

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

July 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:05 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 January 03, 2012, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 07/17/12-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Ewing property acquisition in Raritan Township.

See Page 07/17/12-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters in the Hunterdon County Jail.

See Page 07/17/12-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing salary increases for the unclassified and non-contractual employees.

See Page 07/17/12-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing an FOP complaint.

See Page 07/17/12-1E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the Executive Session minutes of July 03, 2012.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:07 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:40 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OLD BUSINESS

Ewing Property/Raritan Township, Block 15, Lot 1

Director Walton advised those present that the Board of Chosen Freeholders was asked to contribute towards the purchase of the Ewing property in Raritan Township. This Board has discussed with all the stakeholders involved that this purchase be a County only purchase for many reasons. This will make it easier for the seller and it leaves money on the table for all those who were involved in this purchase to save those funds for other projects. The County is fortunate and it is expected to be confirmed in writing that the County will be able to utilize Green Acres funding from the state to match the County's contribution; and also, in the analysis performed as part of the County's budget preparation this year, the County has a firmer grasp on funds that have been unspent in the County's Open Space Trust Fund. It is the County's intention to take on the purchase of the Ewing property and negotiate directly with the seller a contract for the property in the next few months.

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion authorizing County Counsel to communicate directly with the seller of the Ewing property to enumerate the position of the Freeholder Board with regard to stepping into the shoes of the prior purchaser under contract to acquire the parcel as a stand alone County purchase utilizing the standard County contract form with the standard language arriving at a closing date which is mutually agreeable, recognizing the speed with which the seller wishes to close; and recognizing the procedural issues that need to be dealt with. Also, contingent upon written confirmation of the verbal statement received from Green Acres, that the County will be able to utilize the 50% matching grant.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Oliver Elbert, Raritan Township Mayor, applauded the Board for taking this action concerning the Ewing property this evening. The Township Committee and the Township's Open Space Committee kept working on this project; as well as the Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance has worked hard on this also. This project will benefit not just the County and Raritan Township but all of Hunterdon County. He's aware that all of the Freeholders have walked the property and it is a special property.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, told the Board she is very pleased that the County has decided to purchase the Ewing property and thanked the Board.

Amy Green, Raritan Township Open Space Coordinator thanked the Board for taking steps to acquire this property. She informed the Board that they would like to participate in the future management for the Ewing property. She thanked the Hunterdon Land Trust and Flemington Borough who supported this acquisition also.

Barbara Suchua, Raritan Township resident stated on June 25, 2012 she asked Raritan Township for information on the documents for this sale and to date she has not received those documents. Ms. Suchua requested that her Open Public Records Request be turned over to the County. Ms. Suchua said she also requested to walk the property when the Freeholders walked it. She asked why the County did not let any taxpayers walk with the Freeholders. The public has an interest in this purchase. Ms. Suchua requested that there be passive management for this property. She asked why this property is \$25,000 an acre while other property being considered on today's agenda is only \$5,000 an acre.

Director Walton informed Ms. Suchua that she filed an OPRA request with Raritan Township. He explained if she wished to make an OPRA request of this government the forms can be found online or one can be picked up in the Administrative Office.

Director Walton explained to Ms. Suchua that the Freeholders did not walk the property as a Board. If three or more Freeholders were to walk the property then it would have been publicly noticed and allowed taxpayers access along with the press. This has been done in the past with certain bridge projects but the Board, due to their schedules walked the property individuals at different times and on different days.

Director Walton explained to Ms. Suchua that there are different land values from one location to the next. Another issue with regard to the purchase is whether you purchase easement rights or are purchasing the property in fee. Those issues can cause a wide variety in the pricing per acre for County acquisitions. The Ewing property is an in fee purchase and what is on the agenda this evening is the purchase of development rights.

John King, Raritan Township Committeeman thanked the Freeholders for taking the leadership in the purchase of this property. He thanked Freeholder Mennen for suggesting that this property be a County project acquisition.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident stated she is familiar with the property and it is spectacular and it is an incredible asset for anyone to see preserved. Ms. Gavigan recommended the property remain as farmland. It is being farmed currently. Farming is the essence of what Hunterdon County is and it adds value to the County.

