

# HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

August 17, 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. HOLT, MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. WALTON.**

**ABSENT: MR. MENNEN.**

## **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

Deputy Director Holt 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 08/17/10-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss financial issues with the Small Cities grant program.

**See Page 08/1710-1B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss the Sheriff's Trust Fund mediation and the Sheriff's lawsuit.

**See Page 08/1710-1C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a park rental update.

**See Page 08/17/10-1D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss the Mountain Farm Visitor's Centers.

**See Page 08/17/10-1E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 5:02 p.m., recessed at 5:55 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deputy Director Holt announced opened the meeting to the public.

At this time no one from the public wished to address the Board.

## **STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

John Trontis, Director of Parks and Recreation came before the Board to introduce the Student Conservation Association (SCA) which consists of two groups of young people, with 10 crew members each, that do amazing trail work for Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation. An example is they move tons of rock, creating steps up a mountain from boulder fields and there are many other projects the SCA has done.

Mr. Trontis introduced John Regan who has been with the Student Conservation Association for a number of years as an adult Crew Leader and this past summer he was a Super Crew Leader assigned to oversee both crews; Max Cucheiiello served as an Apprentice Leader this past summer; and also present this evening are Zach Hayman and Rich Landy who are crew members that have been with the SCA for multiple years. Also present was Bill Clothier of Parks and Recreation who works to with this group in designing trail projects for these young people.

Mr. Trontis stated of all the SCA programs across the country (these are done in many parks including Yellowstone), Hunterdon County's SCA has a higher return rate than any other crew in the country and as a result, crew leaders of the future are made.

Mr. Regan talked about an exciting project in Hunterdon County which is a partnership between the SCA, the Exxon Mobile Foundation which is the charitable arm of the Exxon Corporation, and the Hunterdon County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Regan explained the mission of the SCA is to build the next generation of conservation service leaders through service to the land. The SCA has a 53 year history and to date there are 60,000 alumni; 3,000 young people are put in the field each year and they are placed all over the country. A few weeks ago, the SCA's founder Liz Titus Putnam, received the Presidential Citizens Award from the President of the United States.

Mr. Regan stated the program in Hunterdon County is a high school conservation crew. The idea is involving high school students and conservation work. The program model has two crews of 10 to 11 high school aged students and one college student per crew who serves as an apprentice leader. Each crew is supervised by two adult crew leaders who receive much training in conservation work and trail building. The crews work 8 hour days and the program is 80% service to the land and 20% environmental education. The concept provides the students with a learning activity and connecting them with a service within their community. This is a 6 week program which is followed up with a recreation trip and the trip is part of how the young people are compensated. Most of the high school students come from Voorhees, North and Hunterdon Central High Schools. The students also receive a small stipend. The total amount of volunteer hours is around 4,500 per season. Over the 9 years that the SCA has been working in Hunterdon County, that accounts for 45,000 hours of volunteer time the County received as a beneficiary of this partnership.

Mr. Regan stated the SCA program in Hunterdon started when the Parks and Recreation Director, John Trontis, wrote a letter to the Student Conservation Association in Washington, D.C. and got this partnership started 9 years ago.

Mr. Regan advised much of the work done by the SCA in Hunterdon County has been at Point Mountain Nature Preserve. The SCA built a trail leading up to the overview at Point Mountain. There are now numerous trails at Point Mountain and SCA has built more than half of the trails in Point Mountain, which accounts for more than 12 miles of contiguous hiking trails.

Mr. Regan advised the SCA built a staircase on the ridge trail of Point Mountain. He showed the Board pictures and noted that some of the rocks are about 300 pounds. Mechanical machines are not used by the SCA; the teenagers are their machines and they can be an amazingly effective machine; and hand tools. The idea is to provide the community with access to nature. When people access nature they will want to preserve nature.

Mr. Regan stated that over the past 9 years the SCA has also worked at Teetertown Nature Preserve and at that location there is a geology trail which is an interpretive trail. He understands a geologist came in after the trail was done by the SCA and added geological points of interest. The SCA also created the Crystal Springs Trail which leads from the Mountain Farm out to the Crystal Spring section which has many ponds.

Mr. Regan advised the County acquired Miquin Woods a few years ago, which was a boy scout camp and the SCA worked there for a couple of seasons creating more than a mile of new trail and brushing back some of the boy scout trails so it could be opened up to the public.

Mr. Regan stated there are students who come back to be with the SCA year after year, and several of them got together over the winter to write for a grant and they won \$10,000 from the Do Something Foundation which they used to create their own project at the Musconetcong to create some switchbacks and rock stairs. Mr. Regan stated he was very impressed by the initiative of those young people who wrote a grant without adult help and received funding for a project.

Mr. Regan introduced Zach Hayman who spent every summer of his high school career serving Hunterdon County through the Student Conservation Association.

