

REORGANIZATION

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Hunterdon County Historic Court House
71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822
January 05, 2010

The reorganization meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders was called to order at 3:12 p.m., in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Clerk of the Board, Denise B. Doolan, welcomed everyone present to the annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon for 2010.

The Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders read the following meeting notice: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been posted by prominently posting and maintaining so posted throughout the year on the first and second floor of the County Administration Building, Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements, and by mailing on or before December 17, 2009, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review, and Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing with the Hunterdon County Clerk a schedule of time, date and place of the holding of these regular meetings."

Pledge Allegiance.

Mrs. Doolan asked Reverend David Errickson of Old Rocks Church in Lambertville, New Jersey to provide today's invocation.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Reverend Errickson.

Mrs. Doolan recognized the Honorable Leonard Lance for coming today to swear in the various individuals, into office.

Mrs. Doolan asked the Honorable Leonard Lance to swear in Freeholder Elect J. Matthew Holt.

The Honorable Leonard Lance swore in Freeholder Elect, J. Matthew Holt, as his wife, Megan, held the Bible.

Freeholder Holt thanked Congressman Lance for swearing him in today, saying this is a man that truly represents Hunterdon County.

Freeholder Holt recognized Senator Mike Doherty, Assemblyman Erik Peterson, Assemblyman John DiMaio, County Clerk, Mary Melfi, Undersheriff George Muller and Henry Kuhl, Republican Chairman.

Mr. Holt recognized Marilyn and James, his In-Laws; his sister, Sarah and her husband, Peter; and his parents, Ann and Jack. His parents have provided great guidance in his life. The love of his life, Megan, who as of today attends the 9th swearing in of his 17th year of service in Hunterdon County. Mr. Holt stated paybacks are here because recently Megan was elected District Governor for Rotary District 7510 and he is attending events lately as the Governor's spouse. It does take a little to get used that.

Mr. Holt noted that Woody Allen has said "More than any other time in history, mankind faces a crossroads; one path leading to despair and other hopelessness; the other to total extinction. Let us hope and pray that we have the wisdom to choose correctly." Being that comes from Woody Allen, it was intended with some sarcastic humor and he gets to see that each time he sits on one side of the desk in his father's office because that saying is hanging on his wall. Although the quote was intended with sarcasm, it is a quote that can be a good representation of the past two years that have just passed, 2008 and 2009. Periods of time that he is sure we have wondered if we were headed to total extinction or utterly hopelessness.

Mr. Holt stated that today, January 05, 2010, we enter a year and a new decade; the second decade of this century. While there are some indications that the economy is turning upward, this has certainly been a very unique recession and we must predict that the upward trend, which always follows a recession, will come about but it will be slow and it will be a rocky path, with hills and valleys, as opposed to a steady upward climb and it will certainly take a couple of years to bring us back to where we were prior to this economic downturn. This economic impact has caused people to go into survival mode. In his own business, which merged in 2007, but for whom he still works, is in survival mode and it is more than just items, when you do not have the opportunity for a top line growth, you look at your bottom line in business, whether it is government or in business in general, you learn to find efficiencies; you capitalize to lower productions costs and we have learned to do that; we have learned to juggle our employees to better utilize their abilities and expertise and in the end, because of this recession, he feels in total we are in a better company today than two years ago. Mr. Holt said they are still waiting for an upturn.

Mr. Holt noted in Winston Churchill's 1945 Blood, Sweat and Tears speech, he said "But I take up my task with buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men. At this time I feel entitled to claim the aid of all, and I say, come then, let us go forward together with our united strength." Mr. Holt repeated let us go forward together with our united strength.

Mr. Holt said we can either call this a great recession or we can remember this as a recession that makes us great. This is a recession that makes us great again.

