

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

May 01, 2012

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 2:30 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 April 27, 2012 to the Hunterdon County Democrat, The Express, Courier News, The Times and Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

BUDGET DISCUSSION continued

Kim Browne, Finance Director and Margaret Pasqua, County Treasurer came before the Board to firm up to items concerning the County Budget.

Mrs. Browne informed the Board that with the changes made at the last meeting the County has achieved a flat tax rate. She confirmed that \$1.5 million will come from the Library as anticipated revenue. Mrs. Browne stated the budget is at \$80 million which is a \$2.5 million decrease from 2011's budget. She advised the Board that she would like to see some sort of increase and recommended a penny increase, stating that she is worried about the surplus. Mrs. Browne advised the Board that the former Treasurer, Charles Balogh, like to keep a quarter of the budget as surplus; that was his measurement. She would like to see a decrease in the surplus anticipated and a bump up in Capital Improvement which would help with the CAP regulation.

Mrs. Browne advised \$2 million of Capital Improvement Fund is being used for the 2012 support of the Capital plan from the balance of around \$4 million, which leaves \$2 million. In addition, around \$700,000 is being drawn from older ordinances which will not be available next year.

Mr. Melick questioned if there is an increase in the Prosecutor's Budget.

Mr. Holt noted that the Prosecutor's salary and wage item went up 6.5%, which was contractual and the Prosecutor's request for \$321,000 was reduced to \$300,000 by this Board (three members).

Director Walton stated the Prosecutor's budget has increased from 2011 by 5.11%.

Mrs. Browne explained some of the increase was due to contractual impacts.

After further discussion, Director Walton stated he shares Mrs. Brown's concern for the Capital Budget, mostly the surplus. By not putting money aside, to pay for projects, in the future concerns him. He would support a half cent increase or a one cent increase, as it would still be a reduction in the overall levy from 2011 and it would be less money from the taxpayers pockets from last year.

Mr. Holt stated he would also support an increase to put funds back into capital because he believes one of the reasons the County has been in. The County has been financially sound with a Triple "A" bond rating and the County has done very little borrowing in the last ten years and has used surplus to ride through the County's downturn. Mr. Holt stated the 2% Cap scares him to death and he is scared that when the economy turns around again, and any sort of inflation hits the County, that the County will not be able to stay ahead of it. Mr. Holt believes if the County increased the budget by half a cent, it would be a step in the right direction.

Mr. Sworen stated without capital there will be a lot of grief in a couple of years. He too would support a half cent or even a one cent increase.

Mrs. Browne confirmed for Mr. Melick that the half cent would raise the budget by a little more than \$1 million.

Mrs. Pasqua advised that would lower the surplus by \$500,000 and raise Capital Improvement by \$600,000.

Director Walton confirmed three members of the Board would support a half cent increase in the budget. Director Walton instructed Mrs. Browne and Mrs. Pasqua to add a half cent increase to the Budget for 2012.

Director Walton confirmed for Mr. Mennen that the Library rate went up half a cent.

RVCC BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE

Director Walton expressed concern regarding the capital budget for Raritan Valley Community College. Mr. Mennen has told him that the County has the weight of the RVCC Board of School Estimate's on the County's side.

Mr. Mennen confirmed that Somerset County is in agreement with Hunterdon County to reduce the capital budget for Raritan Valley Community College (Bi-County College) by \$750,000 and Somerset's resolutions which were in the Board of School Estimate's packet called for a reduction of \$850,000.

Director Walton stated those funds will be discussed when the RVCC Board of School Estimate meets today.

Director Walton informed the Board that his concern regarding RVCC's budget is the proposed raising of tuition and the small capital budget. He explained that RVCC was directed to cut its costs.

Mr. Mennen asked if the appropriate level of accounting has been received with regard to the minor capital.

Director Walton and Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator confirmed that RVCC has provided a list of everything purchased from the minor capital funds for the last five years, including vendor, amount and description of item.

Mr. Mennen confirmed with County Treasurer, Margaret Pasqua that the debt payment for RVCC will remain almost the same, it maybe \$10,000 or \$20,000 more. Mr. Mennen confirmed the debt payment is not going up to the previous level for this budget year.

