

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Main Street County Complex, 2nd Floor, 71 Main Street
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

April 06, 2010

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:13 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Mennen announced: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before January 21, 2010, 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."

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 04/06/10-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a claim from Hunterdon Central Regional High School for payment of \$180,000.

See Page 04/06/10-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss litigation entitled Kobner versus Hunterdon County Sheriff.

See Page 04/06/10-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a land acquisition matter entitled Hunterdon County versus Yard.

See Page 04/06/10-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the law enforcement units.

See Page 04/06/10-1E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the status of a request from Pitney Bowes Software, Inc. for some GIS data.

See Page 04/06/10-1F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues involving appointments to various Boards and Committees.

See Page 04/06/10-1G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the redactions of the minutes of March 16, 2010.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:16 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:08 p.m.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridge E-174

Frances Gavigan of East Amwell Township thanked the majority of the Freeholders for coming to East Amwell to walk the area of the work for Bridge E-174. She appreciates the Board's patience.

Copy Charges

Mrs. Gavigan asked the per page copies charges stand at this time under the Open Public Records Act. Will Hunterdon County be charging \$0.10 per page?

Director Mennen advised the Freeholders' direction was to go for the actual costs. It is believed the actual cost, although that hasn't been confirmed yet, is less than that.

PRESENTATIONS

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award

Mike Horgan advised the ESRG is the Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve. It is a Department of Defense organization and the County of Hunterdon, Board of Chosen Freeholders is being presented this award on behalf of the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve forces for outstanding service and continuing support of national defense.

Mr. Hogan stated the ESRG appreciates the Freeholders' support of the Guard's people who work for the County of Hunterdon. He is a resident of Hunterdon, a volunteer with the ESRG organization. He introduced Tammy Cartagena is the Executive Deputy Director and Tom Branch is the Military Liaison and the Monmouth County Chairman.

The Board of Freeholders stood to receive the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Award.

Ms. Cartagena advised several months ago this Freeholder Board signed a statement of support and she presented that statement framed to the Board also.

New Jersey Foundation for Open Government Transparency Award

Director Mennen reported that Hunterdon County received an award as New Jersey Counties best website and transparency award from the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government.

Director Mennen stated that County Administrator, Cynthia J. Yard and Freeholder, George B. Melick were on hand to receive the actual award at the state house a week ago.

Mrs. Yard explained it was marking national Sunshine Week, which was March 14 through 20, 2010 and it was a combined effort of the New Jersey Taxpayers' Association, Rutgers' Newark School of Public Affairs and Administration, the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government and Common Cause of New Jersey. On the day, she and Mr. Melick went to receive the award to recognize Hunterdon County with the first Transparency Award for progress toward open government, it was primarily about Hunterdon's website but it also talked about how Hunterdon County deals with OPRA (Open Public Records Act) and how the County handles the OPRA process.

Mrs. Yard advised when Mr. Melick was asked about how things get on Hunterdon's website and the process he was very complimentary of the County's staff. Mr. Melick told them when the staff comes before the Freeholder Board and explains something and it's within reason, the Board of Freeholders will support it. They spoke of having one Webmaven.

Mrs. Yard advised the people presenting this award said that larger counties feel in the lower third, if not the lower tenth of this award. There was a series of things looked for on the website to determine how accessible they were for the public and they were very complimentary of Hunterdon. Mrs. Yard stated that she and Mr. Melick were very complimentary of Hunterdon's staff.

The Freeholders presented Carrie Moore, Hunterdon's Webmaven and Bob Thurgarland, PARIS Grant Coordinator with this award.

Mr. Sworen complimented Mrs. Moore saying there are thousands of websites on the internet, some work and some don't but the key to having an informational base and a user friendly and loadable website is a difficult thing to do and Mrs. Moore has done an excellent job with the staff to make this website so efficient.

Director Mennen advised a resolution was presented to the Freeholders yesterday, for consideration today, which would create a new reporting mechanism on the County website for a quarterly, updated status report and case synopsis of all legal actions to which Hunterdon County is a party, including pending lawsuits, recent settlements and/or final judgments. The thought is to allow members of the public to see the active and recently concluded litigation matters to which the County is a party with a very brief synopsis; a synopsis generated by the public pleadings and documents within the public domain.

Mr. Sworen confirmed that County Legal staff to prepare this is the in-house County staff.

Mr. Melick explained that while at the meeting to receive the Transparency Award he asked if there was anything else the County could do and a member from the Taxpayers' Association mentioned that the Andover Township had an ordinance putting all civil actions on their website. Mr. Melick said this will not cost the County anything and it brings information to the public. The County can't disclose any confidential settlements or negotiations.

Mr. Holt would like to see each quarterly report before it goes on the County's webpage.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing that all County litigation matters to which the County is a party be placed in a quarterly report to be placed on the County's webpage.

