

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

October 05, 2010

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 2:38 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Mennen announced: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before September 02, 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."

DISCUSSION – PREVIEW 2011 BUDGET

Budget Review Committee: Kim Browne, Finance Director, Cynthia Yard, County Administrator, Margaret Pasqua, County Treasurer and Cheryl Wieder, Human Resources Director came before the Board.

Director Mennen explained the Board is meeting earlier in order to commence discussions pertaining to the 2011 budget; not dissimilar to what was done last year, starting budget discussions early. Today's discussions will be based on trends and estimates but those estimates are based on a couple years worth of history as well as year to date expenditures. These trends and estimates also include savings realized to date which form a basis for the year to date numbers. Things are calculated, the best as is known at this point. Take note these are estimates given that the year has not concluded.

Director Mennen reminded those present of the resolution this Board re-adopted on June 15, 2010 which was the "Emergency Policy Addressing Hunterdon County's Fiscal and Budgetary Crisis." The buzzword this year is "Toolkit"; which is the language coming out of Trenton but Hunterdon County started this process last year, calling it "strategies". Hunterdon talked about strategies that would be acceptable to accomplish the goal of maintaining a flat tax rate. On June 15, 2010 this Board reiterated the goal of maintaining a flat tax rate and again endorsed the use of certain of these strategies that are listed in the policy.

Director Mennen asked Mrs. Browne and Ms. Pasqua to go through what is being called the trends, in order to get a sense of where things are year to date and where things may be going potentially next year. He also asked for a scenario of what is needed to be done to achieve the goal of a flat tax rate.

Mrs. Browne reported on the latest set of numbers received from Trenton for the pension. PRS and the Police and Fire have increased. Police and Fire have increased 50% from last year. Mrs. Browne reached out to the State and the County's contact at the Division of Local Government Services has stated that typically she is getting phone calls and the percentage was around 42%.

Mrs. Browne advised the projections for health is around a 10% increase and 3% was because of all the initiatives from President Obama's administration. Ms. Wieder feels it is from mandated Autism and Mental Health Parity. Mrs. Browne advised without the Autism and Mental Health Parity the increase would be 7%.

Mrs. Browne reported there is a \$50,000 in workmen's compensation increase and the other insurance coverage went up slightly.

Mr. Melick confirmed that other insurance liability is a big unknown. The County has a crisis in the Prosecutor's Office at this time and there are civil lawsuits being filed. He questioned since the state is in charge of the Prosecutor's Office that they should pay the bill.

County Counsel DeSapio advised the only thing that the state will pick up any claims for are those that come out of the actual prosecution of a case. He feels this will be interesting because technically people in the Prosecutor's Office are state employees at this time. They were sworn in as state employees when Dermot O'Grady came to fill in as Prosecutor.

Mr. Holt asked if there is any other explanation for a 50% increase in pension costs?

Mr. Sworen questioned the difference in percentages for pensions between municipalities and the County.

Mrs. Browne will reach out to the state for an explanation. She added there the state just provides a bill without explanation to the percentages. Hunterdon has been fielding calls from other counties pension costs have increased 42%.

Director Mennen confirmed the increase is 42%, not the amount of the contribution.

Mr. Sworen reported that municipalities are getting a 22% increase in pensions. He doesn't feel the 50% figure sounds right. He does not want to base decisions on overinflated figures. He doesn't understand how counties are different from municipalities in terms of percentages on any of this.

Mrs. Browne will call the state for verification.

Mr. Sworen further questioned why the cost for workmen's compensation is up.

Mrs. Pasqua advised the number for workmen's compensation is just an estimate. She won't know the real costs until the bill is received from Herder Tarricone for the County.

Mr. Sworen feels the County should be looking at a decrease; or the cost should have stayed flat unless the County has had some bad experience in the last year, over the past several years.

Ms. Wieder will ask Herder Tarricone to provide a claims run. She does not feel the County has had more claims than in past years but she recalls there being a couple of costly claims. Mrs. Browne stated the costs from 2009 to 2010 did go up even though the County had decreased staff.

Director Mennen stated Mr. Melick brought up the issues in the Prosecutor's Office. Mrs. Browne confirmed those issues are also lumped into the group insurance.

Director Mennen confirmed with Mrs. Browne that the \$100,000 increase in the premium is just an estimate. He asked if that figure is light.

