

**HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

Main Street County Complex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 71 Main Street

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

**August 03, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 5:00 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**PRESENT: MR. MENNEN, MR. HOLT, MR. MELICK, 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 SESSION REQUESTS**

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

**See Page 08/03/10-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss SAFE in Hunterdon.

**See Page 08/03/10-1B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss expenditures from the Sheriff's Trust Fund.

**See Page 08/03/10-1C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss appointments to the Senior Citizen Disabilities and Veterans Advisory Council.

**See Page 08/03/10-1D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a personnel vacancy in Parks and Recreation.

**See Page 08/03/10-1E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a Human Services personnel vacancy.

**See Page 08/03/10-1F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss the recent Sheriff's litigation.

**See Page 08/03/10-1G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss Service Occupancy agreements.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:10 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Mennen opened the meeting to the public.

There was no one in the audience wishing to address the Board at this time.

**FINANCE**

Director Mennen opened the public hearing on Capital Ordinance No. 8-10.

There being no comments from the press or public, Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 08/03/10-2A**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 8-10**

**ADOPTION**, ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COOPERATIVE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR OPEN SPACE, PARK AND RECREATION PURPOSES BY THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND APPROPRIATING \$1,750,000.00 THEREFORE.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 08/03/10-2B**

**RESOLUTION**

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

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

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

**See Page 08/03/10-2C**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing Ernest Gurke for volunteer services in the Surrogate's Court.

**See Page 08/03/10-2D**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing Rachel Puelle for volunteer Internship in the Surrogate's Court.

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

**ATM FOR JUSTICE CENTER**

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that Susan Hoffman, County Surrogate had made a request awhile ago about an ATM being placed in the Justice Center. Mrs. Yard was directed to reach out to the Trial Court Administrator, Gene Farkas, who would reach out to the Assignment Judge. There was some delay with vacations and such. Mr. Farkas was vague but he did say that it is preferred the ATM is not in the Justice Center but the County can do whatever on the outside.

Mrs. Hoffman explained the first request was for the County to start taking credit cards and since that did not happen she had asked if there was a way to make an ATM machine available at the Justice Center. Mrs. Hoffman stated that her office has been having receiving bad checks.

The Board questioned why credit cards are not accepted.

Mrs. Yard confirmed that the County Clerk's Office now accepts credit cards for payment. Mrs. Yard will approach the Finance Office to see if that can be done as it would be more desirable.

Mrs. Hoffman explained the Surrogates' Court has been receiving a lot of bad checks and the Prosecutor's Office has not been helpful in collecting the funds because most of them are out of state checks.

Mr. Holt is confident if credit cards can be used in the County Clerk's Office that there is no reason why it can't be done in the Surrogate's Court. Mrs. Yard was directed to check into this through the Finance Office.

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Presentation – Proposed Campus Construction**

Dr. Casey Crabill, President, Raritan Valley Community College and the college's Chief Finance Officer, John Trojan, came before the Board to present the proposed Campus Construction for the college.

Dr. Crabill informed the Board that to prepare for this evening's presentation and thinking on how to frame this and how to start the conversation, she went back to the strategic planning exercise, which happened when she came on board, to develop a plan to go forward for the college to make sure they were planning for the future and not just for the current situation. Dr. Crabill stated the college services over 200 businesses, education, government and agency leaders throughout the two counties (Somerset and Hunterdon); as well as a broad environmental scan looking at the areas listed (drawings outlining the college and the proposed new construction), to try to make sure that their plans were in sync. Dr. Crabill stated that led the college to 5 areas of focus; the first was the changing demographics in the county. They wanted to continue to charge and deliver the highest quality experience regardless of student's educational preparation. People always think about community colleges being the colleges that can catch students who may need to brush up in math or in English or did not do so well in high school, but RVCC also gets a huge number of students who did just fine in high school and RVCC wants to make sure their experience is excellent no matter what end of the ability scale they came in at.

Dr. Crabill stated RVCC wants to make sure that all programs and services are focused on students that is why the college exists. That RVCC is fully accessible for students with disabilities but also accessible financially for families in the two county area and that RVCC was prudent in its planning processes.

Dr. Crabill stated in the planning RVCC looked at financial planning and they also looked at strategic space planning and determined that there was sufficient space throughout the two county areas to offer remote sites without additional construction off the main campus. RVCC has been able to establish at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, in the evening, a fairly robust series of offerings for the folks in the community in Hunterdon. There is also advanced programs in Bound Brook and Franklin in Somerset County and there is one program in Polytech in the evening and one program at the Polytech during the daytime and RVCC is now moving into the Somerset County Technology Institute. RVCC has been looking at building access points for people off the main campus.

Dr. Crabill stated the college growth has been explosive; in terms of the number of credits being taught, RVCC has doubled since 2000, which is striking when you think about it. Since 2005 RVCC has had a 50% growth in terms of the number of credits being offered. In terms of the number of students, the increase is huge with a 42% increase in the number of students since 2000; 22% alone since 2005. RVCC's most dramatic change has been in the growth from full time students. RVCC used to be primarily part time but now the college is primarily full time.

Dr. Crabill informed the Board that full time students require more services for a number of reasons: first they spend more time on campus so we need a place to put them but beyond that full time students, by and large intend to transfer and just like when you are in high school and you are working to get into college, when you are in community college and you are working to transfer, the transfer institutions are looking at your grades and they are also looking at what else did you do during the community college experience? What did you contribute? What was your leadership? What was your service? Providing those experiences has had a huge impact on RVCC's campus. Classrooms are tight, they are running short but that is being managed by leveraging school classrooms in the evening when they are not being used by the home school. There has been a huge impact on the library, the space hasn't changed but the growth has been explosive in that period of time including the downtime outside of class – you need someplace to put the students especially if it is rainy and the parking is an issue because students complain about parking further and further away.

Dr. Crabill stated with this the significant growth trend all RVCC's demographics indicate that for the next five years RVCC will be under an incredible pressure to continue to grow.

Dr. Crabill reminded the Board that RVCC's governance is that 4 out of 13 County related trustees are from Hunterdon (31%), as well as Hunterdon County's Superintendent of Schools and the three appointed by the Board. There are also two Governor's appointees and the student alumni representative is elected from the graduating students and the last two alumni representatives have been from Hunterdon County.

Dr. Crabill stated that the Hunterdon County enrollment remains strong; it is about 30% of RVCC's enrollment. In the Fall there were 1,100 full time Hunterdon County students enrolled and over 900 part time and if you put that together the Hunterdon County enrollment at RVCC is larger than the full enrollment of Warren County College or Salem County College. It is fairly substantial and Dr. Crabill thinks it speaks to the fact that in 1986 the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders did a smart thing by joining the college starting a very effective shared service.

Dr. Crabill said just like the population as a whole, the biggest increase in Hunterdon County students have been full time students coming directly from college and their rate of growth since 2005 has outpaced the rate of growth of full time students throughout the college.

Dr. Crabill stated when looking at the facilities planning, they looked at what has been done since Hunterdon County joined the college. In 1986 there was the original building and the core campus; since then RVCC has added the science building and the West building which opened in the Fall of 2006. Both of those are classroom based facilities. The West building has 18 classrooms, most of which are computer labs and the Science building has 3 large classrooms and all of the science labs for the college.

Dr. Crabill explained is what is being proposed is a student life center which will allow RVCC to have facilities to develop the leadership and service components of the curriculum that the students are looking for. When the college first looked at this, they thought they did not need a whole building for this but they do need some additional space because they lost their rental income on the conference center because with the growth they are using those rooms for students. Secondly, RVCC doesn't have any internal expansion room to put things in different places.