Mr. Hayman explained he got interested in the SCA the summer after his Freshman year at Voorhees when he did not have a job and he was offered a six week job with the SCA working outside. He was never an outside person and had no idea what he was getting involved in but after his first summer working with the people with the SCA and what was being done for the community was very gratifying for him which is why he returned each summer. The people he has met at SCA are some of the most unique people he's ever met; while they are all different they are all similar with a passion and commitment for the environmental. Mr. Hayman explained that because of working with the SCA, when he goes to college in the Fall he will be majoring in environmental science. The SCA has given him a life changing look with regard to the environment.

Mr. Regan went through a power point presentation of pictures for the Board on projects worked on and completed by the SCA over the years.

Deputy Director Holt thanked everyone for coming this evening and for the work done by the Student Conservation Association in Hunterdon County's parks.

Deputy Director Holt opened the meeting for public comment.

Christopher D'Annunzio, reporter for the Hunterdon County News questioned the Board about the Fountain Motel stating he has received over 500 emails concerning a person who apparently went crazy at the Fountain Hotel saying this person's name was not given to the Clinton Township Police Department.



Mr. Walton informed Mr. D'Annunzio that he was equally outraged but as he found out after questioning the Human Services Director, Shana Taylor, that the County is a victim of state law. The State of New Jersey has a different view about the rights of criminals versus the rights of the public. New Jersey has decided that the right of the public who needs services weighs heavily on whether or not they should fear for prosecutor or other criminal pursuits when they come to get aid. The state has given certain rights to privacy, so that Hunterdon County has no choice but to adhere to it. As much as the County wants to share that information with the police, the County is compelled by state and in some cases, federal law, from doing so.

Mr. Walton explained the case which occurred this past weekend, at the Fountain Hotel, there was a person who was not a felon, who was not murdering or killing people, but he trashed a room and the police asked the County who the individual was and the County's hands were tied. Mr. Walton said the County is a dumping ground by individuals needing services and the County was put in a bad position by not being able to help.

Mr. Walton is aware that Ms. Taylor met with the Prosecutor's Office today on this matter and the Prosecutor confirmed that the County was correct; that this information could not be disclosed.

Mr. D'Annunzio asked if there is ever an emergent condition when information can be divulged.

Mr. Walton explained he is saying that this past weekend was not an emergent condition and that this past weekend the County's actions were correct.

Mr. D'Annunzio said the police thought this was an emergent condition.

Mr. Walton agreed the police thought this was an emergent condition but the Prosecutor concurred with the County that it was not.

Mr. D'Annunzio said the Prosecutor was not in the room and did not go to the motel to see the room and did not realize the level of maniacal behavior that was going on. He asked when in Hunterdon County does it get to the level of a person being dangerous.

Ms. Taylor explained Mr. D'Annunzio is right that someone was in the Fountain Hotel and they did do damage to a room. Human Services was contacted for information on who the individual was and her department was told they could not comply with that request unless the individual was a fleeing felon.

Ms. Taylor feels being talked about are two different things; One is an emergent condition. If you are a social worker or a therapist or a clinician and find this person is a danger to themselves, or others, that is a different reporting standard and that is the law where you have a duty to report in full. In this instance, the County could have complied with a Grand Jury Subpoena or comply with a request if they were a fleeing felon. The County was told this person did not commit a felony and was not a fleeing felon but the police still wanted the information. The County told the Clinton Township Police if they wanted the information the County could respond to a court order. The standard is for the County to comply with a court order, a fleeing felon or a Grand Jury Subpoena or other administration related issue.

Mr. D'Annunzio advised that people in the area around the Fountain Hotel would like to know why the motel was chosen as the dumping ground for all these people. The Fountain Motel has had over a hundred incidents from people being placed there.

Ms. Taylor informed Mr. D'Annunzio that the Fountain Hotel is one of six places where people are placed. The standard is whether the motels/facilities will accept the state mandated amount of \$50.00 a night to house someone who is otherwise homeless. The Fountain Hotel accepts the state mandated amount of \$50.00 as does a few other hotels in the area. Ms. Taylor explained when someone qualifies for services and it is determined they are homeless and in need of the service, then a place is found for them. It is usually based on who has a slot available in their hotel. Ms. Taylor again stressed that there are six hotels being used, not just the Fountain Hotel.

Mr. D'Annunzio feels the Fountain Hotel has become a nuisance.

Ms. Taylor said the Fountain Hotel needs to not accept the \$50.00 per night for these placements. There is no way to avoid this unless they raise their rates. Ms. Taylor said the County has placed 10 people currently at that facility which has around 40 rooms.

Mr. Walton stated the Fountain Hotel as 38 units and today 10 of those units are occupied by County referrals. He named the other hotels: The Siesta Hotel, the Travel Hotel, the Ramada and the Whitehouse Hotel being utilized in Hunterdon County. The Whitehouse Hotel has 8 placements at this time, the Ramada has 19, the Travel in has 23, the Siesta has 3 and the Fountain Hotel has 10. Mr. Walton said the County is not targeting the Fountain Hotel. A voucher is given to the client and they are asked where they want to go and they chose.

Mr. Walton agreed with Mr. D'Annunzio that the Fountain Hotel does have a lot of problems and the County is looking at other avenues for placing people who come to the County for help. He stressed the County is looking at other options.