POLYTECH

Kim Metz, Polytech Superintendent came before the Board and introduced the Instructor for the Early Childhood Development program at Polytech, Natalie Guraino. Also present, JoAnna Billings, Seiya Marin, and Emily Wasempacher, students in the Early Childhood Development program.

Mrs. Metz advised Ms. Guraino and the students just arrived from Orlando, Florida where they competed against eleven competitors while attending the FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) National Convention. Eleven girls attend with six winning gold and five winning silver.

Mrs. Guraino explained the FCCLA is a student organization for young leaders in the vocational career technical education field. All the Early Childhood and Teacher Academy students she teachers are members of this organization. In March, 2012 thirteen students competed at the state level and all thirteen won first place gold and this past week eleven students went to Florida to compete in the National Competition.

The Board congratulated Ms. Billings, Ms. Marin, and Ms. Wasempacher on their accomplishments, as well as their instructor, Ms. Guraino.

NORWESCAP

Terry Newhard, Executive Director of NORWESCAP, came before the Board to provide a presentation on the status of the under resourced people in Hunterdon County. He explained NORWESCAP has compiled a poverty study for the past five year in the Counties of Warren, Hunterdon, Middlesex and Somerset. 1,100 low income residents in those counties were surveyed and the information is used to do planning for NORWESCAP and to let people know what poverty looks like in Northwest New Jersey.

Mr. Newhard quickly went through a powerpoint presentation explaining the results of this recently poverty survey.

Director Walton thanked Mr. Newhard for taking the time out of his schedule to make this presentation to the Board.

FARMLAND/PLANNING DIVISION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 07/17/12-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing final approval for the acquisition of a development easement, Charles Brown Farm Preservation, known as Block 14, Lot 2 and Block 14, Lot 38, Holland Township, County of Hunterdon, in the following amounts: (SADC - \$417,960.00; County - \$139,320.00; Township - \$139,320.00), total amount of \$696,600.

Mr. Mennen informed Sue Dziamara, Planning Division Head to include a copy of the appraisals or a synopsis of the appraisals in the future for the Board to review prior to inclusion on the agenda.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

John P. Glynn, Director, Public Works Department came before the Board to provide an update of various County road and bridge projects.

- Final application has been made for County Route 519, at Bridge State to the Milford Borough Line.
- The contractor will be onsite July 19 and 20, 2012, to put rpm's in the project for County Route 523, Readington Township and County Route 517, Tewksbury Township. The contractor will have to come back and correct where they rolled and tore the pavement, so a seal will be done on that.
- The County has not heard from the State Historic Preservation Office about authorization to proceed with the sidewalk project in Ringoes, County Route 579. DOT is threatening to pull funding.
- The design for County Route 609, from County Route 514 to County Route 602, is 80% complete and will be rolled into the County Route 523 section from Oldwick to the Somerset County Line. This is part of the Transportation Trust Fund money for 2012.
- A letter was received from a historical group in Clinton Township with regard to Bridge C-26, on Cratetown Road. They are looking to save the trusses and put the veneer back on. The County had authorized its professional to go ahead and do a simple span bridge and to focus on the bridge north of this one. Mr. Glynn asked for direction from the Board since there is nothing historic about C-26. He explained it would be expensive to do what the historic group is asking and the County waited 30 days and no response was received from Clinton Township about how to finish the bridge. Mr. Glynn's recommendation is to continue with the simple span bridge because adding the trusses to the backside of the simple span bridge and doing the veneer in that location, doesn't serve a purpose.

The Board discussed this issue and instructed Mr. Glynn to continue with the project as is.