Mr. Mennen agreed with Director Walton that RVCC should not be raising tuition, especially in this environment. He asked if Director Walton would like a formal endorsement form this Board about not increasing tuition for the RVCC Board of School Estimate meeting.

Director Walton moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion that the representatives from Hunterdon County on the Raritan Valley Board of School Estimate vote no on the minor capital budget and no on the operating budget for RVCC for the reason that Hunterdon County objects to the proposed 15% tuition increase; and because more trimming can be done on RVCC's capital budget.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 2:53 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 3:35 p.m.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 05/01/12-2B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues concerning a policy update for Information Technology Services.

See Page 05/01/12-2C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss various labor issues with Labor Counsel.

See Page 05/01/12-2D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues in the Tax Board for the Administrator's position.

See Page 05/01/12-2E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues in the Prosecutor Office.

See Page 05/01/12-2F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues in the Planning Services Division/AFSME update.

See Page 05/01/12-2G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with regard to the Legal Services Department.

See Page 05/01/12-2H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss personnel matters in the Human Services Department.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 3:32 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:05 p.m.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 05/01/12-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application for State Aid for Counties, under the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Act, for the resurfacing of County Route 523 in Tewksbury Township and County Route 609, in East Amwell Township.

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

Mr. Holt came into the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 05/01/12-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Local Safety and High Risk Rural Roads Program, for Safety Improvements to County Route 614, at the intersection of Routes 579 and 614, Railroad overpass on 614 and roadway curve at mile marker 7.24, in Alexandria and Union Townships.

See Page 05/01/12-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Local Safety and High Risk Rural Roads Program, for Safety Improvements to County Route 651, project location County Route 519 to State Route 12, in Kingwood Township.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 05/01/12-3D

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Kevin P. Grassie for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/01/12-3E

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Patrick J. Kennedy III for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/01/12-3F

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Zachary J. Neumann for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/01/12-3G

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Aaron Alexander Keiser Murray for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/01/12-3H

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Steven Babich for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/01/12-3I

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Kevin Smith for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/01/12-3J

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring May, 2012 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the County.

See Page 05/01/12-3K

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Hunterdon Behavior Health on their 40th Anniversary.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/01/12-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.3465, pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-5(1)DD, with Dominion Voting, for the software license fee, for Information Services Division of Central Printing, Mail and Information Services, in the amount of \$15,750.

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

See Page 05/01/12-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2012-07, to furnish and deliver two (2) 2012 Ford E350 Cutaway Chassis with a 14' parcel van body, to DFLM, LLC, t/a Ditschman Flemington Ford, in an amount not to exceed \$56,800.

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

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 May 01, 2012.

See Page 05/01/12-4C

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of March 20, 2012.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 05/01/12-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Stephanie Beach appointed permanent, full time Public Health Nurse, Public Health Nursing Division.

See Page 05/01/12-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jennifer O'Sullivan appointed temporary, when and as needed Intern, Division of Public Health Services, Public Safety Department.

See Page 05/01/12-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Raffael Tozzi appointed unclassified, full time County Investigator, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 05/01/12-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity payment for employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement with CWA Non-Supervisory contract.

See Page 05/01/12-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity for unclassified employees in accordance with the fringe benefit policy.

See Page 05/01/12-4I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Subordination Agreement for Matthew and Tamela Buza.

See Page 05/01/12-4J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Art Show Waiver Agreements for the 38th Annual Hunterdon County Art Show, with various senior citizens.

See Page 05/01/12-4K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving application for payment #6, for County Bid #2010-24, for the Addition and Fuel Island Upgrades at the Everittstown Garage, with Tekton Development Corporation, in the amount of \$203,877.

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement with East Amwell Township for the resurfacing, sidewalk construction and roadway reconstruction of County Route 579, (John Ringo Road), and County Route 602, (Wertsville Road), in East Amwell Township.