Dr. Crabill informed the Board that RVCC looked at what could be done in short of a full building that would allow the college to have some expansion room that would meet these needs. The college discovered it had the capacity to add onto the back of the physical-education building. RVCC is proposing a 3 story expansion to the building that would provide three things that would pull together all the needs being experienced with this growth. One is the need for co-curricular space – places where students can be brought together for the service learning for which RVCC is well known but which there is no place to offer students to do that. The second need is for the networked collaborative work that the library can't provide for such a large number of students, if the college had a floor that was a wireless networking space students could do the collaborative

work there and draw on library resources in an online capacity rather than proposing an expansion to the library. The third for would be some flexible large lecture space which would allow the college to do two things: offer larger classes during the day that are lecture based; when the college was originally built there were only two facilities that allowed for classes larger than 40. One is E-109 and the other is a physics lecture room in the science building. Everything else is really a classroom limited to 40. The proposed upper floor would be 3 flexible areas with dividers in-between that would allow for a larger lecture space and it would also allow for overflow student work and give the college back the ability to rent out on a more regular basis the conference facility which was designed to be more revenue generating than it has been able to be.

Dr. Crabill stated the project cost for this facility, the addition to the back of the physical education building is about \$5.5 million. RVCC understands this is a terrible time to be looking at money but they are under the gun. In order to make this more possible, the college thought its trustees and staff could do a capital campaign to raise half of the cost of the building. That effort has begun, the college is in its quiet phase and she realizes each time she speaks publically, it gets less and less quiet; but the college is confident that within a 4 year period they will be able to raise \$2.75 million as a component of the cost of this building. Dr. Crabill advised RVCC is asking both counties, using the usual cost sharing formula, to help with the other half of the building. This would be about a \$900,000 capital investment for Hunterdon County. Given the timeline, the expectation is that debt service for the county would impact a year out or potentially two years out particularly if the college is able to run forward with the capital campaign to subsidize that. The challenge for the college is that in New Jersey this is a new model; it is not a model that has been tried by community colleges before. Some of the 4 year institutions has done a capital campaign but New Jersey law precludes county colleges from doing any kind of bonding. A partnership opportunity seems to be the best opportunity for RVCC to explore this.

Dr. Crabill stated there would be 21,500 square feet on 3.5 floors with a flexible program and design. They would try to build for the future. They would try to expand on the physical education building making this a three wall construction because the physical education building is already there and again, this would make it a 3 wall construction. Dr. Crabill said something about state funds would make it possible to do a full construction and the college would go for LEED certified because that would save in operating costs.

Dr. Crabill showed the Board pictures of what the building would look like; saying on the ground floor there would be student like and co-curricular service learning, the honor societies, the student government, the leadership and co-curricular related programming. The second floor would be collaborative networking, a wireless environment for students to do group work. Many of the students come with laptops, many of the classes require that kind of collaborative project. Doing that kind of collaborative project in the library is prohibitive because they tend to be noisy and when you are looking at an explosion of growth the library is already constrained. The top floor would be the expanded, flexible conference/lecture/large presentation space. None of this duplicates what RVCC has in the rest of the campus and it is believed this would be an important augmentation to what the college would be able to do to provide services in the coming year.

Dr. Crabill asked if the Board has any questions. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to place this in front of the Board and entertain some conversation.

Mr. Holt confirmed there has been tremendous growth in the student population and that is very evident. He thinks it is interesting to see that growth pattern is not simply economy based, in the past three or four years, it appears to be over a ten year span of time.

Mr. Holt informed Dr. Crabill that he would be curious as to the rationale as to what her thoughts are with regard to the 10 year growth pattern and why it is occurring. He told Dr. Crabill that she mentioned that it is, in her mind, sustainable or that she sees a growth pattern similar in the next 5 years. What is the rationale behind this? What is the supporting information?

Dr. Crabill said the projection of the growth pattern is really tied to the size of high school classes for the next 5 years. Even if they sustain their current market penetration rate of the high school population over the next 5 years, RVCC will continue to grow. What she has been seeing is not only growth because the high school populations are bigger but RVCC has also increased its market penetration rate from 15% of the graduating classes when she first came, and now its close to 20% across both counties. The college is seeing a larger percentage of the high school graduates come and the classes themselves are bigger; both those things combined create expansive growth.

Dr. Crabill said she would add that if you look at the success of students over the past several years, this year alone, we have students who are leaving RVCC not just acceptance at really good transfer schools; but there are students leaving RVCC bound for prestigious institutions, as well as full scholarships due to academic excellence. There is a student leaving for Cornell with a full ride, a student leaving for Stanford with a full ride, the student trustee is leaving for Ramapo with a full ride and a RA which pays her room and board. Students are having a good track record of success in getting what they want in coming through RVCC's door. It is obviously much more financially feasible for families.

Mr. Holt said the \$5.5 million projected, he assumes, is an escalated amortized cost out based on what construction costs are anticipated to be. He questioned Dr. Crabill if she sees a growth in this number by the time this goes to construction.

Dr. Crabill said if they can go to construction in the next 18 months, they think this is a good number. If it goes out further than that, they would obviously need to make an adjustment unless the world goes crazy, then the cost could go down. The bidding environmental currently is very good. A lot will depend on how quickly they can assemble a fair amount of costs.

Mr. Trojan stated RVCC has already covered \$300,000 of that with last year's appropriation that paid for all the architectural design fees.

Dr. Crabill stated they are ready to go to bid. It was initially the colleges hope that there would be state funding or federal funding coming for community college infrastructure but neither of those two things materialized which is yet a reason why they thought they should do this themselves.

Mr. Melick said it is very nice but he is concerned about indebtedness. In Hunterdon, we are very tight fisted as far as new capital requirements. He is wondering, is there any possibility instead of putting the money in this of using it to reduce the tuition costs. He knows that is a big factor with the students. There are some high school graduates who are really struggling and are prohibited from going to RVCC. It is a trade off, all the nice things which this would be.

Mr. Melick said there is no question that Raritan Valley Community College is a quality institution. He would like to reduce and keep costs down to the student population. He would like to see resources put into reducing students tuition costs.

Dr. Crabill said there are a couple of things she would say to that; first if a student has a genuine financial needs the college has an access to state and federal resources to try and plug the need holes for students both full and part time, either through state allocations for TAG grants or state family grants or the federal Pell awards. Dr. Crabill said the college does not encourage student indebtedness; as an institutional they are opposed to that. The college will search for grants for students. The college has a private foundation which raises and disburses scholarships over \$140,000 last year. She agrees that costs for students is a factor and the college works pretty hard to try and mitigate those. Dr. Crabill stated that this year her board took a \$3.00 per credit tuition increase. RVCC has now moved down from the 5<sup>th</sup> most expensive community college to the 7<sup>th</sup> most expensive community college in New Jersey, simply for that reason because we know that families in this area are dealing with a lot of competing costs. Dr. Crabill said they definitely share Mr. Melick's concerns for keeping things affordable for students but by the same token when students come and want to transfer, she knows it is a competitive environmental for them and in order for them to be successful in getting into where they want to go and getting the competitive scholarship dollars to where they want to go, RVCC needs to provide them with the service opportunities and the leadership opportunities to make them stand out. It is a real balance.

Mr. Melick knows that Dr. Crabill has done a lot to mitigate the problem but there are always someone's children who are falling through the cracks. He keeps thinking how to keep tuition costs down.

Dr. Crabill informed Mr. Melick that is a concern that her board shares. It is the hardest conversation they have every year and this year they were attracted in their budget positions of things that would have been great to have because as a community college they don't do luxury, they are very concerned and deliver education for less per pupil than any system of education in the state; less than K-12, less than universities and way less than the state colleges. Dr. Crabill agreed saying she is focused on that but she also wants to make sure it is the right product and so having the space to conduct those ancillary pieces of the curriculum is important. She understands the balance question being asked but she would say this isn't a luxury; RVCC is the only community college in New Jersey that does not have such a space. This is not a keeping up with the Jones' thing, this is just that the college has grown to the point now where it is really difficult to deal without it.

Mr. Walton stated his wife is a graduate of RVCC and she went on to get her masters' degree in special education. He applauded the work the college does. He questioned if the \$300,000 was only spent on design fees.