- The contractor anticipates pouring the inside of the arch for InterCounty Bridge L-97-W, on Stephensburg Road, in Lebanon Township and Mansfield Township, Warren County, next week. This is the internal arch; the old stone arch is being saved. This is a triple stone arch which has been identified as a preservation project.
- The plan for the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge Q-168, in Raritan Township is substantially completed. The final review is being done and the project should be out to bid by the end of the year.
- The County has not heard back from NJDOT on the transfer of local bridge funding for Bridge T-36-S, on Black River Road, Tewksbury Township and Bedminster Township in Somerset County.
- Bridge W-71 on County Route 579 in West Amwell Township is closed. The project should begin on July 17, 2012.
- A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2012, for the surface treatment program.
- Culvert A-15 on Woolf Road, in Alexandria Township is closed.
- Culvert D-435 on Yard Road in Delaware Township opened today.
- Culvert D-494, on Featherbed Lane in Delaware Township will be closed on July 30, 2012 for approximately three to four weeks.
- Culvert HA-11, on Sweet Hollow Road, in Alexandria and Holland Townships is being done in house. Alexandria Township is having a hard time in getting the power company to reset a pole.
- Culvert T-91, on Sutton Road, in Tewksbury Township is closed and work has started for the preservation of the stone arch. The stone arch is in worse shape than anticipated so it will take more time to get the stone arch into shape so a concrete wall can be poured.
- DEP has received the application for Culvert U-18, on Race Street in Union Township, and they just started to review the plans.
- The County will meet with the Stockton Borough Engineering to review the scoping work for the drainage on County Route 523.
- Documentation on County Bridge F-45 on Whitebridge Road, in Franklin Township is being sent to DOT for authorization to construction in 2012. NJTPA is concerned and so is the County regarding the issues with getting the power company to issue a certification that the power lines have been coordinated. A utility agreement needs to be put in place.

- The final plans, specifications, engineer's estimate and authorization to proceed with the right of way and utility agreements are now with NJDOT for County Bridge D-300, on Raven Rock-Rosemont Road, in Delaware Township.
- The permit has been received for County Bridge RQ-179 from NJDEP; there is no right of way and the utilities should not be in conflict with the work. This project is to preserve a truss.
- The County is waiting on DOT regarding County Routes 512/513 intersection.
- The County has not been successful in getting the right of way for the County Routes 600/612 intersection. A public hearing will be scheduled.
- FHWA has looked at the County's claims for the storms (Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee). Additional information has been requested.

Mr. Melick asked Mr. Glynn for the counts on County roads. Mr. Glynn will provide that to the Board.

COUNTY COUNSEL

Directional Signaling on County Roads for tourists

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that he sent a letter to Franklin Township, but they meet the second and fourth Tuesday's of the month, regarding the Trail Blazer signs for the vineyard. Mr. Glynn will report back to the Board in August.

Shana Taylor, County Counsel informed the Board that she has reviewed the request for directional signaling on County roads and it is supposed to have a positive impact on tourism and certain local businesses are designated in the regulations for people (out of town) frequenting them.

Ms. Taylor advised the Board that there is always the possibility that the County will/may be named in lawsuits if there is an accident. The state says in the regulations that they will take responsibility for situating the signs in a safe manner and they will compile with the Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices regulations. That would be the County's defense if the County were named in a lawsuit. The County would not derive any revenue from the trail blazer signs but the state is putting them up and maintaining they are being put in the right places and the right size sign.

Ms. Taylor advised the Board needs to decide if it wants to participate in this program. Every time someone/entity wants a Trail Blazer Sign they need to get the County's permission if there is a County right of way issue.

Director Walton recommended that all requests get municipal approval before coming before the Board for consideration. The Board agreed to wait and hear any comments or concerns from Franklin Township first. The Board agreed that the municipal should provide approval first.

FOR DISCUSSION

Director Walton informed the Board that he prepared a resolution for the Board to consider which tasks the County's Divisions and Departments to create a scoping document to assist the Board in presenting a vision for where the County should be in 2020.

Director Walton explained this is a planning tool to be used for budgeting purchases, as well as for the Board to determine what needs have to be met in moving forward. This will assist in long range planning to determine what the priorities of the County will be for the coming years.

Director Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 07/17/12-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Directing every County Division work in concert with their Appointing Authority, Department Manager, Advisory Board(s), Clients and Constituents, to develop a scoping document spelling out the future requirements of that Division to meet the needs of the County's residents in 2020 and beyond; and this Vision for 2020 be forward to the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders for use in the proper development of future budgets, capital budgets, durable goods and infrastructure purchases and long range planning.

