

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

April 03, 2012

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 3:33 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Walton 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 March 29, 2012, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, and Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 04/03/12-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues concerning the South Branch County Library lease agreement.

See Page 04/03/12-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the Emergency Services Training Center.

See Page 04/03/12-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss condemnation litigation.

See Page 04/03/12-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss budgetary personnel issues.

See Page 04/03/12-1E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to receive an update on contract negotiations from Labor Counsel.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 3:40 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Open Space

Lois Stewart, resident of Flemington Borough questioned if the Board has made a decision concerning the Open Space Tax and if it will be cut from 3 cents to 2 cents.

Director Walton reported that a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at which time the Open Space issue will be discussed.

Mr. Mennen reported that the public hearing on April 17, 2012 was noticed for the reallocations of existing Open Space funds.

Richard Daus of Kingwood Township asked if an Open Space Audit has been completed which was asked for a year ago.

Director Walton will check with the Finance Department to make sure that was part of the County's Audit and if it were received as a "pdf" file, Director Walton will make sure it gets put up on the County's website.

Mr. Daus informed the Board that people are in favor of open space and the open space tax.

Alex Bacon, of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, stated NJCF does a lot of preservation work in Hunterdon County. NJCF has enjoyed having Hunterdon County has a partner over the year. Mr. Bacon questioned if the Board realizes the impression which is being generated amongst some people. There is talk about laying off the Coordinator of the Open Space program and two people have been lost already on the Farmland Preservation staff.

Ms. Bacon informed the Board that the impression is that the Freeholder Board is not committed to the open space program in the County. Hunterdon County has a fantastic reputation throughout the State of New Jersey as being in the forefront of Farmland Preservation and Open Space preservation. Ms. Bacon would hate for this Board of Freeholders to lose that reputation. She understands the pipeline has been slow for the Hunterdon County Cooperative grant program and that is because the first round of awards did not follow the recommendations of the Open Space Advisory Committee. A number of nonprofits and municipalities were turned off of that program. There is an application round once a year, in July, and Ms. Bacon has a number of applications for that program and also, for the other 20% nonprofit program.

Andrea Bonnett, resident of East Amwell Township, asked when the Board discuss and decide to start reducing the Open Space Tax.

Director Walton stated the Board discussed looking at open space and how to allocate the monies but he doesn't recall which budget session. In addition, this subject was discussed in at least one or maybe two, Open Space Advisory Committee meetings and those are also public meetings.

Carrie Messinger, Flemington Borough resident and South County Branch Library employee, questioned the Board on the lease for the South Branch County Library.

Director Walton explained the County is in active negotiations with the current holder of the South County Branch Lease and at the same time, the County is investigating other properties which maybe beneficial to the County. It is hoped the lease situation for the South County Branch will be resolved quickly.

Francis Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident, questioned if the South Branch of the County Library has to move, causing disruption to the Library, is there a mobile Library or a temporary facility/structure which could be placed in the East Amwell Township parking area where the Library used to be located?

Director Walton deferred to Mark Titus, Library Director, on making arrangements if there was disruption to the Library Service at the South County Branch. Mr. Titus does a fine job in running the Library and he is very committed to keep the service running and having a bookmobile go to East Amwell Township when it isn't elsewhere in the County, if there is a closure and/or transition period.

Elizabeth "Liz" Schmid, member of the Hunterdon County Agriculture Development (CADB) confirmed that the Planning Board has lost an additional staff member. The CADB wrote a letter expressing how important that staff is for the proper function of the CADB Board. The preservation of farms goes in cycles. The CADB has a function of having an appearance on the Right to Farm issues. Next week, the CADB will be listening two public hearing on various sensitive issues. The Planning staff is instrumental in getting the hearings noticed, getting court reporters and getting the CADB all the information necessary to be knowledgeable in order to act on various matters.

Ms. Schmid stated that the Planning staff has also taken over the functions of the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Robert Reed, resident of Pittstown, stated that he supports the statements made by Alex Bacon of the NJCF on continuing the process of preservation. This is not the time to slow down on preservation efforts. He read today that Hunterdon County had been designated the "healthiest" county in the State of New Jersey and he recognizes there are a lot of different reasons for that, including the level of income, access to health care facilities and the fact that parks, open space, trail, scenic vistas and all the things that support why people are drawn to Hunterdon County. The Freeholders are the front line in making this continue and he urges support for preservation.