Dr. Crabill stated that would be the architect's fee on a projected \$5 million building.

Mr. Walton confirmed with Dr. Crabill that the \$300,000 isn't what the costs have been so far; it is the full architectural costs.

Mr. Walton questioned what would happen if this building does not get built. What is the consequence? He said Dr. Crabill talked about the wonderful students that have gotten full rides to all these schools and he questioned how that happen without a student center?

Dr. Crabill stated it happened because the college has the conference facility in the front of the college where there are meeting rooms; the college has taken that offline for a good part of the day where programs are offered in the grand conference room; programs in the computer rooms and the breakout rooms in that building which is great except then the college has to forego any rent. That building was supposed to generate revenue that helped with the operating and offset costs.

Mr. Walton asked if the solution is to regain that revenue by building a \$5 million building. He doesn't think that adds up. He questioned how many years of rentals would it take to gain back that \$5 million.

Dr. Crabill said it is obviously going to cost more to build a building than the college would get in a yearly rental or probably in a 10 year yearly rental. It isn't the same amount space. If the college is going to add onto the building, they have packaged together an expansion for the things that would normally be found in the library; and expansion for the things you might find in a college center; and those things together that did not have a home. Rather than propose a free standing building and developing another part of the campus; they thought if they made this addition that it would pull all those needs together and allow them to meet those needs.

Mr. Walton said if Hunterdon had \$900,000 to spend on a building they would consider an upgrade to the Firefighter and EMT facility not a student lounge with extra classroom space. He has a hard time spending this kind of money in any economy and especially in this kind of economy to make a student center. It is hard to swallow.

Dr. Crabill said when she went to college the student center was the place where you went to have a beer because you could drink on campus in those days; or to sit around and chat or lounge in a sofa. Perhaps the name isn't what the college might have chosen. That isn't what she is talking about. She is talking about an augmentation to the campus that allows for the kind of collaborative work that students need to be trained to do to be successful in the work world that wasn't even part of the curriculum when she went to college. When she went to college you got a degree; went out and got a job and you learned what you were going to learn on the job. Now, to get that job students have to have a portfolio that shows they can do collaborative work. Students have to have experience doing group projects; they have to be able to work teams. None of that can happen in the library which is the only space that RVCC has for students to get together and do that kind of work. RVCC doesn't have a collaborative networking space for students to use their wireless laptops and do projects and do presentations. This really isn't a student lounge.

Mr. Walton said \$5 million is an awful big price tag to have a collaborative work environment for students to do group work.

Mr. Sworen asked what other options were considered.

Dr. Crabill advised in the past four years RVCC has done a full study of all of the places that are on campus. Different pieces were pulled together such as a storage closet that used to hold all the overhead projectors because no one uses them anymore and the college was able to take that storage closet and make it into a testing center. The old radio station which was originally part of the college because it isn't used anymore and were able to make that into an intake center for students to meet with counselors and advisors. RVCC has used lots of inches of the college that were designed for another time and built out for other purposes. When it came to looking at what were the options and where can they get the space for students to pull together and do this kind of work, the college is tapped out. The college was hoping that the cafeteria would provide the overflow space and it is wireless but when you have gone from 4,500 to 8,000 students, and the cafeteria seats about 250, there isn't anyplace for students to have that organized space and supervision to do that work. If the college was able to offer classes that weren't limited to the size of classroom that fits 40, that would expand efficiency. Dr. Crabill said the college did not dare consider a stand alone building; it just seemed preposterous not just in the current climate but in terms of what they already developed which is why the college went for an extension. It was felt because the physical education building is the gym and the pool that it would give more of an educational grounding. All the rest of the buildings house classrooms and departments.

Mr. Sworen asked if any other locations were considered for this, such as the college center.

Dr. Crabill advised the college looked at building up from the college center but that was a more expensive alternative than building out into the hill behind the physical education building. The college doesn't want to use a lot of the property that is left to be developed because there isn't much that is buildable. On the whole campus there is 60 buildable acres left. It is thought that one of the things that make the campus a real draw for students is its beautiful and she feels that fits with both Hunterdon and Somerset counties. They were going for an "in-fill" model where things would be packed into the middle of the campus. It is also easier that way to have the security staff deployed in a reasonable way. This links it to the power loop which is the other reason, although \$5.5 million is a much bigger price tag than she has ever built anything for herself with, it is lower than the last building the college built, which was about \$14 million.

Mr. Sworen questioned if this is the cheapest option.

Dr. Crabill said that the college has been able to ascertain, yes, that is the cheapest option.

Director Mennen asked if it was ever considered to use all or a portion of that money to put an extension on the library or to address the classroom availability issue which Dr. Crabill spoke of. This is coming across as more of a want than a need. He thinks Dr. Crabill has to make that case a little stronger.

Dr. Crabill said extending the library would be a building up project and that would be a larger cost than the extension of the physical education building.

Dr. Crabill advised in the classrooms the college has been able to reach an agreement with the vocational school district in Somerset County to assume responsibility for what was the technical institute building. That building in her assessment of scheduling and so on, was grossly under utilized. It was scheduled more the way you might schedule a K-12 facility where a teacher owned a room for a day and had their stuff in there but if they were teaching in there no one else used it. In taking over that facility, there are 18 classrooms in that building and the college is able

to move some of the classes at crunch times into that facility and the college is running programs at both facilities for no additional capital costs. The college picked up the vocational and technical programs that were run for adults by the technical institute. The college is sustaining those programs for no additional operating costs and what that does for Hunterdon County residents is that they can now take those programs at both facilities. The college was able to make progress also by using classrooms at Hunterdon Central High School; classrooms in Bound Brook High School and classrooms at the Franklin Middle School. The college isn't just looking at this; the college is actively working on the instructional space issues.

Dr. Crabill said if this was a want it would be very easy at this point in time to walk away from it and say it would be nice but from her professional point of view, this is a critical area for the college if RVCC wants to stay competitive in the kinds of programs that the students want in order to get into the best 4 year institutions that they can. If there is a want in this, it is really the want that students have to access quality bachelorette completion programs by being able to demonstrate service and leadership, as well as academic excellence. The college instituted a leadership transcript program so that RVCC students when they are engaged in co-curricular activities, not athletic activities, but the business club and the paralegal students association, and the student nursing club. Those clubs go out and deliver services to agencies in the counties. RVCC was recognized last year because the students contributed \$600,000 worth of services to the two counties. RVCC was the only community college in America recognized for community service through the President's Honor Roll.

Dr. Crabill said she can't stress enough that co-curricular when she went to school meant you were on the beach volleyball team and it does not mean that for RVCC's students. It is a competitive portion of their education and it helps them access both acceptance to 4 year schools and the money to go.

Mr. Walton told Dr. Crabill that she is undercutting her own argument. You are talking about these wonderful students who have \$600,000 in service hours and they are doing that now without this facility. He said Dr. Crabill talks about students who go onto full rides to wonderful universities without the student center. He does not see what the \$5.5 million is going to do that RVCC isn't already successfully doing. Can these students not find other leadership opportunities involving other existing not for profit organizations that are already in the community that are struggling to find volunteers.

Dr. Crabill said they do find those opportunities but what makes them leadership opportunities is the link to the academic program. Service learning doesn't just involve a student doing hours in an agency there is actually a curricular link that those students have to develop a component of a course. Such as if she were an accounting student and she wanted to get service credit she would not just volunteer; she has to volunteer in her program and she would have to develop presentations related to the volunteer work; research has to be done and that work has to be brought back and she would have to give formal presentations. Dr. Crabill confirmed it is being done now but this growth pattern is going to continue for the next 5 years and she doesn't know where this is going to be done.

Dr. Crabill invited the Freeholder Board over to take a look at what RVCC is dealing with. If someone has a different idea that can solve this problem in a new way, she is wide open to it but after about a year of trying to look at how to fix this, she thinks this is the best idea to date. She also wants to make sure the college can get back the revenue. It isn't just \$5.5 million because it goes right to the operating costs which helps the college everywhere.