Mr. Walton stated in 2008 the Courier News did a lengthy and thorough article discussing the dilemma of this situation. There are people, some of which are bad and some are good, that have fallen on hard times and they are placed there. This facility is not good for the people sent there or for the township. This is a very bad situation that the County is trying to manage the best way possible.

Mr. Walton advised there are hotels in the business of providing housing for people on a temporary basis.

Mr. Walton stated that Clinton Township has a tax which the state created. The revenue from that tax was \$170 last year and this year it is up to \$410. That isn't near enough for Clinton Township to deal with the problem of referrals which may cause a problem. The state had to do more to fix this; the County was dealt a bad hand and trying to deal with it. There are certain things that need to be referred and the County will be taking to its legislators about this. There maybe certain things the County can do better and those avenues will be looked at.

Mr. Walton advised the Prosecutor said after reviewing this case that the County did what it had to do. No one likes the situation, no one wants to help criminals but unfortunately to a certain degree the County's hands are tied.

Mrs. Yard advised that Ms. Taylor only started with the County on July 12, 2010. It is significant to note the years that Donna Gappas, Division of Social Services Director of the Human Services Department, (6 years) there has never been an incident where someone called the County to ask for information. This has never happened before that a police department came and said the County needs to provide this information because everyone is aware of what the law is. This individual was not a fleeing felon; he was not a danger to himself or others; and the County provided information to the police department explaining what the protocol was to either get a court order, which is not difficult to obtain; especially if the individual meets the criteria.

Mrs. Yard explained that Freeholder Walton has been very interested in this case, this past weekend, and he has met with Ms. Taylor on this matter and Mrs. Yard advised she has also met with Ms. Taylor and while it is unfortunate, Mrs. Yard said the County did everything it was supposed to do to follow the law.

Deputy Director Holt thanked Ms. Taylor and Freeholder Walton for their work and interest in this matter.

#### **PLANNING/FARMLAND**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-4A**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Contract for Sale of Development Easement from the Estate of Henry D. Boss, on Block 15, Lot 7, in Holland Township, estimated 131 acres, (SADC - \$576,400, County - \$170,300, Township - \$170,300), total amount of \$917,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-4B**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Municipal/County Cost Sharing Agreement with Holland Township, for the Estate of Henry D. Boss, for Block 15, Lot 7.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-4C**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an Assignment of Deed of Easement from Hunterdon Land Trust for their interest in the Deed of Easement, for the Estate of William P. Stamets Farm, for Block 25, Lot 60, in Holland Township.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-4D**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Grant Agreement for Development Easement from Serenity Hills Farm, L.L.C., on Block 3, Lots 4, 4.02 and 34; Block 4, Lots 4.02, 4.03, 4.04, 4.05, 4.06, 4.07, 4.08, 4.09, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.14, 4.16 and lands lying within Barclay Road, in Tewksbury Township, consisting of 305 acres, (SADC-\$3,771,438.00; County-\$466,863.09, Federal Funds-\$2,047,428.91), total of \$6,285,730.00.

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



Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-5A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Nonprofit grant program application with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, in the amount of \$104,900, for Block 2, Lot 1.01, in Stockton Borough (Barbechi), consisting of 12 acres.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-5B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Nonprofit grant program application with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, in the amount of \$120,000, for Block 22, Lot 21, in Delaware Township (Glide), consisting of 20 acres.

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

**PURCHASING**

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-5C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #25121, using State Contract #A-62563, with Wright Line, for furniture for the Emergency Services Division of Public Safety, in the amount of \$101,146.13.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-5D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the award of County Bid #2010-19, for the Painting of various Bridges, in various Townships, to Aussie Painting Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$167,770.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-5E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the award of County Bid #2010-21, for the Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements to County Routes 613, 650 and 519, to Owl Contracting and Paving, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$2,609,610.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-5F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a modification to the professional services agreement with Archer and Greiner, P.C., for legal services for the Social Services Division of Human Services, extending the agreement through March 31, 2011, in the amount of \$90,000.

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

**ROADS and BRIDGES Update**

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

- A preconstruction meeting was held for County Route 519/County Route 650, today, August 17, 2010. Work should begin by the contractor mid-September.
- Plans and specifications for County Route 619 are on today's consent agenda for approval. Mr. Glynn had conversations with Freeholder Sworen about the start of the project, so he will touch base with the Frenchtown Borough School and the Council in Frenchtown concerning this project. The County is in a position, since work will be done in front of the school, to postpone construction until the school year ends in June 2011, taking into consideration that most students walk to school. Mr. Glynn's recommendation is to award the contract but to hold off on construction until school is not in session. Frenchtown is supposed to approve the plans and specifications at their meeting tonight.