Mr. Holt addressed the members of the press, saying the headlines in the newspapers often ring out with news about this Freeholder Board and over the past three years some of it has been good and some has to be considered not to be as good. He believes if the Freeholders do their jobs correctly, the public will know. As this Board works its way through these tougher years, he said the individuals that deserve credit right now are the employees of Hunterdon County because while the Board mandates what the department's have to work with, each of those employees has taken the time to recognize their economic position in this County; they have take the time to recognize the value of their success and they applied their own abilities and expertise and their own judgment, allowing the County to deliver the services that must be delivered while working with less dollars and in many cases, less staff and in all cases, without any decrease in demand and in most departments more demand. 2010 will be one of the most difficult budget years in his 17 years of public service as this Board must look deeper to hold the line on costs and budget. Freeholder Holt advised he remains optimistic and knows this Board is up to this task collectively and in the end will prevail only by becoming smarter and better equipped and as long as this Board remains committed to that end; so let us go forward with our united strength and make this recession one that makes us great again.

Freeholder Holt ended with a Woody Allen quote "a great sermon should have a good beginning and a good ending and that they should be as close together as possible."

Freeholder Holt thanked everyone for being here today and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Doolan asked the Honorable Leonard Lance to swear in Freeholder Elect Ronald M. Sworen.

The Honorable Leonard Lance swore in Freeholder Elect, Ronald M. Sworen, as his wife, Connie, held the Bible.

Freeholder Sworen wished everyone a happy New Year and said he is humbled and honored to stand before you today in this historic courtroom again as your freeholder. He thanked the residents of Hunterdon County for placing their faith and trust in him by re-electing him for another term as Freeholder. He feels additional responsibility and pride as he is the only freeholder who lives in the lower 75% of the County.

Freeholder Sworen said it is also very special to be sworn into office by Congressman Lance. Congressman Lance is one of the most honorable men he knows and he has shown all the way to serve the people of this County with dignity and honor. He thanked Congressman Lance.

Freeholder Sworen stated there are three major issues he will concentrate on during his term in office, the first is to continue the leadership on land preservation and conservation. The County's new referendum is now in effect and there is a stable, continuing source of funds for farmland preservation, open space and parkland. This money must be used wisely as over 75% of Hunterdon's voters have said this is what they want. The County's new open space policy will help guide the Freeholders Board on decisions and he welcomes knowledgeable partners in this effort. The second is to continue to support and help to improve those functions that help in improving the lives of the County's youth and adults which include Polytech, Raritan Valley Community College, the County's Library system and the parks. These are some of the most important resources Hunterdon County has. Every citizen can take advantage of these resources at little or no cost. In today's economy, they are not a luxury; they are a necessity to many of our residents. Finally, the budget and how money is spent/misspent; last year this Board spent hundreds of hours reducing the budget and county spending. Over the past few years the budget was reduced by over \$2.6 million and also reduced the amount collected in taxes by \$1.1 million. This Board will seek further reductions this year.

Mr. Sworen said there were a number of initiatives started last year such as the County's new Information Technology communications systems which will save hundreds of thousands of dollars. The County has 50 less staff members which will save money. Other initiatives such as the phone restructuring have the potential to save \$2,500,000 per year when they are finally completed. This year the Freeholder Board will be asking its department heads to find at least another 5% to cut in operating expenses and I am confident they will come through for the County. The County has good employees and good managers and he is grateful to the employees and their unions for working with the County through these difficult financial times.

Mr. Sworen said last year the Freeholder Board spent too many hours micromanaging its departments down to the smallest level. It is time to re-empower our management team to meet the budget goals the Freeholders establish and once those dollars goals are met, let them decide how to best utilize the funds to make their departments as productive and efficient as possible. The departments must have Freeholder support to lead if they are to succeed.

Mr. Sworen looks forward to begin initiating some shared services opportunities. The County's newest Freeholder, Rob Walton, has served on the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce's Shared Services Committee; plus his experience as Mayor of Hampton and knowledge of the needs of our communities should be a great asset in this effort and a benefit to our County. There are many ways to save the taxpayers dollars.