Director Mennen questioned the status if the project with regards to Somerset's participation. He asked if a similar presentation been made to Somerset County yet?

Dr. Crabill advised the college did a presentation to the finance committee of the Somerset Freeholder Board which is what they were asked to do in Somerset County. She hopes to have an opportunity to talk to the full Board in the upcoming month. This is a project that there has been some discussion of over the past year and a half but this is the first full presentation to a full Freeholder Board.

Mr. Holt said the direction that education is headed, especially in this economy, has been one of the needs to be able to come in at a much lower cost and put together a good portion of the core departments and transfer it out. He isn't sure what experience anyone else in this room has had, he has seen and hears more and more that a 4 year education at a 4 year institution used to be 4 years. It was when he went but it has grown and many are at 4 ½ and 5 years and beyond. The ability for families to be able to come in and take at least two years and make them transferrable is a huge cost savings. He thanked Dr. Crabill for recognizing that and seeing it. If anyone believes that in Hunterdon County or Somerset County has not been impacted by what has occurred in the past few years and will be impacted for more years, is not realistic.

Dr. Crabill stated her mother went to community college when she was in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and it changed the economic future for her family. She comes at this from a very personal story. She understands what it takes for an adult student and for more of the younger people to afford a college education. She understands what an impact it has on the family if the education is successful.

Dr. Crabill thanked the Board for its time.

Director Mennen told Dr. Crabill that if she has any follow up information that she feels addresses some of the questions that were asked because it does sound like this endorsement from Hunterdon's governing body is going to be a challenge.

Director Mennen told Dr. Crabill that all information she may have to fully substantiate this case should be provided to the Board.

Dr. Crabill said she will also keep the Freeholders up to date on the status of the capital campaign as it moves ahead. She is confident the college will be successful in their capital campaign.

Director Mennen confirmed the capital campaign is exclusive to this project.

Director Mennen and the Board thanked Dr. Crabill for coming this evening.

### **PLANNING/FARMLAND**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 08/03/10-8A**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Contract for Sale of Development Easement, from Readington Township (Holland Brook Farm), on Block 53, Lot 5.02, estimated 23.328 acres, (SADC-\$244,944; County-\$81,648; Township-\$81,648), total amount of \$408,240.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 08/03/10-8B**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Municipal/County Cost Sharing Agreement with Readington Township, on the Holland Brook Farm, Block 53, Lot 5.02.

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

### **Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Manual**

Sue Dziamara, County Planning Board Director distributed to the Board the final draft of the Policies and Procedures Manual for Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation. Ms. Dziamara explained this will be brought up for discussion at future Freeholder meeting.

### **PURCHASING**

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 08/03/10-8C**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #25107, using State Contract #A-69907, with United Telephone of New Jersey, d/b/a CenturyLink, for 911 equipment maintenance, for the Division of Communications, Public Safety Department, in the amount of \$49,115.76.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 08/03/10-8D**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the award of County Bid #2010-17, for the Reconstruction of County Bridge R-123 and approach roadway of Holland Brook Road, over the Holland Brook, in Readington Township, to Kalogridis Contracting, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$517,769.

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

### **ROADS and BRIDGES Update**

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering came before the Board to provide an update of various County road and bridge projects.

- The plans and specifications for County Route 619 will be ready for approval at the next Freeholders' meeting.
- On Route 635, there is a driveway and drainage issue in Hampton Borough. There is also an issue with the topsoil and seeding which will be reworked either the end of August or in early September.
- The Phase I Archeology Study has been started for bridges located on Route 518.
- The design for the Pennsylvania Avenue project is nearly completed. County Counsel's Office will be scheduling a closing on property the Board approved on purchasing at the last Freeholders' meeting.
- A preconstruction meeting for Bridge R-123 will be held on Friday, August 6, 2010.
- Bridge W-124 on Alexauken Creek Road project may be ready to bid by the end of the Fall season.
- Grants for the Multi-Purpose Trail/Bridge project, for Echo Hill Park, will be sent down to the State Department of Transportation, under the SAGE program.
- The County is working with Alexandria Township on Culvert A-31, on Mount Salem Road.
- Culvert L-34 on Buffalo Hollow Road, in Lebanon Township is now closed as a wall has failed. This project should be completed in three weeks.
- A stream bank stabilization has been completed on County Route 612, for Bridge Q-86, on Old Clinton Road, in Raritan Township using FEMA money.

- New caps are being poured for the structural superstructure replacement for County Bridge T-116, on Boulder Hill Road, in Tewksbury Township.
- County Route 513 drainage project will begin on August 09, 2010.
- The gas company is resetting the gas main at the Route 31 County Complex at Gauntt Place for the sidewalk and drainage project with the construction slated to start on August 09, 2010.
- The County has completed its Green Acres documentation for the right of way, as well as working with Fish and Game for the Whitebridge Road project. The County hopes to get authorization to proceed to the final phase of construction for County Bridge F-45.
- A meeting was held with the stakeholders for County Bridge E-174, on Wertsville Road, in East Amwell Township on Friday, July 23, 2010. The alignment for the horizontal and vertical curvature of the road has been modified. The County's consultant is reviewing that document and the design team will be looking at the fine tuning of that design. From there the County will be able to address the storm water basin and how it will be constructed. There has been discussion to have another meeting, in the field, staking out the new center line and provide elevations, as was done with the first site visit. This field meeting will be scheduled for sometime in September and Mr. Glynn requested a few meetings attend the meeting in order to look at this from the stakeholders point of view, the township officials and the horse people and the key people within the confines of the project. Mr. Glynn will keep the Board informed.
- The box beams will be delivered on August 09, 2010 for County Bridge E-166, in East Amwell Township. Wing walls were poured for the box culvert and they are now trying to choose the stone veneer to be applied.
- The west substructure has been completed for C-88 and excavation has begun for the east side of the project.
- The truss for Bridge RQ-164 is currently at the fabricators for the steel. There is significantly more steel than anticipated going into the truss.
- The County has met with the township stakeholders for Bridge D-300 in Delaware Township. The County is working on the final design concepts.
- No news has been received on Exit 15/Route 513 project; the County is still waiting for the CD document to be approved.
- The final design proposal for RQ-179 has been forwarded to the State Department of Transportation for their approval.
- The louvers for the signal at the County Route 517/523 intersection have been order and will be installed next week. There are punch list items that need to be taken care of. The contractor will be back on site the end of August/early September to take care of the top soil and seeding.
- JCP&L is committed to resetting the pole for County Route 512/513 intersection.
- County Route 517 will be completed today; it was a stimulus project. County Route 512 has been completed already. There have been a few complaints about delays but the whole project was done in 8 days. The stimulus money will have been spent by the end of August.

Mr. Melick brought to the Board's attention, for the record that there are new procedures with regard to stimulus funding. He asked Mr. Glynn to comment. Mr. Glynn explained what is normal is to mill two inches and put two inches back but because the elevation could not be changed, part of the Category Exclusion Document was that nothing could be changed; so the County had to keep the pavement the exact width as well as keeping the elevation the same. There had to be no environmental or historical impact. That will probably last ten to twelve years with the type of traffic in that area, if that.

Mr. Melick stated it was pointed out to him yesterday the amount of salt used during bad weather and the areas where it is put on heavier, the road shows the heavy salt areas. Everyone is concerned about the environment and where the trucks turn around near the Morris County Line, the road shows where the heavy amounts of salt are. Mr. Melick stated the County is complying with what the residents want for ice control; so a massive amount of salt is being used and the County is not getting the life it should out of the roads.