Director Mennen confirmed with Mrs. Browne that in order to mitigate the increase in premiums, the County's carrier, Herder Tarricone, has increased the County's deductibles. He stated the County's deductibles have been markedly increased.

Mr. Sworen said the County's additional charges, for new claims or outstanding claims will not be reflected in the 2011 premium but it may have a detrimental to the 2012 costs.

Director Mennen confirmed with Mrs. Browne that she attempted to be conservative but realistic concerning anticipated revenues. Finance had said the anticipated revenues will be flat from where it is this year. Mrs. Browne added that in total it is felt the County will meet what was projected in 2010 or come very close.

Director Mennen stated this year's anticipated revenues represents a shaking out of the initial shock value of the economic downturn where the big peaks and valleys has flatten out somewhat, albeit less than it was a few years back. He confirmed with Mrs. Browne that she is comfortable in saying the figure will be flat.

Mr. Melick advised that in today's paper it was reported that "property tax appeals take bite from towns". The County is in that category also; because when a property owner wins a tax appeal that revenue has to be given back. He stated that added and omitted used to be a reasonable windfall for the surplus account and we are not looking at that anymore. Mrs. Browne feels the article affects more the municipalities than the County. Mrs. Browne offered to talk with the County Tax Administrator on this issue.

Mr. Sworen questioned the revenues/savings for 2010 with regard to the phone system?

Director Mennen stated this was discussed and the savings are built into the number in terms of the expenditures year to date. They form a basis for the calculation of the estimate going forward.

Director Mennen said a lot of time could be spent going through that exercise to determine what was saved but if the County knows what it is spending now and those savings are already included.

Mr. Sworen doesn't see a large effort in calculating those savings by taking this much was spent last year and this year, this much is being spent.

Mrs. Browne advised that figure is calculated and shown in the spread sheet, which shows the actual costs and percentage spent for 2010.

Mr. Sworen said it would be interesting to see how much the County is saving. The County has a lot of initiatives in place and if initiatives are done to save money, then the County should be able to track that money is being saved with the initiatives.

Mrs. Yard advised a report was presented to the Freeholder Board on the phones, when they reviewed which lines were live/dead and it was determined how much will be saved each month. Mrs. Yard will pull that report for the Board.

Mrs. Yard further stated a final report was given to the Board on transportation on fees and services and the same will be done for the Health Department.

Director Mennen said that will be valuable information in terms of assessing the success or lack thereof of specific initiatives.

Mr. Sworen feels those reports will assist the Board in budgeting for the following year.

After further discussion, Director Mennen asked the Board to submit specific questions to the Finance Team as to what you are looking for and then the Finance Team will be able to answer the inquiry more aptly.

Mr. Sworen said it is simple, the County took on initiatives to save money; the County knew what the value was when the initiatives were done so what is the value today after the initiative has been accomplished. Was money saved or not and if money was saved, how much was saved.

Director Mennen explained by simply saying initiatives you are setting this up for the answers to not meet your level of expectations. He asked the Board to state clearly what is being looked for and he is confident the Finance Team will provide the answer.

Mrs. Browne recalls that so much was to be saved regarding the telephone system and she will pull the previous report. She noted that it might not be a fair comparison because lines were cancelled.

Mr. Holt would like to see the comparison.

Director Mennen asked the Finance Team to home in on expense from last year and this year, to assess other areas the County should be pursuing or spending more time pursuing savings; and the anticipated revenue number and the basis on that.

Director Mennen said in 2009 there was a three and a quarter percent reduction in ratables and in 2010 it was one and a quarter.

Director Mennen confirmed Mrs. Browne took into account the revenues and spending, which is an estimate, utilizing the 2010 expenditures to date, and created a chart which talks about the potential shortfall and at this point, based upon the information as it is known, if there is no change in the ratable values (a flat ratable value across the County), it is predicted there will be a \$1 million shortfall. This means the County would have to cut spending, given that scenario, by \$1 million to achieve the goal, again, of a flat tax rate for the next fiscal year.

Director Mennen confirmed with Mrs. Browne that there is surplus that can be used to back into the budget numbers and the number is similar which has been budgeted again. He confirmed each year there must be a return to surplus which reduces that number. In 2009, \$13 million was used in surplus and \$8.3 million was returned at the end of the year as unused, therefore \$4.7 million was the net number used from surplus. Mrs. Browne advised the more cuts made to the budget, because of the economical times we are in, the amount turned back into surplus is cut also.