Mr. Sworen said there has been much talk about factions on the Freeholder Board and their control over issues; some positive and some negative, such as support for education versus a special interest like the wealthy owners of large tracts of land for development. It has been said that Freeholder Holt and he are a faction. Mr. Sworen said if having mutual respect for each other and the backgrounds they bring to the table; if having the ability to discuss issues rationally; if having the ability to disagree on issues and vote differently and still remain friends; if having the ability to support the other on issues that they agree are important; then he will accept the use of the word faction, however, he thinks friendship and respect are better words to use. He wants everyone to know that he will support only one faction and that faction is the citizens of this County who elected him to serve them and their best interests and who expect him to uphold his oath of office and obey the laws of this state, even if he disagrees with a law. This is a sacred trust he commits to.

Mr. Sworen again thanked everyone for granting him this great responsibility and he pledges to serve with honor as Freeholder.

Mrs. Doolan asked for nominations for Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion electing William G. Mennen as Freeholder Director for 2010.

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

Mrs. Doolan asked for nominations for Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion electing J. Matthew Holt as Deputy Freeholder Director for 2010.

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

Mrs. Doolan asked the Honorable Leonard Lance to swear in J. Matthew Holt as Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The Honorable Leonard Lance swore in J. Matthew Holt, as Deputy Director, of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, as his wife, Megan held the Bible.

Mrs. Doolan asked the Honorable Leonard Lance to swear in William G. Mennen as Freeholder Director.

The Honorable Leonard Lance swore in William G. Mennen, as Director, of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, as his wife, Lynn and children, Hardy, Lauren and Paige held the Bible.

Director Mennen stated it is an honor and a pleasure to be chosen once again to serve as Freeholder Director. At this moment he is tempted to name the accomplishments of 2009, to talk about promises delivered but he won't, because the challenges that lie ahead are, to say the least, formidable. Economic turmoil surrounds and confronts us on all sides. Steering a ship that is County government, through this storm will require discipline; discipline to maintain affordability for the residents of this County; discipline to say no even though it would be easier and more popular to say yes; discipline to stand strong in the face of outcry from those expressing their displeasure in the face of spending cuts, effecting areas of special interest to them; discipline to challenge when need be the long held and deeply engrained customs and institutions of government. What lies ahead may not make the Board any friends and it may make the Board the object of not so flattering letters to the editor; it may make the Board the target of political challenges but each of Freeholders has a destiny; this Board's is a calling to do not what is popular but to do what is right and what is necessary.

Director Mennen advised the preeminent focus of this Body in the upcoming year must be to reduce spending and where necessary to reduce the size of government. A smaller, less intrusive, more economically efficient County government must be the order of the day. There isn't the luxury to do this any other way.

Director Mennen said getting through this challenging time will also require continued cooperation because this Board cannot do this alone. The Freeholders are so fortunate to have had the cooperation of the County employees in this endeavor; be it sacrifice both professionally and personally and through it all the 624 employees of Hunterdon County (down from 657 at this time last year), have continued to proved the County's residents with the highest level of service all the while maintaining a smile.

Director Mennen advised this Board is also fortunate to have had the cooperation of the public. The Freeholder Board asked the public for suggestions to help find savings and increase revenues and the County received hundreds of recommendations; many of which have been put into practice.

Director Mennen explained he must again ask for cooperation and indulgence; this Board takes absolutely no pleasure in the tough choices which lie ahead. The Board cannot sit idly by as our friends, neighbors and relatives are being forced from their communities by excessive taxes fueled by bloated government. Spending must be cut to avoid having citizens who are strapped with higher and more burdensome taxes.

Director Mennen advised as hard as the decisions may become; through the citizens understanding of the objective, no tax increases, despite a direr economic climate. Together we can accelerate Hunterdon County's voyage on the road to economic recovery. Director Mennen asked that everyone view the hard decisions to come for a large scale macro set of lenses as opposed to a personalized micro set of lenses.