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

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a deed of easement and grant agreement for the acquisition of a development easement with Tewksbury Associates, Inc., on Block 16, Lots 23, 23.01 and 23.02, in Tewksbury Township, consisting of 48.366 acres, (SADC-\$551,372.40; County-\$183,790.80, Township-\$183,790,80), total amount of \$918,954.00.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving County Requisition #IT.3183, with ESRI, for software maintenance, for Information Technology, in the amount of \$25,150.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving County Requisition #24926, using State Contract A-53804, with Motorola, Inc., for communications equipment for Emergency Services Division of Public Safety, in the amount of \$14,979.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-3D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving County Requisition #40023918, using Quote #0023-2010, with Montage Enterprises, for flail mower parts, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, in the amount of \$14,178.61.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-3E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the professional services agreement with Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc., in connection with scoping and development for the replacement of County Bridge E-166, on Route 602, over the Back Brook, in East Amwell Twp., increase of \$41,500.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-3F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the professional services agreement with Joye and Associates, Inc., in connection with the replacement of County Bridge C-88, on Reformatory Road, over the Beaver Brook, in Clinton Township, increase of \$22,800.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-3G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2008-22, for a one year renewal, for Automated Data Processing Services for the County Tax Board, with Vital Communications, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$56,172.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-3H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2010-02, for the replacement of County Bridge E-166, on County Route 602 (Wertsville Road), over the Back Brook, in East Amwell Township, to Kyle Conti Construction, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$1,240,040.40.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2010-03, for a Hyster Fortis Advance S55fts Lift Truck or approved equivalent, to Liftec, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$21,356.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the distribution of the Local Arts Program grant funds, for Cultural and Heritage in the amount of \$55,601.

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

PROJECT UPDATE

Frank J. Bell, AIA, updated the Board on various County facilities and projects.

- Trying to close out the Hall of Records/Southard Building project. Two items still need to be completed: the rebalancing of the HVAC system and the lighting system is not to manufacturer's specifications. Currently the lighting is in manual mode and the County is holding the contractors funds (\$74,000 owed to contractor) which is 2% of the contract. The County is allowed to retain 2% because the contractor has been extremely slow in responding to the County's requests to get this work completed. Mr. Bell has sent the contractor a letter indicating they have a certain number of days to complete the work. Mr. Bell will be sending the contractor another letter.
- The UPS system for the Emergency Services Addition/Renovation has passed and everything is working well at this point; it is running 24/7. The equipment is hooked up and the Information Technology Department is hooking up their equipment. There is a job meeting tomorrow at 11 am to go through the Information Technology status and the system should be up and running by March 15, 2010.
- The project manual has been received for the Records Retention Center/Warehouse and it will be reviewed by Mr. Bell and the Purchasing Agent in order to get ready to bid this project. Approvals have been received from Raritan Township Planning Board. The County has received the Soil Conservation District permit and now the County is waiting for final review by the local building department and the Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority.
- Everittstown Garage is 95% complete. The drawings will be completed by the end of the week and then the County will get approvals by the various planning boards and construction official for the project, then it will be bid.

COUNTY UPDATE

Portraits of Hunterdon County Justices for the historic Court House

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator informed the Board that former Hunterdon County Judge, Lou Miller, Esquire, contacted her concerning portraits of the former Hunterdon County Justices. Mr. Miller has been involved regarding three paintings that hung in the Historic Court House and in 1997, when the County started renovations on the Court House, they were stored inappropriately and there is some damage to one of them. Mr. Miller was sent by the Cultural and Heritage Commission to see if there was support from the County to restore the portraits. Two of the portraits are almost ready to be re-hung, with just some dusting and cleaning but there is one, the oldest one that needs some work. Mrs. Yard talked with Mr. Miller about the historic trust money that starting in 2011 there will be money and a mechanism for people who want to apply for those funds. Mr. Miller was pleased there was going to be a mechanism to apply for funds. Mrs. Yard feels the portraits would be eligible for these funds and they do belong to the County. One of the portraits will be hung in the Bar Association Office on the second floor of the historic Court House. Mrs. Yard stated that Mr. Miller will be getting a report/cost estimate regarding the portraits.

Bethlehem Township In-Kind Service Request

Mrs. Yard advised the Director of Central Printing and Mail, Bob Thurgarland provided a last minute request from Bethlehem Township for shared services. Bethlehem Township is asking the County to participate in a shared printing service for their municipal spring newsletter and their 2010 directory. Mr. Thurgarland has done an assessment for this work by his department and if it will involve overtime and Mr. Thurgarland quoted the work and there is no anticipated operational interruption.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion stating this request follows the County's process and approved the request from Bethlehem Township to have the County print, at a cost, their Spring Newsletter and 2010 Director.

Mr. Walton noted this is also an opportunity for the County to publicize County programs in municipal newsletters. People can be directed to the County's Harbinger website and other County websites. He recommended the department head contact the municipality and ask to have space for the County place information.

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

Benefits Reform Bills and impact to Hunterdon County employees.
Cheryl Wieder, Human Resources Director, came before the Board.

Mrs. Yard advised at the last budget work session there have been laws signed into effect by Governor Christie with regard to pensions and health benefits. Mrs. Yard advised Ms. Wieder is present to explain the County's understanding. She noted there are still some issues that County Counsel is reviewing. Ms. Wieder will talk about what this means to current employees and employees hired after May 21, 2010.

