

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Main Street County Complex, 2nd Floor, 71 Main Street

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

February 15, 2011

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 5:40 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 February 10, 2011 to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News and Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 02/15/11-1A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a legal issue to decide if the County wants to appeal a decision in which the County is to pay attorney fees in the matter of Gensch versus Hunterdon County.

See Page 02/15/11-1B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning the Sheriff's Union.

See Page 02/15/11-1C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to review discussions County Counsel has had with an attorney for an employee of the Surrogate's Office.

See Page 02/15/11-1D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an issue regarding a request from the County's insurance carrier regarding a claim.

See Page 02/15/11-1E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a legal issue regarding Bridge T-85A.

See Page 09/21/10-1F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to review the minutes of Executive Sessions held on January 13, 2011 and February 1, 2011.

See Page 02/15/11-1G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the status of the Pelio land acquisition.

See Page 02/15/11-1H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the development of a contract for the Cooperative Land Program.

See Page 02/15/11-1I **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a legal issue surrounding the auction of the Bush property.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:10 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:40 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Denny Fleck, a bidder on the Bush property had a concern regarding an environmental issue. Freeholder Director Holt stated the issue is being corrected and will be compliant with DEP.

POLYTECH

Kim Metz, Superintendent, introduced two students from Polytech: Tony Stockelberg from the Culinary Arts Program (Hunterdon Central student) and has been accepted at the Culinary Institute of America at Highpark, New York. Amanda Ewing from the Teacher Academy, (Hunterdon Central student) and has been accepted at Montclair State University.

Ms. Metz remarked that not all students graduate high school and go on to college; that it is important that students are be prepared not only for college but for careers as well. Polytech is an important component for students, both college-bound and those launching directly into a career.

A plaque was presented to Polytech by the Freeholder Board.

PLANNING – Sue Dziamara

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, approval for the acquisition of right-a-way and/or easements from Helen A. Rynearson, on Block 3, Lots 3 and 3.04, in East Amwell Township, for a sight easement for County Route 604, in the amount of \$453.20 and a bridge maintenance easement for structure ED-258, in the amount of \$425.50.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, approval, upon the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, a Municipal Grant Program application, for Open Space Trust Funds, with Delaware Township, toward the farmland preservation of the Christopher Farm, Block 58, Lot 9, in the amount of \$45,883.50.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, approval, upon the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee a Nonprofit Grant Program application, for Open Space Trust Funds, with the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, for the open space acquisition of Block 49, Lot 4.02, in Lebanon Township (Fischer-Lomerson Preserve), in the amount of \$67,500.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE – Cynthia J. Yard

- Hunterdon County Anniversary Celebration for 2014: Mrs. Yard conveyed that Stephanie Stevens, Chairperson of the Cultural & Heritage Commission has asked what role the Commission will play in assisting the County in developing/organizing this celebration.

Mrs. Yard asked the Board to think about commissioning a committee with representatives from various agencies/entities interested in planning this important event. The Chamber of Commerce was suggested; and in addition, going into 2012, the County could ask the agencies who receive funds from the County through Cultural & Heritage, to ask them that their projects that are funded by the County would help support the 2014 celebration.

Later in the year, perhaps a "Tri-Centennial Update" should be posted on the County's website.

- Energy Efficiency Block Grant: Mrs. Yard updated the Board of Chosen Freeholders, at Frank Bell's request, that last year's funding was \$50,000; this year is going well and the County will be receiving \$125,000. These funds will be used to upgrade several buildings, beginning with the Route 31 Complex and the HVAC system.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated February 15, 2011.

See Page 02/15/11-2D

CLAIMS REGISTER

MOTION to approve Claims Register dated February 15, 2011.

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

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

See Page 02/15/11-3A

SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS REPORT

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve Open Session minutes from January 18, 2011.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 02/15/11-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Robert Smith appointed unclassified, full-time Undersheriff, in the Sheriff's Department.

See Page 02/15/11-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, James Oberst appointed unclassified, when and as needed Administrative Assistant, in the Surrogate's Office.

See Page 02/15/11-3D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Marcella Iglar, Senior Clerk Typist, Division of Social Services, in the Human Services Department, leave of absence without pay.

See Page 02/15/11-3E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Kim Taylor, Supervisor of Accounts, in the Finance Department, leave of absence without pay.

See Page 02/15/11-3F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for an agreement with Warren County in connection with replacement of Inter-County Bridge B-26-W, on Shurts/Valley Road, over the Musconetcong River, in Bethlehem Township/Hunterdon County and Franklin Township/Warren County, to Furino & Sons, in the amount of \$35,102.98.

See Page 02/15/11-3G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for County Bid #2009-29, for the Reconstruction of County Bridge RQ-164, on Rockafellow's Mill Road, over the South Branch of the Raritan River, in Raritan and Readington Townships, with Ritacco Construction, increase of \$59,292.02.

