

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

June 19, 2012

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:00 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

ABSENT: MR. HOLT.

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 06/19/12-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority contractual negotiations.

See Page 06/19/12-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a new policy for off duty assignments and outside employment for the Sheriff's Office.

See Page 06/19/12-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the County Adjuster's position in the Human Services Department.

See Page 06/19/12-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing unclassified salary increases.

See Page 06/19/12-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session for the purpose of discussing an appointment to the Mental Health Board.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m., recessed at 5:30 and reconvened in Open Session at 5:32 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Flemington Borough

Erica Edwards, Flemington Borough Mayor is aware they are on the agenda this evening, after the budget hearing for an update on the Union Hotel/Redevelopment project. She requested to be moved up on the agenda if possible, out of respect for the taxpayers as their Borough Attorney to be present.

Budget questions

Barbara Suchua, Raritan Township resident informed the Board she is looking for passive management of the open space areas.

Ms. Suchua would like to see the Libraries opened on Sundays, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and using clerks to staff it, doesn't cost much and it would help the citizens in the County.

Ms. Suchua said regarding the Raritan Township Ewing Farm, she objects to County money being used for the acquisition unless it is used for passive management and that the farmer not be allowed on the land if it is to be open space. That land should not be saved for a farm; it should be saved for open space. Also, hunters have shot into homes from that property and they should be banned.

Ms. Suchua questioned why on tonight's agenda there is a professional service being awarded to a Chicago firm.

John Davenport, County Purchasing Agent explained that is a competitive proposal that the County put out and three quotes were received and that vendor submitted the lowest quote.

Oliver Elbert, Raritan Township Mayor reported he is here tonight with Committeeman John King, to ask the County's consideration regarding the Ewing Farm. Unfortunately the Township has a closed session starting at 6:15 p.m. tonight so they can't stay. The Township feels the Ewing acquisition is an important project but the property has some significant time constraints. It is a unique farm with 22 heirs/owners. The Township is looking for County money and County Green Acres money to assist the Township in funding this project.

John King, Raritan Township Committeeman, explained to the Board that the Township looked at the Ewing Farm earlier on for open space acquisition. He is aware this is on the Board's agenda this evening and appreciates the Board's consideration in participation in this acquisition. Mr. King offered all his support for the project. Mr. King informed the Board that Raritan Township has not heard any complaints with regard to the farming attributes or concerning hunting which has never been permitted on the property. He feels this would be a great addition to the overall County Park System.

Mr. Melick asked if there are appraisals available for this property.

Mayor Elbert stated the Township has two certified Green Acres appraisals which he will send to the County for review.

Harold Quinn, Raritan Township resident, member of the Raritan Township Planning Board and Open Space Committee thanked the Board of Freeholders for placing the Ewing property on their agenda. He also supports this acquisition 100%.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident, also thanked the Board on behalf of the East Amwell Historic Preservation Committee and Society, for putting a grant for Phase II for the Folsom House on tonight's agenda.

FLEMINGTON BOROUGH

Update of the Flemington Redevelopment project

Erica Edwards, Flemington Borough Mayor informed the Board she is here this evening with the Redevelopment Council for the Borough of Flemington, Robert Beckerman and David Rookie the Executive Director of the Business Improvement District.

Ms. Edwards understand this update is in the context of where redevelopment stand and it how it might impact the County's disposition of the Hawke Property parking area on Main Street. In connection with the Union Hotel Redevelopment project because of what the Borough stands legally with the project, the Borough designated a redeveloper and signed a redevelopment agreement with them last year. As of early June, 2012, because the redevelopment agreement requires that title be taken by the redeveloper to the Union Hotel property in order to redevelop it. Ms. Edwards reported the Borough's understanding that the title has not been transferred. The Borough was told the transfer would take place and the deadline kept moving. A letter has been sent to the redeveloper informing him that he has 30 days to acquire title of the Union Hotel or the redevelopment agreement terminates.

Ms. Edwards offered to field questions by the Board.

Mr. Mennen confirmed once an area is deemed in need of redevelopment, do you not then have a redevelopment plan and asked her to talk about the redevelopment plan.

Ms. Edwards confirmed the Borough of Flemington does have a redevelopment plan and she asked Rob Beckerman to address the redevelopment plan.

Mr. Beckerman reported the redevelopment plan for Flemington Borough was adopted and it has not changed; the agreement called for a 25 room hotel and acquisition of a liquor license at the site. The plan also contemplated the possibility of a larger project but that has not been determined yet. There are different possibilities that can be approved, including residential and that is permissible under the plan.