Rose Hanley, Bethlehem Township resident and trustee on the Hunterdon Land Trust Board asked the Board to continue to preserve the rural character of Hunterdon County.

POLYTECH

Kim Metz, Polytech Superintendent thanked the Board for its continued support of Polytech.

Ms. Metz introduced Marisa Stewart who is enrolled in the Dental Assistant program and the professor is an adjunct professor from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Ms. Stewart informed the Board she just came from work, dressed in scrubs, and stated if it wasn't for Polytech, she would not have her job. Ms. Stewart is a senior at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, and is in the Dental Assistant program, which is run in coordination with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). Ms. Stewart explained her career goal is to become an orthodontist and this program allows her to learn different aspects of dentistry.

Ms. Stewart said the Dental Assistant program is a great program. Polytech has all the materials and instruments needed so she gets to learn what they do and how to use them, first hand.

Ms. Stewart advised she recently was accepted to East Tennessee State University for the Dental Hygiene program and she was informed by the University that her courses at Polytech will give her an edge above the other students. The Polytech advances people in the workforce and in reaching their career goals because of the hands on experience received that employers are looking for.

The Board thanked Ms. Stewart and Ms. Metz for coming this evening.

SHARED SERVICES/HEALTH OFFICER

Director Walton introduced to those present the County's Health Officer, Herbert Yardley. Hunterdon County engaged in a shared service agreement with Sussex County for a Health Officer.

Mr. Yardley informed the Board and those present that he is working with Tadhgh Rainey, who is the Director of the Division of Health Services. Mr. Yardley explained he is overseeing the Hunterdon County Health Services Division of the Public Safety Department.

Director Walton explained Health Services was consolidated under the Public Safety Department, with George F. Wagner as the Director and Tadhgh Rainey is now the Division Head for Health Services.

Mr. Yardley and Mr. Rainey advised what is expected to be accomplished by the Hunterdon County Health Services Division as a result of this restructuring.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Director Walton recognized the Board of Elections members: Stewart Palilonis, Chairperson, Lois Zarish, Susan Miller and Christine Yates.

The Board of Elections came before the Board concerning staffing concerns since the Election Supervisor, Dick Lynch, retired. Mr. Palilonis informed the Board that Elections has also lost two other full time people in the past year, leaving three full time people with no supervisor.

Mr. Palilonis stated a presidential election is coming which brings a record turnout of voters. There are 87,000 registered voters in Hunterdon County. Mr. Palilonis advised decisions have to be made as how the Board of Elections will proceed with its personnel. He stated the Board of Elections is looking to have a meeting with the Human Resources Director to determine where Elections is headed regarding personnel.

Ms. Zarish explained that this year the November election is also going to include school elections and it will be a hectic time if there is less staff in the office. Ms. Zarish stated a supervisor is going to be needed.

Mr. Palilonis advised that every municipality in the County except one elected to have their school board elections in November.

Mrs. Miller explained the complication is that the regular elections are partisan and the school elections are non-partisan.

Mr. Palilonis informed the Board that they would like to reorganize the current employees and Mr. Lynch retired as of April 01, 2012. The primary elections are only two months away.

Mr. Sworen confirmed there is an additional workload because mail in ballots are expected to increase, dramatically this year. Each of the mail in ballots has to be hand audited to make sure they are in the system.

Mrs. Yates advised the Board of Elections wants to hire a new Supervisor of Elections. They are seeking guidance from the Board on the salary for this position. Mrs. Yates stressed that an experienced person is needed because of the technology involved today. Hunterdon County has the best run Board of Elections in the State of New Jersey and Mrs. Yates stated they want to keep that recognition.

Mr. Mennen confirmed that the salary for Supervisor of Elections is not prescribed by statute.

Ms. Zarish informed the Board that the State has used Hunterdon County Elections as an example when the state turnover to the state voter system. Hunterdon County has a great reputation. Every vote counts and Hunterdon County makes sure of that.

After further discussion, Director Walton advised he will have the Director of Human Resources, Cheryl Wieder, will contact the Board of Election members tomorrow to set up a meeting.

The members of the Board of Elections thanked the Board for its time and direction.