Mr. Melick questioned how much was budgeted for interest revenue.

Mrs. Pasqua reported \$2.12 million was budgeted. Mrs. Pasqua informed the Board that the bank is treating the County horribly so she is trying to get the money out of that bank quickly as possible.

Mrs. Yard assured the Board that other banks are treating the County better.

Mr. Sworen asked Mrs. Browne to get the County Tax Board to provide information and analysis. He stated tax appeals mean nothing. There were 700 appeals last year and there is around 701 this year. A lot of those tax appeals were for reevaluations in Raritan Township and other places. Out of 2008 how many of those appeals were successful and what was the dollar value and the same for 2009 and 2010. The Freeholders need this information to make decisions.

Director Mennen stated the purpose of today's exercise is to take a very macro-view of what is being seen. A large part of this is being done as a planning exercise because certain strategies that this Board may need to undertake in the next fiscal year requires lead time. This Board needs to layout the scenario and analysis so that everyone can be clear and come to an understanding as to whether or not the Board is prepared to continue to move forward with strategies that were embraced on June 15, 2010 by this Board. A number of the strategies are for the purpose of achieving the objective of a flat tax rate, require lead time. Director Mennen is not expecting anyone to have 100% iron clad accurate numbers at this time. The County should err on the side of caution and be conservative in the way in which this is being analyzed so that should things next year be as dire as some believe the County would be in a position to react and take the appropriate measures needed. Last year the Freeholder Board started this process very early and this year the Board is starting the budget process early again.

Director Mennen advised the Freeholders' resolution adopted on June 15, 2010 is a restatement of the policy statement from this Board, from the prior year. There are a number of items in the resolution that need the planning phases started, so the Board can be in a position to implement if/when they become necessary. The June 15, 2010 resolution was unanimously adopted by the Freeholder Board and it is incumbent upon the Board to clearly reiterate the endorsement of the policy and strategies that are contained within that policy.

Mr. Melick said he is comfortable with the way the June 15, 2010 resolution was written. The Board needs to stay on this policy and begun pursuing the plans in the resolution. He added that binding arbitration is the rule of the day by unions and the County gets beat by this. The County pays more to keep a flat tax rate and the County may have to have layoffs.

Mr. Walton stated two years ago the County had a 10% cut in all budgets across the board. He questioned how much a 1% cut would net the County next year in operating budgets.

Mrs. Browne said when the County cut 5% from the operating budget the savings was not much.

Mrs. Yard explained that the County Department's operating budgets are very tight. Last year the departments cut 5% out of their budgets but the large expense is salary and wages; along with pensions and group insurances. The Finance Team discussed cutting more from the operating budgets but that isn't going to make a big difference. Mrs. Yard said what this will cause on the employees' moral may not be worth doing this.

Director Mennen shares that sentiment but believes this is a worthwhile endeavor if there are some operating budgets which remain blank percent unspent at the end of the year.

Mrs. Browne and Mrs. Yard will gather numbers together for Freeholder Walton on the 1%.

Mr. Sworen questioned when someone pays for "a shared service", such as printing, does the money go to offset revenue or does it go into surplus.

Mrs. Pasqua stated those funds would go back into the departments' account, as say the Print Shop, they don't bill out for more than costs.

Mr. Sworen said the question which did not get answered today, is if there is a tax appeal, does the County reimburse the municipality if the appeal is successful.

Mrs. Pasqua advised that is run through added and omitted. The County has never written a check to a municipality but she will check with the Tax Board Administrator.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that the Finance Team is looking for the Board to direct them what they should plan for and allow the team to go back and come up with scenarios and/or ways to find savings.

Mrs. Yard recommended inviting the County's Tax Board Administrator to the next meeting. The Board agreed.