Mr. Beckerman the question now is whether opening hotel rooms would be feasible. The building was a preference for a restaurant with the ability to serve alcohol at the site. The developer was supposed to negotiate for the purpose of a liquor license.

Mr. Mennen questioned the best case scenario for the building. What is the timeline going forward.

Mr. Beckerman advised the developer has until July 04, 2012 to acquire title. If that happens the developer will no longer be in the state of default on the agreement. However, the site plans was supposed to done in June, and it hasn't happened. This would be the next issue to be addressed.

Mayor Edwards confirmed for the Board that Flemington Borough has a long way to go with this redevelopment for the Borough. The Union Hotel is the Borough's main economic development priority. The Borough has acted as efficiently as possible under the circumstances.

At the beginning of June, 2012 a letter was issued to the redeveloper because it is important to move forward and determine if the project will move forward with this redeveloper or another. Whatever the outcome is by July 04, 2012, the Borough will move forward in order to get the Union Hotel redeveloped. This is a significant project that still remains to have a plan approved by the Planning Board.

Mr. Holt stated the redevelopment of Flemington is not tied to one building but rather a plan that is designed to figure out the relationships of the surrounding area, what types of business operations are in town, to compliment the area. Also, every six months the Borough is supposed to come before the Board to provide an update on its redevelopment progress providing the Board contemplate what will happen to the Hawke Property parking area, which is a County lot.

Mr. Holt stated it is important to acknowledge the other working going on in the Borough to accomplish redevelopment. As part of the redevelopment, it is known that there is a definite need of parking areas.

Mayor Edwards stated there is redevelopment going on in the Borough from the former Agway site to the Post Office site, to additional development at the Shoppes of Flemington, 24 new businesses are opening.

After further discussion, Director Walton thanked Mayor Edwards, Rob Beckerman and David Rookie for attending tonight's meeting and provided a through explanation of the redevelopment efforts of Flemington Borough.

FINANCE

Margaret Pasqua, County Treasurer came before the Board for the introduction of the 2012 County Budget.

Ms. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the County Budget be read by title only.

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

Director Walton opened the public hearing on the 2012 County Budget.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident questioned why there is more expected anticipated revenues on the County's golf course since it is now paid off.

Director Walton explained that the revenue from the golf course is not impacted whether or not its debt for the land underneath it. That is a separate item in the budget. The golf course revenue line item in the budget is strictly the amount of money paid to the County based upon the contractor and the County. Elsewhere in the budget there are line items that cover debt services or buildings and maintenance time spent at the golf course. The County is paying off the golf course this year so profits won't be realized until future budget years, 2013 and beyond.

Mrs. Stewart asked about the reserve in the budget, on page 10.

Mrs. Pasqua explained the figures in this column are based on the end of last years, however it rolls over into this year. So if there are any invoices still coming in from last year, will be paid from that figure. Once this year is over, the funds left over from last year will lapse into surplus.

Mrs. Stewart asked about page 11, staying there is an excess of \$200,000 increase in the Prosecutor's Budget. The Planning Board budget took a large reduction, as well as the Sheriff's Office budget. She asked why the Prosecutor's Office and Roads and Bridges Department have large increases.

Director Walton explained the County agreed to the contractual obligated minimum increase in that line item. The \$250,000 increase in the Prosecutor's Office is related to contractual salary increases. The same with the Roads and Bridges Office, the increases are due to contractually obligated bargaining agreements.

Mrs. Stewart expressed displeasure in the reduction in the Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission. Trees improve the quality of life.

There being no further comments or questions from the press or public, Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-3B

COUNTY BUDGET – ADOPTION

Mr. Melick said last year this Board adopted a resolution asking the County's administrative people to develop a budget knowing that the County was facing a downgrade in the loss of rateables. The resolution stated the budget should remain flat. The Administrative Finance team has developed policies and revamped the County and some of the departments. The goal was

not only to save money but to deliver the same amount/level of service to the residents of the County.

Mr. Melick said in the Prosecutor's Office the cost for vehicle and the use; gasoline is up and it has increased by \$100,000. No one wants to address this issue. It is not right for all those vehicles to go home and some go into other counties. Someone taking a vehicle home doesn't help law enforcement if they live in Middlesex County or Mercer County. This should be corrected.

Later in the budget this Board will be addressing the 805/810/815 line items (Conferences, meetings, trainings, trips). The County put a policy in place for these items last year and now there is move to water down that policy.