- Punch list items for County Route 635 in Hampton and Glen Gardner should be completed the week of August 23, 2010. There is an outstanding driveway issue; a drainage and then landscaping will be done throughout the project.
- The last two projects for resurfacing are being worked on at Route 639 and then the contractor will move up to Bloomsbury, County Route 579, Main Street to mill and resurface that section.
- A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for bridge painting for tomorrow, August 18, 2010.
- As part of the historical assessment for County Bridge L-97-W, on Stephensburg Road, in Lebanon Township, the County has to inventory the structure in accordance with the Interior Secretary Standards for Historic Bridges. Warren County is working on a proposal from the historian to do that work and Hunterdon will pick up half of the cost as part of the historic bridge project.
- County Counsel has completed contracts with a property owner in connection with Bridge Q-168, on Pennsylvania Avenue in Raritan Township.
- Construction on County Bridge R-123, on Holland Brook Road, in Readington Township will begin the second week in September. This project will be completed this year.
- An application for the Multi-Purpose Trail/Bridge Project at Echo Hill Park is on tonight's agenda to approve application for the funding for that project.
- Plans for the realignment and culvert replacement of County Culvert A-31, on Mount Salem Road, in Alexandria Township have been forwarded to the Township on August 03, 2010. The County has not received a response from the Township yet.
- Mr. Glynn reported the work on County Culvert E-163, on County Route 579, in East Amwell Township is being held off so that the Fire Companies can hold what is considered their largest fundraiser.
- The wall on County Culvert L-34, on Buffalo Hollow Road, in Lebanon Township has failed and the culvert is closed but it is expected to be open by Friday, August 20, 2010.
- Steel framing is being set up for Bridge T-116, on Boulder Hill Road, in Tewksbury Township. This is a replacement of the superstructure.
- The drainage projects are up to Route 513 in High Bridge. There is a conflict with the waterline and the water company has a difficult time shutting off the valves so the County is working with the water company to get their valves to work, so the waterline can be reset and the project can be finished on 513; then the contractor will move onto Route 617, by the second week in September.
- The storm water is almost complete for the Sidewalk and Drainage project at the Route 31 County Complex, at Gauntt Place, Community/Extension Services Building. The sidewalk portion of the project will begin next week.
- Approving has been received on the environmental re-evaluation document for County Route 519, Warren Glen Hill, Safety Improvement. The climbing lane/truck ramp has been removed from the project. DOT has approved the project. The project has been scaled down and will be done in accordance with what was agreed to with Holland Township.
- The right of way has been submitted for authorization to the Federal Highway for County Bridge F-45, on Whitebridge Road, in Franklin Township.
- County Bridge E-166 is moving ahead and the deck should be poured the early part of next week. Box beams were set and the box structures are all complete. The County is working on getting the stone panel approved by SHPO.
- Slab beams are scheduled to be set tomorrow on Bridge C-88.
- The truss members repaired for Bridge RQ-164, on Rockafellows Mill Road, are now at the galvanizers and should be one site the first week in September.
- Louvers have been ordered for the signal heads at County Route 517/523.
- JCP&L has not been on site at Routes 512/513 to relocate the pole.
- A utility meeting is scheduled for County Routes 600/612 project.
- The demolition projects are complete. An additional well was found at one of the tracts and it was advanced into closure, so there will be a minor change order for the closing of an additional well.
- Inspection reports have been received for the park dams. They are being reviewed; there are several items of work which need to be done and the County has to determine how the work will be done.

Mr. Glynn reported an application has been made by a group in Delaware Township concerning declaring 36 bridges in the Township as historic. He has not seen a historic sites application put together for bridges as individual bridges as this one is. There are some problems, and reported that he and Sue Dziamara, Planning Board Director met with Roger Byrom and Charles Taylor of the bridge committee. There have been emails to the Freeholder Clerk from Mr. Byrom about making a presentation to the Board. Mr. Glynn questioned if the Board would want comments from both he and Mrs. Dziamara on that application.

Mr. Glynn stated some of the bridges are already on the historic register, some bridges do have merit and while he is not a historian, he doesn't see the merit on others. He feels work does need to be done on the application and he would like to confirm whether this application has already been made to the State Historic Preservation Office.

Deputy Director Holt confirmed with Mr. Glynn that the bridge group has been before the governing body of Delaware Township. Mr. Glynn added that a resolution of support has been provided by Delaware Township.

Deputy Director Holt thinks a presentation from this group should wait until Director Mennen is available.

Mr. Glynn asked for time for him and Mrs. Dziamara to review the application and get comments back to the Board. He would like to confirm if the application has been made to the State Historic Preservation Office and what form it is because the application appears to generally apply bridges like an historic district; saying the bridges are all over the Township and in his point of view some of them are not historic. There are concrete slabs with guiderail across them. Mr. Glynn feels it is the narrowness that the citizens are trying to protect. Mr. Glynn feels comments on the application could be ready for the Board by the last meeting in September.

Mr. Glynn advised the County once spent a lot of money on the Arch Stone Culvert and his office has a good assessment of what qualifies. Also, the State spent money on the trusses. There are good baseline studies already for a lot of the bridges.

Mr. Melick confirmed with Mr. Glynn that a bridge inventory was done several years ago, throughout the whole County and there was a rationale developed and that report is done. All these bridges were considered at that time. The County can't save everything; especially concrete slabs. The criteria developed should be applied to all bridges. Mr. Glynn stated if all the bridges are thrown into the application it starts to lessen the impact of what a historic structure is.