Mr. Glynn stated the County is still criticized by the citizens of Tewksbury Township based on the condition of the roads. When residents leave Tewksbury Township and travel north into Morris County or east to Somerset County, those two counties dump a significant amount more of salt than Hunterdon County does. Hunterdon puts down between 300 to 500 pounds of salt per miles and they are dumping close to 800 pounds of salt per mile. Hunterdon tries to balance the safety issue and there is tough topography in that area, there are a lot of grades and horizontal curves; plus it is a few degrees colder in that area because of the elevation. Mr. Glynn reported the contractors on the project did a great job.

- Mr. Glynn advised authorization has not been received yet to demolish the larger shed at the Califon property and a building was not taken down at Deer Path Park as it is needed for storage for the mower. There is another small building at the DeLargo site which is in East/West Amwell and the funding left in the bid contract for demolition could be used to remove that building to clean up the silo and small shed. Mr. Glynn will talk to the contractor about making an equal swap on the cost. The Board agreed Mr. Glynn should proceed to get an equal swap on the cost for this clean up and if there is no additional costs to the contract, Mr. Glynn is to proceed.

Director Mennen confirmed it is technically a heap of material at this time, not a building.

Skylands/use of Safety Equipment, September 12, 2010

Mr. Glynn received a request from North Hunterdon Rotary Club to borrow safety equipment from the Road Department for its 24<sup>th</sup> annual Skylands Triathlon, on Sunday, September 12, 2010. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission to loan safety equipment during the Skylands Triathlon on September 12, 2010.

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

Tewksbury Township/Laurel Mountain Way

Mr. Glynn presorted on a small drainage issue on the Carver property which is directly opposite the Tewksbury Township Municipal Complex, which is at the end of the County's realignment of Lower Mountain Way. The County did Laurel Mountain Way around 15 years ago and there is a watercourse that drains and comes down through the County road and comes across Mr. Carver's property. Mr. Glynn provided photographs to show the erosion caused by the watercourse. While there is some relationship to what the County has completed for the storm drainage but there is a lot of impact with what Tewksbury Township has done; the municipal complex as well as the school. Mr. Glynn has had preliminary discussions with the Township Administrator and he is now asking for direction from the Freeholder Board if he should proceed in trying to resolve the issue and stabilize the outlet structure which would be replacing some stone in the area. The cost will run around \$25,000 and he would like to ask the Township to split the cost with the County. If the County does not get Tewksbury's participation, then the County will not proceed. The Board agreed and directed Mr. Glynn to develop an agreement with the Township on participation.

County Route 625

Mr. Sworen confirmed with Mr. Glynn that stimulus funds have been used work on County Route 625 and it is now a much better road. It is very nice the contractor did a great job on it.

Mr. Glynn stated the contract did 3.5 miles in six days. At the time it was inconvenient but the contractor did work well.

Delaware Township/Bridges Designated Historically

Mr. Sworen reported someone mentioned to him about having all the bridges in Delaware Township designated historically. He questioned if anyone has contacted Mr. Glynn yet. This person is looking for an overall historic preservation/designation for Delaware's stone bridges.

Mr. Glynn reported no one has contact me as yet and asked if anyone has made an application to this effect.

Mr. Sworen advised this person was talking about it and said they talked either to Mr. Glynn or someone in his office about it.

Mr. Glynn advised there is a significant amount of historic structures that have been identified and he would not want to go beyond what has already been identified within the culvert study. He would be glad to talk to whoever Mr. Sworen is talking with and asked Mr. Sworen to have that person call him.

Equine Association

Mr. Glynn reported he did respond back to the Equine Association of East Amwell Township informing them that their recommended sign is the same sign the County has been discussing with the County's other Equine Association and it is not appropriate and it has not been approved by the Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Mr. Glynn stated he would like to work with the Equine Association on putting up the proper signage at the crossings for the hoses. The statute on the books says when a vehicle is approaching a horse, the speed should be dropped to 25 miles an hour. This is in Title 39. He explained the group is asking for more of an education sign and he would like to work with them to find out where they are crossing and put the proper signage (black and yellow) advising of a horse crossing.

Director Mennen confirmed with the Board that Mr. Glynn should have a continuing dialog with the Equine Association of East Amwell Township to work on the situation.

Mr. Glynn explained his office has had this discussion with Franklin Township, Tewksbury Township and with Readington. The law says when appropriating a horse you are to lower your speed to 25 miles an hour. This is more of an education to inform people that Title 39 does include this provision. Mr. Glynn feels his office could work with the Horse Associations throughout the entire County and also place a notice on the County's website about the state (Title 39) has been approved. Also the groups could combine their funds and have a billboard placed somewhere letting people know this is the law.

Francis Gavigan informed the Board when there is a sign which shows a person riding a horse and a kid riding a horse, and it quotes a statute, that is more inclined to get a driver's attention. This is on municipal roads, so it isn't violating a law to have these signs. She feels people give as much attention to a horse crossing sign as they do a deer crossing sign; they don't heed them at all; they just speed on by.

Ms. Gavigan asked if she would be breaking a law if she placed a horse warning sign on her property which would be in the County's right of way.

Mr. Glynn advised the County does not have a sign ordinance, so if a resident puts signs outside the right of way on private property; then the County has little to say about it. A resident may expose themselves to personal liability should the sign create an issue of someone stopping short

or adjusting their speed to 25 miles per hour because the sign which is being recommended by the East Amwell Equestrian Association leads people to believe it is a 25 mile per hour zone. He suggested Mrs. Gavigan check to see if East Amwell has a sign ordinance.

Mr. Glynn has a map showing the Equestrian Trail system for East Amwell and he will provide Mrs. Gavigan with a copy of that map this evening. The County will do the warning signs in accordance with the Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices as the County has done with all the municipalities that have trail systems which utilize the County's roads.

Director Mennen confirmed there is no decision the Freeholder Board needs to make. Mr. Glynn stated he is informing the Board of where this matter is to date.

Director Mennen asked Mr. Glynn to have the ongoing dialog to see if that doesn't help. He confirmed research will be done locally on the municipal level.

Mrs. Gavigan informed the Board that there have been problems with people taking the sign at 1:00 a.m. which is on Wertsville Road for Dutch Lane with the sandbags and moving it to the foot of Losey Road, which is causing a liability issue.

## **COUNTY Update**

### **Historic Courthouse Portraits**

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator advised the Board the County has portraits of Justices: Van Fleet Johnson and Trenchard. In March 2010, the County was approached by former Superior Court Judge, Lou Miller, who is very passionate about the historic Court House and items which were in the building. Mr. Miller was concerned about three paintings that are on permanent loan to the County from the State. Mrs. Yard explained that the Freeholder Clerk, Denise Doolan, has been trying to get an answer from people at the state concerning these portraits.

Mrs. Yard reported these portraits were damaged when renovations were done to the historic Court House. Director Mennen had suggested Mrs. Yard reach out to the Cultural and Heritage Commission to get comments and suggestions concerning funding for the restoration. Mrs. Yard reported on the 2011 Historic Trust tax grant there have been new guidelines put together for organizations other than the County; such a municipalities and nonprofits, who would want to benefit from the Historic Trust Fund.

Mrs. Yard advised the County provides money to the Cultural and Heritage Commission each year to re-grant to eligible organizations and entities. The Cultural and Heritage Commission told Mrs. Yard they had no money and recommended telling the Hunterdon County Bar Association to either fund this themselves or try to get a grant somewhere else.

Mrs. Yard stated that Sue Dziamara, County Planning Board Director and Kevin Richardson, County Trust Fund Coordinator received quotes to get this work done, and the Cultural and Heritage Commission did provide quotes on who would be able to renovate the portraits.

Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Dziamara and Mr. Richardson reviewed the interpretive statements on the County's three ballot questions concerning Farmland, Open Space and Historic preservation. It appears that the new guidelines put into effect for 2011 does not affect Hunterdon County. If Hunterdon County wants preserve thing, the County does not have to go through what some of the other nonprofits have to go through in order to get that historic funding allocated.

