon Medical Center owned practices are standardized and that is what enables this to work.

Director Mennen asked how the County can see to it that this service extends beyond just those physicians offices that are interrelated with the Hunterdon Medical Center. Mr. Beckley stated any other practice that has the same software.

Director Mennen asked how that opportunity is being communicated to the doctors in the County. Mr. Beckley stated they will be invited to participate. Director Mennen confirmed with Mr. Beckley that, that has not taken place yet. Mr. Beckley stated it will happen before things are up. It will be done through a LINKS push to all the non-Hunterdon Medical Center practices.

Director Mennen stated that the spirit in which this Board approved the expenditure for the "Call Center" was to take advantage to efficiently utilize doctors for all the citizens of the County not just those who are affiliated with the Hunterdon Medical Center. He wants to make sure the County is doing all it can do to see to it that everyone is made aware. Director Mennen confirmed with Mr. Beckley this will be done.

Mr. Melick asked what the software would cost for those physician offices that do not currently have it. Mr. Beckley stated he doesn't know any of the costs. He does not feel that new software can be brought into a practice on short notice. They are running on something now.

Mr. Melick told Mr. Beckley that he came before the Board and convinced us to do something and it appears it is only benefitting the Hunterdon Medical Center. There are many other physicians in the County not a part of the Hunterdon Medical Center. Mr. Beckley stated any medical practice that has the same tool can utilize this service. He informed the Board that the Hunterdon Medical Center will be given the lions' share of vaccine doses.

Mr. Melick said this is public money and the Freeholders want to be fair to everyone. Mr. Beckley stated the Health Department is fair to everyone. If doctors' offices have the capability to plug into this initiative, they can choose to be part of it.

Director Mennen asked if it is critical or imperative that the LINK be the software program. Mr. Beckley stated the LINK is what enables this to be done. It is the uniqueness of the one person sitting at one workstation, who can go into the software to see the open appointment block.

Director Mennen stated the Board spent a lot of time at the last meeting discussing this, asking about what is in this for the Hunterdon Medical Center. What special advantage are they getting? Mr. Beckley stated it helps them help the County. Director Mennen understands that but he does not feel the Board got the sense that this was limited only to doctors who either participate in the Hunterdon Medical Center's medical system or who have access only to the NextGen software. Director Mennen said maybe he misheard or did not hear and if that's the case he apologizes.

Director Mennen confirmed Mr. Beckley will be back with more updates as need be.

#### **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."

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated October 06, 2009.

**See Page 10/06/09-17A**

#### **CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the Social Services Funds Report for August 2009.

**See Page 10/06/09-17B**

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS REPORT**

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

**See Page 10/06/09-17C**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Angela Zieniuk appointed permanent, full time Principal Clerk Transcriber, Prosecutor's Office.

**See Page 10/06/09-17D**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Danielle Aloiso appointed permanent, full time REHS Trainee, Health Department.

**See Page 10/06/09-17E**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Anna Suarez appointed temporary, as needed, Student Assistant, Library.

**See Page 10/06/09-17F**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Lester Podolec appointed temporary, as needed Instructor, Emergency Services Division of the Public Safety Department. (Fire School Instructor).

**See Page 10/06/09-17G**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the acquisition of a portion of property in fee simple, along with drainage and bridge easements, from Block 25, Lot 2.03, and for the fee simple acquisition of Block 27, Lot 40, from Robert A. Foster and Carol D. Foster, in the amount of \$22,600.

**See Page 10/06/09-17H**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving final payment for County Bid #2009-07, for the 2009 Painting of Hunterdon County Bridges U-36, U-37, T-73, R-168, D-304A, D-304B and alternates H-91 and Q-160, to US Tank Painting, Inc., in the amount of \$88,772.

**See Page 10/06/09-17I**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an application and agreement for State Aid to Counties and Municipalities under the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, for the improvement of County Bridge D-300, on Rosemont-Raven Rock Road, in Delaware Township.

**See Page 10/06/09-17J**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an application and agreement for State Aid to Counties and Municipalities under the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, for the improvement and Rehabilitation of County Bridge RQ-164, on Rockafellows Mill Road, in Raritan and Readington Townships.