RESOLVED, Approving the restructuring the County's Table of Organization.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from The Cherryville Repeater Association II, requesting permission to use the Route 12 County Complex field, to the left of the entrance, for their annual amateur radio operation, for the period of June 23-24, 2012. Also requesting permission to make arrangements for sanitation facilities to support the activities. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department and Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

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

A request was received from the Lebanon Township Volunteer Fire Department, asking for permission to hold a Coin Toss, on Saturday, May 19, 2012 and Friday, November 23, 2012 at the intersection of County Routes 513 and 628, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

Correspondence was received from the American Diabetes Association, Tour de Cure, requesting permission to use County roads during their annual Bike fundraising event on Sunday, June 03, 2012. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

A request was received from the Pattenburg Rescue Squad, Inc., asking permission to purchase fuel from the County at the County Arboretum, for three vehicles. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

A letter was received from the Kingwood Township First Aid & Rescue Squad, Inc., requesting the public be aware of their Dispatch Policy. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

A request was received from Yesh Stephenson, asking permission to donate a park bench with a plaque honoring her father, at the North County Branch of the Library, in Clinton. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Land Use and Facilities Management Department, Division of Parks and Recreation Services.

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

COUNTY COUNSEL

Shana Taylor, County Counsel came before the Board concerning the County's Agricultural Development Board (CADB).

Ms. Taylor advised she was asked by Freeholder Melick to look into information as to whether the County could establish a fund for escrow dollars for County Agricultural Board hearings. Mr. Taylor followed up with the State Agriculture Development Board attorney who collaborated with Susan Payne, Executive Director of the State Agriculture Development Board (SADC) and they indicated there is no regulatory authority for the CADB's to collect any escrow dollars. The issue has come up before but nothing has ever been followed through. If Hunterdon County wishes to proceed, it would be necessary to go through the Attorney General's Office.

Mr. Melick explained the CADB hearings go on forever and the issues at the Planning Division require attorneys and he doesn't believe that the taxpayers should pay for this. The County isn't looking to get rich on this but the County should make an effort to recover some of the costs. This may take legislative action to be put in place.

Mr. Sworen questioned who would file the escrow.

Ms. Taylor advised the person making the application would file the escrow. This would be the same as a municipal planning board when someone applies for The Right to Farm protection or Agricultural Management Practices protection. This is done when a farmer is performing a

farming activity which the neighbor doesn't like what is being done, then protection is sought from the CADB; a public hearing is held; or they have to establish they are a commercial farm.

Mr. Sworen stated applications before the CADB take forever when someone challenges the Right to Farm.

Director Walton stated if the person making an application is a farmer under duress and he is seeking protection of his government to protect his civil liberties, why should the farmer have to pay money for escrow when the bad actor is the neighbor.

Mr. Melick said this is like a legal proceeding when you file something in the courts a fee has to be paid.

Mr. Sworen stated he has attended a number of CADB hearings and it doesn't make sense for a farmer to have to pay additional money to protect themselves.

Mr. Melick would like to find a way for these hearings to be done where funds don't come from the taxpayers.

Mr. Mennen questioned who pays the court reporter during the CADB hearings.

Ms. Taylor explained the County does because the Court Reporter is present for the County's benefit.

Mr. Mennen confirmed with Ms. Taylor that there is no cost for an application to come before the CADB.

After further discussion, Ms. Taylor explained an application comes before the CADB because they are aggrieved and they want the CADB to bless what they are doing because it is an appropriate agricultural management practice and they ask for CADB protection; the CADB then renders its decision in the form of resolution which will then be agreed to by the SADC. Either side can appeal the decision. The only costs to the individuals is the cost for their attorneys.

Mr. Mennen stated there are different classifications of applications and some of them, if they are inequitable, it would make sense for the governmental entity to carry the full costs. Applicants are proposing something that is of benefit to them and it is done at the government's costs. There are also situations where someone's rights are being infringed upon and they are seeking protection. That is a different classification of application. Mr. Mennen suggested asking the CADB for a recommendation.