Deputy Director Holt confirmed Mr. Glynn and Mrs. Dziamara will provide comments and concerns and issues to the Board for review.

Mrs. Yard confirmed the Delaware Township group will be scheduled for the second meeting in September and that Mr. Glynn and Mrs. Dziamara will provide their comments prior to the meeting.

### **COUNTY Update**

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator informed the Board that two budgets ago, the Freeholder Board asked the County to work with Kemper Sports Management to come up with readable, friendly update of Heron Glen Golf Course, on moneys coming to the County and what is being spent. There was also interest on the Board to make sure that all the County resources used to maintain to work at the golf course, as well as the County's debt which is being paid off for the purchase of the golf course property. John Trontis, Parks and Recreation Director, Kim Browne, Finance Director, Margaret Pasqua, County Treasurer and Mrs. Yard have worked hard to get a readable, user friendly reported. Kemper does a very detailed report but this report is more of what the Board was asking for two years ago. This report will be provided to the Board quarterly. Mrs. Yard stated Mr. Trontis worked diligently with Kemper on this report.

Mr. Trontis informed the Board that this is the last year the County will be paying for the land. In December a \$1.2 million payment will be made to the Green Acres Program to close out this grant. Also, operational costs were covered this year. Mr. Trontis stated in a seven year progressive format the County is repaying the land, as well as covering costs. He advised that over 13 years the County will have paid off the improvements on the land. The County is now 8 years into the 13 year cycle.

### **FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **Sustainable Communities Regional Planning program**

Deputy Director Holt reported two weeks ago he brought to the Board a grant application that the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning program. As he stated two weeks ago, the federal government has formed a new consortium made up of HUD, EPA, DOT and the federal transportation people to begin looking at how to combine all those entities into a single element towards a more regional plan for what is being called a Sustainable Partnership.

Deputy Director Holt explained the grant program, is a fairly competitive program and as they are looking at regional participation they have approached the MPO's (Municipal Planning Organizations), the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) being the MPO that Hunterdon County is involved with, to file for this grant application. He advised to file for this grant application, which is a \$5 million grant it begins the process of putting together all these entities and in essence figuring out a program for combining future funding into elements that are more regionally driven and that are built primarily around sustainable growth as opposed to taking the money and going directly to the local level.

Deputy Director Holt advised after a great deal of debate at the NJTPA, which has 20 Board members; 13 counties; the Governor's Office has a representative and a voting member; New Jersey Transit, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; New Jersey Department of Transportation; Jersey City; the City of Newark; and there is a citizen's representative that has not been in place for some time. Out of the 20 Board members there has to be at minimum 19 that consistently vote.

Deputy Director Holt advised there has been a great deal of debate, as well as a number of seminars and sessions of which he, Mrs. Dziamara and Tara Shepherd of HART were involved. As of Monday, the NJTPA Board had an executive meeting conference call, at which point there was a unanimous vote on behalf of the Board of NJTPA to endorse and submit an application which is due before the end of this month. He added that in that meeting the Governor's Office strongly endorsed the application is submitting a letter of support, as did DOT, New Jersey Transit and the Port Authority.

Deputy Director Holt stated for the record there were 15 voting members on that particular phone call and it was a unanimous vote. He advised he did vote in favor of this application, however, he also indicated that the Hunterdon County Freeholders would not be meeting until this evening.



Mrs. Dziamara feels it's important to state that the Federal Government is trying to cross pollinate some of their agencies, such as HUD, EPA and DOT. A partnership like this has never happened. The \$5 million grant application is a first step and if the \$5 million is not received, the application itself will open doors to other potential federal funding dollars.

Deputy Director Holt confirmed the NJTPA may or may not receive this grant however if the NJTPA does not file the application it will not be able to file for any future potential funding.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion authorizing a letter of support be prepared indicating Hunterdon County will participate as a member of the NJTPA.

Mr. Walton said in broad strokes this is a good program. The suggested letter has goals such as to promote equitable affordable housing, expand location for housing, support existing communities, target federal funding towards existing communities. He questioned if that is not incongruent.

Deputy Director Holt stated in a broad sense there are at some points that are the direct opposite of each other. He said somewhere along the line the government agencies have to be targeted into finally communicating with each other. For example, if affordable housing is going to be somewhere why would we not be targeting that and the transportation model at the same time. Everyone knows from New Jersey's perspective - that has never been the case. Deputy Director Holt said if we are going to look at things like economic development, sustainability or small towns like Flemington and the ability to re-drive our small existing communities that are already here, why are we not looking at this as a complete regional model as opposed to one agency looking one way and another agency looking the other.

Deputy Director Holt feels this is a step in the right direction. There is another program being worked on that involves economic development. This is trying to put economic development and small communities, such as Flemington, Frenchtown, Hampton, to find out what their needs are and figure how to combine that with transportation versus housing and start to look at the regional picture.

