

COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822
February 21, 2012

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:03 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

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 January 03, 2012, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review and Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 002/21/12-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal questions with Labor Counsel regarding a bargaining unit.

See Page 002/21/12-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss specialty counsel issues.

See Page 002/21/12-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss contractual issues regarding the 4-H Fair.

See Page 002/21/12-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss various farmland issues.

See Page 002/21/12-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a contract for County Auditor.

See Page 002/21/12-1F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the Hunterdon Medical Center.

See Page 002/21/12-1G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss lease terms for a County facility.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:06 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:48 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Bonnett, resident of East Amwell Township, came before the Board to explain the meaning of respect.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident asked the Board what unfunded parkland is as it is to be discussed this evening.

Director Walton explained this is to discuss parkland which is not purchased with Green Acre funding.

Sue Dziamara, Planning Director, reported there is a Lacross Organization interested in using part of the property which is adjacent to the Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority.

Director Walton explained that Raritan Township committed to seeking other opportunities in the County for other parkland that maybe open for use by this Lacross League. This Lacross League met with the County's Parks and Recreation Department, as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board about potentially using some of the County's existing parkland for their program. They were to come this evening to discuss this with the full Board but they have postponed meeting with the Board until a later time. This is similar to arrangements the County has made with other youth sports programs in the County, such as the soccer league which plays at Deer Path Park.

Jackie Bowers, Franklin Township resident, advised the Board she is concerning about the County's project for Bridge F-45, on White Bridge Road, in the Township. Ms. Bowers is concerned whether the bridge actually needs to be replaced or can it be repaired.

Elaine Neimann, Kingwood Township Mayor, asked the Board to consider the activities of the Planning Board/Department, not specifically to review applications but to consider their work with Open Space and Agriculture/Farmland Preservation, as well as their work for the Cultural and Heritage Commission. The County's Planning Department is a valuable resource to municipalities. In the realm of shared services, more municipalities are utilizing County resources to help reduce their loads. Ms. Neimann asked the Board to consider the adverse effect reducing the Planning Department would have on the municipalities and the County's taxpayers.

Ms. Neimann asked when there will be some resolution on what the County is considering. This concerns the professional careers of a number of talented individuals. The Planning Department professionals are needed by the municipalities.

Helen LaSar, Human Services Department employee questioned why the County needs a special counsel (#19 on the Consent Agenda), since the County has a new County Counsel.

Director Walton explained this contract is to handle other issues that may require the County to use outside legal help. It was known when the County created an In-House Legal Department that from time to time; other attorneys would be needed to assist with workloads and specific issues. Aaron Culton, Esquire, has worked with the County before and has been involved in many County activities and the County is going to try and take advantage of his services.

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF SOMERSET & HUNTERDON

Karen Cassano, Executive Director, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Somerset and Hunterdon came before the Board concerning funding not awarded to them this year.

Ms. Cassano introduced supporters of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Agency, present this evening: Anthony Murgatroud, Esquire, on the Board of Directors; Michelle – Big Sister; Tori – Little Sister; Laura Karmack – Big Sister; Kathy – Little Sister.

Ms. Cassano advised the Human Services Department made the recommendation to reduce funding to Big Brothers/Big Sisters by \$15,000. Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BB/BS) has been serving Hunterdon County for over thirty years. In 2000, 91 matches in Hunterdon were served. In April 2010, BB/BS lost over \$63,000 in funding for Hunterdon County from the Division of Youth and Family Services of New Jersey. BB/BS's maintained its level of service even though a large reduction was faced. In the last two years, services have been increased to Hunterdon. BB/BS now has a one to one High School mentoring program which is working in the Flemington, High Bridge and Clinton areas. In addition, a school based mentoring program has been started, which is a partnership with New York Life Insurance and the Clinton Township Public Schools and it is anticipated around 10 matches will be made. BB/BS is growing and doing good things.

Ms. Cassano stated BB/BS of Somerset and Hunterdon is a full affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America and what is done has a great and positive impact on children. 79% of the children who are matched have better self-esteem; 61% have improved academic performance; and 100% of the children in the program are not having problems with substance abuse; 49% have improved relationships with family.