The Board will further continue discussion on the County's budget at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 10/05/10-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss pending arbitrations involving law enforcement labor unions against the County. (4) (7)

See Page 10/05/10-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the litigation which the Sheriff has filed against the County and the possibility of a settlement proposal. (7)

See Page 10/05/10-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the legal procedure concerning handling an EEOC complaint filed in the Court System. (7)

See Page 10/05/10-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the legal issues surrounding the establishment of a health insurance Opt Out plan for employees. (4) (7)

See Page 10/05/10-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the matter of Gensch vs. the County of Hunterdon and a claim for counsel fees that has been filed by the attorney for the plaintiff. (7)

See Page 10/05/10-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss with the County Architect a construction lien claim at the 911 Communications/Emergency Services Center. (7)

See Page 10/05/10-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the negotiation of the terms in the Open Space Management agreement with Bethlehem Township. (7)

See Page 10/05/10-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the executive session minutes of July 06, 2010, July 20, 2010, August 03, 2010, August 20, 2010 and September 07, 2010 to determine what can be released. (4) (5) (7) (8)

See Page 10/05/10-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss with the County's insurance carriers, PAIC and MEL, all pending litigation against the County but primarily employment claims litigation involving matters in the Prosecutor's Office. (7)

See Page 10/05/10-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an appointment the Raritan Valley Community College Search Committee. (8)

See Page 10/05/10-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss issues between the department managers association and the Freeholder Board. (8)

See Page 10/05/10-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the County's contribution, if any, to the acquisition of the Urbach property in Raritan Township, in the context of legal issues and environmental studies on the property. (5) (7)

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 3:36 p.m., convened in Executive Session at 3:40 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Mennen opened the meeting to the public.

No one at this time wished to address the Board.

FINANCE

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing an increase in Petty Cash for the Health Department from \$50 to \$100.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Parks Maintenance Trust, for maintaining rental properties.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 10/05/10-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Recreational Memorial Gift Fund, for maintaining the County Arboretum gardens and trails.

See Page 10/05/10-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Special Recreation Trust, for offering leisure and interpretive programs.

See Page 10/05/10-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Refundable Bids Trust, for maintaining bid security of the three (3) lowest bidders.

See Page 10/05/10-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Link Advertising Trust, for transportation related expenses.

See Page 10/05/10-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Cultural & Heritage Commission Trust, for cultural projects and art/history programs.

See Page 10/05/10-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Driveway Performance Bonds Trust, to guarantee that driveways are constructed to County standards.

See Page 10/05/10-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Road Department Performance Bond, for repairs to County Roads or Rights of Way not completed by contractor.

See Page 10/05/10-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Motor Vehicle Fines Trust, for repair of County roads and bridges.

See Page 10/05/10-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Dedication by Rider to establish a Road Opening Deposits Trust, for repairs of County roads and to insure driveways are constructed per County Standards.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 10/05/10-6E

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Fire Prevention Week, as October 03 to 09, 2010, in Hunterdon.

See Page 10/05/10-6F

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing October 02, 2010 as Firefighters Recognition Day, in Hunterdon.

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

The Board presented these proclamations to the Hunterdon County Fire Chief's Association.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-6G

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring October 2010 as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month, in Hunterdon.

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

The Board presented this proclamation to Tara Shepherd, Director of HART (Hunterdon Area Rural Transportation). Ms. Shepherd thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-6H

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing the volunteers at the Division of Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services.

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

HUNTERDON COUNTY POLYTECH

Present: Kim Metz, Polytech Superintendent came before the Board with Meaghan Gallagher and Zack Hutckins who are enrolled in Polytech's Health Sciences program.

Ms. Metz reported that students in the Health Sciences' program receives 17 credits through UMDNJ (University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey) after completing a two year program.

Mr. Hutckins informed the Board that he is a student of Delaware Valley High School and attends Polytech. The Health Sciences program is a great class where he is learning much about the health and medical fields. He has learned things early on which others won't have, which will assist him in a field that is really competitive and hard to get into. Mr. Hutckins feels his Polytech courses will provide him an advantage over everyone else.

Mr. Hutckins advised that his 17 college credits will translate into almost \$30,000 saved at a normal college.

Mr. Hutckins informed the Board that his future plan is to become a doctor, so he will be taking pre-med courses in college.

Ms. Gallagher informed the Board that she is a senior at North Hunterdon High School and also attends Polytech's Health Sciences program.

Ms. Gallagher advised she currently wants to become a Nurse Practitioner after college and this is her first step. She has already learned how to diagram the skeletal and muscular systems.

Both Mr. Hutckins and Ms. Gallagher feel their teacher, Mr. Siano makes the class enjoyable and he is very interactive.

Mr. Sworen noted that with those 17 credits from the Health Science Program these students will be able to enter the workforce, straight out of high school.

