

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

March 06, 2012

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 2:09 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

ABSENT: MR. WALTON.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Deputy Director Mennen announced: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before February 29, 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."

Capital Budget discussion continued

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders' continued their Capital Budget sessions with the Finance Team made up of Kim Browne, Finance Director, Margaret Pasqua, County Treasurer, Cynthia Yard, County Administrator and Cheryl Wieder, Human Resources Director.

Deputy Director Mennen advised that the Prosecutor's request will be put off until all five members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders are present.

Furniture and Fixtures/Copiers

The Board discussed requests for various furniture and fixtures and for two digital copiers in the Central Printing area.

Deputy Director Mennen confirmed with Mrs. Browne that if any Constitutional Officer requires/requests something to improve their office or equipment, it will come out of their trust funds.

Mr. Holt left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

The Board discussed shared services and its connection with the request for two digital copiers. After further discussion, with Bob Thurgarland, Print Shop Director, it was agreed the County would make due with one digital copier this year. Also a copier will be purchased for the Departments of Human Services and Parks and Recreations.

Mr. Holt returned to the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Vehicles

Mrs. Yard advised the Board of an older ordinance for \$82,000 which can be used for the purchase/replacement of vehicles. The Finance Team is asking to replace the five vehicles which the Fleet Management Committee listed and supplement the old ordinance of \$82,000 with new funds, in the amount of \$180,000. The County would continue to move vehicles around for the pool vehicles and evaluate needs. Mr. Glynn went through the list of current vehicles and vehicles which need to be replaced. Ms. Sworen believes within the next year there should be no vehicles taken home by any department.

Computer Equipment

Rutgers

Mrs. Browne reported that Rutgers' Cooperative Extension is requesting computers. Deputy Director Mennen confirmed with the Director of Information Services that the current computers used by Rutgers are adequate. Mr. Thurgarland will look at the software for the current computers.

Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Thurgarland reported the four computers requested by the Superintendent of Schools are also adequate. Deputy Director Mennen confirmed this is a repeat, yearly request. He explained what the State is asking for compared to what the Superintendent of School's computers are capable of currently. He noted the currently computers are not under warranty but nothing is stored on the hard drives because everything is stored on their networks. The Board agreed not to replace the computers as they are adequate at this time.

Prosecutor's Office

The Board discussed laptop requests for the Prosecutor's Office. The Board agreed laptops could be paid for through the Prosecutor's Trust Fund.

Land Acquisition

Mrs. Yard explained Director Walton came up with the information/spread sheet for the matter of allocating the figures for Open Space, Farmland, Green Acres, etc. She recommended the land rates be discussed at the next budget session with Director Walton.

Mrs. Browne recommended taking \$1 million each from Historic, Farmland and Co-Operative Purchases (\$3 million) to pay down debt. Shana Taylor, County Counsel explained this would have to be done in accordance with the statute and a public hearing would have to be held but it can be done legally.

Roads

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering was asked to again go through the listing he provided to the Board of road which need work/improvements/repairs to whittle down the list to something more doable for the County.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 3:32 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 4:01 p.m.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 03/06/12-2A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a matter involving the County's room policy.

See Page 03/06/12-2B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an update concerning a contractual issues involving the Hunterdon Medical Center.

See Page 03/06/12-2C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss certain budgetary reduction matters.

See Page 03/06/12-2D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the HIV grant regarding the legal services department.

See Page 03/06/12-2E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss two applications received by the County's Housing Rehabilitation Division (Small Cities Grant funds).

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m., recessed at 5:27 p.m. to move the meeting to the Historic Courthouse. The Board of Chosen Freeholders reconvened in Open Session at 5:38 p.m.

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

Deputy Director Mennen announced that Freeholder Director Walton was taken home ill and will not be attending tonight's meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HUNTERDON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

Freeholder Sworen addressed the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Varsity Cheerleaders, congratulating each National Champion on the Hunterdon Central Cheerleaders Varsity squad. He thanked them for honoring all present with their presence tonight. He advised them that they are sitting in the same jury box and chairs from the Bruno Hauptman trial. The Trial of the Century was held in this restored courtroom. He told them to take time to look at the portraits hung here as they are of the judge, prosecutor, and defense lawyer for that trial.