Director Mennen stated the latest estimates for Hunterdon County's ratable base showed a third erosion of up to five and a half percent for the 2010 budget cycle. This means that even if a flat tax rate is kept for 2010, there will be a roughly \$4 million reduction in tax ratable; add to that a roughly ten percent reduction in miscellaneous revenues or another \$500,000 reduction in revenues; so this Board has a \$4.5 million hole to fill. Between 2010 salary concessions to Hunterdon's employees and a continuance of the full hiring freeze, the County should realize approximately \$1.5 million to \$2 million in savings; but there is still more cutting to do. This is where the Freeholders ask for everyone's indulgence and cooperation and understanding. The Freeholders are going to have to take a long hard look at the services County government provides; assessing those that are mandatory and those which are discretionary. Some discretionary services may, at the very least, have to be temporarily suspended. Even those services which are mandatory, the County has to make certain those services are being provided in the most cost effective manner possible; paring them down where feasible. The bottom line is that everything is up for review; everything from how much the County spends and how legal services are received to continuing a moratorium on non-emergency capital expenditures. Within the confines of the law and the limits of practicality nothing can be immune from review. No reasonable suggestion can be ignored.

Director Mennen stated to get things started today the Freeholders are introducing a temporary budget for the first quarter of 2010 which reflects this reality. It reflects a reduction in spending equal to the anticipated reduction in revenues.

Director Mennen agreed this sounds very bleak but there is good news because he would not want to face these challenges with any other group than that which is assembled here today. The County's employees are second to none. The County's Administrative staff toils ceaselessly; the managers have been and continue to be partners to the Freeholders. The Freeholder Board exudes an unsurpassed level of commitment. Through the darkest night of these fiscal challenges, Hunterdon County's is a team united. A team that maintains an unimpeded view of the objective; ours is a body that maintains a clarity of focus; ours is a collective mission to cease the moment for all the residents of this County; together this Board can weather this storm; together with an unmitigated sense of discipline this Board will maintain affordability for the citizens of this County.

Director Mennen thanked his colleagues for the honor of being Director and he thanked the County's dedicated employees and members of the public for their indulgence and cooperation and he thanked All Mighty God from whom all strength is derived.

Director Mennen shared when he was growing up his grandparents had a piece of artwork on their wall made by their grandson which contained a Bible verse, which is one of his favorites, Isaiah 40:31, "But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength, they will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

Director Mennen thanked his family for all their support and tolerance. He is blessed to spend each and every day with his very best friend in the world, his wife, Lynn. He is emboldened by the joy their three children, Lauren, Hardy and Paige bring to his life.

Director Mennen urged going forth in unison, united of purpose and intent and ever cognizant that this is a shared endeavor; a mobile cause; a righteous undertaking. Director Mennen again thanked his colleagues for their faith and confidence and he looks forward to a productive 2010.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Congressman Lance and Reverend Errickson for being able to be here today for the meeting.

Mrs. Doolan turned the meeting over to Freeholder Director, William G. Mennen.

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS

Director Mennen announced listed on the agenda are a number of resolutions entitled Reorganization Resolutions, after a conversation with County Counsel, Gaetano M. DeSapio, the Board can move these resolutions as one group but there may be one or two that the Board would want to vote on separately.

Items #3 and 28 were held at this time.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 01/05/10-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Freeholder Departmental Chairmanship and Assignment Designations for 2010.

See Page 01/05/10-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establish County Office hours.

See Page 01/05/10-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing pay days for CWA Supervisory and Non-Supervisory employees.

See Page 01/05/10-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing pay days for certain unclassified and non-contractual employees.

See Page 01/05/10-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing pay days for certain unclassified and non-contractual employees.

See Page 01/05/10-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing pay days for employees covered under the FOP #29 (Corrections Officers; FOP #186 (Investigators, Sergeants and Lieutenants in the Prosecutor's Office) and FOP #94 (Sheriff's Officers and Sergeants).

See Page 01/05/10-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing the payment of vouchers in accordance with the payment schedule established by the County Treasurer.

See Page 01/05/10-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Provisions regarding the Establishment and Utilization of Bank Depositories.