Mr. Melick questioned what Hunterdon County has gotten for Mr. Holts efforts of being a member of the NJTPA for the past four years.

Deputy Director Holt advised \$18 million was received to repave Route 78.

Mr. Melick said Route 78 is the state and asked what Hunterdon County has received.

Deputy Director Holt advised there are a number of projects listed for Hunterdon County; there are a number of projects through the County's bridge program that started almost 10 years ago which came to the County for some of the 238 bridges Hunterdon has. Deputy Director Holt confirmed for Mr. Melick that money has been received for the bridges. He noted that a majority of them are reimbursable programs but the County did receive money.

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

#### New Jersey Association of Counties

Deputy Director Holt reported a couple of months ago he asked the Board to consider a resolution which Morris County had put forth with regard to the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC). In fairness to Freeholder Melick and the position he took about two years ago where he felt strongly that NJAC was not being transparent enough with regard to its activities and finances and because of that Hunterdon County withdrew its permanent membership in 2008. In that timeframe, a lot of newspaper reporting has been running stories on this and early in 2010, Morris County put forth a resolution in which they clearly stated they would continue to participate at NJAC but they would not pay any dues and there were a series of conditions under which they wanted resolved and some of them being a thorough review of the independent audit which is currently underway. Deputy Director Holt informed the Board there is an audit of NJAC that has been completed and should be released immediately.

Deputy Director Holt stated that Morris County talked about having comprehensive review and a modification of all the compensation/fringe benefit plans for all current and future employees; and a review and analysis of the existing organizational structure on the organization.

Deputy Director Holt reported two months ago he spoke about this at a Freeholder Meeting and his point is that he still feels there is a need for an organization which represents counties. He stated that Freeholder Melick effectively said that NJAC, in his opinion, may have represented counties at one time but based on its current membership; it has gone from an association which is less than effective and probably does not represent counties or certain Board of Freeholders. Deputy Director Holt said his contention is that if there is to be a reorganization of this association that there maybe an interest or a value to Hunterdon being at the table, albeit not a dues paying member.

Deputy Director Holt reported he took part of Morris County's resolution and reworked it and sent it to the Freeholder Board for consideration or comments and/or suggestions.

Deputy Director Holt asked if there is an interest in wanting to participate in rebuilding an organization to represent counties in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Melick asked Deputy Director Holt if he had a copy of the audit recently done on NJAC. He noted there have been newspaper accounts of the audit and it does not seem to be pretty. From reading the articles, there are problems with the IRS concerning employee penalties. He questioned what will happen with the existing Director. There are hints she will retire but no one is sure of that. He's read about her expense accounts and various other things. He questioned how this will play out.

Mr. Melick feels the best way to clean this up would be for all counties to stop paying dues to NJAC and to start all over again, with a different name and it would not have all this baggage.

Mr. Melick recommended putting off this resolution until a copy of that audit is received and sift through it. He feels counties should have access to the audit.

Mr. Walton said the Freeholders could modify the resolution asking for the release of the audit. He is ready to support this resolution because he feels Hunterdon County should be at the table when NJAC is reformed. Some items to be reformed for example is a cap on administrative salaries and then Superintendents of Schools could be capped at \$125,000 for small schools. There should be complete transparency and this organization should be held to the same standard that Hunterdon County is held to.

Mr. Melick stated he has an OPRA request into NJAC for information and they have failed to provide that information.

Mr. Walton agreed there should be a thorough review of the independent audit. In order to bring forth the types of changes Hunterdon is looking for, then Hunterdon should be at the table when this is redone.

Deputy Director Holt said this could be done in a letter format to Peter Palmer of Somerset County, who is the current head of NJAC, indicating there is a need for an association that truly represents counties; that there is a need for a well run organization; and that Hunterdon is willing to participate but only under certain circumstances and ask Mr. Palmer for an update on what is happening with the organization.

Mr. Melick would also like Mr. Palmer to provide a copy of the audit. It has to be public since there are accounts of it in the newspaper.

Mr. Melick said there is no legislative mandate or statutory authority for this organization. This organization needs to come to a complete stop with a new mandate and a new structure. Counties definitely have a need to get together concerning legislation but the fashion in which NJAC has been run has lead to a tremendous amount of abuse and he feels the audit will show that.

Mr. Walton agreed this needs to be fixed and it has to be fixed right, and in order to do that he feels Hunterdon needs to be a part of the meetings to restructure NJAC.

Mr. Melick said before Hunterdon does too much, the Freeholders should set a goal for what Hunterdon wants to see in an organization and what Hunterdon would like to achieve.

Deputy Director Holt said this resolution was done in draft format and he hears from this conversation that there is an agreement that counties, as a whole, can utilize representation jointly for many issues. This organization may or may not have accomplished some of that but it certainly has not done it with transparency, efficiency and more.

Mr. Melick asked if Hunterdon can set its own goals and think about what would be best for Hunterdon and come back to this. He questioned what this County wants to achieve before spending any money or get involved. What is Hunterdon's goal?