Ms. Wieder explained in looking through the laws and certifying letters, it appears that no employee should have any changes in their pension or benefits unless there is a break in service. If there is a break in service for part time employees, they have to go into a different pension system when they return, if they work less than 32 hours a week. Listed under current employee, it advises what they are eligible to receive right now. The biggest change is that all public employees will need to contribute at least 1.5% of their base salary beginning after their collective bargaining agreement expires or after May 21, 2010.

Ms. Wieder advised she will be working with County Counsel DeSapio on the clarification on non-contractual employees because the law states that payment is to be applied in the manner consistent with the terms of any collective bargaining agreement where there is community of interest. The County needs to look at all non-contractual and unclassified titles to see if there is a community of interest to determine when they would start paying the 1.5%.

Ms. Wieder stated employees hired after May 21, 2010, most of everything changes; pension enrollment for PERS is limited; people who work more than 32 hours per week – currently its based on the amount made – people who work less than 32 hours per week go into the defined contribution retirement plan if they make \$5,000 or more and that is like a 401K type plan which the state has set up. Ms. Wieder advised the fraction for their pension calculation changed to the years of service over 60 instead of 55 years of age. The five highest years of their salary is used to calculate the pension calculation other than three years currently. All employees hired after May 21, 2010 will have to pay 1.5% of their base pension for their health insurance after retirement.

Ms. Wieder reported currently Hunterdon County offers health benefits to employees if they work 20 or more hours a week; new hires would have to work a minimum of 25 hours per week. The law says that all newly elected officials will no longer be eligible for health coverage and Ms. Wieder is talking with County Counsel because some of the County's policies will have to be updated and some of the terms of the contracts according to the law.

FOR DISCUSSION

Status "Friends of" project

Mr. Sworen reported he has met with some of the people regarding how to establish a "Friends of" group. He has gathered information and forwarded to County Counsel to review.

Disposition of surplus Bush property

Mrs. Yard spoke concerning the Bush property on behalf of John Glynn, Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering as Mr. Glynn is away. Mr. Glynn went through his files and when the County declared the High Bridge Garage surplus, the Freeholder Board requested the garage be offered to the municipality first. Mr. Glynn wanted to ask the Freeholder Board if you want to continue that practice of continuing to offer to the municipality first; in this case it would be Readington Township. Also talked about was a minimum bid. Mrs. Yard was asked by Director Mennen to find out from Mr. Glynn how he determined the minimum bid and Mr. Glynn confirmed the property was not appraised; but given the area surrounding the property he had identified a minimum bid of \$200,000 but it is up to the Board to make the final decision.

Mrs. Yard explained this is coming before the Board this evening because Mr. Glynn wants to proceed but the Board needs to determine if it should be offered to Readington Township first, as has been the County's past practice; and to also determine if the \$200,000 is an appropriate minimum bid.

Director Mennen thinks the property should be offered to Readington Township first on Mr. Glynn's recommendation.

Mr. Walton agreed saying the Bush property should be offered to Readington Township first.

Mrs. Yard explained the Bush property was purchased because the County needed an easement for a Transportation Improvement District (TID).

Mr. Sworen confirmed there are no restrictions on the property. He asked if Readington chooses to purchase the property can they come to the County for farmland preservation or Open Space funding. Mrs. Yard does not believe the property would be eligible for farmland preservation because it's a 3 acre lot and it was purchased purposely with County funds because the County did not want to be restricted.

Mr. Melick has no problem in offering this to Readington Township but he does not want to see this drag out and recommended the Township be given a time with which to make a decision. Director Mennen recommended Readington Township be given 45 days to two months to make a decision.

Mr. DeSapio informed the Board that Mr. Glynn has a process he needs to go through. He has to make a report why the building/property is no longer needed and the pluses and minuses are and the County has to hold two public hearings; one being in the Township and the other at the County. The public process can be started and by that time Readington should provide the County with an answer if they want the property and if they don't it will be put up for bid/auction.

Disposition of surplus property - Choir School

Mr. DeSapio informed the Board that the Board can start the process to dispose of the Choir School because the Choir School Trustees have consented to signing a deed and the County just sent them that paperwork. Mr. DeSapio added that the title search has come back clear on the Choir School and there are no issues.

Director Mennen confirmed this will take the same public process as the Bush property with two public hearings, one at the County Complex and one in the host municipality. Given that the host municipality is where the County Complex is located, does the County still have to hold two public hearings or will one have to be done on site at the Choir School property or at Flemington Borough Hall?

Mr. DeSapio will check the statute regarding that issue. He confirmed that Mr. Glynn will be preparing the report for this property also. Mr. DeSapio noted that the report must be available to the public at least 30 days prior to the public hearing.

Mr. Sworen confirmed the County will be offering the Choir School property to Flemington Borough first. The County could offer the property even prior to Mr. Glynn's report being done to see if there is an interest.