FARMLAND/PLANNING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/03/12-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Contract for Sale of Development Easement, from Holland Township, (Gardner/Cullilnane), Block 6, Lot 48, (SADC-\$224,900, County-\$65,650, Township-\$65,650), total amount of \$356,200.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/03/12-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #400290803, using County Quote #0035-2012, with Craftmaster Hardware, for Folger Adam Lock Repair Parts, for Buildings and Maintenance, in the amount of \$15,271.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 04/03/12-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2012-02, to furnish and deliver one (1) 2012 International Truck/ Tractor, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, to Brown's Hunterdon International LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$95,748.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/03/12-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2012-05, for Steel Beam Guide Rail, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, to Road Safety Systems, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$32,458.40.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering brought the Board up to date on various County road and bridge projects.

- The County Route 523 project which was winterized last year will have the top soil and seeding begin the week of April 16, 2012; then the contractor will do the raised pavement markings and pavement repair. There is marring through the Dinner Pot section where the roller scared the pavement and that will be corrected.
- An agreement with East Amwell Township has been formed for the Ringoes project for their sidewalk project and the County's resurfacing project, on County Route 579. The Township has funding from NJDOT. The project runs from Route 202 through the Ringoes Hamlet up to where Clausen Park is accessed. This project should be out to bid within the next six weeks.
- The Local Lead Projects, County Route 609 and 523, are ready to be released. The final design is being worked on and the County is trying to get authorization on the Highlands Council on the County Route 523 section.
- Readington Road, County Route 637 is a joint project with Somerset County. Somerset is currently trying to schedule a public information meeting. The last public session was held at Raritan Valley Community College and this time, we are looking at Branchburg Township or Readington Township.
- A public information meeting is scheduled for Bridge C-26, on Cratetown Road, in Clinton Township on April 04, 2012.
- Bridge L-97-W, on Stephensburg Road, in Lebanon Township and Mansfield Township, Warren County, was winterized and construction will begin on June 15, 2012 with completion this summer.
- Bridge T-36-S, on Black River Road, in Tewksbury Township, the County is waiting to hear from NJDOT that there is funding for the project. This is a joint project with Somerset County.
- Bids will be received on April 26, 2012 for County Bridge W-71, on Route 579, in West Amwell Township.
- A public information meeting will be held with Union Township concerning Culvert U-18 on Race Street, on April 24, 2012 at 6 p.m., at the municipal building.
- There have been ongoing discussions regarding a settlement for the right of way for Bridge F-45, on White Bridge Road.
- Modifications have been made to Bridge E-174, in East Amwell Township. The County is waiting to receive the DEP permit. DEP representatives say it is coming any day now. The consultant has been instructed to start the new right of way documentation based on the new design.
- Bridge D-300, on Raven Rock Road-Rosemont Road, is ready to go to construction.
- Bridge RQ-179, on Stanton Station Road over the South Branch Raritan River is also ready to go to construction. The encroachment permit for this project is being pushed through by Environmental Resources through NJDOT.
- The County is waiting to hear on the approval of the Intersection design for County Routes 512/513.
- The County has not heard from the property owner for Intersection on County Routes 502/612.
- Mr. Glynn announced Arbor Day celebrations will take place in Flemington Borough with a planting in front of the Main Street County Complex and in the Court Street Park.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Director Walton advised he asked George F. Wagner, Director of Public Safety to come before the Board this evening because of the Hunterdon County Fire Training Center, which has a self life.

Director Walton stated that Mr. Glynn reminded him that the County created an organization/small committee of two police chiefs, two fire chiefs and two Emergency Medical chiefs, to meet with the County on what would be done for a future Fire School and plan it out. The future of the County and the future of the Training Academy has to be considered.

Director Walton advised he has worked with Brayden Fahey, the County Emergency Management Coordinator, as well as Mr. Wagner and Frank, who runs the Training Academy for the County. Being considered is investigating County owned sites for a potential, future Fire Academy or what can be done to remedy the existing Fire Academy. Also, looking at the emergency services personnel and what is needed as this advances and if the current facility meets those needs or not; and what needs to be done to make sure the County keeps its residents safe. Director Walton asked for a motion from the Freeholder Board to approve continuing this effort.