Mr. Melick said this Board works to save the taxpayers money. This Board is elected to set the tax rate for the levy on individual homes. Mr. Melick stressed that more savings could be achieved in this budget. He could mention several departments that could be reduced.

Mr. Mennen stated he has made remarks over the past three/four months as the Board went through the budget process. He is concerned there are more cuts that could be made that haven't been made. The rateable base is down 4.75% and County spending is down 2.1%. There are other areas where reductions in spending could be found. Mr. Mennen expressed concern regarding trips, conferences, meetings, and non mandatory expenditures. This process started three or four years ago, delineating the difference between mandatory expenditures and discretionary expenditures. When you talk about cutting discretionary spending in certain area it hurts but he feels the County could have been a little firmer and found other ways to reduce spending.

Mr. Melick complimented the Administrative Finance Team: Cynthia Yard, Kim Browne, Margaret Pasqua and Cheryl Wieder on their efforts to achieve a budget. Many hours of work have been given to develop a budget.

Mr. Melick explained since personnel has been reconfigured in the Health Department, revenue has risen by 40%. Last year when there were more people in the office, revenue was \$63,000 and to date, at the end of May revenue is \$103,000. With less personnel and a different delivery system, the Health area has increased revenue.

Mr. Holt stated he has been talking for a very long time about getting off the tax rate bandwagon and getting on the tax levy bandwagon. This budget reduces the tax levy by another \$2 million this year. He is most supportive of, is that the first time in four years the Board has done something to make the County healthy, by putting money back into capital ordinances. He feels more can be done. Four years ago the County had 225 vehicles in the fleet and that amount has been reduced by 150 vehicles. At the same time, the County has not funded vehicles accounts or replaced vehicles. The overall mileage on the fleet of vehicles has risen. Around 50% of the vehicles are reaching 150,000 miles. This has to be looked at hard or the County is going to find itself without vehicles. This budget reduces the tax levy, less is taken from taxation from people, for the 4th year in a row. Money is being put back into capital accounts.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-4A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the amount to be raised by taxation for the County's Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, \$6,581,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-4B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the amount to be raised by taxation for support of the Operating Budget for the County Library, \$6,015,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-4B CAPITAL ORDINANCE 1-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 1-12, authorizing the acquisition of Heavy Public Works Machinery, Equipment and Trucks, for the Roads, Bridges and Vehicle Services Departments, in the amount of \$421,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5A

BOND ORDINANCE 2-12

INTRODUCTION, Bond Ordinance No. 2-12, authorizing the improvement of various bridges and culverts, in the amount of \$10,850,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5B

BOND ORDINANCE 3-12

INTRODUCTION, Bond Ordinance No. 3-12, authorizing the improvement of various public highways, roads and streets, in the amount of \$8,154,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5C

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 4-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 4-12, authorizing the acquisition of Deeds Easement for Development Rights on Agricultural Land under the New Jersey Farmland Preservation Act, in the amount of \$1,200,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5D

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 5-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 5-12, authorizing the acquisition of computer equipment, in the amount of \$100,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5E

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 6-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 6-12, authorizing the acquisition of vehicles, in the amount of \$200,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5F

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 7-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 7-12, authorizing the acquisition of Real Property for Open Space, Park and Recreation purposes, in the amount of \$1,020,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5G

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 8-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 8-12, authorizing the acquisition of office furniture, fixtures and business equipment, in the amount of \$34,600.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5H

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 9-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 9-12, authorizing the demolition of various County Buildings and Structures, in the amount of \$130,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-5I

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 10-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 10-12, authorizing the expansion of the Traffic Maintenance Garage Bay, in the amount of \$100,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-6A

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 11-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 11-12, authorizing improvements to County Parks Facilities, in the amount of \$265,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-6B

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 12-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 12-12, authorizing HVAC Improvements and Repairs at the Route 31 County Complex, in the amount of \$350,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-6C

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 13-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 13-12, authorizing improvements and renovations at the Historic Court House, in the amount of \$400,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-6D

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 14-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 14-12, authorizing improvements and renovations at the County Jail, in the amount of \$65,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-6E

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 15-12

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 15-12, authorizing the acquisition of Generators for the Buildings and Maintenance Division, in the amount of \$190,000.

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

Director Walton confirmed for those present that the public hearings for these ordinances will be Tuesday, July 03, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an additional depository of funds for the County, Hopewell Valley Community Bank.