Deputy Director Holt has no problem in putting this off. He questioned if there are any goals that are specific.

After further discussion, Deputy Director Holt said he will rework the language of the resolution. He would like this resolution to be endorsed by the entire Board and to be in agreement of what the language says. The purpose tonight is to hear the Board's ideas and concerns. He asked the Board to allow him the opportunity to rework the resolution.

The Board agreed and discussion will continue at the September 07, 2010.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Camp Dill Update**

John Trontis, Director of Parks and Recreation stated at the last Freeholder meeting, he and Freeholder Walton spoke about the meeting held with the members of the County Health Department concerning septic issues at Camp Dill. He feels the Health Department and Parks and Recreation are working towards a higher level of cooperation in this matter.

Mr. Trontis reported that the lower cost alternatives considered might not be adequate to serve as a permanent fix for the Camp Dill Foundation. the use of holding tanks as an interim measure may not save enough funding or permitting to be a viable solution.

Mr. Trontis reported the Freeholder Board indicated at the last meeting that it would consider a resolution of support for the Camp Dill Foundation to seek permits to develop a permanent septic and gray water system. The County holds a conservation easement over the Camp Dill property, the Freeholders said the Board would also support these improvements under the easement and County Counsel was asked to draft a resolution of support. Mr. Trontis stated the Foundation may need to seek a technical waiver from the court system to do this under the terms of the easement.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

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

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Supporting supports the concept and preliminary plan which has been proposed by Camp Dill Foundation, Inc. for the erection of a comfort station and septic system at the campsite and does not oppose an application by Camp Dill Foundation, Inc. to the Superior Court for a waiver of the Conservation Easement restrictions for this limited purpose provided that (1) the relief sought by Camp Dill is the best alternative to bring the site into compliance with the standards necessary to continue to operate its annual camp activities, (2) the work associated with the project is performed in such a manner as to provide the least amount of disturbance to the plant and wildlife habitat, and conforms with all State and County Rules and Regulations, and (3) it is completed at the sole cost and expense of Camp Dill Foundation, Inc.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Deputy Director Holt announced: "All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately."

Item #13 was held at this time.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated August 17, 2010.

**See Page 08/17/10-10B**

**CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

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

**See Page 08/17/10-10C**

**SOCIAL SERVICE FUNDS REPORT**

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of July 20, 2010.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

**See Page 08/17/10-10D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Harry Fuerstenberger, Human Services Department, hours adjusted to full time.

**See Page 08/17/10-10E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Stephen Clipper, Shane Corrigan, Christopher Pine, Scott Schaller, and Christopher Spitzer appointed permanent, full time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainees, in the Emergency Services Division of the Public Safety Department.

**See Page 08/17/10-10F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Denise B. Doolan appointed unclassified, full time Clerk to the Board, Freeholder's Office.

**See Page 08/17/10-10G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Emily Stanton appointed temporary, as needed seasonal Clerk, Rutgers' Cooperative Extension of Hunterdon.



**See Page 08/17/10-11A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Change Order #1, Final, County Bid #2009-16, for the 2009 Resurfacing of various County Roads, with Top Line Construction Corp., decrease of \$328,913.38.

**See Page 08/17/10-11B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving final payment on County Bid #2009-16, for the 2009 Resurfacing of various County Roads, to Top Line Construction Corp., in the amount of \$22,340.48.

**See Page 08/17/10-11C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Recommending that the State suspend/repeal the Involuntary Outpatient Treatment Commitment Law, which is an unfunded mandate that cannot be implemented adequately without appropriate funding.

**See Page 08/17/10-11D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving contract #TS11010, with the State Department of Human Services, for transportation related services to recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), for the provision of \$33,768 in Special Initiatives and Transportation Funds.

**See Page 08/17/10-11E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an application and agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the design of Stanton Station Road Bridge, RQ-179, in Raritan and Readington Townships.

**See Page 08/17/10-11F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the release of a cash performance bond to Steven Lang, on Block 16, Lots 7.01 and 7.02, in Union Township, in the amount of \$3,000.

**See Page 08/17/10-11G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the release of executive session minutes for May 04, 2010, May 11, 2010, May 18, 2010, June 01, 2010 and June 15, 2010.

**See Page 08/17/10-11H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an agreement with Frank Giannantonio and Associates, Inc., for Key Claims Paper Claim Entry Claims and Transmission services for electronic transmission of Medicare Flu Claims, for the Health Department.

**See Page 08/17/10-11I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a privacy agreement with Frank Giannantonio and Associates, Inc.

**See Page 08/17/10-11J**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the appointment of Virginia Romanelli to the Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services Advisory Council.

**See Page 08/17/10-11K**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Introduction of an Ordinance establishing Haz-Mat Cost Recovery.

**See Page 08/17/10-11L**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving shared services for Haz-Mat Clean Up.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-11L**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the plans for Roadway Reconstruction and Drainage Improvements to County Route 619 (Harrison Street), in Frenchtown Borough.