See Page 01/05/10-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Naming of Depositories of funds for the County.

See Page 01/05/10-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Administrative Code provisions for the establishment and utilization of Bank Depositories.

See Page 01/05/10-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Designating official newspapers for the publication of County items.

See Page 01/05/10-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the manual signature for checks drawn for penalties against the County.

See Page 01/05/10-5L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salary and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Correction Line Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 29, be held over.

See Page 01/05/10-5M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salary and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Correction Superior Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 29, effective January 01, 2010.

See Page 01/05/10-5N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salary and longevity payments for eligible employees covered under the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Investigators, Sergeants and Lieutenants, PBA Local 358, be held over.

See Page 01/05/10-5O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for unclassified, non-contractual employees in the Prosecutor's Office, be held over.

See Page 01/05/10-5P

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for unclassified, non-contractual senior management appointed employees in the Sheriff's Office, be held over.

See Page 01/05/10-5Q

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salary and longevity payments for Sergeants in the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office be held over.

See Page 01/05/10-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 94 be held over.

See Page 01/05/10-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salary payments for Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1034 effective January 01, 2010.

See Page 01/05/10-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salary payments for Non-Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1034 effective January 01, 2010.

See Page 01/05/10-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salary adjustments for unclassified, non-contractual employees effective January 01, 2010.

See Page 01/05/10-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for certain unclassified, non-contractual employees be held over.

See Page 01/05/10-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Appointments to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

See Page 01/05/10-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Appointing Cynthia J. Yard as the County's Public Compliance Officer.

See Page 01/05/10-6H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Appointing Denise B. Doolan as the County's Fair Housing Officer.

See Page 01/05/10-6I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Emergency Services Council.

See Page 01/05/10-6J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Hunterdon County Youth Services Commission.

See Page 01/05/10-6K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a County Budget Appropriations Limits and establishing a CAP Bank.

See Page 01/05/10-6L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2010 Temporary County Budget.

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

Mr. Sworen stated the Freeholder Board has been discussing for several years moving the times of its meetings to make them more accessible to the public.

Director Mennen recommended at this time keeping the meeting times as is, since this is Reorganization and discussing this further at the January 19, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/05/10-6M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting regular meeting time and days for the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/05/10-6N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to various Boards, Committees, Councils and Commissions.

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

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Congressman Lance

Director Mennen recognized Congressman Lance and asked if he would like to say a few words.

Congressman Lance congratulated the Freeholder Director, Deputy Director and Mr. Sworen for being sworn in again today. Congratulations to Mr. Walton on joining the Board. Congressman Lance has known Mr. Walton virtually his entire life. Congratulations to Freeholder Melick who is in his 33rd year as a member of the Freeholder Board of Hunterdon County; the senior Freeholder in the entire State of New Jersey.

Congressman Lance advised the congress reconvenes tomorrow and he will be working with colleagues in Washington concerning safety in the air. He has been advised by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that there will be full body screeners at Newark International Liberty Airport in the imminent future. This is a decision with which he agrees in light of the recent events. He recognizes there is some concern about privacy but he thinks the overriding concern should be the safety of the American people in the air and he commends the Port Authority for its decision.

Congressman Lance reported today he calls upon the leaders of congress to make sure, moving forward, that there is a full conference committee regarding the important issue of health care and he has placed that on his website and in a press release.

Congressman Lance advised the overriding issue confronting the American people is the state of the economy. The experts who testified before the Financial Services Committee, on which he serves, indicate that although 2010 will be a better year, unemployment rates may not decrease until the second half of 2010. He is working with the President, the Administration and other members of Congress, they want to restore the American economy as quickly as possible and this is in conjunction with the debt in this nation of \$12 trillion and rising. This is the great issue confronting the American nation and it is an issue on which he is working to the greatest extent of his ability.

Congressman Lance asked for the public's cooperation for those who serve at these levels of government, local, county and state, as they continue their difficult tasks.