Mr. Mennen questioned looking at potential shared services with other county fire school/training facilities.

Director Walton stated that is an option and he is not opposed to that.

Mr. Mennen questioned the costs in terms of less man hours but more in the actual outlay involved in the proposed investigation.

Director Walton feels it will take a few hours of the County Architect, Frank J. Bell's time from time to time; as well as a few hours of Mr. Wagner's time and Mr. Fahey's time, as well as Mr. Erve and Director Walton stated his time is free. He thinks this could be one or two hours a month.

Mr. Mennen feels the County maybe getting ahead of itself by being out looking at properties when the first item to be identified is "what is the need".

Director Walton explained part of what is being done is scoping and looking at the need for emergency services in going forward. Technology changes everyday including the type of materials that go into homes, to the type of equipment used to extradite extraction; to stop fires to save people's lives. Things are constantly changing. People have to be trained and be up to speed with that changing landscape. He agreed shared services should be in the mix but also the need for facilities for the County. Director Walton personally thinks it is being responsible to look beyond the next 10 to 20 years.

Mr. Melick recused himself at 6:41 p.m.

Mr. Mennen stated the County needs to look long and hard, particularly in this environment, where the County is talking about laying people off; having already laid people off; talking about cutting spending in all areas; the County needs to look long and hard at this. He understands if nothing else, it is time but the message being sent has to be considered. The first thing that should be done, as will be done when the discussion is held with the Election Board, and as was done with Health, is to consider what other opportunities are available in other counties in terms of shared service situations as opposed to having to built something in the County.

Mr. Mennen advised he would rather spend resources, be it time or otherwise, hunting down those shared opportunities before Hunterdon County begins to put any discussion about new facilities on a different county property into the thought process.

Mr. Mennen confirmed there are counties which boarder Hunterdon that have services that would be closer for certain municipalities to attend than it is to go within Hunterdon. If another county doesn't let Hunterdon in, then this discussion should be held but the first thing Hunterdon should be doing is looking at what else is available before talking about throwing money at something.

Director Walton said no money is being spent yet and he will make sure the County reaches out to its neighboring communities to see what kind of space they have. It isn't just having facilities but if there is the time and space available to take more students. He agreed with Mr. Mennen that Mr. Wagner or Mr. Fahey should reach out to the communities.

Mr. Sworen agreed Hunterdon County needs to start meeting with this group to see what all the options are; whether it means going to another county on a temporary basis or full time basis. First Hunterdon has to determine what the need is for the future with regard to Emergency Services personnel and their training.

Mr. Sworen made a motion to continue this committee of 2 police chiefs, 2 fire chiefs, 2 EMS chiefs to explore the need for an Emergency Services Training Facility, shared service opportunities and the scope of what will be needed in years to come.

Mr. Holt stated the current Fire Academy facility is between 20 to 30 years hold. There is an understanding that the facility has a shelf life of only so many years. The first step would be to evaluate what training is necessary in the emergency service community and then look at multi-opportunities to continue that training, whether it be a shared service or part of an existing service, so it can be determined in the next 5 to 10 years how that training will move forward and where it will be done. Mr. Sworen agreed.

Mrs. Yard questioned why the Director of Public Safety isn't being asked to provide input.

Mr. Mennen advised he will not support having the Project Administrator or anyone look at County owned properties or developing site plans for a facility. He would agree to having all the stakeholders in a room and come with up with a need for shared services.

Mr. Sworen withdrew his previous motion.

Mr. Wagner suggested to the Board that County representatives be a part of this committee, along with police, fire and rescue representatives.

Director Walton would also like to recommend Mr. Wagner, Mr. Fahey, Mr. Erve also be on the committee.

Mrs. Yard explained this issue came about because Director Walton made a request to Mr. Bell and Mr. Bell asked her about resource allocation. Mr. Bell has been given additional duties and the County is in the process of restructuring the County's organization. Whatever this new committee's charge is going to be, it should be clearly defined because if this is an expectation of the full Board. This new committee should know what its expectation is and what the objectives are.

Mr. Holt said prior to any solution in terms of how the training will take place, there needs to be a review by this committee on what training is changing and how it will take place. It seems the committee's first charge would be to clearly define what has to be accomplished in terms of training so the County can determine how that will take place; whether it be in-house or a shared service.