Ms. Cassano advised all volunteers are professionally screened by the Case Management staff. These volunteers provide a wonderful service to the Hunterdon County community at a low cost. BB/BS takes a child and a volunteer and matches them up. The costs of the program deals with the professional staff used to put the matches together. The agency served over 300 matches and 91 were in Hunterdon County.

Ms. Cassano asked the Board to reconsider the Board of Human Services recommendation and to reinstate the funding.

Ms. Cassano provided the Board with information for their consideration.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY (NJTPA)

Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director, of the NJTPA thanked the Board and Freeholder Holt for allowing them time on today's agenda. The NJTPA deals with every element of transportation available.

Ms. Murphy provided the Board with a power point presentation on the NJTPA and Hunterdon County. Below are bullet points from the presentation.

- NJTPA project funding for Hunterdon, 2000-2012.
 - 2000-11: \$100 million authorized federal funding.
 - 2012: \$9.9 million approved federal funding.

- Current Projects.
 - Rosemont-Raven Rock Bridge, Delaware Township, \$3 million, 2012
 - Route 31 Resurfacing, \$7.4 million, 2013
 - I-78-Pittstown Road Interchange, \$19.6 million, 2015.
- Previously Funded Projects
 - Route 31 Raritan Valley Line Bridge Replacement and Road Work, \$7.8 million, underway.
 - I-78 Resurfacing (Tunnel Road to Beaver Brook), \$18 million, 2012.
 - Route 202/Case Boulevard Intersection Safety Upgrades, \$7.7 million, 2008.
- High Risk Rural Roads Program.
 - Milford Mt. Pleasant Road, (CR 519), Milford and Holland, \$425,000, 2013.
 - High Bridge–Califon Road/Main Street Intersection, Califon and Lebanon, \$223,000, 2013.
- Local Studies.
 - Flemington Corridor Transit Study, underway.
 - Route 202 Corridor Assessment and Multi-Modal Mobility Plan, 2009.
 - Freight Rail Grade Crossing Assessment Study, 2009.
- Regional Studies.
 - Rail Freight Capacity and Needs Assessment to Year 2040, underway.
 - 2010-11 Regional Household Travel Survey, to be released 2012.
 - Pedestrian Safety at and near Bus Stops Study, 2011.
- Transportation Management Associations.
- Walkable Community Workshops.
- NJTPA project funding for Hunterdon, 2000-2012.

Ms. Murphy noted the NJTPA Board of Trustees meets on a monthly basis. There are thirteen counties represented on the NJTPA Board of Trustees, (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren) as well as Jersey City and Newark. They have an equal seat on the NJTPA Board and have an equal voice and vote on the projects approved and funding with transportation dollars. NJTPA gives local officials an ability to meet with state agencies (NJ DOT, the Governor's Office, the Port Authority, and New Jersey Transit) as they are also represented on the NJTPA Board. Freeholder Holt was recently elected by his peers to be the Second Vice Chairman of the NJTPA Board, so he has a lot of power in the Executive Committee.

Ms. Murphy answered questions for the Board and the public.

The Board thanked Ms. Murphy for taking the time to be here this evening.

ROTARY

Director Walton reported at the Board's last meeting, a proclamation was adopted recognizing the Rotary for its 150th year Anniversary. Tonight the District Governor of the Rotary International is here, Megan Jones Holt. Director Walton invited Mrs. Holt and various Rotary members to officially receive the proclamation adopted on February 07, 2012.

Mr. Holt left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

George F. Wagner, Public Safety Director, came before the Board concerning the CERT (County Emergency Response Team). Mr. Wagner introduced Braden Fahey the County's Emergency Management Coordinator and Ken Mendoli, the County Coordinator for the CART (County Animal Response Team) and the CERT Team (Citizens Emergency Response Team).

Mr. Wagner advised since 2005, Hunterdon County has had seven municipal CERT teams operating in the County. The County has encouraged other teams to form in various municipalities and they have not.

Mr. Wagner stated they are present this evening to request permission from the Board of Chosen Freeholders to form a County Emergency Response Team, which under the direction of the Office of Emergency Management, response to any municipality which does not have its own CERT Team or to assist and/or augment a municipality that may have its own team.