**See Page 10/06/09-17K**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an Interlocal Health Services Agreement with Flemington Borough for certain public health activities and services.

See Page 10/06/09-18A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Clinical Laboratory License in connection with the HIV program administered by UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School University Diagnostic Laboratories, for the Health Department, at the HIV Counseling & Testing Center.

See Page 10/06/09-18B

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a modification for the Reconstruction of InterCounty Bridge B-26-W, in Hunterdon and Warren Counties, increase of \$30,000 (each County's cost shall be \$15,000), for Medina Consultants to provide inspection services.

See Page 10/06/09-18C

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a modification for the Reconstruction of InterCounty Bridge B-26-W, in Hunterdon and Warren Counties, increase of \$6,000 (each County's cost shall be \$3,000), for Kupper LLC, to review shop drawing submittals from the contractor.

See Page 10/06/09-18D

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an application for a Blue Light for Mark Conover, on the County's HAZMAT Team.

See Page 10/06/09-18E

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the supplementary specifications for the Resurfacing of County Routes 623 and 625.

See Page 10/06/09-18F

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the specifications for the Resurfacing of Hunterdon County Routes 512 and 517.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 10/06/09-18G

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, [Authorizing a member of the Board to sign a professional services agreement with John P. Gallina, Esquire, for legal services in connection with eminent domain issues.](#)

See Page 10/06/09-18H

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, [Approving a professional services agreement with John P. Gallina, Esquire, for legal services in connection with eminent domain issues, in an amount not to exceed \\$15,000.](#)

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

**PROCLAMATION**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/06/09-18I

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Welcoming the New Jersey National Guard 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team home.

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

**GRANTS**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/06/09-18J

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation to fund three Emergency Repair projects: Culvert T-102 on Rockaway Road in Tewksbury Township; County Bridge T-88 on Guinea Hollow Road in Tewksbury Township and County Bridge L-36 on Buffalo Hollow Road in Lebanon Township.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-19A** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving County Modification #1, with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, for the increased provision of \$36,000 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, awarded to the Division of Social Services, for the Homeless Contract #SH09010.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-19B** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the "Hunterdon County 2010 Request for Application (RFA) Update and County Alliance Plan" and recommending its transmittal to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

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

Mr. Peterson moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-19C** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, for the Multi-Jurisdictional County Gang, Guns and Narcotics Task Forces Grant, in the amount of \$61,662. (\$30,831 federal funds and a County Match of \$30,831).

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-19D** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the renewal of a Title IV-D Reimbursement Agreement with the New Jersey Division of Family Development, to serve warrants by the Sheriff's Office, in the amount of \$275,520.05.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-19E** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Accepting a Subgrant Award with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, for the Hunterdon County Victim Assistance Project/Victims of Crime Act grant, in the amount of \$90,570, (\$72,456 in federal funds and \$18,114 in Kind funds).

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-19F** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Accepting a Subgrant Award with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, for the FY 2009 FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant, in the amount of \$100,000 (\$50,000 federal funds and a County Match of \$50,000).

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-19G** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Planning Assistance Grant application with the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection Council, in the amount of \$20,000.

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



Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-20A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Hunterdon County Local Arts Program Block Grant for the County Library, to facilitate educational, cultural and musical programs at the Route 12 Headquarters and Clinton Libraries, in the amount of \$20,000 (\$10,000 Special Project funds and a County Match of \$10,000).

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-20B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the acceptance of an increase to the Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant, from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, through August 09, 2010, increase of \$265,438.

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

**COUNTY COUNSEL**

County Counsel, Gaetano M. DeSapio informed the Board that approval is needed to schedule the closing for the Horseshoe Bend property, known as Block 13, Lot 30, which may occur on or before November 10, 2009.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 10/06/09-20C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing County Counsel to schedule the closing for the purpose of the Horseshoe Bend Road property in Kingwood Township, Block 13, Lot 30, which lays out specific thresholds and contingencies that need to be met and upon the condition of those being met, establishing a potential closing date on or before November 10, 2009.