Mr. Sworen stated the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Cheerleading Varsity Squad is the first team from Hunterdon County to win a National Championship and is the second from New Jersey to win the title. The first was from Jackson, New Jersey with a coed team around 1996-97.

Mr. Sworen stated these young cheerleaders from Hunterdon Central Regional High School also won both the Large Varsity and Group 4 State Championships at the New Jersey State Championships his past Sunday, March 04, 2012. This is not their first State Championship, but one of many.

Mr. Sworen advised the Delaware Valley High School Cheerleaders won the State Medium Varsity and Group 2 State championships on March 04, 2012. This is a very huge event to be celebrated because there are 4 Groups and 2 parochial groups at the States. Two squads from Hunterdon have won and that is 1/3rd of the championships and ½ of the group championships! These ladies are remarkable and unbelievably hard working athletes. They do not complete or train part-time or seasonal as sports like football, baseball or soccer do. The Cheerleading season starts in midsummer with camp and ends sometime in March or April. They practice 5 to

6 days a week; plus run at least one day a week and also take gymnastics lessons. In addition, they yell out their cheers as they run. Cheerleaders support all school sports programs by cheering and stunting at those events and they also compete at championships. Hunterdon Central has won many local, regional and state championships over the years. They are a force to be recognized.

Mr. Sworen presented a video to those present of what the routines the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Cheerleading Varsity Squad completed to with the American National Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida.

Mr. Sworen stated the path to nationals is very difficult and the cheerleaders had to first qualify at one of many dozens of regional qualifiers across the nation. Each regional has hundreds of teams competing. The teams only get one opportunity to compete in regional's. They must win their division or be scored very high in points to get a bid for nationals. In addition, these young ladies raise a lot of money to get their team to Florida for American National Cheerleading Championships in order to pay for their rooms, meals, etc. At the nationals they have to compete with all of the teams who qualified from around the country to see if they can make the semi-finals. If successful they complete again in a few hours to try to make it to finals. These ladies from Hunterdon Central Regional High School were good enough to go straight to finals. Only 2 - 4 teams with very high scores go directly to finals.

Mr. Sworen stated it took many years to get to the national completion level and its started in the early 90's when two cheerleading coaches, one from Hunterdon Central and one from Del Val decided to take cheering to a new level in Hunterdon County. They raised the bar and the young ladies have never looked back. I know this because I was a parent of Del Val cheerleaders from 1995 to 2002. I went to Nationals with my daughters 8 times. Their best finish was 3rd. A number of Hunterdon squads have qualified for nationals but only a few have made it to the finals. Only one has won a national championship, Hunterdon Central.

Mr. Sworen thanked and congratulated the Cheerleaders' parents for their efforts and time to allow them to become as good as they are. He recognized all the cheerleading parents in the audience and stated he is proud to see them. He joked that they were probably still hoarse from yelling and cheering in Florida.

Mr. Sworen informed those present that the Hunterdon Central Regional High School parents started a new tradition at the Nationals because when different Hunterdon schools were competing, even though they were rivals, they would cheer for each Hunterdon County school. That started a tradition that lives on today and he is proud to have been a part of that tradition when his daughters were cheerleaders.

Mr. Sworen said the accomplishment of these young ladies is monumental. For them to win the National Championship is an accomplishment almost beyond belief. They are incredibly talented athletes. This young ladies are not competing against small schools like themselves but top rated schools such as Dunbar, Houston, Winter Park, Boaz, and Kamehameha Kapalama, from Hawaii, that have full time programs. These bigger schools arrive in their own custom buses with trainers, makeup people, hairdressers, etc. This is their life in those schools but for the ladies of Hunterdon Central to win is like the Somerset Patriots beating the Yankees, the Mets, the Phillies and the Red Sox. East Coast schools don't win but small, rural Hunterdon Central has, they have won a National Championship in the highest level of competition. The United Cheerleading Association (UCA) National Championship is the world series of cheerleading and Hunterdon Central is the champion.