Mr. Mendoli explained the Community Emergency Response Team program takes volunteers and educates them on disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills. Training is provided in fire safety; light search and rescue; and in disaster medical operations. Mr. Mendoli advised this is a FEMA course which takes 8 to 10 hours for the basic training and from there the volunteers do in-service training. When emergencies happen, CERT members can assist others in various neighborhoods, schools and work places. CERT members also help with non-emergency projects and events in order to improve the overall safety of the community.

Mr. Mendoli explained the role of the CERT and CART members during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee which impacted the State of New Jersey, when it hit shore on September 28, 2011. CERT volunteers from across the State of New Jersey answered the call for help and provided valuable support and assistance to all New Jersey's 21 counties. Mr. Mendoli explained the valuable assistance that Cert Team Volunteers provided in the County of Hunterdon during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Mr. Mendoli advised the Board that three current CERT team members suggested there being a County CERT Team. Currently there are around 10 individuals interested in getting training and being on a County CERT Team.

Mr. Wagner informed the Board that the County currently has enough residual equipment to set up a CERT Team immediately.

The Board discussed the issue of insurance for the CERT Team. Mr. Mendoli stated the CERT Team would be dispatched by the County Office of Emergency Management and if any member were to get hurt, insurance would be the only cost. Mr. Wagner stated this would be no different than the County's Haz-Mat team for insurance, which was recently discussed with the County's Risk Manager/Insurance Carrier and it was stated that as long as the CERT team is deployed under the auspices of the County's OEM Coordinator under an Emergency Management Declaration, they would be covered similar to the Haz-Mat Team. Mr. Wagner does not anticipate any additional costs to the County.

The Board discussed the fact that municipalities were not interested in forming CERT teams as this would increase their workmen's compensation insurance.

After further discussion, Director Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion authorizing the Director of Public Safety to move forward in putting contracts in place to have a County CERT Team.

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

Director Walton recognized Sheriff Brown for attending tonight's meeting and stated the County recognizes the hard work he and his office is doing for the County.

FARMLAND/PLANNING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 002/21/12-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a development easement on the High Plain Farm, in Franklin Township, Block 30, Lot 14, (SADC-\$126,480; County-\$42,160; Township-\$42,160), total amount of \$210,800.

See Page 002/21/12-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a development easement on the Hill and Dale 2 Farm, in Tewksbury Township, Block 30, Lot 1.05, (SADC-\$398,610; County-\$132,870; Federal-\$132,870), total amount of \$664,350.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering came before the Board to discuss various County road and bridge projects.

- Soil boring will be taken in mid-March for the retaining walls at County Route 519, Warren Glen Hill Safety Improvements.
- The issue at County Bridge F-45 on White Bridge Road, in Franklin Township, is a one lane versus a two lane bridge. There is a new administration in Franklin Township that is not familiar with the project which started many years ago. A public hearing was held on July 19, 2011 with the then administration and public. Mr. Glynn has offered to meet out in the field at the bridge and stake the project out so people can see the limits and where they are. There was concurrence from Franklin Township which included many detailed they wanted on the truss, such as hanging flowers and the color of the pavement and so on. Those requests were put on the documents currently on the table for consideration. The Board agreed to have a meeting at the bridge. Mr. Glynn explained the bridge has a structural issue from a superstructure and the substructure has some issues that are priority one repair in the corners. Given the traffic volume, the bridge warrants two lanes.
- The County is waiting for the DEP permit for County Bridge E-174. It should be released in the very near future.
- The DEB goals for County Route 513, Exit 15-Interstate 78, is set at 15.7%.
- Temporary construction easements are needed for driveways and utility agreements for County Bridge RQ-179.
- The County has received information from the property owner concerning a parcel needed for the County Routes 600 and 612 project.
- The County has met with Federal Highway concerning the Bridge Scour projects and that application for funding has been forwarded to NJDOT and it will be processed.
- The County met with FEMA last week to complete those applications.

COUNTY UPDATE

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator informed the Board a request has been received from the Public Broadcasting System (PBS/NOVA), to use the historic Court House. County Counsel's Office is working with PBS/NOVA to film in the second floor courtroom, for around 5 to 6 hours in late April or May, 2012. This would not be to re-enact the Lindberg Trail, they are only looking to film the courtroom with a free moving camera. Mrs. Yard advised the Board this is in keeping with the County's policy.