Director Mennen advised the Board has two Freeholders' meetings to assess the status of this project.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A request was received from the Kingwood Township First Aid & Rescue Squad, Inc., requesting the County again paint "NO PARKING" on the apron of the Squad Building, as it has faded. Mr. Glynn does not recall the County doing this in the past but it could have been done. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion authorizing County resources and manpower to paint "NO PARKING" in front of the bays of the Rescue Squad building in Baptistown.

Director Mennen asked if this sets a precedent. Mr. Glynn does not feel this will set a precedent. He feels the County has filled other requests for rescue squads.

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

**FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS**

**Friends of the Parks**

Mr. Sworen asked about a request for a Friends of the Park. Mr. DeSapio reported a draft of those documents has been provided to the Board of Freeholders today. A copy can be found on each desk of the Board downstairs. When the Board has an opportunity to review this document, just let him know who else should receive a copy. The Board can take action at the next meeting if everything is in order.

Mr. Sworen stated he will provide a copy to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Mr. DeSapio provided a quick overview of the intent of the "Friends of the Park". A request was received a few years back by two groups of people to create Friends of organizations; one was Friends of the Park and the other was Friends of the Surrogate and there maybe a third, he can't recall at this time.

Mr. DeSapio stated the groups wanted to use the term just like the Friends of the Library uses the term in order to solicit funds from the public. At the time, the County's Risk Manager, Pete Tarricone was very active in the Parks Advisory Board and he came to Mr. DeSapio that this should be coordinated and there should not be different groups, each representing that they are trying to solicit funds on behalf of the County without any overall monitoring and control to ensure that there was no misrepresentation taking place; and also that everyone complies with the legal requirements in order to obtain tax exemption. Mr. Tarricone conceptualized an arrangement where an overall Friends of Hunterdon County, Inc. would be established and that group would obtain 501C3 designation and they would charter subgroups. They would charter a Friends of the Park, and a Friends of the Surrogate and these groups would be chartered and authorized to

use the 501C3 authorization provided they complied with certain requirements and those requirements are outlined in the document. Essentially, it is accountings and making sure funds are turned over; making the books and records available to the County and having a membership that is open to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. This would provide the County the ability to monitor what is going on and it would also give the public assurance that one organization raising money will be monitored as to the costs of fund raising and the money is used for its intended purpose.

Mr. Sworen stated he would like to see this on the Board's next agenda.

#### Civil War Reinactment

Mr. Sworen reported at the Boy Scouts camp at Teetertown Preservation had a reenactment of the Civil War during their camp last week. Approximately 500 scouts learned what the Civil War was about. The LINK was there also. The Freeholder Board received a certificate. Mr. Sworen was impressed about the Parks Director, John Trontis, on his ability to blow a bugle and he played eight different musical selections for raising the flag, lowering the flag, assembling and more. It was very interesting.

#### Board Appointments

Mr. Sworen asked the Clerk of the Board, Denise Doolan, to have a list available of all vacancies and appointments for the various County's Boards, Councils and Committees for the next meeting. He explained the process takes longer with the forms that people have to fill out. Mrs. Doolan stated she will provide a list to the Board shortly and place it on their desks.

#### Flu Clinic

Mr. Holt advised that he was asked to inform everyone that the Sunrise Rotary Club is having a Flu Clinic at the Clinton Fire House.

#### Rail Project

Mr. Holt reported that last Tuesday, he spent two hours with New Jersey Transit discussing the Flemington Rail Project. This project needs to move forward in a positive direction.

#### Flu Shots

Mr. Melick reported he got a flu shot last week at WalMart and the whole process took five minutes. The cost for people who have insurance is nothing.

Mr. Sworen advised Shop Rite is having a Flu Clinic and the cost per shot is \$30 but if you have a price plus card and you don't have insurance, they will give you \$15 off your next order.

#### Horseshoe Bend Road property

Mr. Melick stated he voted against the Kingwood Township resolution for the purchase of property on Horseshoe Bend Road because the resolution concerns a lot of environmental issues. At a time when everyone is trying to cut costs because of the economic times, the State of New Jersey, the County of Hunterdon, the Township and non-profits are spending \$9 million for this property. The cost is way out of line. Mr. Melick is aware the cost can be justified by people but these appraisals go back so far and there is probably a loophole to put this through but \$9 million for that piece of property in Kingwood is unconscionable.