Mr. Mennen confirmed that no County staff time will be expelled in looking at County properties, sighting buildings or potential site plans.

After final discussion, Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to move forward in creating a committee consisting of Police, Fire and Rescue representatives, as well as County representatives (Mr. Wagner, Mr. Fahey, Mr. Erve and Mr. Bell) to look at all the possibilities and present recommendations to the Freeholder Board on what direction the County should be moving in concerning Emergency Services Training.

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

Mr. Mennen suggested Director Walton is too close to this issue as a user of the facility and asked him to consider leaving this matter to the rest of the Board. He further feels that Mr. Melick recused himself from the discussion because when in Executive Session he indicated he was walking away from the matter for that reason.

Director Walton has no personal problem with being a volunteer firefighter. For 34 years Mr. Melick sat on this governing body and never recused himself from any issue dealing with the Fire School. If he recused himself for that reason, it was not under the direction of previous County Counsel or current County Counsel and he did so of his own choosing.

After further discussion, Director Walton said he will think about this.

Mr. Melick returned to the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

COUNTY UPDATE

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator reported to the Board concerning line items 805/810/815 for training, conferences, memberships and meetings. She met with the Administrative Finance Team (Human Resources Director, Cheryl Wieder, County Treasurer, Margaret Pasqua, County Administrator and Finance Director, Kim Browne). 805 (memberships), 810 (conferences) and 815 (education and training) are line items in the County Budget. A resolution was adopted on March 17, 2009, which put restrictions on the old policy and exceptions were listed on this resolution to include items such as when training is needed to perform a job which they are hired to do; or if continuing education (CEU) is needed for the job or if licenses/certifications are necessary, those items would be approved.

Mrs. Yard advised there are creative ways to get CEU's such as online versus going to a conference somewhere. Everyone has been asked to use discretion because of the amount of money they cost. Last year the 805/810/815 requests was over \$100,000 but after evaluating what was actually for CEU's, licenses and certifications, the cost were brought down.

Mrs. Yard reported some of the costs come from the bargaining unit contracts which include tuition reimbursement, which is paid without question. The Freeholders have been gracious to continue to fund those types of situations.

Mrs. Yard advised the Administrative Finance Team when looking at this years' budget, considered asking that some of these memberships be relaxed. Departments put in their requests with the understanding the Board has the final say. The challenge is the County's Constitutional Officers (Sheriff, County Clerk, Prosecutor and Surrogate) have conferences they attend each year and memberships they belong to.

Mrs. Yard advised the cost for 805 (memberships) the request total is \$14,730 with the Constitutional Officers requests being \$9,000 alone. This does not include the Constitutional Officers conference. For the 2012 budget there is another \$12,000 requested for conferences. Mrs. Yard informed the Board that the Administrative Budget Team recommends the requests be all or nothing. The County managers were directed to be careful when making requests. Mrs. Yard advised the Prosecutor's Office is the only office which has a trust account that can be used for what he wants, as long as it is construed to law enforcement.

Mr. Mennen stated the County has a policy in place that clearly sets forth what is an appropriate expenditure and what isn't. This discussion is coming about because there has been relaxation of that policy in certain situations such as a person has asked for it to be waived or because the Board decided it was warranted. Mr. Mennen stated in the year when there was \$100,000 of requests and only \$10,000 of those requests was consistent with the County's policy. The County has a good policy and it should be enforced across the board. The policy states if you need a license, certification or continuing education to do your job, then it's approved but if you don't need those then its fluff and the County should not be paying for it.

The Board discussed the 805/810/815 requests, the County's policy, travel involved

Mr. Holt thinks there is some value in keeping Hunterdon's people involved in what is going on in various counties and that is this Board's challenge.

Mr. Melick recommended talking about the travel costs involved in these requests. We have to talk about all aspects of memberships, conferences, meetings and trainings. At a prior budget discussion there was mention about how much money was brought back into surplus. One of the reasons money was able to be brought back into surplus is because the Board has been saving money on these line items. By keeping track of the money the County was able to save laying off a person or two.