Senator Mike Doherty

Senator Doherty wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated the Freeholder Director, William Mennen; the Deputy Director, Matt Holt as they have difficult tasks in ahead of them in 2010. They are up to providing the leadership that the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders need. He wished them well.

Senator Doherty congratulated Mr. Holt and Mr. Sworen on their re-election to the Freeholder Board for an additional term.

Senator Doherty acknowledged and commended the family members here today supporting these elected officials; it is a difficult job being a public wife and clearly the family members make these jobs easier to do.

Senator Doherty noted there has been a lot of turnover in the legislative delegation in the last year. A lot has happened, with Senator Lance moving up to Congress and with two new assembly people, Erik Peterson and John DiMaio. He said they are all working together in a very cooperative fashion. The 23rd Legislative District is served well by elected officials who recognize that there is a constitutional form of government that is supposed to limit what government does and does not do. There are elected officials who are small business people who realize the courage and effort taken and required to run successful businesses. They too have to deal with regulation red tape and taxes. Also, family men who know how difficult it is to pay the bills and raise the kids. He feels Hunterdon County is also well served the 24th Legislative Delegation.

Senator Doherty again wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Assemblyman John DiMaio

Assemblyman DiMaio wished everyone a Happy New Year saying it is great to be here today with everyone. He congratulated the Board of Chosen Freeholders. He stated that Director Mennen's words are on the mark. Not only should this Board be commended and congratulated but the people of Hunterdon County should be congratulated for these individuals who represent them at the County level as these people are able to look at things closely.

Assemblyman DiMaio stated he has served in the Assembly now for nine months, and has been able to look at how business is done in Trenton. Things are questioned consistently and it is done anyway. There is not the same oversight as there is at the local and County levels as he thought there was. He hopes that the next generations will learn from our mistakes and recognize the issues that this generation is dealing with.

Assemblyman DiMaio said everything he needed to know about government, he learned from his father by the time he was 15; if you need something pay for it; if you don't need it don't buy it; if there are things you don't need to do – don't do them. It is all common sense. He tells his father that he is proud of him for teaching him how to manage money properly and how to do this efficiently in order to get through tough times. Prepare for the bad times as the good times will come by themselves.

Assemblyman Erik Peterson

Assemblyman Peterson said it is nice to be back, as he has only been gone about 30 days from the Freeholder Board.

Assemblyman Peterson said this is a new year and every new year is an exciting time, with celebrations across the country because it is a time of hope; it's a time that everyone hopes that the future, the new year will be better than the year before. Everyone hopes for better health, more prosperity, better safety and everyone hopes for the best.

Assemblyman Peterson said as we have these reorganization meetings, we look forward with hope. He is hopeful that we will move forward and 2010 will be much better than 2009. He is hopeful that the government at all levels will do better in 2010 than it did in 2009 and he is confident this will happen because he sees the quality of people who get elected to office in the 23rd District and throughout our state; it has impressed upon him of the quality of those people, their diligence and sincerity and their integrity.

Hunterdon County is extremely blessed, as is Warren County, to have people of the highest integrity, who work their hardest, and have the best interest of the people that they represent.

Assemblyman Peterson wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Special Guests

Director Mennen recognized Hunterdon County Republican Chair Henry Kuhl.

Director Mennen asked those municipal officials in the audience to stand and be recognized.

Director Mennen asked those County Department Heads present to stand and be recognized.

Director Mennen recognized Constitutional Officer, Mary Melfi, County Clerk to stand and be recognized.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders now went into its regular meeting.

ROADS and BRIDGES

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering brought before the Board a request from the Musconetcong Watershed Association who is asking for a partnership from the County for the restoration of the lower section of the Musconetcong. That section is along Route 78 at the Delaware River. The Association is asking the County to provide information and review of the feasibility study. The County owns bridges involved which are located on Cyphers Road and County Route 519. Hunterdon County has much information on these bridges. Mr. Glynn stated his recommendation would be for the County to participate.