Ms. Metz thanked parents for allowing their children to take the Polytech programs. Tomorrow night is back to school night and the Culinary Arts program sent the Board pumpkin muffins.

HUNTERDON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Present: Jim Robinson, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce and Chris Phalen, CEO of the Chamber came before the Board on the Chamber of Commerce's Final Report on Shared Services.

Mr. Robinson reported a preliminary report was provided to the Freeholder Board in 2008. He advised Mr. Phalen will present the report with the numbers and the statistics.

Mr. Robinson reported that a couple of years ago the Chamber of Commerce decided it was important to meet with local officials in order to discuss matters of mutual concern that would help not only the businesses but the taxpayers of the County. At one of those meetings, the Chamber asked how it could help local municipal officials and they suggested since there was no other entity in Hunterdon County coordinating shared services that the Chamber could undertake that task. The Chamber of Commerce agreed to explore that and soon after that the State of New Jersey announced its SARE grants (SARE stands for sharing available resources efficiently). The Chamber agreed to coordinate shared services and received resolutions of approval from 21 municipalities in Hunterdon County and from the Freeholder Board. In addition, the Chamber received a very strong letter of recommendation from New Jersey Assemblywoman Marcia Karrow and from then Senator Leonard Lance and as a result the Chamber was chosen by the State of New Jersey to coordinate the program.

Mr. Robinson stated the Chamber got off to a good start and have had some successes but unfortunately the fiscal crisis forced Governor Jon Corzine to freeze the SARE funds twice and then ultimately end the program the program early. In the short time the Chamber coordinated shared services, a number of towns were brought together, as well as a number of school boards. Mr. Phalen will be talking about 14 towns and school boards sharing services. There are 18 towns and school boards utilizing the County's printing service. When the Chamber's program ended they stopped tabulating those agreements but they continue.

Mr. Phalen thanked the Freeholders, along with numerous municipal officials, school officials and business leadership who have worked on the shared services initiatives since 2007.

Mr. Robinson provided the Board with the Chamber of Commerce's final report regarding the shared services initiative. Under the Chamber's leadership for shared services the goal has been to develop strategies and implement shared services providing public services in an efficient and cost effective manner. The Chamber was able to identify specific shared services between municipalities, schools and the County which have been a tremendous benefit, not only to those who have partnered in this process but ultimately the taxpayers of the County of Hunterdon, both residential and commercial.

Mr. Phalen stated the shared services initiatives have laid a foundation on which Hunterdon's municipalities, the County and the schools can continue to work in moving shared services to the next level. In December 2009 and in January 2010 the SARE grant had been suspended by the State of New Jersey as a result of its fiscal crisis, halting the work of this initiative. At that time the Chamber was completing the second year of the grant cycle; during the first two years of the program the Chamber actively pursued various means by which the program could become self sufficient. Some of the area explored are recycling, grant writing, fees for services to municipalities and school entities. However, with the uncertainty of the state's financial position it would have been impossible for the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce to incur the risk and possible financial obligations of the grant once funds were frozen. The grant was structured that the Chamber covered all expenses and then went through a quarterly reimbursement fee as set by the state. By February 2010, the Chamber received reimbursements totaling \$215,000. Countless volunteer hours were given to make shared services initiatives a success. Actual costs and savings for projects have been tracked. There was an additional \$36,000 grant for the North County Police study that was approved but due to the fiscal crisis and timing was never awarded.

Mr. Phalen stated some of the services the grant covered was the tax assessor, repair services, wellness and hearing program and a very lengthy and well publicized police feasibility study in the southern portion of Hunterdon County, leak detection services, shared employees, shared courts and printing services.

Mr. Phalen stated some areas for future consideration by the County regarding shared services include items the County is already providing, including animal control services, emergency management, health insurance fund, regional planning and zoning boards, renewable energy coops and tax administration. Many counties, as the grant completed itself, in the over 18 counties that participated, are either building the shared services work into an existing county position or hiring project coordinators to provide various duties such as technical assistance in an energy coop or other shared services. Many counties have used the shared services position to act as a liaison between the county and the municipalities and this is an approach the Chamber recommends and feels it would be successful in Hunterdon County.

Mr. Phalen stated the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce looks forward to continuing to be a partner with the County, the municipalities and the schools that strive to improve the quality of life for all those who reside and work in the County.