Room Reservation Policy

Mr. DeSapio explained for a number of years the County had a very simple room reservation policy. The policy said if someone wanted to use a room for a civic purpose or an educational purpose, then permission would be given. The rooms can't be used for political purposes.

Mr. DeSapio advised before most of the current Freeholders were on the Board, there was a request by someone who wanted to have a meeting to describe the reasons why people should not elect a specific person. The County decided that could not be done and that individual said it violated the US Constitution and that they had to have equal access to the buildings along with everyone else. Then Freeholder Marcia Karrow worked out a compromise where that meeting was moved to somewhere else. At the urging of then Freeholder Erik Peterson, who recommended looking at the law to develop a policy that is in compliance with United States Supreme Court Rulings on uses of public space. The United States Supreme Court has said there is essentially three types of public space: (1) spaces where historically people have been allowed to protect, picket, exercise their rights of free speech and the entity who owns the space or is responsible for it could only impose not restrictions as to who could use the space but restrictions as to how to use the space safely. If someone wanted to hold a protest rally on the front steps of the historic Court House; the County could not ask why or tell them it can't be held; the County could ask how many people are anticipated coming; what are the arrangements for crowd control; how long will the event last; will this interfere with traffic and the County could require that report and if necessary the County could require financial security to protect against costs and expenses.

Mr. DeSapio advised the County also has spaces the public has no right to use for any purpose because public use is incompatible with that space. For example, the Emergency Services Center or in a waiting area outside the Administrator's Office; those areas are not appropriate because they are not meant for that purpose.

Mr. DeSapio explained rooms such as the meeting rooms, rooms at the library, the Assembly Space at Route 12, Conference Rooms, the Court House, and Echo Hill Lodge can be utilized if the County has a policy that permits public use and the policy has to be content neutral.

Mr. DeSapio stated the buildings can't be used for commercial purposes. Mrs. Yard pointed out that there are some non-profits that are permitted to conduct activities in different spaces around the County and charge for entry. The problem the County is going to have is how to define who can use space and charge for it and who can't. The Freeholders need to think about these issues. If the Board wants to limit this to non-profits Mr. DeSapio will take a closer look at this.

Mr. DeSapio advised discussed about a year ago is the issue of political activity. This policy as drafted distinguishes between discussions of political or civic issues and partisan political activity by saying that partisan political activity i.e. activity which promotes the election or defeat of candidates or promotes the adoption or the defeat of public issues would be barred. The County could instead say "hands off" but previous Freeholder Board felt that would be unseemly; i.e. this is a republican county and everyone wants to hold their petition drive in the Freeholder Meeting Room or they want to hold a kick off campaign for someone for Freeholder. The Board can permit that if it wants but there was some concerns that it would appear unseemly and also; the County has a general policy that says any elected officials that walks around here is no supposed to do or say anything to a County employee which would suggest that they should become involved or take a position in political things. That is unethical conduct for anyone that is an elected official or anyone who is involved politically and previous Freeholder Board felt that way.

Mr. Sworen questioned the use of the historic Court House steps.

Mr. DeSapio advised he is talking about the inside spaces. Since these discussions started a couple years ago, there have been requests to hold different meetings, different clubs, and

County organizations.

Mr. DeSapio explained while this isn't illegal to do this but there was a feeling in the past that it gets a little unseemly but it's a decision this Board has to make.

Mr. DeSapio stated also in the draft policy is that Religious organizations can not be discriminated against for their belief. If Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or whoever is allowed to use space and the local church wants to have their religious education meeting on Route 12, the Board can't say it can't be done because it's religious.

Mr. DeSapio advised there are items in the draft policy, which are discretionary, such as a room can't be used for Religious worship. This isn't talking about theory or philosophy but the space is being used for devotional purposes. He feels that can be barred because of the entanglement between Religion and government.

Mr. DeSapio stated that historically the Freeholders have kept political out and he does not think anyone has ever asked for religious service but as long as a policy is being developed, it was felt that a decision be made.

Mr. DeSapio confirmed for Mr. Sworen that a group could use a room for religious instruction but not for a devotional service.

After further discussion, the Board asked Mr. DeSapio to further review the policy and update it for the Board's decision.

Mrs. Yard added if services are required on a Sunday, it would require a fee. If the fee is to be waived it has to come before the Board. If a group wanted to practice their religion here and someone else asks to practice on the same Sunday, then the County would be in the business of scheduling and who is to say which group would get the room over another group.

Mr. Walton advised it's the same problem if two sewing circles want to use the same room. The religious aspect heightens everyone's awareness.

Mrs. Yard reported if a group wants to use a building during the workweek there isn't a problem. If five or six churches want to hold service in the historic Court House then how to you pick who can use it. It is usually first come first serve for the room and currently no one is allowed to schedule more than six months in advance.

Mr. Sworen confirmed there is a fee schedule and a time schedule currently be used and would continue to be used.

After further discussion, Freeholder Melick recommended working around regular organizations but suggested the County steer away from politics and religion. There are enough public restaurants if someone wants to have a political rally. They could always use the Court House steps but not use the interior of any buildings.

Lois Stewart of Flemington Borough agreed with Mr. Melick; saying that politics and religion should not be held in the County's buildings.