Mrs. Yard advised in the interpretive statement as well as the Ballot Question it talks about being able to rehabilitate County owned historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas and other objects which are rapidly being lost to decay. Mrs. Yard advised that she, Mrs. Dziamara and Mr. Richardson feel this is something that can be appropriately used by the Historic Tax Fund.

Mrs. Yard has drafted a notification to the Cultural and Heritage Commission, with the assistance of Mrs. Dziamara to thank them for being a part of this matter and in helping find someone who could restore the portraits. Two quotes were received for the restoration and the quote from the recommendation from Cultural and Heritage was around \$4,000. Mrs. Yard stated this is an eligible and is within the purview of the Board to agree to this restoration.

Director Mennen advised this Board started to take a long hard look at this a year or so ago, of all of the aspects of the Farmland, Open Space and Historic Preservation tax program. It was discovered that an advisory function was to take place with the Cultural and Heritage Commission acting as a sounding board and providing the County with their thoughts and ideas. The Freeholder Board felt it should seek their input when doing a project using historic funds. Director Mennen stated the notification drafted by Mrs. Yard and Mrs. Dziamara does comply with what the Board's thoughts were.

After further discussion, the Board agreed with the notification drafted by Mrs. Yard and Mrs. Dziamara and directed Mrs. Yard to forward this notification onto the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Mrs. Yard stated if there is something in a County owned structure, whether it be artifacts or areas or objects, it is covered through the 2011 question.

Director Mennen confirmed the portraits were damaged when they were within the County's position and it is the County's responsibility to refurbish these portraits. The Board agreed.

#### Alexandria Township In-Kind Print Request

Mrs. Yard reported that Alexandria Township is asking the County to print their Stormwater notification letter to their citizens. This would be 1,900 pieces. The Director of Central Printing has reviewed this request and has indicated this would not involve any overtime. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion granting approval.

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

#### Logisticare and proposal from Easton Coach.

Mrs. Yard reported the County has received a proposal from Easton Coach with regard to Medicaid eligible citizens. She explained that on July 01, 2010 the state made a decision that they could provide what was normally the County's responsibility to provide Medicaid (lower mode) transportation, to Medicaid eligible citizens. Hunterdon used to receive \$350,000 plus/minus a year to provide this service which was done on the County's LINK. The state has hired Logisticare to develop a transportation network so they could provide transportation to the Medicaid eligible citizens and the proposal from Easton Coach who is the operations vendor for the LINK, said they would purchase seats from Easton Coach and then Easton Coach said they would give the County some of the money.

Mrs. Yard explained the Transportation Committee reconvened to look at the County's options and there were four options: (1) do nothing and let Logisticare work out the kinks; (2) deal directly with Logisticare and have the County be a provider; (3) deal directly with the State and have the County be a provider or (4) enter into an agreement with Easton Coach to provide Medicaid transports.

Mrs. Yard has talked with Mr. Holt about this because the County had established a process with the Transportation Committee for the LINK, everyone had come to the consensus that at this point it was agreed that Logisticare should work out the kinks because Logisticare is responsible to provide the Medicaid transportation for the citizens. The County has been tracking this closely.

Shana Taylor, Human Services Administrator, informed the Board that there has not been significant complaints as of lately, as there were when this first started.

#### Wireless Network Update

Mr. Sworen informed the Board that the manager of the Information Technology Department left, Mike Rasmowski, there was no longer oversight such as he was providing, so the County ran into a few problems with the vendors. Mr. Sworen reported that Robert Thurgarland, Director of Central Printing and Mail has stepped in and worked with the County's personnel to make the wireless project work. Mr. Thurgarland is making vendors work and perform as they should. There are issues with radios and other equipment which is being worked on and it is expected this should be rectified within the next few weeks. Mr. Sworen stated Mr. Thurgarland has pulled things together to make it work. There doesn't seem to have been enough testing between the vendors themselves and the County staff has pointed that out and Mr. Thurgarland is making it work.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

#### Camp Dill

John Trontis, Parks and Recreation Director came before the Board concerning the continued discussion on a request from the Camp Dill Foundation to build required septic system on easement, Block 41, Lot 4, Clinton Township and Block 4.07, Lot 7, in High Bridge Borough.

Mr. Trontis stated a meeting was held yesterday with the Hunterdon County Health Department (3 staff members), Freeholder Robert Walton, the Chairman of the Camp Dill Foundation, and his office to discuss, for the benefit of Camp Dill the less expensive options other than the proposal to build a septic onsite. The proposal to build a septic onsite was in response to the County Health Department's request that a permanent facility be built rather than continuing the year to year portable, delivered and pumped out facilities.

Mr. Trontis explained there were a number of less expensive alternatives discussed at yesterday's meeting and they all cost in the range of \$20,000 to \$40,000 as opposed to the \$62,000 full blown septic. All would require some margin of leeway on the conservation easement, which would require approval by the superior court.

Director Mennen confirmed that the proposed options would alleviate the legal issues in this matter.

Mr. Trontis confirmed for Mr. Holt that the proposed options were to pump the septic up around 500' to a leech field, and area that could be pumped out; which would include constructing a holding tank near the water that could be pumped. Unfortunately, a large scale pumper could not easily access the area and if the small pumpers are used (the type that empty port-a-potties) the fee would be astronomical and it would need to be pumped out more often.

Mr. Trontis stated the second option would be to install a tank near the water and pump up to a larger tank located near the road for pump out; which would be less expensive to maintain and a larger pumper could have access near the road but the cost of running the pipe upheld is the same as doing a full blown septic.

Mr. Trontis advised the other option would be to do the cascading tank/dual tank near the water where the solids are retained in the first tank and overflows into the second tank; pumping up and building a septic. Camp Dill believes they would be able to build the larger facility within four or five years.

Mr. Trontis stated the Camp Dill Foundation appreciates that the County, as the last Freeholder Meeting, said it would consider drafting a resolution in support of such an improvement which would need to be taken through the conservation easement process as it specifically says no building but to meet the intent of the conservation lease all the existing facilities onsite (the drywell to the old latrine to the underground cooling facility and the spring house) would be replaced by this one unit. Camp Dill would try to meet the intent of the conservation lease by eliminating any waste flow onsite and the septic field would do that and it would also accommodate the kitchen grey water as well. Also, a new facility would eliminate the underground facilities that are already onsite. Mr. Trontis explained that logically it is difficult for Camp Dill to do a size down facility under the conservation easement. It is difficult for Camp Dill to do this because they are still raising funds, as much as 2/3rds of what is required for the full blown facility and a lesser facility won't fix the problem.

Director Mennen questioned what the Camp Dill Foundation would want to have happen. Mr. Trontis explained that the Camp Dill Foundation would prefer to continue their fundraising in order to construct the larger facility which would meet the intent of the State and County Health Departments. Camp Dill has received verbal approval from Green Acres for the project and they would seek a resolution of support from the Freeholders' on the project and they would then proceed to Superior Court to make the case that they are doing the right for the environment and what is right for that piece of property environmentally.

Mr. Trontis feels there is a renewed sense of cooperation from the Health Department who agrees that in the interim period that they will allow the year to year use of the temporary facilities.

Director Mennen said the bottom line is that his concern is founded that the Camp Dill Foundation will have to seek approval from the court to unwind that aspect of the conservation easement because the easement is for the benefit of the public. Director Mennen stated funds/consideration was paid in return for those restrictions and as a function of law that is what is required. If Camp Dill could do this with the County's concurrence it would make their application to the court stronger, with a letter or resolution of support from this body. Director Mennen stated this Board is being asked for a formal recommendation or action that the applicant can take to court. He questioned if members of this Board are ready to make a decision on this matter or if there is some further information, not the least being a site visit, the Board would require before making that determination.