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. Mennen seconded a motion to approve the Claims Register dated February 21, 2012.

See Page 02/21/12-5A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to approve the budget session minutes of January 31, 2012 and the regular session minutes of February 01, 2012.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 02/21/12-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Lisa Piazza appointed provisional, full time Family Service Supervisor, Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 02/21/12-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Stephen Allara appointed permanent, full time County Correction Officer, Division of Corrections, Public Safety Department.

See Page 02/21/12-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Daniel Zmuda appointed permanent, full time Mechanic, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

See Page 02/21/12-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Paul Bolanowski appointed permanent, full time Mechanic, Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

See Page 02/21/12-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Tanvi Rastogi appointed permanent, full time Librarian, Library.

See Page 02/21/12-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Robin Krog granted a voluntary demotion to provisional, full time Human Services Specialist 3, Social Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 02/21/12-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Joan Tigar granted a voluntary transfer to provisional, full time Keyboarding Clerk 3, Division of Public Health Services, Public Safety Department.

See Page 02/21/12-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, for the purpose of administering the Personal Assistance Services program, in the amount of \$57,056.

See Page 02/21/12-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for Steel Beam Guide Rail.

See Page 02/21/12-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the release of a Performance Bond #B192289, for the Hamlet at Cedar Bridge, Block 19, Lot 2, in Alexandria Township, to Ferruggia Associates, in the amount of \$125,000.

See Page 02/21/12-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Kenneth Novak as an alternate member to the Hunterdon County Planning Board.

See Page 02/21/12-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the approving the appointment of Elaine Niemann as a regular member, from alternate, to the Hunterdon County Planning Board.

See Page 02/21/12-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Susan Herles to the Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services Advisory Council.

See Page 02/21/12-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Elise Collins of Sunrise House Foundation to the Hunterdon County Professional Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

See Page 02/21/12-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Amending the September 06, 2011 resolution for public health nursing services.

See Page 02/21/12-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #40029418, using County Quote #0022-2012, with Samson Metal Service, for structural steel, for Roads, Bridges and Engineering, in the amount of \$18,081.63.

See Page 02/21/12-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a special counsel agreement with Aaron R. Culton, Esquire, for the Office of County Counsel, in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.

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

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 02/21/12-6G

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMED, Declaring March as Brain Injury Awareness Month.

See Page 02/21/12-6H

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMED, Recognizing the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/21/12-6I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, to process all requests for Universal Service Fund (USF) check replacements generated through the Family Assistance Management Information System, for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program, in the amount of \$1,185.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 02/21/12-6J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, for the administration of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program including accurate data entry of verified information in the Financial Accounting and Management Information System, amount of \$2,107.

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

Mr. Holt returned to the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 02/21/12-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2012 State/Community Partnership (SCP) and Family Court Appropriations award, from the New Jersey Justice Commission, for funding in the amount of \$295,227 (consisting of \$135,567 in SCP service funds; \$97,157 in SCP management funds and \$6,953 in Juvenile Accountability Block grant federal allocation).

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 02/21/12-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a subgrant award from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, for the Stop Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), in the amount of \$8,631 (Federal - \$6,473 and a County Match of \$2,158).

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Sue Lehrer, 5K Race Director for Girls on the Run, requesting permission to use the Main Street County Complex parking facility, on Thursday, May 31, 2012, beginning at 3:00 p.m. with set up and ending after the awards ceremony around 9:00 p.m. Also, requesting permission to place port-a-johns at the parking facility. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion granting permission, provided this event is coordinated through the County's Buildings and Maintenance Department.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Veterans Haven North

Director Walton noted that the Governor in his budget address today, he announced a new initiative to utilize the Hagedorn Psychiatric facility which is closing the end of June, and it is proposed this facility be utilized as a veterans home/veterans facility to be called Veterans Haven North.

Tax Board

The County of Hunterdon has received a table of assessments from the County's Tax Board and it shows a decline in the ratable base of 4.6%. This means a decline in revenues of \$2.8 to \$2.9 million on top of a \$1.2 million shortfall the County began the year with because of an increase in costs. This is not good news for the Board in trying to close the budget gap. The County has continued to look at layoffs and continues to meet with the Union.