Mr. Mennen stated he is for future planning and being proactive and ahead of the curve; his only issue with this resolution is that it doesn't draw the distinction between mandatory versus discretionary. It tasks departments and divisions to put forth documentation of their on viewpoint of the needs that their department/division will face and what they will need ultimately working itself into budgetary discussions. This runs the risk of becoming an unmitigated wish list without some clearer direction, recognizing this is outward planning for 10 plus years; but this Board has been very rigid about drawing the dichotomy about what we are mandated to do and what is discretionary. The word need is too generic without defining the boundaries.

Director Walton said even though a department/division may assign something as a need, it does come before this Board and the Freeholders ultimately set the vision. The Freeholders take this accumulated information and opinions of the departments/divisions/employees and then decide what the priorities are and then budget these as the scope. Director Walton feels this resolution is the first step in a long range project which will benefit Hunterdon County. There is certain threshold information the Freeholders need from its department/division heads with regard to how many roads need to be repaired, how many computers need to be replaced, are more trails needed in the Parks, are there any recreational needs. The discretionary and mandated isn't the only measure on whether or not this County government will engage in activity.

Director Walton understands Mr. Mennen's concern and the departments/divisions understand that ultimately the decision for what gets done is set by this Board.

Mr. Mennen said it would be more helpful for departments/divisions when they are identifying their roadmap for the future if they drew a distinction in the creation of mandatory needs versus discretionary. This would inject the greater sense of realism into the analysis because if it runs the risk of becoming an unmitigated wish list and those distinctions aren't drawn, then it will be less effective.

Mr. Mennen agreed long range planning is a good thing. There is no reason not to do it but this would be a better tool if this Board drew that distinction.

Mr. Melick agreed.

Director Walton amended the resolution to reflect the suggested changes by Freeholder Mennen.

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

The Board directed Mrs. Yard to forward this resolution to the County's departments/division managers and let them know they have three months to work on a scoping document and get it to the Board.

Deer Management-Controlled Hunting Program, Proposed changes for 2012/2013 season.

Craig Evans, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Department came before the Board to explain the two minor changes to the County's Deer Management-Controlled Hunting program. There is the addition of the Pitha property at the Point Mountain Preserve on the south section; it adds another 60 acres to the parcel and Mr. Evans requested to add three more permits to that parcel to accommodate for the extra acreage. Mr. Evans explained the County was approached by an Eagle Scout who asked to build a handicapped accessible hunting line to be placed in one of the County's parks so that people could access the park for hunting who normally would not get that opportunity. The same accommodation is provided at Hoffman Park for fishermen.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 07/17/12-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the proposed changes to the Deer Management-Controlled Hunting Program for the 2012/2013 season.

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

805-810-815 departmental justification responses and status of approval requests

Mrs. Yard reported that the criteria selected by the Board as a measurement to approve 805/810/815 was (a) improved employee performance; (b) increased administrative efficiency and (c) enhance service delivery or the six established criteria that was established for funding. All of the requests meet that measurement of criteria for approval. All the requests submitted by the managers were already submitted in the 2012 budget. Mrs. Yard explained Freeholder Holt wanted the Board to consider these requests at one time. These requests meet those four criteria.

Mrs. Yard added that the County Prosecutor cut one or two programs off of his 805/810/815 requests. She and the Finance Director went through the County's budget book and took out the actual requests the department/division managers made to this Board for their 2012 budget and sent them back to them with a memorandum explaining in accordance with the policy to please review the requests. Some are grant funded and some are from trusts. The memorandum instructions given were whether the requests meet the new criteria.

Mr. Holt asked Mrs. Yard about request to come from the trust accounts, which only the Constitutional Officers have.

Mrs. Yard advised the County Clerk takes items from her trust, it does not appear on the 805-810-815 because the funds do not come out of those line items. Mrs. Yard read a memorandum from the County Clerk which explains how she applies money towards conference, meeting line items of \$500 for attendance by the Clerk and \$1500 for the Clerk and her Deputy at a conference but that is paid through her trust funds.