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

FARMLAND/PLANNING DIVISION

Land Donation/Bethlehem Township

Sue Dziamara, Planning Division Head and Kevin Richardson, Open Space Trust Fund Coordinator came before the Board to discuss a donation of Land Offer, on Block 32, Lot 2, in Bethlehem Township, it is 0.28 acres of land which adjoins Jugtown Mountain County Park. This is a donation of the County.

Mr. Mennen confirmed with Mr. Richardson that this property has a partially dilapidated structure on it. He inquired if the structure will be demolished.

Mr. Richardson stated the structure has been visually inspected; it is wood frame with a tin roof and it is partially collapsed and it is a safety hazard. Mr. Richardson told the Board he could push the structure over. There is no well or septic on the property.

John Glynn, Director, Public Works addressed the Board saying his office anticipated his office removing the structure. He confirmed this can be done in-house.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to accept the donated land office, located on Block 32, Lot 2, in Bethlehem Township, which adjoins Jugtown Mountain County Park. In addition, Mr. Richardson is to make it clear to the executrix that it is the County's intention to immediately dispose of the structure on the property.

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

Ewing Property

Mrs. Dziamara came before the Board to discuss a request from Raritan Township asking the County to contribute towards the Ewing Property, Block 15, Lot 1, in Raritan Township. Mr. Richardson has provided the Board with statistics on this property. The Open Space Advisory Committee has reviewed the cooperative applications.

Mr. Mennen confirmed this application would fall under the category of County Projects. The request is in the amount approaching \$800,000 and there is a non-profit grant in the amount of \$298,000.

Mr. Mennen questioned if this Board did not decide that the County Purposes funds was supposed to be for projects where the County pays alone properties that the County would purchase and own. It wasn't for the cooperatives.

Mrs. Dziamara through the County projects was so if the Freeholder Board determined to fund a piece of property that this would allow you to make that decision based on your own opinion on the worth of the acquisition for the County.

Mr. Mennen recalls this as there was a discussion where the County put so much efforts towards the cooperatives and the County's own parkland initiatives were laying on the side. The thought was to build that back up again. Mr. Mennen added that he would like to walk the site.

Mrs. Yard stated the cooperative was set up for partners in acquisitions.

Mrs. Yard confirmed with Mr. Richardson that Raritan Township has filled out an application.

Mr. Melick asked Mr. Richardson to provide copies of the appraisals for the Ewing property. He would like to know how developable the property is with the existing regulations before going forward.

Director Walton has had the opportunity to see the details of this site in greater detail by attending the Open Space Advisory meetings.

After further discussion, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders tabled this matter until the next meeting on July 03, 2012.

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident confirmed the Board is aware of where this property is. She encouraged the Board members to join Mr. Mennen in walking the property because it is an exceptional price of property.

Amy Green, Chairperson on the Raritan Township Open Space Committee, this parcel has been targeted for open space preservation, in Raritan's plan for some time. The parcel is around 58 acres and it is fronted on two sides by County Roads (612/617). The population of Hunterdon County that passes this property everyday is quite large. This is a regional parcel that is dry and moderately sloping. It has been farmed for over 200 years by the Ewing family. The zoning is six acre zoning and the property could hold around 10 lots/houses.

Ms. Green stated Raritan Township, with the help of Hunterdon Land Trust, negotiated a contract with the executor of the estate. There are over 20 heirs to the property. The heirs have been approached by developers.

Director Walton confirmed that Raritan Township has a contract with the Ewings which expires next month, after the July 04th holiday. Director Walton confirmed the Board will be provided with the appraisals and with full details of information, the members will walk the site prior to the July 03, 2012 meeting when it will be discussed again.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Grant Agreement from Alexandria Township, for Block 14, Lot 15, (Nemeth Farm), (SADC-\$478,649.60; County-\$156,481.60; Township-\$156,481.60); total amount of \$791,612.80.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Grant Program application, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, with Clinton Town, in the amount of \$14,500 in connection with the historic reconstruction of the Gebhardt Field Grandstands, on Block 16, Lot 21, in Clinton Town.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-8A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Historic Preservation Grant program project, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$91,233 for The 1759 Vought House, Inc., for Phase I (emergency) structural stabilization, Block 60, Lot 56.01, in Clinton Township.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-8B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Historic Preservation Grant program project, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$47,500 for The Red Mill Museum Village, Inc., for structural stabilization and restoration, Block 8, Lot 3, in Clinton Town.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-8C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Historic Preservation Grant program project, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$29,500 for the exterior restoration of the Town Hall, in Delaware Township, Block 23, Lot 9.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-8D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Historic Preservation Grant program project, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$19,000 for Phase II building and site rehabilitation of The Clawson House, Block 14, Lot 15, in East Amwell Township.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-8E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Historic Preservation Grant program project, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$10,000 for the reconstruction of the Solitude Annex Roof, in High Bridge Borough, Block 4.07, Lot 1.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-8F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Historic Preservation Grant program project, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$42,610 for the rehabilitation of the Riegel Ridge Community Center Terrace, in Holland Township, Block 6, Lot 2.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-8G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the submittal of the Phase I portion of the Hunterdon County Wastewater Management Plan, to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-8H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Deed of Easement for the Hoffman Property allowing the County to receive funds. The development easement is being sold to the SADC. The Board authorizes County Counsel to do the closing.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