The Board agreed that Ms. Taylor should ask the CADB for their recommendation regarding escrows because they are very knowledgeable in this matter and report back to the Board.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 5:25 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Director Walton asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence for Lambertville Fire Chief, Jack Lindsley, a seventy plus year active member of the Lambertville Fire Company. Jack was also the County's Fire Marshal for many years. Jack was born on November 28, 1911 and he passed away over the weekend.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Theresa Stoveken, Readington Township resident asked the Board where the money comes from that is given to affiliate libraries. She asked if it does not come out of Readington Township's tax dollars.

Director Walton advised the affiliate libraries have at least two sources of funding, as he understands it. Funding comes from the host municipality, in this case Readington Township and in 2010 Readington allocated around \$140,000 and in 2011 they allocated \$144,000 which goes to pay for the staff salaries (\$120,000) and \$20,000 for operating expenses for the Library. As an affiliate library of the County's Library system, the County Library has been giving a stipend to the affiliate libraries for a number of years. In 2011, \$65,000 was given to Readington's library. The total amount that, through the County Library Tax, gave to all affiliate libraries in the County was \$160,000 for 2011.

Ms. Stoveken questioned if it is the Freeholder Board or the Library Commission who makes decisions concerning the funds given to affiliate libraries. Who breaks down the money and decides who gets what.

Director Walton explained the Library levy is approved by the Freeholder Board and the Library Commission is tasked with decided how that money is spent. The Freeholders can make suggestions to the Commission. The details on how the Library Budget is spent is made by the Library Commission.

Mark Titus, Library Director, explained when the Library Commission presents its budget to the Freeholder Board, there are line items that designate items to be purchased. The library designates a certain amount of money for books, CD's and such. The money is not a stipend because it is still under the control of the County Library; this was a bookkeeping way to follow the funding designated to affiliate libraries.

Ms. Stoveken asked if the County doesn't have \$60,000 to help keep the Three Bridges Library running in Readington.

Director Walton explained the Library Commission sets the particulars of their budget. The Commission made the choice on how to allocate the limited funds that are being given to them through their tax.

Mr. Sworen said the services the affiliate libraries are provided in terms of computer equipment, books, cataloging the systems, and the ability for a resident to request a book are also a part of the County Library Tax. The services have not been cut or diminished.

Director Walton confirmed the Library's services will continue to the affiliate libraries; it is the goods that the Library Commission has not allocated funds for in this year's budget.

Mr. Titus advised the Library hopes to accommodate all the affiliate libraries because there are moneys that are currently in reserve that can be used this year to make up a shortfall. The Library will be able to ship requested books to the affiliate libraries so they aren't without materials.

Judy Allen, Readington Township Committeewoman, mentioned that in 2011 Readington Township paid \$844,000 to the County Library funds and Readington's budget pays approximately \$150,000 for 5 Librarians and the heat and maintenance on the library. That is close to a million dollars that Readington Township residents pay annually for Library services. Ms. Allen feels Readington Township residents should not be burdened anymore for the service they get. The residents should not be asked to put out more than a million dollars a year for library services.

Ms. Allen explained branch libraries are needed because they don't have a main library near them. Readington has done well with the arrangement it had. She would like to have a serious conversation for what is fair for Readington Township, for Readington's residents to be served properly and get the library service which they have been getting. Ms. Allen said everyone is tightening their belts in this economy; both the County and the Township and that makes any additional expenditure for library very difficult. She wants that conversation to be with the Library Commission and the Freeholders to determine how this can be spread more equitably.

Director Walton explained there are one dozen or so communities in Hunterdon County whose library taxes go towards the affiliate libraries even though they do not have an affiliate library. He questioned if that is fair. In fairness to all the taxpayers of Hunterdon County, part of this conversation should also be "how do the communities that do not have affiliate libraries, how should they be taxed when they are not benefiting from having an affiliate library? And is it fair for the communities that don't have affiliate libraries to be funding the affiliate libraries of communities that choose to have one. Director Walton stated that has to be part of the conversation also.

Director Walton advised he will arrange for a meeting with the Library Commission and any municipality who wishes to attend; along with a representative from the Board of Freeholders to discuss this matter.