Mrs. Yard reported a memorandum was received from the County Prosecutor that he took out an item from this Law Enforcement Trust Fund. The Prosecutor has total flexibility to use his trust fund for any law enforcement activity.

Mr. Mennen advised a number of the requests, as submitted, provide as the rationale the generic improved efficiency label and some of the submissions do not bother to list which of the criteria for the requests adhere to. Of those that do, everyone one is the generic improved efficiency label. Some of the requests are required CEU's or training for the performance of the job. Mr. Mennen questioned how these requests can be put together and voted on in one action.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the 805-810-815 departmental justification requests for 2012.

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

Sheriff's Office, Off-Duty Assignments Policy.

Sheriff Brown came before the Board to discuss the Off-Duty Assignment policy for the Sheriff's Office.

Shana Taylor, County Counsel informed the Board that she added one provision to this policy and under #5, Page 3, exceptions maybe granted by the Sheriff to the provisions set forth in this policy on an emergency basis only and those exceptions should be in the best interest of the policy.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 07/17/12-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Off-Duty Assignment policy for the Sheriff's Office.

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

Wescott Preserve Caretaking and Occupancy Agreement with Delaware Township

Ms. Taylor stated she was directed by the Board to look into the Wescott Preserve Caretaking and Occupancy Agreement with the Township of Delaware. There are two distinct lots on the property because of a subdivision. There is the possibility of the County transferring title (gift/sale) to the Township of Delaware if they are willing to accept it. Ms. Taylor has not reached out to the Township. She has preliminarily reached out to Green Acres because it is on the County's Resistor of Green Acres Restrictive Properties. It is going to take more work with Green Acres in order to see if the County gets a diversion of use for that structure to be used for affordable housing and to pass title to Delaware Township. This would also require a public hearing to assign ownership.

Mr. Sworen recommend going back and looking at the diversions which the County has talked about. Ms. Taylor asked Mr. Sworen for the list of those diversions and she will package this up when she talks to the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Sworen suggested Ms. Taylor reach out to Pam Their at the state for a list and direction in this effort.

To discuss a letter to Commissioner Martin regarding concerns over appraisals.

Ms. Taylor explained that she was directed to draft a letter to Commission Martin of the State Agricultural Development Board outlining the Board's concerns over the appraisals and comps. A meeting was held with the Deputy Commissioner earlier today and Ms. Taylor asked if the Board would like the letter to still be sent and/or if the Board would like the letter modified.

Mr. Mennen recommended waiting three weeks before sending a letter, thus allowing the Deputy Commissioner to do what she said.

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 July 17, 2012.

See Page 07/17/12-6B

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 07/17/12-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Mary Mazurkiewicz appointed permanent, part time, Graduate Nurse, Division of Public Health Services, Public Safety and Health Department.

See Page 07/17/12-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Kyle Lick appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 07/17/12-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #6, for County Bid #2010-29, for Additions/Alterations to the Hunterdon County Records Retention Center, an increase of \$3,916.85.

See Page 07/17/12-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing Application for payment #12, for County Bid #2010-29, for Additions/Alternations, Hunterdon County Records Retention Center, in the amount of \$9,239.24.

See Page 07/17/12-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing Application for payment #13, for County Bid #2010-29, for Additions/Alternations, Hunterdon County Records Retention Center, in the amount of \$35,285.24.

See Page 07/17/12-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Carol Rickard to the Mental Health Board.

See Page 07/17/12-7C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing contracts for the provision of human services, for the Department of Human Services' Request for Proposal #0039-2011, in the amount of \$1,329,205.00, contingent upon funding availability and level of service achievement.

See Page 07/17/12-7D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the plans and specifications for Safety Improvements to CR519, Township of Holland and Borough of Milford, County of Hunterdon.