Director Walton said the County is looking at \$14,000 in costs for these memberships/affiliations. The County's professionals should have the opportunity to cooperate, discuss, meet with and obtain information from others in other counties which do the same job and perform the same functions. While the County is spending \$14,000 but the County won't miss out on an opportunity which may save even more. Hunterdon County does not have all the ideas and the County's division heads/department heads should be afforded the opportunity to meet with and discuss issues with people across this state, to figure out how to best govern this County. These organizations bring value to the County and our employees have told us these organizations are important to them. This Board should respect their wishes and amend the County's policy to allow those individuals to attend those affiliations.

Mr. Mennen and Mr. Melick think the County to stay with the policy as it stands.

Director Walton feels the policy should be amended to allow department heads/managers to seek memberships in organizations that are County based and state based organization, within the confines of the budget this Board sets.

After further discussion, Mr. Holt asked to be allowed to review and rework the current policy for consideration by the Board at the April 10, 2012 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Walton 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. Holt seconded a motion to approve the Claims Register dated April 03, 2012.

See Page 04/03/12-7A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of February 21, 2012 and the budget/regular session minutes of March 06, 2012.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 04/03/12-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jacqueline Perez appointed permanent, full time Senior Account Clerk, Human Services Department.

See Page 04/03/12-7C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Lorraine Haley, Keyboarding Clerk 1, Division of Senior Services, transferred to the Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 04/03/12-8A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Cynthia Rochman appointed provisional, full time Keyboarding Clerk 2, Division of Senior Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 04/03/12-8B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Brian Klekovic appointed provisional, full time Housing Assistance Technician, Division of Housing, Human Services Department.

See Page 04/03/12-8C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a three month extension to the Medical Examiners professional agreement, with Dr. Steven Diamond, in an amount not to exceed \$62,500.

See Page 04/03/12-8D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, Final, for County Bid #2010-21, for resurfacing and intersection improvements to County Routes 613, 650 and 519, in Holland and Raritan Townships, with Owl Contracting, decrease of \$389,138.56.

See Page 04/03/12-8E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for County Bid #2010-21, for resurfacing and intersection improvements to County Routes 613, 650 and 519, in Holland and Raritan Townships, with Owl Contracting, in the amount of \$639,365.54.

See Page 04/03/12-8F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Hunterdon County Youth Services/Juvenile Justice Commission for 2012.

See Page 04/03/12-8G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Solid Waste Advisory Council.

See Page 04/03/12-8H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the reappointment of Charles Rebick to the Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 04/03/12-8I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the "FTA (Federal Transportation Administration) 2012 Lobbying Certification and 2012 Annual State of New Jersey Ethics Law" for Federal Transit Administration Assistance Programs.

See Page 04/03/12-8J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Transportation Services Agreement with The ARC of Hunterdon County, for the purchase of transportation services for 85 ARC consumers for 2012, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

See Page 04/03/12-8K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional auditing services agreement with Suplee, Clooney and Company, for the Hunterdon County Division of Housing, for the period ending December 31, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$7,600.

See Page 04/03/12-8L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Kaitlyn Lauber appointed provisional, full time Public Safety Telecommunicator, Emergency Services Division, Public Safety.

See Page 04/03/12-8M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Cody Kolb appointed provisional, full time Public Safety Telecommunicator, Emergency Services Division, Public Safety.

See Page 04/03/12-8N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Bonnie Garcia appointed provisional, full time Public Safety Telecommunicator, Emergency Services Division, Public Safety.

See Page 04/03/12-8O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jeffrey Fenton appointed provisional, full time Public Safety Telecommunicator, Emergency Services Division, Public Safety.

See Page 04/03/12-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Richard Allen appointed provisional, full time Public Safety Telecommunicator, Emergency Services Division, Public Safety.

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

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION

Director Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/03/12-9B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Joseph Kiceina for 35 years of service to the Hampton Emergency Squad.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/03/12-9C

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April 08-14, 2012 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/03/12-9D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Section 5310 grant application with New Jersey Transit for the purchase of two (2) Minibus vehicles. (80% Federal Transit Administration and 20% New Jersey Transit/Match).

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 04/03/12-9E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2012 County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) grant contract, with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy, in the amount of \$300,326 (\$150,163-state funds and \$150,163-County Match).

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from TD Bank, asking permission to use the North Branch Library Parking area, on Saturday, May 05, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. for overflow parking during their relocation celebration onto Beaver Avenue. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approval provided this event is coordinated with the Hunterdon County Library Director.