Mr. Walton stated the problem is there is a constitution which guarantees you can't discriminate against people.

Mrs. Stewart recommended the County charge the use of space.

Director Mennen asked for a list of three or four threshold questions with politics in and politics out and religion in and religion out. This way the Freeholders can see where they stand on the threshold questions. Then the Board can look at fee schedules if it is needed.

Mr. Holt would like to see a breakdown of 2008 and 2009 utilization of the County's space. The Board needs to see who has been using the rooms/space.

Director Mennen asked Mrs. Yard for a list of the use of the County's various buildings. Mrs. Yard confirmed that information is available and gather it for the Board to review.

Horseshoe Bend Road

Mr. DeSapio updated the Board on the progress being made at Horseshoe Bend Road property. He noted the County is waiting for the seller to finish his environmental responsibilities. The March 26, 2010 deadline was missed. The dump is not cleaned up and the shed is not back yet. The seller was supposed to propose a new water treatment that treated everything in addition to the arsenic and they proposed a new system that only treated the arsenic.

Mr. DeSapio reported there is now an issue of whether the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should bless the seller's final clean up plan. He reported DEP has developed a new plan to try and get rid of the backlog that exists in their office. When there is no serious, identifiable pollution that exists as a result of the testing, DEP has now sanctioned a certain group of engineers who, currently based upon their experience are permitted to issue the equivalent of a no further action letter on their own signature. The sellers' engineer is in that category and he proposes to give the County something that is similar to an indemnification agreement which says if he tells the County something that is false that he and his firm will be responsible; plus he will give the County an insurance policy/proof of insurance that protects that indemnification. The seller is asking Mr. DeSapio to sign off on that. Mr. DeSapio stated he will consider that but he first wants to see all the paperwork and the form of indemnification, the insurance policy and then the Board can make a decision. Mr. DeSapio asked for those form two weeks ago.

Director Mennen asked if there is any credible reason why the seller can subsequently claim that the delay is the fault of the County.

Mr. DeSapio said no the County is not being unreasonable.

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."

Item #1 and 19 held at this time.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the Social Services Funds Report for February 2010.

See Page 04/06/10-8A

SOCIAL SERVICE FUNDS REPORT

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of March 02, 2010.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 04/06/10-8B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jonathan Currie appointed permanent, full time Public Safety Telecommunicator, Division of Emergency Services, Public Safety Department.

See Page 04/06/10-8C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Appointing temporary, when and as needed Recreation Leaders, for Parks and Recreation.

See Page 04/06/10-8D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Amanda Harris appointed temporary, when and as needed Student Assistant, Library.

See Page 04/06/10-8E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Rebecca Van Horn appointed temporary, as needed Student Assistant, Library.

See Page 04/06/10-8F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Joel Kerwin appointed temporary, when and as needed Instructor, Division of Emergency Management, Public Safety Department.

See Page 04/06/10-8G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Michelle Gardner appointed temporary, when and as needed Instructor, Division of Emergency Management, Public Safety Department.

See Page 04/06/10-8H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Thomas Wilkinson appointed temporary, when and as needed Instructor, Division of Emergency Management, Public Safety Department.

See Page 04/06/10-8I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, William Faust appointed temporary, when and as needed Instructor, Division of Emergency Management, Public Safety Department.

See Page 04/06/10-8J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Carol Faust appointed temporary, when and as needed Instructor, Division of Emergency Management, Public Safety Department.

See Page 04/06/10-8K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a state change order for Emergency Quote #0060-2009, for the Emergency Reconstruction of County Bridge T-102, on Rockaway Road, over the Rockaway Creek, in Tewksbury Township, with HC Contractors, Inc., decrease of \$1,057.79.

See Page 04/06/10-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #30, for County Bid #2005-47, for the Addition and Alteration to the Communications/Emergency Services Center, with DeSapio Construction, in the amount of \$18,828.76.

See Page 04/06/10-9B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #31, for County Bid #2005-47, for the Addition and Alteration to the Communications/Emergency Services Center, with DeSapio Construction, in the amount of \$19,123.03.

See Page 04/06/10-9C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving County Policy #2010-03, for Family and Medical Leaves of Absence.

See Page 04/06/10-9D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a budget modification to the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program (SCDRTAP), increase of \$31,414.64.

See Page 04/06/10-9E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Alliance Subgrant Agreement with the Voorhees Cluster, to implement substance abuse prevention services, in the amount of \$20,300.

See Page 04/06/10-9F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Alliance Subgrant Agreement with the South Hunterdon Cluster, to implement substance abuse prevention services, in the amount of \$14,700.

See Page 04/06/10-9G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Letter of Agreement with the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, for substance abuse prevention and education programming, through the County's municipal alliances, in the amount of \$161,502.

See Page 04/06/10-9H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Application II, with New Jersey Transit, Section 5310, for the provision of two (2) vehicles, one (1) extended Minibus and one (1) small Transit for use through the County's Consolidated Transportation System.

See Page 04/06/10-9I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement with Richard Monacchio, for juvenile sex offender treatment, in an amount not to exceed \$13,625.