Mr. Melick advised those present that the Board is willing to listen to any and all suggestions, and asked the public to provide any suggestion at all to the Board.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Open Space Tax

Elaine Niemann, Kingwood Township Mayor suggested the Board redirect the Open Space Tax if that is deemed appropriate as a means to filling the shortfall. She asked the Board to consider looking into this in order for the County to ride through this difficult economic time. Mayor Niemann hopes the Open Space Tax would be reallocated to Open Space when times are better.

Director Walton stated a meeting is being held tomorrow on various ways the Open Space Tax can be used and to consider what the impact would be to lowering that tax and raising the general levy. He has socialized that that with the County's Open Space Advisory Committee.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident stated the residents of the County of Hunterdon support the Open Space Tax funds to be used to pay for land.

Vehicles

Ms. Stewart asked how many County vehicles currently go home with employees and if they are kept track of.

Mr. Melick explained that has been an ongoing discussion for the Board and because it involves County employees, it has been held in Executive Session.

Kerry Messinger, Library employee, stated the Library staff has to write down mileage when they use County vehicles.

County Bridge F-45

Tom Gromonski, resident of Pittstown, asked if the County would consider postponing the proceedings involved with the work to be done on County Bridge F-45, on Whitebridge Road, in Franklin Township.

Mr. Glynn advised the County needs to acquire two parcels in connection with this project and one has been acquired and a motion has been filed with the courts in connection with the other property.

County Employees/Union

Mike MacIntyre, Buildings and Maintenance employee apologized to the Board for his comments at the last Freeholder Meeting. He asked the Board when considering the bids which are currently out for mowing, to consider apples to apples when reviewing the bids. He's been a County employee for 18 years and knows the County's buildings well. He suggested the Board look at management issues. He has no problem in working out of title when need be because he wants people to understand it is cheaper and more efficient to have people working for the County not having private contractors. He not only mows, he changes lights and much more. He is doing more work today because there are more County buildings now than 18 years ago. Also, there is a Buildings and Maintenance worker assigned to the Jail who knows that building better than anyone, especially the plumbing for that building.

Director Walton thanked Mr. MacIntyre for his honesty and for the work he has done.

Mr. Melick asked how the County employees would feel if the County had one furlough day a week, regularly through the summer and no one got paid, not even the Freeholders?

Adam Liebttag, CWA Representative and resident of Frenchtown Borough, said he can't answer that question but did say it is a discussion that will be held during negotiations, at the appropriate time.

Mr. Liebttag advised the Board he is frustrated on the lack of information he is getting from the County for cost analysis but he does appreciate that the County is willing to look at alternatives.

Mary MacIntyre, resident of Everittstown, advised she is here this evening to support those who are fighting for their jobs; these people have families to support.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resented stated she is sympathetic to this economic issue. She understands the costs have to do with the long term pensions and health costs that add up over the years and that might be something to consider during negotiations. Ms. Gavigan stated she has confidence in knowing people who have been with the County for five, ten or more years are doing their jobs and doing the best they can. She questioned if there might be management issues that could be reviewed, as well as the use of County vehicles or other contractual issues that can be worked out. Now is not the time to let people go because we are now in the worst economy since 1936. She would like to see energy put in improving efficiencies. People who bid are looking for a profit and will do a partial job. Mrs. Gavigan asked the Board to have an open mind during this frustrating time between the County and the unions.

Kerry Messinger, Library employee and Flemington Borough residents, questioned how depleting the Buildings and Maintenance Department will save the County much money, because there are many buildings that need to be taken care of and these people are making around \$30,000 each. She questioned what the supervisors are doing.

George Glasshoff, Roads and Bridges employee, asked if the County has looked at the LINK system to reduce costs.

Director Walton explained in 2011 the County cut back on bus routes and buses, in addition the County went with a lower bidder to run the operation, which saved the County \$2 million.

Mr. Holt informed Mr. Glasshoff that the County spent 6 months in reviewing the contract for the Operation of the LINK services and the new contract saved the County 50% over the previous vendor.

Director Walton advised the County continues to look at the LINK services to determine if there can be further savings. This Board has dealt with a full meeting room of people who were concerned that their bus routes were discontinued.

Mr. Glasshoff asked about County vehicles and said it is his feeling that no one should be able to take home a County vehicle.