Director Mennen confirmed the partnership which the Musconetcong Watershed Association is looking for at this point, is sharing information and some in-kind services/shared services. This is not, at this time, a financial partnership. Mr. Glynn confirmed this is not financial except for time.

Director Mennen asked Mr. Glynn is this would be an issue for him, concerning the use of his staff. Mr. Glynn said it does not as it should only be for roughly 10 hours of work.

After further discussion, Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion granting the request of the Musconetcong Watershed Association for information and review of the feasibility study.

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

Mr. Glynn will draft a left for Freeholder Director Mennen's signature to the Musconetcong Watershed Association outlining the County's commitment and noting stating that the County is not committing to the expenditure of any funds for the project, just shared services.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 01/05/10-8A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the grant agreement for the acquisition of a development easement from Evelyn K. Melick, Doris A. Lisi-Craig, J. Miller Craig, Robert J. Melick and Audrey S. Melick, on Block 27, Lot 151, in Tewksbury Township, consisting of 43.904 acres, (SADC - \$526,848, County - \$175,616, Township - \$175,616), total amount of \$878,080.

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

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. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of December 15, 2009.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 01/05/10-9A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for Bid #2009-10, for the 2009 Resurfacing and Surface Treatment of various County roads, with Mannon Excavating and Paving Co., Inc., in the amount of \$45,750.34.

See Page 01/05/10-9B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving State Change Order #1, for Emergency Quote #0064-2009, for the Emergency Reconstruction of County Bridge T-88, on Guinea Hollow Road, over a Tributary of the Rockaway Creek, in Tewksbury Township, to Kalogridis Contracting, in the decreased amount of \$5,510.

See Page 01/05/10-9C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for Emergency Quote #0064-2009, for the Emergency Reconstruction of County Bridge T-88, on Guinea Hollow Road, over a Tributary of the Rockaway Creek, in Tewksbury Township, to Kalogridis Contracting, in the amount of \$32,308.20.

See Page 01/05/10-9D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving State Change Order #1, for County Bid #2008-32, for the Reconstruction of InterCounty Bridge #H-64-W, on Mount Joy Road, over the Musconetcong River, in Hunterdon and Warren Counties, with Sparwick Contracting, Inc., in the increased amount of \$53,221.55.

See Page 01/05/10-9E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Contract Modification #2, with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, for additional American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, for the Human Services Homeless Contract, in the additional amount of \$20,000.

See Page 01/05/10-9F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Red Light Permit with the New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles, for Joseph Trilone, High Bridge Borough Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management.

See Page 01/05/10-9G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Red Light Permit with the New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles, for Barbara Pante, Chief of the Quakertown Volunteer Emergency Medical Service.

See Page 01/05/10-9H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Interlocal Health Services Agreement with Readington Township, for certain public health activities and services by the County Health Department.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 01/05/10-9I RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract with the New Jersey Department of Human Services to administer the non-service related aspects of the Personal Assistant Services Program, in the amount of \$28,798.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/05/10-9J RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Subgrant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, for funding for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE/SART), in the amount of \$63,766 (\$51,021–federal funds and a County Match of \$12,755).

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 01/05/10-10A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an award from the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission for the 2010 State/Community Partnership and the Family Court Appropriations Award, for funding: \$295,297 from NJ Juvenile Justice Commission; \$135,567 from the State/Community Partnership; \$55,550 in Program Management Funds; \$97,157 in Family Court Services Funds and \$7,023 in Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Federal Allocation.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 01/05/10-10B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant agreement with the New Jersey State Council of the Arts, for the purpose of re-granting support to arts organizations/presenters, in the amount of \$95,880 (State funds - \$55,601 and a County Match of \$40,279).

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Lambertville Resolution of Appreciation

Mr. Sworen informed the Board that at the Reorganization meeting of the City of Lambertville, they adopted a Resolution, #2010-20, recognizing members of the County Planning Board and members of the Freeholder Board, expressing their appreciation to the County for the time and dedication given to their All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Refreshments

Director Mennen invited all in attendance downstairs to partake in refreshments.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board