See Page 04/06/10-9J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Inter-Local Agreement for public hearing activities and services, with Holland Township.

See Page 04/06/10-9K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a fixed weight limit on Bridge W-71, on County Route 579, in West Amwell Township.

See Page 04/06/10-9L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Betsey Hornberger to the Mental Health Board.

See Page 04/06/10-9M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Glenn Duncan to the Human Services Advisory Council, effective May 01, 2010 through April 30, 2013.

See Page 04/06/10-9N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Diane Clapp to the Human Services Advisory Council, effective May 01, 2010 through April 30, 2013.

See Page 04/06/10-9O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the reappointment of Kathy Straley to the Human Services Advisory Board, effective May 01, 2010 through April 30, 2013.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 06, 2010 minus Check No. 127799.

See Page 04/06/10-10A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve Check No. 127799.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-10B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Alliance Subgrant Agreement with the Delaware Cluster, to implement substance abuse prevention services, in the amount of \$18,400.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-10C

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April as Autism Awareness Month.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-10D

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Steven Perlack for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-10E

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing the coaches and members of the North Hunterdon Regional High School Lady Lions Basketball Team, for achieving the status of 2010 Group IV Girls State Basketball Champions.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-10F

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Clarence Hackman for 50 years of service in the Whitehouse Fire Company.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-10G

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Robert Gibson for 60 years of service with the Hampton Fire Company.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-10H

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April 18 through 24, 2010 as Crime Victims' Rights Week in Hunterdon.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-11A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant agreement with Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation, Inc., to support dental services for low income, uninsured children, in the amount of \$30,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-11B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) grant agreement, in the amount of \$222,708, (\$112,588 – state funds and a County Match - \$110,120).

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/06/10-11C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-025/026, for Congregate and Home Delivered Meals, with the New Jersey Department of Senior Services, Division of Aging and Community Services, in the amount of \$127,392 in federal funds, \$38,089 in state funds and \$133,350 in local funds.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 04/06/10-11D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-033, for Home Delivered Expansion Meals, with the New Jersey Department of Senior Services, Division of Aging and Community Services, in the amount of \$16,850 in state funds and \$11,938 in local funds.

See Page 04/06/10-11E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Area Plan Grant #10-053, for State Home Delivered Meals, with the New Jersey Department of Senior Services, Division of Aging and Community Services, in the amount of \$395,676 in federal funds, \$352,150 in state funds and \$1,118 in local funds.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Knights of Columbus, asking permission to permanently place a Knights of Columbus sign on County Route 626 (Old Allerton Road), in Annandale, in front of the Immaculate Conception Church.

The Board asked the Clerk of the Board, Denise Doolan, to forward this request to the Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering for his recommendation and/or comments.

The Hunterdon County Department of Human Services is requesting permission for the permanent transfer of vehicle ownership, declaring the vehicle surplus, to Sussex County who has had the bus since losing their fleet to a fire. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the transfer of a vehicle ownership to Sussex County for the LINK bus they currently are utilizing from Hunterdon County.

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

A request was received from the Flemington United Methodist Church, for permission to use County parking areas between May 17 to 21, 2010 (Monday through Friday), between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., during their church revival meetings. The Clerk of the Board noted that the County's parking areas are open to the public after regular work hours. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion granting permission to the Flemington United Methodist Church to utilize the County's parking areas in Flemington Borough after hours, during the week of May 17 through 21, 2010.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

County Bridge E-174 meeting

Director Mennen reported that last Wednesday, March 31, 2010, the Freeholder Board had the opportunity to spend time with friends and neighbors in East Amwell Township. It was a very productive session and it gave the Freeholders an opportunity to see, in the field, the project for E-174 depicted with stakes and other visual cues which provided the Board with an idea of the implications of a design project and this was an invaluable resource. He found the meeting to be

compelling and surprising in a negative way. Director Mennen stated the depicted design which is proposed is totally unacceptable.

Director Mennen advised that John Glynn, the Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering is not present this evening, as he is away, but he would propose that this Board take up discussion seriously about redesign, or at the very least, re-engineering the design that exists to achieve the required safety improvement to that bridge but without decimating an area, residents and a neighborhood.

Director Mennen requested and suggested that direction be sent to Mr. Glynn when he returns to come forward with some suggestions with regard to the redesign proposal which he already submitted to the Freeholders two or three weeks ago and what that cost would entail.

Director Mennen recommended that the Freeholders encourage, suggest and direct Mr. Glynn to move forward working with the design consultant to come up with a better design.

Mr. Holt confirmed that the Freeholders will recognize that funds will be required to do this work. This Board will need to allocate those funds. Mr. Holt reported that a request be made by Roads, Bridges and Engineering for an extension on the construction portion of the funding for this project. Mr. Holt expects to hear more on this funding/project when he attends the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority meeting next week and he will keep the Board updated.

Census 2010

Mr. Holt thanked the Planning Board for another successful morning/breakfast meeting. He thanked Freeholders Sworen and Walton for attending the meeting. The topic was the 2010 Census. Mr. Holt pointed out that the census bottom line is all about funding.