Mr. Glasshoff asked about the County's Golf Course and if it makes a profit. He further suggested the County sell Heron Glen Golf Course.

Mr. Sworen advised County residents pay to play at the County's golf course.

Director Walton stated it would cost the County more money at this time to get rid of the County's Golf Course than to keep it.

Mr. Glasshoff questioned why lights on sign board at the Route 31 County Complex and the Route 12 County Complex are not turned off after a certain hour. He saw the Route 12 sign board lit up at 2 a.m. Why aren't they on a timer from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Director Walton thanked Mr. Glasshoff for his questions this evening.

Mr. Liebttag advised the union has had several meetings with representatives from the County and information has been requested. At the February 10, 2012 meeting, the Union asked for a number of items and Mr. Liebttag is still waiting on a answer for a number of the items.

Mr. Liebtag informed the Board that the OSHA requirements are not in the County's Request for Proposal. There is a requirement to follow OSHA or other health and safety provisions and he would like to see that. Also, he asked who will be doing criminal background checks and what is the cost. These mowing vendors will be operating at Parks and at the Library.

Mr. Liebtag questioned what the County will do is it encounters a situation where a service is contracted and the contractor cannot provide enough people who pass these background checks.

Mr. Liebtag asked the County to look at the costs of supervisors that would be used to oversee the contract for mowing. Would it be a Parks Supervisor or a Roads and Bridges Supervisor. Who will make sure the contractors perform the work safely. Mr. Liebtag asked for a quadrant by quadrant analysis of the County's current costs to do the same work.

Mr. Liebtag stated he asked for an analysis of the County's contract proposals that were made a part of the bargaining agreement. He is waiting for the contract proposals.

Mr. Liebtag has received the Planning Board statistics and thanked Director Walton for that information.

Mr. Liebtag stated the County opted not to ask for a performance bond in the RFP for mowing services. He said John Davenport, County Purchasing Agent said a performance bond is not necessary. Mr. Liebtag said the lack of a performance bond means the County insures the contractor and he feels the County should require a performance bond.

Mr. Liebtag briefly discussed the vendor All Clean with the Board, which took over janitorial services last year for the County.

Mr. Liebtag asked to put on the record, that the County is getting "screwed" on its cleaning contract. He feels he knows what is going on behind the scenes. Mr. Liebtag said in January the County paid 1 top level senior maintenance person 18.7 man hours over two weeks to clean up in the Library after All Clean. This person was told to do this by the department head. This person still goes to the Library on a regular basis. Mr. Liebtag said the Library was recently changed an additional in-house fee for the extra services.

Mr. Liebtag stated on January 05, 2012, the County paid 21 man hours to three employees, 7 hours each to unclog sewer pumps. This was due to mop parts that were flushed down the Library toilets. This is what All Clean provides and he said that is what the County will get by a fly by night mowing contractor who is not required to put up a performance bond.

Mr. Liebtag stated that to save money keep Hunterdon County people doing Hunterdon County work because they do it cheaper and better. He offered to talk to the County about alternatives and stated the Union is here to help the County.

Mr. Liebtag said the Buildings and Maintenance's secretary is taking a transfer from the department of March 01, 2012 and that is where work orders go and tracking is kept so the County is not going to be able to track work orders, effective March 19, 2012.

Mr. Liebtag doesn't blame the Freeholders and stated he is raising these issues so the Board can fix things. He asked the Freeholder to push off the layoff date of March 19, 2012 and to include a performance bond in the mowing RFP, and asked to keep talking with the Board.

Partisan Politics

Andrea Bonnett, East Amwell Township resident, asked the Board what partisan politics means to each of the Freeholders and questioned if it is perceived to be a problem when someone asks to use a County meeting room.

Director Walton explained it is an issue if the County is giving for free space to political partisan they should be spending their own money for business facilities within the County. The Freeholders believe that political parties should rent space in business facilities such as restaurants/hotels and other private enterprises or from charitable organizations that have similar space to such meetings. This Board does not feel it is appropriate for political parties to mooch off of taxpayers for free for meeting space.

Mr. MacIntyre explained there is a cost associated with setting up any meeting space in the County.

Press

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders answered various questions for the press.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board