The Chamber thanked the Freeholders for the County's support over the life of the grant.

Mr. Walton reported a letter was sent from the County to municipalities detailing the services the County makes available to municipalities that can be shared.

Director Mennen appreciates presentation stating the program and process has been through changes and has evolved over the last few years. He is glad to hear about the successes even in the face of occurrences beyond the Chamber's control.

PLANNING/FARMLAND

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-8A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal/County Cost Sharing Agreement with East Amwell Township for the Ryneerson South Farm (Furrows End Farm South), Block 3, Lot 3.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-8B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal/County Cost Sharing Agreement with East Amwell Township for the Ryneerson North Farm (Furrows End Farm North), Block 3, Lot 3.04.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-8C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract for the Sale of Development Easement, from Herbert Rosenfield (The Herbert and Audrey Rosenfield Fund, Inc.), on Block 18, Lots 14 and 14.09, in Alexandria Township, consisting of 30 acres, (SADC-\$169,200; County-\$56,400; Township-\$56,400), total amount of \$282,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-8D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a right of way form Irvin and Vilma Hockenbury, in connection with the right of way easement for County Route 514, in the amount of \$9,196; Bridge Easements for County Structures: EQ-218, in the amount of \$665; Q-64 in the amount of \$722 and EQ-220 in the amount of \$874; totaling \$11,457.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-8E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the revisions to the Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation Policy.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 10/05/108F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #25197, using State Contract #A-74027, with Fire Fighters Equipment Company, for air packs for Division of Emergency Management of the Public Safety Department, in the amount of \$35,891.10.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 10/05/10-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the award of County Quote #0041-2005, to provide final engineering design services, for the Historic Preservation and Rehabilitation of County Bridge RQ-179, on Stanton Station Road, over the South Branch of the Raritan River, in Raritan and Readington Townships, to French & Parrello Associates, PA, in an amount not to exceed \$268,637.57.

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

Item #1 held at this time.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve the Social Services Funds report for August 2010.

See Page 10/05/10-9B

SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS REPORT

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of September 07, 2010.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 10/05/10-9C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Olivia Murphy appointed temporary, as needed Student Assistant, Library.

See Page 10/05/10-9D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Rose Marie Geisenhoner appointed provisional, full time Senior Housing Assistance Technician, Division of Housing, Human Services Department.

See Page 10/05/10-9E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Eric Faulstich, Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Health Department, leave of absence without pay.

See Page 10/05/10-9F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Kevin Gonzalez, Road Repairer, Roads and Bridges Department, leave of absence without pay.

See Page 10/05/10-9G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Discharge of Mortgage for Charles Van Eiken, Block 33, Lot 8, in Bethlehem Township.

See Page 10/05/10-9H-

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Change Order for Warren County Contract #WZC0955, for the Replacement of County Bridge #05039/B-26-W, on Valley Road, in Bethlehem and Franklin Townships, with Furino & Sons, Inc., decrease of \$23,140.68.

See Page 10/05/10-9I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, Final, for County Bid #2009-15, for Resurfacing and Storm Water Improvements to County Route 523, in Raritan and Readington Townships, with Top Line Construction Corp., decrease of \$309,860.65.

See Page 10/05/10-9J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Final Payment on County Bid #2009-15, for Resurfacing and Storm Water Improvements on Route 523, in Raritan and Readington Townships, to Top Line Construction Corp., in the amount of \$63,533.97.

RESOLVED, Approving the solicitation of bids for County Bid #2010-25, Copier Maintenance; Bid #2010-26, for Home Health Services, Certified and Non-Certified; Bid #2010-27, to Furnish and Deliver Snow and Ice Control Materials; Bid #2010-28, to Furnish and Deliver Maintenance and Repair Materials.

RESOLVED, Approving the revisions to the Use of County Facilities and Meeting Rooms Policy.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated October 05, 2010, minus Check #130099 and #130160.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve Check #130099 as listed on the October 05, 2010 Claims Register.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve Check #130160 as listed on the October 05, 2010 Claims Register.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A memorandum was received from the County Clerk, requesting to continue membership in the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers, (IACREOT), in the amount of \$185.00 in accordance with established County policy for Trips, Memberships and Conferences not eligible for County funding. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission for membership in the IACREOT for the County Clerk in the amount of \$185.

