

## Special meeting

### HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

**April 13, 2010**

The special meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened in open session at 12:00 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

#### **CONVENE**

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 faxed on or before January 13, 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."

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

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#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation entitled Kobner versus the Hunterdon County Sheriff and others.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 2:05 p.m.

#### **FINANCE**

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders continued their budget work session.

**PRESENT:** Margaret Pasqua, County Treasurer and Kim Browne, Finance Director.

Also Present: Board of Elections - Dick Lynch, Supervisor, Susan Miller, Christine Yates and Stewart Palilonis.

Director Mennen confirmed everyone has read the opinion of County Counsel dated March 30, 2010 and The County Administrator's memorandum of April 07, 2010. He explained there is a statute which governs the number of employees in the Board of Elections Department. It happens that Hunterdon County is above that number.

Mrs. Yard reported that she reached out to the Board of Elections to have one of their employees reassigned and as a result the Board of Elections requested a meeting with the Freeholder Board.

Mr. Palilonis, Chair of the Board of Elections informed the Board that he does not agree with the Trainor Case which was mentioned in Counsel's opinion or the number of employees the Election Board can have. He doesn't feel the opinion of Counsel says anything other than you might look to the statute for guidance. Beyond that, the Board of Elections has had dealings with the Freeholders in the past when we established the salary schedule for employees.

Mr. Palilonis said the Board of Elections is present today to work with the Freeholder Board. They have a very important duty and take it seriously. There are a lot of functions involved in the Board of Elections and the positions they hold; such as conducting elections which is spread out between the County Clerk's Office and the Board of Elections. He believes the Election Board needs all its employees.

Director Mennen confirmed the Board of Elections is contesting the memorandum on two fronts: (1) the law as interpreted has been done incorrectly and (2) you don't agree with the Trainor case. Director Mennen also confirmed that Elections feels all its resources are necessary.

The Board discussed placing one of the Election employees in another department that could use assistance, and that employee would be available to the Election Board during elections if need be.

Mr. Melick stressed to the Board of Elections that this is a matter of cooperation and he would like to see everyone work towards a common goal that would benefit the County and its employees.

Mr. Lynch stated an arrangement was worked out last year to assist the Surrogate's Court and it was to everyone's benefit.

Mr. Lynch recommended he be allowed to work this out with the Human Resources Director. Ms. Yates and Mrs. Miller agreed to have Mr. Lynch work with the Human Resources Director. Mr. Lynch stated it would be good to have people cross trained.

Mrs. Yard suggested that Mr. Lynch and Ms. Wieder work on a plan and report back to the Freeholder Board by July 01, 2010.

Director Mennen confirmed this will be done with cooperation by both Boards.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Boarda