Mr. Sworen also recognized the talented young ladies on Hunterdon Central Regional High School's Varsity Squad who took their team skills to another level by winning the national Championship in 4 girl partner stunts. They are Erin Mack, Lauren Brady, Hanna Kemp and Alexandra Luciano.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 03/06/12-3A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Varsity Cheerleaders on winning First Place, in the Large Varsity Division, at the National Cheerleading Championships, on February 12, 2012.

See Page 03/06/12-3B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Erin Mack, Lauren Brady, Hanna Kemp and Alexandra Luciano of the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad, for attaining first place, in the All-Girl Partner stunt Event, of the National Cheerleading Championships.

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

Mr. Sworen further noted that the cheerleaders are all wearing white satin jackets which are only given to National Champions. The white satin jackets are the equivalent of a super bowl ring. The ladies are also wearing a medal that signifies their winning the National Championship and they are wearing a second medal that signifies their winning the New Jersey State Championship.

The Hunterdon Central Regional High School Varsity Cheerleaders and their coaches came before the Board, one by one, to receive a copy of tonight's proclamation and shake the hands of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

POLYTECH

Katie Bergacs, Polytech Social Worker came before the Board to explain Polytech's procedures on HIB (harassment, intimidation and bullying) procedures. Bullying is being addressed because it affects students in various ways including depression, anxiety and unfortunately to suicide. Ms. Bergacs stated according to statute there has to be Anti-Bullying Specialists in place, and she is one of them. Ms. Bergacs advised there is a specialist for each campus at Polytech and the coordinator is the Principal. The goal is to look for ways to prevent bullying but to also increase reporting by having constant communications with teachers and students.

The Board thanked Ms. Bergacs for her informative session this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deputy Director Mennen informed those present that he is aware there are some here tonight to discuss the topic of the Planning Department. This Board is in receipt of the petitions which have been signed electronically and they have been taken under advisement. Deputy Director Mennen advised there is continuing dialog with regard to this issue, as well as the personnel issues. Freeholder Director Walton has been engaged in those discussions and he was here today, until 1:00 p.m. when he left with the stomach virus that is going around. Director Walton was unable to brief the Board in Executive Session as was intended, on what his discussions have been with the Union Representatives and others. The Freeholders here this evening are without the benefit of a full update and status on where things stand and that will take place when the Board convenes next.

Judy Allen, Readington Township resident came before the Board concerning the future of the staff of the Hunterdon County Planning Board and its impact on the Farmland Preservation program. She stressed concern about the future of the Hunterdon County Planning Board, its staff and its business.

Tom Borkowski, Chairperson of the Planning Board and a member of the County's Agriculture Development Board, stated that the quality of life in Hunterdon County is the direct result of the County and local planning Boards. He encouraged the Board to not layoff any of the Planning Board staff.

Lucinda Chow of Lebanon Township expressed concern over the Cultural and Heritage Commission as its duties have been taken over by the Hunterdon County Planning Board.

Betty Ann Fort of Readington Township also expressed concern over the future of the Hunterdon County Planning Board.

Roseanna Hunt an artist, read comments from 8 people who signed the petition referenced by Deputy Director Mennen this evening.

Paul Dahon of Pittstown and a member of the County's Agricultural Development Board stated the CADB matters and to please help the County Planning Board.

Don Slerbrim of Clinton Township asked the Board for support of the Planning Board and its staff.

Stephanie Stevens, Cultural and Heritage Chairman stressed the Freeholder Board to not cut the Planning Board because her concern is what would happen to the Cultural and Heritage Commission. Each of the Planners has taken on a modicum of the work done by Cultural and Heritage. Cultural and Heritage does work that encourages the school children and people in this County, such as the Mini-Historian Essay contest; the architecture in school programs; staff is needed for the annual art show; and there is bus to culture which takes senior citizens to various museums. The Cultural and Heritage Commission has people who write books and so much more. Mrs. Stevens asked the Board to keep the Planning Board and its staff as it is.