See Page 02/15/11-3H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Certifications and Assurances for the Federal Transit Administration Assistance Program, for the Department of Human Services.

See Page 02/15/11-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #34, for County Bid #2005-47, for the Addition and Alteration to the Communications/Emergency Services Center, with DeSapio Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$50,435.78.

See Page 02/15/11-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Supporting the Alternative Proposal to the Task Force on Mental Health Facilities Evaluation: A More Cost Effective Alternative for Hagedorn Hospital.

See Page 02/15/11-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Brayden Fahey appointed unclassified, full time County Emergency Management Coordinator, Public Safety Department.

See Page 02/15/11-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement with Steven Diamond, to provide medical examiner services, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

See Page 02/15/11-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing John Glynn to move forward with a contract with Dennis Fleck, to provide an environmental clean-up at the Bush property, in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 02/15/11-5A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Ryan S. Slaton for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 02/15/11-5B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Daniel G. Seminara for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 02/15/11-5C

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing John A. Deseno for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 02/15/11-5D

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Erik Hanson Schaub for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 02/15/11-5E

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Shaun Patrick Spiller for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 02/15/11-5F

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Jeremy Timothy Wright for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 02/15/11-5G

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Ian Krisanits for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 02/15/11-5H

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing William Wyckoff for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to Area Plan Grant #10-016, for telephone reassurance, with Hunterdon Helpline, Inc., increase of \$15,185 for 2011.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to Area Plan Grant #10-025/026, for Congregate Meals and Home Delivered Meals, with Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon, Inc., increase of \$212,765.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to Area Plan Grant #10-027/038, for a Meal Program and Adult Day Care, with Brideside Adult Day Centers, Inc., increase of \$45,455 for 2011.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-5L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to Area Plan Grant #10-055/056, for Information, Education and Physical Fitness, with the Hunterdon County YMCA, increase of \$47,454 for 2011.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-6A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to Area Plan Grant #10-061/067, for Caregiver Support Group, with Hunterdon Behavioral Health, increase of \$27,497 for 2011.

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

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-5H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Alliance Subgrant for 2011, for substance abuse prevention services, with the Delaware Valley Cluster, represented by Frenchtown Borough, in the amount of \$18,400.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 02/15/11-5I RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Alliance Subgrant for 2011, for substance abuse prevention services, with the Central Hunterdon Cluster, represented by Delaware Township, in the amount of \$31,400.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lois Stewart was provided the following information regarding the status of the Choir School: the County is moving forward to sell the property; a walk-through will be scheduled, followed by going out to bid. The Cultural and Heritage Commission will relocate to the Planning Board (Route 12 County Complex). The Commission's budget, as it relates to the Master Plan with regard to the historic trust money and the open space trust money, will collapse its budget into the Planning Board's budget.

Lois Stewart was provided the following information regarding the status of the Mikasa parking lot: The

County is considering a proposal in which there has been an offer to purchase the parking lot adjacent to the Mikasa building; with regard to the small brick building adjacent the parking lot, if the County pursues the offer, the small brick building would be protected from being demolished as there is historic significance. Responding to Ms. Stewart, Mr. Melick stated that the County use to rent parking spaces to the occupants in the Banish building; he believes the County has never owned the Banish building. This proposal/consideration is in very early stages.

The Board anticipates a report from Mr. Glynn in the next couple of months as to the estimated value of the property for the Board to determine if they want to pursue the offer.

Freeholder Holt commented that after the operating and the salary and wage budgets have been tackled Finance will be able to see where the numbers are begin to finalize the budget. Mr. Melick stated that the County needs to keep expenditures down as we are headed into a year that does not look good; anticipating many foreclosures in the coming year as the County works to maintain a flat tax. The Freeholders have prepared for the budget shortfall based on an estimated four percent decrease in ratable; the actual decrease in ratables came in at 3.75 percent.

FREEHOLDER COMMENTS/REPORTS

Freeholder Holt reported in the Flemington Rail Project. The Route 202 Corridor Study identified rail as a solution to reduce congestion on Route 202. A firm has been chosen to perform a study; NJDOT and NJTPA's involvement in this project includes funding the \$300,000 - \$350,000 for the study. HART has some involvement in the study as well (no funding). Stakeholder meetings are being scheduled; the first one is next week.

Freeholder Walton commented on a need to resolve the issue in Communications/Emergency Services concerning a turnover in dispatchers who are leaving for employment in other counties. Freeholder Walton would like to review the pay scale for dispatchers; as well as filling a vacancy for the Supervisor of Communications. This matter will be reviewed with the Human Resources Director, Cheryl Wieder and the Director of Public Safety, George F. Wagner.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Kelly
Deputy Clerk of the Board