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

A request was received from the Clinton Township Board of Education, for permission to utilize the gasoline source at the Lebanon Garage for three to four vehicles. Mrs. Yard reported that the Director of Roads, Bridges and Engineering has reviewed this request and said this could be approved since it only involves at the maximum, four vehicles. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this usage is coordinated by the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering through an agreement with the Clinton Township Board of Education.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Parks' Advisory Board/Pelio Property

Mr. Sworen reported that at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting a couple of things were brought up. One was on the Advisory Board's continued support to purchase the Pelio property. He said the County will be having other funds available and the Advisory Board would like this property to be considered.

Hoffman Park

Mr. Sworen reported that there is a barn building on the Hoffman Park property, with a second floor that has two closed bays, garage doors and three open bays. He asked if the County would want to utilize that building for storage for lawn mowers and such. Would the County want to upgrade or change its agreement with Union Township on the maintenance in order to utilize that building.

Mrs. Yard advised that Union Township currently maintains the buildings at Hoffman Park. Is Union Township asking if the County wants to utilize the building and to also maintain it.

Mr. Sworen stated there was a thought that the County might do some maintenance on the building. The question is whether the County has a need to utilize that building? He questioned if the County's Facilities Committee could determine if the County has a need to use that building and if there is a need, the arrangements could be discussed with Union Township.

Mr. Sworen reported also discussed was a private group refurbishing the house on Hoffman Park.

Polytech

Mr. Sworen reported the County received a request from Polytech for a reappointment for a member of the Polytech Board of Education, whose terms expires the end of October, 2010.

Director Mennen advised he will be reaching out to the Polytech member and he did indicate that to Polytech's Superintendent.

Director Mennen advised he will be recommending a nomination to fill that vacancy to the entire Freeholder Board and that should be done no later than the first meeting in November.

Director Mennen stated as discussed at a previous meeting, he and Mr. Walton have been working on a job description. On September 22, 2010 a draft of the job description which is being called the "Director of Legal Services" was forwarded to each Freeholder. It is important to note that the draft is the byproduct in the first part of discussions and assistance from County Counsel DeSapio in terms of a menu of services that would be appropriate to be handled in-house. As discussed at the last meeting, that job description was a source of discussion and analysis by the Administrative Review team; the same group that has done the transportation review and is currently doing the Health Department Review. After that meeting there were some changes that had been made to the draft job description and Director Mennen handed out revised copies. Director Mennen further asked the Board to review this job description and provide comments/thoughts to him. He would like to move forward on this.

PUBLIC SESSION

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, asked the status of the current Flu Shot program. Freeholder Holt stated 1,190 people registered for the flu shot clinics on Saturday.

Mrs. Stewart questioned the breakdown between Flemington and Voorhees.

Mr. Holt does not have that information with him this evening.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that Mrs. Stewart called her and the Health Department because she wanted to get a flu shot and the two locations for the clinics were the John P. Case Middle School which is in Flemington and Voorhees High School was the other location, in Lebanon. Mrs. Yard explained Mrs. Stewart was concerned because when she called, calls were restricted from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on two specific days. When Mrs. Stewart was able to speak to a live person she explained that she lives in Flemington and requested to get the injection and was told there were no more injections at John P. Case Middle School.

Mrs. Yard reached out to the Health Department and was told they would not move injection doses from one location to another, even though they are preregistering people and would know what the need is.

Mrs. Stewart said flu clinics used to be very easy when the clinic was held at St. Magdalene's Church, held out the senior identification card, received the shot and left. There was no preregistration.

Mr. Holt advised there were problems with that system as the Health Department did not know how much vaccine to order and massive doses did not get used.

Director Mennen stated Mrs. Stewart called in advance, why could the Health Department not get her the injection.

Mr. Holt stated he does not understand the inability to shift product. There is a limited quantity of product overall that was approved.

Mrs. Yard further informed the Board that the person Mrs. Stewart talked to on the phone suggested she drive to Voorhees High School to get an injection.

Director Mennen informed the Board and Mrs. Stewart that she received an unacceptable answer. He feels this Board should vocalize in the clearest, most unambiguous terms that she received a patently unacceptable answer to a member of the public. He asked that this situation be remedied.

Mr. Holt will check into this with the Health Department tomorrow and get back to Mrs. Stewart whether she should go to Saturday's flu shot clinic.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board