John Hanchek of Lambertville City stated that he and his wife in 1969 helped to form the Lambertville Historical Society which took effect in 1973. The Lambertville Historical Society brings history to the community. The Cultural and Heritage aspect is necessary to the County of Hunterdon.

Tom Ellis read notes from Terry Ellis, the Chairperson of the Readington Township Historical Society on the need for the Cultural and Heritage Commission, and the need for the Planning Board.

Adam Liebttag, CWA Representative and Frenchtown Borough resident advised he has some paper petitions concerning the Planning Board staff because not everyone was able to sign the petition online. He thanked whoever started that petition.

Mr. Liebttag noted the Freeholders' honored the high school this evening and now this is a way to honor the community in a different way. Tonight the public has talked, as well as municipal officials and volunteers asking the County not to layoff the Planning Board staff. The layoff plan proposed will cut three planners, one had already resigned in January 2012 and he feels laying off the other three planners would leave the department a shell.

Mr. Liebttag stated discussions have taken place with Freeholder Walton and he hopes those discussions will continue tomorrow.

Mr. Liebttag stated the bids for the mowing proposal have been received by the County and the Union and the County have looked at the bids and he feels the difference to do the work is the equivalent of one position. He figures if the County privatized mowing then 3 Buildings and Maintenance and 3 Parks employees would be laid off to save one position.

Mr. Liebttag advised the Union has come up with a plan to save the County money, and as soon as the Freeholder Director can share that discuss, he is sure it will save jobs with alternatives to layoffs.

Mr. Liebttag further recommended the County take money from the Open Space Fund to subsidize the Planning Board.

Ben Walker, Hunterdon County Correction Officer informed those present that the Corrections Officers are present this evening because the residents of Hunterdon County need to know they have been without a contract since 2009. The average salary for a Correction Officer is \$35,000. Mr. Walker compared the Hunterdon County Jail to the Warren County Jail in size and listed the number of officers each facility has.

Carol Miller, former Hunterdon County employee, stated that people need to support local business.

Carrie Messinger, Library employee and Flemington Borough residents came before the Board stressing the Board should not layoff the Planning Board employees or anyone in Buildings and Maintenance.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 03/06/12-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a bridge maintenance easement, from Theodore J. Peters and Grace R. Peters, on Block 38, Lot 49, and Block 40, Lot 2, in Readington Township, for structure R-43, in the amount of \$1,881.00.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering updated the Board on various County road and bridge projects.

- Mr. Glynn reported a meeting will be held concerning White Bridge Road Bridge, F-45, on Thursday, March 08, 2012, at 4:00 p.m., at the bridge.
- An information meeting will be held for Bridge C-26 on Cratetown Road from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.
- Soil borings for County Route 519/Warren Glen Hill are scheduled for midMarch.
- The bridge on Federal Twist Road will be closed as the retaining wall failed.

Mr. Glynn reported a property damage agreement has been the surety company and the County in the amount of \$2,099.54, in connection with the County Route 519/650 project.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 03/06/12-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Freeholder Director to execute a property damage release, in the amount of \$2,099.54.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve the Claims Register dated March 06, 2012.

See Page 03/06/12-5C

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of February 14, 2012.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 03/06/12-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Subgrant award from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, for the SANE/SART program, in the amount of \$59,870 (federal-\$47,896 and a County Match of \$11,974).

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Team Somerset Bicycling Club, asking permission to use County roads to conduct individual time trails, on Saturday, May 05, 2012, starting at 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

Correspondence was received from the Califon Board of Recreation, Memorial Day Committee, requesting permission to close County Route 512, from School Street to Academy Street, for one hour, commencing at 10:45 a.m., on Monday, May 28, 2012 for their annual parade. Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Roads, Bridges and Engineering.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Deputy Director Mennen recognized Sheriff Brown in the audience.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Deputy Director Mennen again opened the meeting to the public.

No one from the press or public wished to address the Board at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Deputy Director Mennen adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board