Casino Funding

Mr. Melick informed the Board that revenue is off at Atlantic City Casinos and Hunterdon County does receive Casino funding for senior transportation. The funding is off by 20% for the last fiscal quarter. Mr. Melick feels Hunterdon is going to feel more funding cuts this coming year.

Tax Appeals

Mr. Melick noted for those present that April 01, 2010 was the deadline to file for a tax appeal. It will be interesting to see what the new filings are.

Chiefs' Association

Mr. Walton reported the Chiefs' Association met last week on issues that need to be resolved regarding turning over from an old CAD system to a new CAD system for computer dispatch.

Fees for Transcripts

Mr. Sworen advised the County has received notice from Vicinage 13 regarding the fees for transcripts. He doesn't know how long this ruling has been in effect; he suspects it is recent. Mr. Sworen recommended this Board adopt a resolution or craft a letter to be sent to the New Jersey Attorney General and the Governor because this is another attempt by the court system to pillage the municipalities and the counties of this state by coming up with ways to waste money and make the municipalities and the counties pay for it.

Mr. Sworen explained this is a letter from the Assignment Judge advising that effective immediately Vicinage 13 Criminal Division be compliant with the provisions of New Jersey Court Rule 3:23-8A regarding municipal appeal transcripts; as stated in the rule if an appellant upon application to the court is found to be indigent then the court shall order the transcript of the proceedings to be furnished at the County's expense if the appeal involves a violation of statute and it will be at the municipalities expense if the appeal involves a violation of an ordinance. The Criminal Division will not be paying for these transcripts.

Mr. Sworen advised it is his understanding that the Criminal Division used to pay for these transcripts and now because of budgets and cuts it is now not their problem. The County has the ability to say it isn't their problem and dictate who should pay for these transcripts. Mr. Sworen noted that transcripts are extremely expensive and now it will be local and county taxpayers' responsibility.

Mr. Sworen recommended Hunterdon respond to the Governor, Attorney General and the Mandates Council because this is not reasonable. If the state is coming up with a mandate, they should pay for them.

Mrs. Yard volunteered to contact the Social Services Division of the Human Services Department to get information concerning how many cases with people with indigent status Hunterdon has had in the past.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

County Bridge E-174

Frances Gavigan, resident of East Amwell Township, informed the Board she is concerned about spending money to redesign what has been so poorly design for County Bridge E-174. The consultant for the group admitted that they had missed the easements which are associated with the detention pond by the Ridge golf course. Mrs. Gavigan informed the Board she asked the consultant on March 31, 2010 at the meeting if they were going to pay to fix this and received no response. Mrs. Gavigan does not feel Hunterdon County should have to spend money to revisit something that has already had a lot of wasted on the design. Mrs. Gavigan explained some of the obviously flaws in this project.

Mrs. Gavigan expressed to the Board some of the feelings of the residents of East Amwell Township with regard to the bridge project and ASHTO standards.

Director Mennen confirmed with Mrs. Gavigan that she heard statements of a consistent nature on this Board with regard to shock and astonishment and surprise as to how this project could have gotten that far for what it is from a design standpoint. He advised this no one on this Board would say it is enamored with anyone who would create such a design.

Director Mennen explained since Mr. Glynn is not present this evening, this discussion can't be taken any further.

Mr. Holt reminded the Board that this project is a federal funded project and the arguing party will need to fight for the reimbursement from the design firm will be the County in conjunction with the federal funding source which is the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. Stating that funds will be appropriated does not mean the County will have to spend the funds or will not get reimbursed via down the road by the design firm or the County won't get charged. In order to advance a redesign the County will need to shoulder the funds.

Director Mennen stated this Board wants to recognize and learn from the mistakes of the past. If there is going to be an effort, and he has every reason to believe there will be, towards redesign, it is going to be with involvement, earlier, local involvement earlier.

Mrs. Gavigan informed the Board that she has had conversations with Mr. Glynn and he has been a great outreach partner for the Freeholder Board. He has received a lot of flak back in 2009 on this project. He has been very cooperative and they have had discussions on how to fix this.

Director Mennen stated he wants to make sure the information flows from East Amwell comes in an organized, efficient and productive manner; not yelling or screaming. He doesn't know if Mrs. Gavigan will be deputized as the point person or not but there is some time to work that out. Mrs. Gavigan advised those were the discussions. Director Mennen stressed that this Board wants to have local involvement earlier in projects.

Census

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, stated she hopes everyone has sent their census forms back and if it hasn't been done, please do it.

County Tax Rate

Mrs. Stewart asked how the upcoming County tax rate looks.

Director Mennen stated the upcoming County tax rate looks flat. A budget work session will be held on April 13, 2010 at around 1:30 p.m. The hope is that the budget will be introduced on April 20, 2010.

Trees/County Bridge E-174 project

Mrs. Stewart asked the Board how many trees will be lost in connection with the East Amwell Bridge project. She asked the Board to consider the vegetation present and do not destroy it all.