See Page 07/17/12-7E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the plans and specifications for CR512 (Main Street) and CR513 (High Bridge-Califon Rd.), Township of Lebanon, Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 07/17/12-7F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of subgrant funds for the County Gang, Gun & Narcotics Task Force Grant, in the amount of \$45,673.00, for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 07/17/12-7G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing a grant application #V-10-11, for the Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA) grant, in the amount of \$86,206.00, for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Safe in Hunterdon, requesting permission to use the Historic Courthouse Steps, as well as a podium, light, microphones tables and chairs, for the annual Candlelight Vigil for the Clothesline Project, to be held on October 10, 2012, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

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

A request was received from The Running Company, asking permission for a new date to use Readington Road, from 42nd Street to Thor Solberg Road, between 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on Sunday, December 02, 2012. (previously approved date - October 21, 2012). Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

Correspondence was received from the Amwell Valley Fire Company, requesting permission to close Wertsville Road between the Municipal Building and rear entrance to the Firehouse, from 3:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m., to hold the 14th Annual Harvest Fest, on Sunday, September 08, 2012. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Prosecutor's vehicle

Mr. Melick reported that he received a report from the County garage that they picked up a County car which had been totaled. The vehicle was operated by someone in the Prosecutor's Office. Upon receipt of the vehicle report the County Administrator asked the County Prosecutor for information on the incident and to date, no response has been received. It appears in looking at the accident report that the procedures which the County requires to be done when anyone has an accident or vehicle violation, that it be reported.

Mr. Melick suggested an investigation be started to find out what happened with regard to this incident. He added that all vehicles are purchased with County dollars.

Director Walton feels that this matter being brought up under Freeholder Comments is making this a theatre.

Mr. Holt confirmed with Mr. Melick that it is his contention that the reporting process did not occur properly.

Mr. Mennen asked Mrs. Yard to generically outline the County's process when a vehicle owned by the County is involved in an accident.

Mrs. Yard explained the person is to call Emergency Services and report they have been in an accident and Emergency Services will contact her as she is one of the County's drug substance coordinators (also a substance coordinator is George Wagner) and a determination is made whether a person should be tested or not.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that the County Prosecutor since he has been with the County, has been in an accident and he went and got himself tested. The Office is aware of the policy.

Mrs. Yard advised that Emergency Services was not notified of this incident but the report was a week after the incident. Mrs. Yard sent a memorandum on July 03, 2012 explaining she was alerted by Garage Services that one of the Prosecutor's people was in an accident and according to Garage Services the vehicle was totaled. The memo advised her office was awaiting the report and any evidence to ensure that all County vehicle policies were appropriately implemented and followed. To date, her office, Emergency Services nor Human Resources has been notified and that is in direct violation of these procedures. Mrs. Yard in the memorandum offered guidance to the Prosecutor and/or his staff on the appropriate application of the County Vehicles Policies to not hesitate to contact Human Resources. The accident occurred on June 25, 2012 and the garage report was received on July 02, 2012. The individual was never tested and they never contacted 911 to ask if they should be tested.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that the Prosecutor's Office has three new vehicles which he is purchasing.

Director Walton stated the Prosecutor is getting six new vehicles with the County purchasing three and his office purchasing three.

Mrs. Yard asked Garage Services not to release any of the vehicles until this can be investigated. Mr. Glynn reported to Mrs. Yard this evening that he was told by the Prosecutor that he will be getting a court order if he does not get his vehicles released to him by Wednesday. Mrs. Yard stated out of all the vehicles that the Prosecutor has, he is not giving any vehicles back, so his fleet is growing. The County's Fleet Management Committee is supposed to know all about the vehicles coming and going in the County's fleets.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that one of the Prosecutor's people in his Internal Affairs area said it was his fault as he was off that day. Mrs. Yard told him that the person driving the vehicle is well aware of the policy. Also, in talking to the garage, there are inconsistencies on the police report versus the employee's report. Mrs. Yard stated she has only heard this third hand.

Mr. Holt feels this is a subject which should be on the agenda for discussion, not brought up under Freeholders Comments and Reports and that would ensure that all the Freeholders would get all the information. At this time there is an issue where a reporting hasn't been followed and the question is what needs to occur.