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



**PROCLAMATION**

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 08/17/10-12A**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Declaring September 20-26, 2010, as Fall Prevention Awareness Week, in Hunterdon.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A request was received from the Milford Merchants Association for permission to hold a 5K run at the Milford Fall Festival, on Saturday, October 09, 2010, between 11 am and 12 noon. The runners will cross Route 519 at Javes Road and run on Route 519 South, turning right onto Bridge Street. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

The Milford Merchants Association is also requesting permission to use County Route 519 on Sunday, October 31, 2010, for their annual Halloween Parade, at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

A letter was received from SAFE in Hunterdon requesting permission to use the historic Court House steps for their annual Candlelight Vigil, from 6 to 7 pm, on Wednesday, October 06, 2010. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

A request was received from the Union Fire Company asking for permission to hold a Coin Toss, on Saturday, September 11, 2010 and Sunday, September 12, 2010, at the intersection of State Highway 12 and Race Street, in Frenchtown Borough. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

**FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS**

**Clinton Township Fire EMS**

Mr. Walton informed the Board that Clinton Township has adopted a resolution calling on the County to take over Fire, Emergency Services and other things. This is an avenue of shared services. Mr. Walton feels there is something the County can do, or a role the County can play and suggested having a summit or meeting with the mayors or governing bodies to begin a dialog about to how to best address these issues. He has had several committee people email him saying they want the County to take over these services and other people have said to stay away from their police force. Mr. Walton feels the County should begin discussing how to do things better.

Mr. Sworen advised 4 years ago he and Freeholder Holt went out to fire companies, Chief's associations and EMS and said things are changing but the County doesn't want to say what to do and asked them to come back to the County and state how the County can help to make things better or how divisions could be combined. That is still something that is being pursued. Mr. Sworen said on the EMS and Fire level, they need to come back to the County with suggestions/recommendations. Mr. Sworen feels that Mr. Walton is very knowledgeable and involved in this and can provide advice on what service is required by a town. He agreed the County needs to reach out to these people, stronger to find how they want to go from here. The County needs the municipalities help in going in the right direction for these services.

Mr. Walton suggested this be a bottom up approach and not a top down approach.

Mrs. Yard asked how did this tie into the \$300,000 grant that the Chamber of Commerce had on shared services.

Mr. Walton said he has been waiting for the Chamber of Commerce to come before the Board for awhile.

Mr. Melick asked if the Chamber may have spent the \$300,000 already.

Mr. Walton stated the Chamber spent the money on salaries and studies. The Chamber Shared Services person, Mr. DiBianco was very helpful with Hampton Borough and getting the school and municipality to work together. The Chamber was very helpful.

Mrs. Yard asked what the Chamber did and how it helped specific to police, fire and rescue.

Mr. Walton said the Chamber looked at police, fire and rescue and they helped do some studies in Lambertville City, West Amwell Township and East Amwell Township but that fell apart when West Amwell said no thank you. Mr. Walton stated that the Mayor of Lambertville still wants to move forward with shared services. The Chambers help with Hampton Borough's application for a seven town study for the north part of the County. Mr. Walton stated that the Chamber was not successful with EMS because municipalities do not have direct control over fire and EMS services.

Mrs. Yard asked if this would be reinventing something that the Chamber of Commerce has already accomplished with their shared services.

Mr. Walton stated the Chamber was not able to make any progress saying there was one study for the south part of the county concerning police; and for Fire and Police they got no where.

Mrs. Yard questioned if there are any other grants available that could be pursued by the Chamber for shared services.

Mr. Walton feels there are opportunities to use the grant funds.

Mr. Melick confirmed the \$300,000 in completely spent. He feels that shared services should be merging towns together. He confirmed that when municipalities merge and union contracts are involved the highest one prevails.

Mr. Sworen stated that is one of the bills in the Governor's Toolkit that has been proposed but at this point, it has gone nowhere.

Mrs. Yard asked if a needs assessment has been done to find out if there is actual interest in creating a shared service model or is someone going to do this work and it go nowhere.

Mr. Walton said the state police has a formula, that Hampton Borough was going to use to assess the minimal number of officers and personnel needed to staff a police force to provide base level police services and then look a the towns and the existing police and what is in place and what is needed and determine if there is a way to those can be more efficiently allocated.

Mr. Walton said this was driven by the fact that the state police were going to be taken away. Even though the state police aren't going to be taken away now, who is to say it won't happen in the future. A policy/format has to be ready to go so the County will know what the costs are if the County is ever faced with it.

Mr. Melick said the County always has to work towards a solution to make things better; however, with the package of bills being considered by the legislature, it will have an effect on whatever the County does. Mr. Melick said to get someone to change something is very tough. Hunterdon County has merged resources and things over the years but it came about naturally without getting much fanfare or people involved and there was no \$300,000 consultant doing it and things were more efficient.

Deputy Director Holt feels the problems may be some of the bigger pieces which will truly have an impact on the County. He thinks things may have to be mandated.

#### Pension

Mr. Melick questioned if anyone has any suggestions/thoughts on how to solve the pension problem.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Deputy Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments or questions from the press or public.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Deputy Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board