Golf Course

Mrs. Stewart asked if the numbers are ready in connection with the Golf Course and if it is making a profit taking into consideration the money they spent.

Director Mennen advised that the County auditors have been here for weeks going over all the numbers so the County doesn't have the answer to that question yet.

Mrs. Yard explained the auditors are going to work with the County to show the types of things they are looking at, so that the types of reports the Freeholders receives from Parks and Recreation are in sink with that, and everyone is on the same page.

Recycling Enforcement

Mrs. Stewart asked the progress being made on the County helping local municipalities with enforcement of recycling. Everywhere she goes she sees recyclable materials in garbage cans. She is aware that it is the local municipality's responsibility but the County was going to do something to help them.

Director Mennen advised the County provided a shared service model which was rejected by the municipalities. The County has redirected its resources to an education program, as well as an outreach program and also, looking at other possible scenarios the County has offered legal research and such and that was the subject of a grant application. Director Mennen stated he learned today at the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority meeting that the State Department of Environmental Protection has sent back requests for more information with regard to the grant application and there is some question as to the viability of those applications. The County is working on this.

Music at Deer Path Park

Mrs. Stewart asked if the County will be having music at Deer Path Park this year or not.

Director Mennen reported the County has put an amount in the budget, a reduced amount which is approximately a 50% reduction from last year. The Director of Parks and Recreation is to make a determination as to how he would like to allocate those funds to be able to provide concerts, smaller scale or a smaller number of concerts.

Director Mennen advised that the Parks and Recreation Director was also given direction to do everything possible to pursue sponsorship opportunities to be able to augment the County allocation towards concerts. Parks was also told to look for freebie concerts.

Electronic Signs

Mrs. Stewart informed the Board that the County's electronic signs do not keep the message on the Board for at least 5 seconds and it makes it hard to understand what they say. Raritan Township has an ordinance which says electronic signs must stay on for at least 5 seconds.

Mrs. Yard volunteered to correct this situation.

Southard Building

Mrs. Stewart stated the Southard Building is an historic building and it has three posters on it advertizing Crime Victims' Rights Week. There are other places the signs could be placed.

Mrs. Yard will investigate this.

Surplus Property

Mrs. Stewart recommended the County not give municipalities first right of refusal for surplus properties and just sell them to the highest bidder since the County needs money. So, whoever pays the most money gets the property.

Director Mennen explained historically that is what has been done. It has been done with a minimum bid which is probably thought to be close to the market value. Doing it this way avoids a fair amount of transactions costs. It is felt to be a courtesy to the municipality in which the property is located and it is also a matter of efficiency in terms of ease and cost savings in getting the property off of the County rolls.

Building Use

Mrs. Stewart asked if the County charges to have people use the County's buildings. Mrs. Yard confirmed there is a fee to use the County's meetings and assembly areas.

Health Department

Lou Reiner informed the Board that he feels there is a big opportunity to facilitate cost savings in the area of the County Health Department. He feels the services the Health Department provides could be put out to bid with the private sector in the competitive bidding process.

Mr. Reiner advised another problem he has with the County Health Department is beyond cost. It is the Health Director using the media as a bully pulpit against his employers being the Freeholder Board. He feels this individual has an arrogant attitude towards his employers. This would not be tolerated in the public sector so it should not be tolerated in the private sector.

Mr. Holt does not feel reviewing a department should be directed at one department. He has referenced many times in the past year looking at departments to see what funding can be brought in with fees and such. He has sat in on discussions with Mr. Glynn, Mrs. Yard and members of the Human Services group on this subject last year, for a period of time which occurred every two weeks. The process was one in which the dissection of transportation into five elements allowed the County to create efficiencies within that department to a tune of what will eventually be 8%. The down side was that the savings projections equal what is projected to be the reduction in Casino grant revenue expected this year.

Mr. Holt reported there is now a very distinct outline within transportation which allows the County to be able to react as the funding stream goes up, down, left or right. The County has a clear plan that if the funding decreases what the next steps are to attempt to keep the model flat.

Mr. Holt advised he has asked that the Health Department be the next department that is put through the same scrutiny. This is not a review that is designed to beat the department into submission; it is a design built upon two levels. Level one is to see where efficiencies can be created and Level two is how to help the management which the County currently has, do a better job. It has been agreed, that post budget this year, that the Health Department will be the next department to undergo that review. It hasn't been determined who will make up that committee and it hasn't been determined how long this will take. It may or may not be more complex than the transportation system.

Unions

Mr. Reiner asked the Board to put pressure on the Governor to get rid of binding arbitration in order to deal effectively with the unions that are out of control.

Mr. Holt thinks the Governor and the legislature clearly understand that the time has come, not just for that topic but overall. As the Governor has said, it is time to turn Trenton upside down.

Highlands Council

Sue Dziamara, Planning Board Director informed the Board that at the Planning Board meeting last Thursday, Eileen Swan of the Highlands Council came to talk to the Planning Board. Some municipalities had questions on what the impact on Hunterdon's municipalities would be if Hunterdon chose not to conform. Mrs. Dziamara will be reaching out for more information.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board