Mr. Melick explained he brought this up because the County has many cars and trucks on the road and anyone who breaks a mirror or anything, is supposed to report it and they are tested. This is standard procedure throughout the County of Hunterdon. The name on those vehicles is the County of Hunterdon and the County's policy should be the same for everyone.

Mr. Holt said the issue is that County policy was not adhered to and a request from the Administrator was made for clarification of policy and she has received no response.

Mrs. Yard reported there was also the threat of a court order for release of vehicles. If the Board wants the vehicles released she will call Garage Services tomorrow to release them.

Director Walton said the County should ascertain why the vehicle policy was violated and what remedial action has been taken with regard to the violation and make sure that individual is reminded of the County's policy and the County get assurances that the policy will be adhered to from this point forward.

Director Walton does not understand why holding vehicles is related to the violation of this policy.

Mr. Mennen said the question is what can this Board do in order to get an answer to Mrs. Yard's memorandum on this matter. He confirmed that Mrs. Yard is the Freeholders' voice. The July 03, 2012 letter hasn't worked so he asked what the Board's next step is. Mr. Mennen said the County has this policy, and even when a vehicle backs into a stop sign, a report is taken and a drug test is done, instantaneously.

Mr. Melick said the public has a right to know.

Mr. Mennen suggested a resolution be sent to the Prosecutor demanding an answer either as to whether these protocols and procedures were followed and if so, what the results were; and if not, why not.

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 07/17/12-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Asking the County Prosecutor to furnish information in connection with the recently June 25, 2012 vehicle accident by an individual in his office.

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

Mr. Holt suggested contacting the County Prosecutor for a time when two Freeholders and the Administration would be able to meet with him to discuss these concerns.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident informed the Board that she does not like lead shot being used on public lands. She also feels there should have been a notice in a prior notice about the deer hunting plan in a prior meeting. Also, it is a misuse of words to call this deer management when there is no management to it.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders answered numerous questions regarding the County's 805/810/815 line items for Lois Stewart, resident of Flemington Borough.

The Board answered questions regarding the County's vehicle policy for Mrs. Stewart.

Andrea Bonnett, East Amwell Township resident questioned how members get put on the County's Planning Board and how does the Chair get appointed.

Director Walton explained the Freeholder Board reviews applications of those individuals interested for any Board, then a consideration is made for appointment. A chair is elected by the CADB members, the Freeholders do not have a say in that action. He added that the minutes of the CADB are a public record.

Ms. Bonnett commented to the Board about unusual behavior by the current CADB Chair and a comment he had at a CADB meeting, which was that East Amwell Township doesn't like farming and the County should not be participating in Farmland Preservation in East Amwell. Ms. Bonnett told the Board that she considered that statement a serious threat and she is alarmed by this person's behavior.

Director Walton stated the Board is aware there are certain issues concerning the CADB and the Board is concerned and listening.

Ann Preston, Clinton Township resident, informed the Board that she appreciates, as a taxpayer having as much information as possible as to what is going on in Hunterdon County. She does not feel comments brought up make the meeting a theatre. When things in the County aren't being done the right way, she wants to be aware of it.

Ms. Preston informed the Board that the information session for the Cratetown Road bridge was not well announced before hand because she happened to walk in on the meeting. No one attended that meeting. It was she who made the historical society aware of the bridge on Payne Road. Ms. Preston stated at that meeting she told the County she wanted to see the trusses remain at that bridge. There are other people in that area who want to see the bridge remain as it is and that it only be repaired.

Lou Reiner, Raritan Township resident informed the Board that he supports hunting on County Parklands. Also, lead shot is banded today and hunters use steel shot.

Mr. Reiner came to inform the Board of an accident by a Prosecutor's car and it happened on June 25, 2012 and wasn't reported until July 03, 2012. He pointed out there was a police report filed when the accident happened and the vehicle was towed. Mr. Reiner informed the Board that the police report is obtainable by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. He doesn't see this as an attempt by the Prosecutor to cover something up. Due to the fact there is a record of the accident it can be obtained. He said there was no malice on the part of the Prosecutor's Office.

Ms. Gavigan and Mr. Reiner expressed concern concerning the chairperson of the CADB.

Questions answered for the press.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,