Ms. Allen stated the affiliate libraries have a geographical importance. The Three Bridges library is frequented by residents from the northern part of Raritan Township as in Three Bridges. Ms. Allen feels the real discussion is the importance of the branch libraries in the whole Library picture and that the host municipalities are already contributing a tremendous amount by paying the libraries and for the upkeep of the libraries.

Barbara Reisenfield, Readington Township resident, informed the Board that she is a retired (20 years) Branch Supervisor for the North County Branch Library. During those years she experienced tremendous growth in the Library system and in the circulation of the branch and headquarters. Hundreds of patrons come into the Library for DVD's, magazines, books and CD's and when those items get returned it is the student assistants that make sure they are put back where they belong. If the Library doesn't have these student assistants there would be a tremendous backlog because there isn't the staff to shelve the materials. Ms. Reisenfield is concerned about the County losing its student assistants.

Ms. Reisenfield said currently hundreds of online reservations for books are being handled at the libraries. Those books have to get pulled from the shelves everyday and it takes hours to accomplish that. Ms. Reisenfield informed the Board that the student assistant positions should be reinstated.

Ms. Reisenfield said as a user of the Readington Library, she is hoping the monies that goes towards books and materials will be reinstated.

Betty Ann Forts, Readington Township residents advised for the past year she has been following the decisions the Freeholders have been making and she also sits on Readington Township's committee and is also agonizing over budget decisions. She is seeing a trickle down effect, having seen the Parks funding be cut, including the entertainment at Deer Path Park was cut; the

Cultural and Heritage Commission has been minimized and the Planning Department has been cut; and now the funding for affiliated libraries is being cut. The County maybe saving budget money but this is being pushed down onto the townships and the townships still have to plan. Ms. Forts asked the Board what it plans to cut next.

Shelia Kilgore, Whitehouse Station resident, who uses the library two times a week. The library is a very important part of any town. She is here to support the library and hopes that funding can be found to keep the library going. Libraries are a vital part of any community. Libraries and Parks draw people to communities.

Tom Vigalanti, Readington Township resident, advised he uses the library often and he has observed a lot of other township members using the library; there are mothers with young children; and there are older people who access computers. Anything that affects the Library budget affects the ability of the library to provide these services to these users.

Jean Vitali, resident of Raritan Township, said starting at the top of the government, with the President, that "no child left behind". How can the County close a township library if no child is supposed to be left behind. Local libraries are an institution where children go to learn. Hunterdon County is one of the richest counties in the United States. It doesn't make sense that libraries can be kept open.

Elizabeth Vigalanti, Readington Township residents, asked if Readington Township could keep all the money that it has been sending to the Library Commission for its library tax and put the Library Commission out of business and let the townships manage their own money. Residents are paying an expensive Commission's salaries and benefits and the township's aren't getting back what it pays out for these people.

Director Walton advised that the Library Commission is made up of volunteers and does not receive anything in salary or any benefits.

Director Walton thanked everyone for coming to this evening's meeting.

POLYTECH

Kim Metz, Superintendent of Polytech introduced Noelle Davis who is in Polytech's Nursing program.

Ms. Davis informed the Board that she is a senior at Hunterdon Central Regional High School, as well as a second year Polytech Nursing student. She works at the Hunterdon Care Center and is able to do all the clinical and assists elderly people.

Ms. Davis stated she will be attending Duquesne University in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania next year for nursing and she will also be cheerleading. Ms. Davis stated she will also be joining the Navy to become a Navy Nurse. Without Polytech she would not have found her career to be in nursing.

FLEMINGTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Anthony Peterman came before the Board, he is a senior partner with Strategic Advisory Group, (SAG), which is an Atlanta based consulting firm hired by the Flemington Business Improvement District (BID). For the past 25 years he has been helping communities and cities revitalize. Prior to SAG, he and his partners ran Ernst and Young.