Mr. Trontis stated that Director Mennen mentioned that County Counsel would look into the matter and word an appropriate resolution. He would be happy to arrange for the Board a site visit. He asked the Board to understand that the funding which the Camp Dill Foundation received for the conservation easement was used to purchase the additional property, around 8 acres, which was going to be lost to development. A private developer was going to building a couple of houses on the property which may have overlooked the camp. The Camp Dill Foundation received a Green Acres grant which was matched with a conservation easement from the County to purchase the adjacent parcel which added 8 to 10 acres to their 16 acres which they have owned since 1925.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion authorizing a resolution or a letter of support be prepared by Aaron Culton, Esquire, of County Counsel's Office, in favor of a facility for the Camp Dill Foundation, Inc. to be prepared for the August 17, 2010 Freeholders' meeting.

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

#### **FOR DISCUSSION**

##### GMIS Membership

A request was received from Information Services for continued membership in the GMIS International, Requisition #3192. The Board confirmed that this request was approved in 2009 and that a condition of being a member of the New Jersey Chapter, that one must also joint the International chapter. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approval.

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

##### Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey

Requisition #CountyClerk.1245, for the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey Conference; requesting the Deputy County Clerk also attend; in the amount of \$750 was considered by the Board.

Mrs. Yard explained that the criteria used under the exceptions for the resolution from March 17<sup>th</sup> was that the County would not fund training, trips, conferences or meetings where the person did not need CEU's (continuing education) for their position or a license or they were law enforcement. The exceptions were spelled out in the email provided to the County Clerk. Mrs. Yard stated the governing body sets policy and if the Freeholders are ready to modify the County's policy for one person, the Board should be prepared to modify the policy for all. There have been many times where requests have been made for deputies to attend such conferences and it has been denied. Mrs. Yard reported that she had rejected approximately 30 or 40 things in 2010 because it was not in accordance with the County's policy and departments did not come before the Freeholder Board to appeal the decision.

Director Mennen confirmed that Mrs. Yard has approved the expenditure for the constitutional officer, the County Clerk, but not for the Deputy County Clerk. He asked if there is any sentiment on this Board to overturn the County Administrator's determination which was based on County policy set by this Board.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting approval for the Deputy County Clerk to attend the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey Conference.

Mr. Melick said this Board is braking prescient by doing this. This Board must not lose sight of the fact that the County has a serious financial problem. The County's budget/expenditures have to be cut by \$2 million. The County can hold expenditures down by adhering to strict policy but to void it sets a different standard for certain people. This is not right for the taxpayers. The ratable base is shrinking; the County does not have the money to pay for this. Mr. Melick said he feels this is the wrong thing to do and it sends the wrong message.

Director Mennen concurred with Mr. Melick and stated neither the County Clerk nor the Deputy County Clerk are present this evening.

Director Mennen stated he does not see a substantiation of this request not even in following the entire chain of emails. He is at a loss to understand how anyone could take a stand overturning a determination which is consistent with the County's policy without the slightest bit of substance to the request. He stated there is no substance.

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

Mr. Melick questioned if this means the County's policy doesn't mean anything? He is trying to work for the taxpayers of the County of Hunterdon. What was approved is a social event.

Director Mennen stated the County still has a policy, a policy that was unanimously adopted by this Board a year and a half ago and the question now is whether or not the policy continues to have any credence or any teeth. Time will tell.

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program

Mr. Holt advised back in June 2009, HUD (Housing and Urban Development) and the USDOT (United State Department of Transportation) and the USEPA (United State Environmental Protection Agency) put together six criteria called the livability principals. At this moment, these federal agencies have jointed together to create a partnership for sustainable communities and the purpose of the partnership is that moving forward, more and more federal funding is going to be moved the individual agencies and from going directly from the federal level to the local level. The federal government is, not only in this but what will come up in the future, in the economic development grant program be looking for regional approaches and regional planning and money will be geared towards not only those areas and those applicants and projects that meet the six criteria but they will be geared towards the elements that meet the criteria on a regional basis.

Mr. Holt explained what has occurred is that the federal government has looked at the municipal planning and feel they already have regional planning authorities who are tied together, specifically with transportation, recognizing that housing, economic development and transportation should be tied together because they are integral in the way they move forward and it should be done on a regional basis. There are already agencies that are successful models of how to handle federal funding and to channel the regional thought process.

Mr. Holt advised the committee which he is fortunate to chair, the Economic and Development Committee, was approached and they began looking at two proposals, about a month ago, from the federal government; one involved HUD funding and one which will be coming up in the next few months, involves economic development funding stream. The initial proposal is that a \$5 million grant will be competitively sought after which will put the model together on the way which federal funding will now flow into regions as opposed to CAPS.

Mr. Holt reported in this rural region of Hunterdon where the there would be little to no access to HUD funding and DOT funding but through a regional approach and through an organization like the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) managing and processing these funds; as is what is done with the revolving \$2 million budget for construction projects; this becomes something where there would be good representation which could bring success.

Mr. Holt advised the timeline is short for this proposal. The grant application came quickly and is due back on August 24, 2010 and it is a \$5 million grant. The funding is not for any particular project; it is to study and put together a process by which this would move forward. Mr. Holt explained that if NJTPA does not participate in this application that it will not be granted an opportunity to participate in any future grant fund proposals.

Mr. Holt explained Hunterdon County is being asked to forward a letter which stated Hunterdon County is willing to participate in this first grant round. He asked this be approved and adopted on the condition of NJTPA's approval. NJTPA currently has the application and is studying it. He added that each entity on the NJTPA Board in the region is responsible to provide a letter stating it will participate in this initial grant proposal.

Mr. Holt advised that he, Sue Dziamara, County Planning Board Director and Tara Shepherd, HART (Hunterdon Area Rural Transportation), has had the opportunity to review and discuss this.

Mrs. Dziamara reported she attended the initial briefing at NJTPA with the representatives from HUD, NJDOT and from EPA. She was encouraged by the dialog because there was discussion about looking at issues and \$5 million is a worthy goal. Mrs. Dziamara thinks this demonstrates a major shift in the way federal government acts and distributes their funding. They are looking to coordinate efforts that will enhance economic and workforce development; the transportation

infrastructure; housing and land use. Mrs. Dziamara feels this fits with what Hunterdon County tries to do on a regional level and thinks this is something Hunterdon should stay involved with and watch.

Mrs. Dziamara reported she is scheduled to be involved in a conference call with the NJTPA on Thursday, August 05, 2010 to go through the application; to discuss the role of the parties as we move through this if there are questions and issues. She welcomed the Board to stop by her office or she would be glad to provide the conference information so that the Board or any member of the Board can be a part of this telephone conference.

Mr. Holt stated there is a four hour window of time which NJTPA's main office will be open for people to attend personally and there will be an opportunity to call in and ask questions.

Mr. Holt feels that after seeing the presentation, that there is a major shift and it isn't known how long it will last; it isn't known once the initial grant period and study is done whether it will actually be implemented but there is a relationship between something that happens in Hunterdon County affects Newark and something that happens in Newark, New Jersey affects Hunterdon County and it is time that those two elements have a mechanism by which they are connected. Route 78 is the perfect example. Hunterdon County is a subregion of 130,000 people in an area of 6 million people. Hunterdon has a good voice but its projects get bumped down. This is seen as a way to recognize the economic development and the attraction of New Jersey for an employer in Morris County to have some connection to Hunterdon County. If Hunterdon is going to attract an employer to Morris County than the transportation systems in Hunterdon County have to be addressed at the same time when things are being looked at in the subregion. Mr. Holt stated this is the mechanism by which that connection takes place. This is the first step.

Mrs. Shepherd agreed there is a major shift and she is hearing the same from her colleagues; approaching transportation, housing and land use and employment in this way is being proactive as opposed to trying to retrofit poor planning and poor infrastructure and trying to constantly play catch up. The goal of this new interagency partnership is to be proactive and plan things in concert.

Mrs. Shepherd stated it is important for the Freeholder Board to know what is being asked is to simply support this regional plan application. There is no obligation at this point; the NJTPA will be applying for the national grant and there is no guarantee it will be received and at this time there is no indication what the planning process will look at. A lot of this currently is just theoretical. She feels more will be known after Thursday. The Freeholders need to be on board with this approach or it will go by the wayside and this region will be left out.