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

- Pavement repairs are being done on County Route 523. The contractor has to mill and resurface a portion of the road north of Readington Road.
- A meeting was held with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on May 12, 2012 regarding County Route 579, in Ringoes. The County is trying to get the historical authorization to proceed with the project. This is a joint project with East Amwell in doing the sidewalks. The County offered to put a historical archeologist on site when doing the construction in the area of Wertsville Road and 579.
- The design is 80% complete for County Route 609, From Route 514 to Route 602.
- A public information meeting is being scheduled by Somerset County for the joint project with them for County Route 637, Readington Road for late July.
- The contractor is proceeding with the preferred alternative for County Bridge C-26, on Cratetown Road, in Clinton Township. Once the permits have been received it will be sent back to Clinton Township for their review.
- The contractor is back on site for Bridge L-97-W, on Stephensburg Road, in Lebanon Township and Mansfield Township, in Warren County. Reconstruction of the stone arches is being done.
- The County is waiting for authorization for the funding for Bridge T-36-S, on Black River Road, in Tewksbury Township and in Bedminster Township, in Somerset County.
- Work will start on Bridge W-71, on Route 579, in West Amwell Township, on July 05, 2012. The road will be closed for around four months for the work.
- The application for project authorization has been submitted to SHPO for Culvert X-18, on Race Street in Union Township. Comments from property owners and the Township have been addressed.
- The right of way for Bridge F-45, on Whitebridge Road, in Franklin Township is advancing.
- Impervious coverage has been reduced for Bridge E-174, the ongoing stormwater management proposal, so pretreatment doesn't have to be done. The plans and specifications have gone down to DEP for approval.
- The consultant needs two more weeks to finalize the plans and specifications for County Bridge D-300 on Raven Rock – Rosemont Road in Delaware Township. The railing system is still being discussed (L1 or L2).
- Final plans are being worked on for Bridge RQ-179. Based on comments from NJDOT the deadline should be met on the two week cut off period.
- Final comments have not been received on the County Route 512/513 intersection in Califon. A utility pole needs to be relocated by JCP&L.
- The agreement from the property owners in connection with the Routed 600/612 intersection has not been received by the County.
- A response has not been received regarding the FHWA funding application which was completed and forwarded to NJDOT.

PURCHASING DIVISION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #26166, using County Quote #0054-2012, with Spill Source, for emergency response spill plug kit, for the Department of Public Safety, in the amount of \$15,912.50. (Homeland Security Grant).

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-9B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Quote #0080-2012, for professional auditing services to provide an actuarial valuation of post-employment benefits other than pensions, in compliance with the Governmental Standards Board Statement 45, to Grant Thornton, in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.

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

FOR DISCUSSION

County Policy for 805/810/815.

Director Walton presented to the Board a revised draft of County Policy for 805/810/815, with regard to Meetings, Training, Conferences and Education. He feels allows employees to pursue a level of professional development through affiliations which will enhance their contributions to the County and to the taxpayers. This provides for supervisors of our employees to scrutinize and make sure requests are not unreasonable with the final say coming from the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mr. Melick informed the Board that he was happy with the policy adopted by the Board back in 2011 because it kept costs under control yet still allowed people to get any necessary credits. He said this is a step back as far as the taxpayer is concerned.

Mr. Holt believes the County's department heads need to have the ability to have memberships where they need to be affiliated in order to bring valuable information back to the County.

Mr. Sworen stated that strides have been made this year. This revised policy will give people another tool in their toolbox.