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

A letter was received from Green Brook Racing LLC, requesting permission to use various County roads during their annual BUCKMAN sprint distance Triathlon at the Round Valley Recreation Area, on Sunday, September 16, 2012, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approval provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

Correspondence was received from High Bridge Borough, requesting the County waive permitting fees associated with the Washington Avenue Bridge water main project. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approval provided this is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

A request was received from the Fairmount Fire Co. No. 1, asking permission to hold a Coin Toss at the Intersection of County Routes 512 and 417, in Tewksbury Township, on Saturday, April 21, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approval provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders had no reports this evening.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, came before the Board expressing concern about the probable reduction of the Open Space Tax from three cents to two cents. She feels this change would be a poor decision for the long term well-being of the County. Hunterdon County needs to think long term for the County's Open Space policies.

Ms. Stewart stated the residents of Hunterdon County have voted three times to tax themselves for the preservation of open space. Ms. Stewart asked the Board to listen to the voters. There are willing sellers of property for open space but some people are turned off by the lengthy procedures. Some people have to wait for years to preserve their property. Ms. Stewart suggested the County's procedures be streamlined rather than reducing the money available.

Ms. Stewart suggested selling the County's golf course if money is needed to help balance the budget.

Ms. Stewart informed the Board that she has seen large LINK buses with only one person on board. That isn't cost effective. She supports the LINK because Hunterdon County needs transportation but she does not support large buses for one or two people.

Ms. Stewart stressed concern on the number of vehicles the Prosecutor's Office has and the cost to the County for those vehicles.

Bob White, resident of Milford Borough, informed the Board that when Hurricane Irene hit Milford, it broke the dam and the result was that silt went down and plugged the creek and caused the death of a watershed. Because of high water running in the area it redirected the flow to the overflow and it brought down a number of good sized trees. Someone with a backhoe came and leveled out the area causing the normal pathway for the creek to be blocked. The Milford Council directed him to the Freeholder Board as it was felt that County employees who did the work.

Mr. White asked if the Board would come and look at the situation because he has a gravel pit in his backyard now. There are boy scouts, cub scouts, organized volunteers, local churches, the dive and rescue group is willing to help to do something to improve this area.

Director Walton stated that he and Mr. Glynn will be looking at the property tomorrow.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident, asked if there is a mechanism where people, long term unemployed, the people with families, for the County to grant either a partial waiver or relieve from property taxes in an unusual time. People need relief so they can stay in their homes.

Ms. Gavigan stated a component of the Open Space Tax fund can be used for preservation and if so, could they be used for historic structures.

Director Walton confirmed a portion of those funds are allocated each year to historic preservation.

Ms. Gavigan stated there are at least two metal truss bridges, one of which has seriously deteriorated, on Van Lieu's Road and there is a truss bridge on Cider Mill Road. Is it a possibility to consider restoration funding or partnership, to salvage these bridges.

Director Walton advised the Board has looked at, and continues to explore the option of historic preservation coming from the Historic Trust Fund. The Historic Trust Fund also funds grants through the Cultural and Heritage Commission which they award to historical based organizations, such as the Clawson House in Ringoes.

Ms. Gavigan suggested there be flexibility on how to allocate funds so if there are no land projects, the funds could be used for historic structures.

Mr. Holt advised there has been a bridge inventory listing bridges and several bridges having the historical component will be preserved. Mr. Glynn is aware of the inventory and the bridges needing repair. Mr. Holt stated if the bridge meets the criteria it will receive historic funding.

Carol Hoffman, member of the Planning Board, read in the newspaper that a member of the Planning Board staff and another position would be let go. She read where money could be used from Farmland Preservation to pay for positions that involve preservation.

Director Walton explained the County reached a tentative agreement with the Union which was reported in the newspaper that would have averted the layoffs. That agreement was put to a vote by union membership and the union membership voted against the agreement to which the heads of the union had agreed. The layoffs include one layoff in Planning, two layoffs in Parks and Recreation, and four layoffs in Buildings and Maintenance. The agreement would have averted the layoff in Planning and Buildings and Maintenance. It would not have averted the layoff in Parks and Recreation. The Board is disappointed the agreement did not pass.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board