#### Director's Summit

Director Mennen stated on October 14, 2009, the County will be having the second Director's Summit meeting and the subject will be Recycling and what the County and municipalities need to do under the State Statutes, as well as, under the new plan which the County has put forward after receiving comments back and suggested revisions from the State Department of Environmental Protection. Other than having a round table will be to further discuss the proposal for shared services position of Certified Recycling Professional. This would be someone who is credentialed and certified which is part of the new State Law. The Director's Summit will be at 5:00 p.m. at the Route 12 County Complex, Building #1, Assembly Room space.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

#### Costs/Bridge projects

Francis Gavigan, West Amwell Township resident, echoed Mr. Melick's sentiment on the costs, she asked that the Freeholders and the Department of Roads and Bridges become creative and work towards doing only what is necessary in bridge projects; even when federal money is available and that there be outreach if there are federal hurdles to local congressmen to see what can be done.

#### Recycling Center

Mrs. Gavigan asked if it would be possible to expand accessibility to the County's Recycling Center at the Transfer Station on Petticoat Junction.

Mr. Melick informed Mrs. Gavigan that anyone who has a commercial vehicle or a trailer can obtain a permit from the State Department of Environmental Protection for around \$100 for two years and that permits you to access the recycling center anytime. There are small contractors utilizing these permits.

Mr. Melick explained to Mrs. Gavigan that the reason the transfer station/recycling center is limited to the public on Saturday morning is because at that time there are no haulers using the facility. He explained an incident which occurred at the facility 20 years ago. There are trucks backing up all the time just using mirrors. He stated the transfer station/recycling center has many safety procedures in place to protect the public.

Director Mennen suggested Mrs. Gavigan's question be passed along to the Solid Waste/Recycling Director, Alan Johnson as he is charged with recycling. This matter should be discussed at the next Hunterdon County Utilities Authority meeting.

#### Annandale Train Station

Charles Hubbert came before the Board asking the Freeholders to support a resolution adopted by his governing body, Clinton Township on September 23, 2009. He noted he is also on the Clinton Township Council. The resolution asks New Jersey Transit to improve the parking lot at the end of the old Train Station as it is in a dilapidated condition and has no improvements for many years.

Mr. Hubbert advised that HART approved a resolution echoing what Clinton Township is asking New Jersey Transit to do and to increase parking and add a bicycle rack.

Mr. Hubbert stated he attended the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition meeting this past Monday, and New Jersey Transit representatives were present giving updates on various projects and Clinton Township made their concerns known at that time.

Mr. Holt informed those present that the Planning Board is putting together a letter concerning their meeting with the New Jersey Transportation Department (DOT) and New Jersey Transit in support of the Annandale and Lebanon Station seeking maintenance money to upgrade the facilities. Especially to upgrade parking and increase parking in conjunction with continued maintenance. The Planning Board has looked at Clinton Township's resolution and is asking on it by contacting DOT. The Planning Board is forwarding a letter to the DOT in support of this project.

Director Mennen asked that a resolution of support be prepared for the October 20, 2009 agenda but it should be run past the Planning Director first. Mr. Holt agreed saying the resolution and the Planning Board's letter should mirror each other.

#### Questions answered for the press

Warren Cooper, Hunterdon County Democrat Reporter asked if the recommendations on the Open Space Questions and language for clarification for development and maintenance, say what the municipalities can not use the funds for. If a municipality wants to put up pavilion in a park, they would need an architect, an engineer and other work would have to be done. Would funds be available for those professionals? What if a municipality wanted to convert a passive park to active recreation? If there is a referendum there will be legal costs. Would those costs be part of the funds that could be used?

Director Mennen advised Mr. Cooper that his questions make talking points for the Board to consider. He doesn't think anyone thought about the framework or the format, or whatever lends to the least amount of confusion. Will the question state what is allowed versus what is not allowed, is an open question and that has to be considered.

Director Mennen stated this Board needs to consider all the possibilities in order to put together a recommendation for policy language or definition language. Each Board member will have a chance to review this again before it gets codified.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board