Mr. Mennen said it is his feeling that the existing County Policy is fine as is particularly given the economic circumstances in which the County finds itself.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-10A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the revised policy for Membership Affiliations and Participation at meetings, trainings, trips and conferences. (Revising Policy 2003-01.)

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

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. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the Claims Register dated June 19, 2012.

See Page 06/19/12-10B

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2012.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the Social Services Funds Report for November 01, 2011 through April 30, 2012.

See Page 06/19/12-10C

SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS REPORT

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 06/19/12-10D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Casey Schmidt appointed temporary, seasonal Recreation Leader, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 06/19/12-10E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Alex Rittle appointed temporary, when and as needed Laboratory Assistant, Public Health Services Division, Department of Public Safety and Health.

See Page 06/19/12-10F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Anthony Dominguez appointed temporary, seasonal Recreational Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 06/19/12-10G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Janine Ngai appointed temporary, seasonal Recreational Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 06/19/12-10H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Daniel Kenney appointed temporary, seasonal Recreational Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 06/19/12-10I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries and longevity for employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement in the Sheriff's Office, for FOP Lodge #94, for 2010 and 2011.

See Page 06/19/12-10J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries and longevity for employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement in the Corrections Division, for FOP Lodge #29, for 2010 and 2011.

See Page 06/19/12-11A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Rosebeth Link appointed temporary, seasonal Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 06/19/12-11B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Henry Zecca appointed temporary, seasonal Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 06/19/12-11C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving specifications for the Reconstruction of Inter-County Bridge E-140-M and approach roadway of County Route 518 over the Stony Brook, in East Amwell and Hopewell Townships.

See Page 06/19/12-11D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement with Hunterdon Helpline, Inc., in accordance with the Request for Proposals #0010-2012, for Human Services, in the amount of \$60,121.00 for 2012.

See Page 06/19/12-11E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Earl Eichlin appointed unclassified, Assistant Road Supervisor, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 06/19/12-11F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Bryan Manning appointed permanent, Maintenance Worker I Grounds, Division of Buildings and Maintenance, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-11G

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Clayton T. Beck for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-11H

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Edward Jakubco for having served on the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-11I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Multi-Jurisdictional County Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force grant application, for the period of July 01, 2012 to June 30, 2013, with the State Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, in the amount of \$45,673.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 06/19/12-11I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract, #TS13010, with the State Human Services Department, for the provision of \$33,768, in Transportation Block Grant funds, for the period of July 01, 2012 through June 30, 2013, to assist TANF consumers using the LINK system.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the NJ Ride against Aids, requesting permission to use County roads (Lebanon, Califon and Tewksbury) during the 11th annual New Jersey Ride against Aids event, on September 21, 2012. Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided the event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

A request was received from Delaware Township, asking the County to re-draft the Wescott Preserve Caretaking and Occupancy Lease Agreement, in order for them to be able to qualify for credit under the COAH requirement. Also requesting the Freeholder Board authorizes the removal of two trees on the site.

Mr. Mennen stated that Delaware Township is now asking for a 30 year term for Caretaking and Occupancy Lease Agreement at the Wescott Preserve. Before the County was only allowing Delaware Township to use the house on the property for five years. 30 years takes the agreement through 2042.

Director Walton stated that in order to qualify for COAH, there has to be a 30 year right to use.

Mr. Mennen suggested getting information from Mr. Richardson and Mr. Glynn on whether the County had any long term plan for the property.

After further discussion, the Board directed Shana Taylor, County Counsel to get a full accounting on this matter and what the Board previously approved with Delaware Township.

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Budget/Thank you

Mr. Mennen stated he was remiss and he is sorry that Mrs. Browne was not here tonight and that Mrs. Pasqua has left the meeting because he wanted to thank the Administrative Staff and Finance for the time that was put into the creation of the County's budget. While it isn't perfect in everyone's eyes, it is the sum and substance of many, many hours of work by the County's staff who diligently followed the Freeholders' direction and thoughts.

Mr. Melick said now that this budget is completed, he is looking ahead to the coming year and he doesn't see it changing economically; real estate sales are down and the Tax Board has 10% more appeals. He asked what can be done to make this Board more palatable for the taxpayers. He noted that some County Departments are being used less.

Mr. Melick suggested going back to a three member Freeholder Board. He feels not as much money was spent when there was only three members.

Director Walton said looking historically at the budget, the 4 greatest rate increases in the 25 plus year history occurred with a three member Board and the five member Board has made the four largest cuts historically.

Questions answered for the press.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders answered numerous questions for Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, concerning the newly adopted County Budget.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board