Director Mennen confirmed Mr. Holt is seeking approval to send a letter of approval to the NJTPA on County letterhead.

Mr. Holt explained this letter needs to be received by the NJTPA by August 16, 2010 and the Freeholders' next meeting isn't until August 17, 2010. He confirmed the Freeholders would have no objection once the NJTPA; the Hunterdon County Planning Board and HART have the opportunity to go through the application and if there are no objections from those three entities that the County could have the letter drafted and sent prior to the next meeting.

Director Mennen stated since the application is due on August 23, 2010 and the Freeholders' next meeting is August 17, 2010, that leaves a full week to get the letter to the appropriate party. He does not feel this Board has had an opportunity to digest this information yet and realizes that is the purpose of Thursday's four hour conference call. Director Mennen suggested notifying NJTPA that the County is going to discuss this at the August 17, 2010 meeting and if approved, they will have a letter well in advance of the August 23, 2010 deadline. The Board agreed.

#### **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. Walton seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated August 03, 2010.

**See Page 08/03/10-15A**

#### **CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve the Social Services Funds Report for July, 2010.

**See Page 08/03/10-15A**

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

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

**See Page 08/03/10-16A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salary adjustment for Michael Balboa for acting as a supervisor, in the Buildings and Maintenance Dept.

**See Page 08/03/10-16B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving salaries for unclassified, non-contractual Department Manager's Association employees.

**See Page 08/03/10-16C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving application for payment #6, FINAL, for County Quote 0120-2004, for restoration and repair for the Hall of Records, with Watertrol, Inc., in the amount of \$4,527.

**See Page 08/03/10-16D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the release of a cash performance bond, to Barbieri Builders Corp., in the amount of \$500.

**See Page 08/03/10-16E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving No Passing Zones at Nielsons Corner-Mechlins Corner Road, (County Route 625), in Alexandria and Union Townships.

**See Page 08/03/10-16F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Speed Limits along Flemington-Whitehouse Road, (County Route 523), in Raritan, Readington and Tewksbury Townships.

**See Page 08/03/10-16G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an unrestricted weight limit on Bridge T-61, on Potterstown Road, in Tewksbury Township.

**See Page 08/03/10-16H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an unrestricted weight limit on Bridge R-147, on Old York Road, in Readington Township.

**See Page 08/03/10-16I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an unrestricted weight limit on Bridge B-26-W, on Valley Road, in Bethlehem Township.

**See Page 08/03/10-16J**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Waiver of Recovery Zone Bond Allocation for Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds (RZEDB's), in the amount of \$8,915,000.

**See Page 08/03/10-16K**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the appointment of Joanne Kunz, to the Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board.

**See Page 08/03/10-16L**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving reappointments to the Professional Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

**See Page 08/03/10-16M**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving new appointments to the Professional Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

**See Page 08/03/10-16N**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the appointment of Suzanne Rebick, to the Mental Health Board.

**See Page 08/03/10-16O**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the execution if an extension to the agreement with the Hunterdon Medical Center to provide Public Health Nursing and Education services.

**See Page 08/03/10-16P**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Bruce Fuller appointed full time, unclassified Fire Marshal, Public Safety Department.

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

## **GRANTS**

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 08/03/10-17A**

## **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a grant application for State Aid to Counties and Municipalities, for the reconstruction of County Bridge W-124, in West Amwell Township.

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

## **FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS**

### Memorial for 911 Responders

Mr. Walton reported that correspondence was received from a group located in Franklin Township about erecting a memorial for those who died and responders who suffered as a consequence of the events of 9/11.

Mr. Walton advised this group requested to come before the Freeholder Board to seek permission for this.

Director Mennen confirmed with the Freeholder Board Clerk, Denise Doolan that this has been scheduled for the September 07, 2010 meeting.

### Raritan Valley Community College

Mr. Melick stated the Freeholders had a presentation from the Raritan Valley Community College today and he would like to recommend that the Freeholder Board instruct the Clerk of the Board, Mrs. Doolan, to memorialize what was said and forward it to Hunterdon's Trustees on the Raritan Valley Community College Board of Trustees, so they are aware of what was said at this meeting. Mr. Melick feels that Hunterdon's Trustees should know how this Board feels and apprise them of the conversation. \$5.2 million is a lot of money in this day and age.

Mr. Melick stated that students are struggling and they don't have money to pay tuition and here the school is proposing a \$5.2 million project.

Mr. Walton questioned how many students will be able to enjoy the new facility because they are probably going to be working extra hours to pay for their tuition.

Director Mennen agreed that the County's representatives on RVCC's Board of Trustees should be aware of Hunterdon's thoughts because this could be discussed at a future Board of Trustees' meeting.

Mr. Sworen stated he would not want a document from this Board to hurt RVCC's fundraising. He cautioned how things are worded.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion authorizing a transcript of the minutes of today's meeting representing what has been said to be sent to Hunterdon County's representatives to Raritan Valley Community College's Board of Trustees.

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

### New Jersey Association of Counties

Mr. Holt reported that the County of Morris has provided a copy of a resolution they adopted concerning the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC). He has talked with Peter Palmer, the new President of NJAC. Mr. Holt agreed there are some major issues with the organization and he would like to draft a separate resolution which he is working on language for and it should be ready by the August 17, 2010 meeting.

### Legal Services

Director Mennen reported it has been three months since his presentations concerning legal services. He has corresponded with each member of the Freeholder Board twice in those three months seeking any questions or perhaps further information that may be sought. The responses to his inquiries have not been fulfilling; one member has agreed to move forward; one is still looking and two are still unresponsive.

Director Mennen said three months is long enough and something has to be done. This Board is aware of a situation which has been brought to the Freeholders' attention and it has been brought to the attention of the public and this Board is being negligent by not doing anything.

Director Mennen would like to seek approval from this Body to coalesce those findings and the recommendation which was contained within that preliminary report by the study group. In combination with recommendations, reports, suggestions which have been received from Mr. DeSapio, who has been cooperative in this process in finding a way to transition legal services which this County receives into a more cost effective model. He would like to come forth within a month or so with a more cogent, coherent and complete plan which talks about how to transition this into a more efficient model and uses as a starting point those recommendations which were in the study report. Director Mennen asked for the Board's concurrence to proceed and he would like Mr. Walton, who corresponded that he was interested in advancing this to cooperate and assist in this endeavor.

Mr. Melick feels strides have been made there is new personnel and recommended giving this time to play out. There is a danger of having a permanent in-house counsel. There was a problem with it before. He questioned what will determine the amount of Counsels needed.

Mr. Melick said this Board needs to ask if this is really necessary. The Freeholders are responsible for runaway costs and legal fees. The Freeholders need to look in the mirror regarding additional counsel costs. He would like to see the strides that have been made play out first.

Mr. Holt confirmed what is being suggested is no different than what the County is doing in reviewing departments and services as was done with Transportation and the Health Department. This is a in-depth review of how services are supplied and provided. He agreed the Freeholder Board must look at its actions also regarding costs.

Director Mennen confirmed this is akin to a department review. He feels this could involve the County Administrator, himself and Mr. Walton plus others who have been helpful in past reviews.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion agreeing to a further review which will result in a more detailed recommendation concerning legal services.

Mr. Melick suggested the Freeholder Board also look at itself to see who is assisting in creating/causing legal expenses. Director Mennen stated it is clear that would be a part of the investigation/review.

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

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Director Mennen opened the meeting to the public.

Frances Gavigan, resident of East Amwell Township informed the Board she appreciates the Board's issues concerning spending money on a conference center for Raritan Valley Community College. She suggested the college hold a fund drive.

Mrs. Gavigan asked about horse riding signs.

Louis Reiner, Raritan Township resident praised the Board with the stance taken concerning Raritan Valley Community College.

Mr. Reiner appreciates the Board's actions concerning legal fees.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board