Mr. Peterman explained the SAG has been charged by the Flemington Business Improvement District, as well as the redevelopers of the Union Hotel to look at the feasibility market and the financial feasibility of the project, as well as other components in the community which might revitalize the Borough of Flemington, specifically retail, residential, entertainment and form an art center. SAG has been asked to look at what would be ideal, the vision but also what would be practical and doable. The most efficient way to achieve that is to use existing assets, mainly the historic Court House. Prior to getting to this stage, SAG toured the area with Sheriff Fred Brown who provided an in depth tour of the building. SAG's team felt there was a potential to utilize what could be described as an under utilized asset in the community. SAG did some primary research regarding book tours, lectures and smaller documentary showings to determine if a facility like the court house would be of interest and it was. From the demand side, SAG surveyed the PTO (parent/teachers organizations) in the Hunterdon School Districts and 95% of the 200 plus respondents said at some level, (weekly to once every couple of months) they would have interest in coming to an event at the historic court house.

Mr. Peterman stated he is not here this evening to present a proposal for the Board to make a decision, but this is more of an information session. Any request would come ultimately from the hotel developers and it would be in the form of a booking policy request. Events such as a book lecture tour or a musical event or a wedding would need to know in advance they have the space if it is required. Mr. Peterman stated the interest is activating the building and using the County's current building rental policy. It is his understanding that no food or beverage is allowed in the historic court house, which is fine.

Director Walton questioned the fee that would be charged for admission to lectures if any.

Mr. Peterman stated some lectures would be complimentary; it depends upon the event itself. The management company of the hotel would be booking the space for the events. It is his understanding the historic court house is around \$150 a day to rent the facility.

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator informed Mr. Peterman that the facility rental is an hourly rate. The County's policy is very clear on reserving space in the County's buildings. She is sure Mr. Peterman will be able to live within the confines of the policy. Also, reservations are on a first come/first service basis. There have been wedding held in the historic Court House. Also, the Board of Freeholders has made the decision to make that building more accessible to the public as County movement is made.

Mr. Mennen questioned the status of the redevelopment plan for the Borough of Flemington.

Mr. Peterman stated formal announcement will be made within a couple of weeks. He is not the redeveloper, so he is not able to speak to that.

Mr. Mennen confirmed the Borough was designated as an area in need of redevelopment and there was a redevelopment plan which was approved by Flemington Borough. There was discussion about rooms and he wondered what that number would be. He asked Mr. Peterman if there needs to be a zoning change, overlays, or what the status is.

Mr. Mennen stated the request has been made of this Board to partner with the Borough of Flemington, in some respect, whether it is holding off on selling a parking area or something more. Part of the agreement in doing that was that the County was to get an update every six months.

Mrs. Yard reported the Borough of Flemington is scheduled to appear before the Board in June 2012 to provide an update concerning the parking area and their redevelopment of the area.

Mr. Holt confirmed Mr. Peterman is looking to the historic Court House to provide a venue to make Flemington Borough more of a destination. He stated there is a distinct difference in using the venue to enhance the destination as opposed to it being a venue to make profits for an entity. The County's policy does speak to that and he suggested as Mr. Peterman reviews the policy that the intent is to take what was restored and use it in a positive fashion. If it can be used to enhance this region and bring tourists into the area, he would be excited about that but he is not interested in use the court house as a venue to provide a profit for someone else.

Mr. Peterman will be coming back before the Board to provide a presentation to the Board with Flemington BID in June.

FARMLAND/PLANNING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/01/12-9A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Contract for Sale of Development Easement, for the Nemeth Farm, Block 14, Lot 15, in Alexandria Township, (SADC-\$478,650, County-\$156,482, Township-\$156,482), total amount of \$791,614.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

John P. Glynn, Director, Roads, Bridges and Engineering provided an update of various County road and bridge projects.

- Arbor Day will be celebrated by planting a hybrid Oak Tree in front of the Main Street County Complex in Flemington Borough. The County also provided trees to the municipal schools (22 trees) and two trees were planted in the Court Street Park. Four trees which were damaged at Route 12 during the ice storm have been replaced.
- The design work for County Route 523, which is a Transportation Trust Fund project, which was approved and is now 75% complete. This project will be batched with County Route 609.
- An agreement was approved by the Board with East Amwell Township for circulation of the sidewalks in the Ringoes area. This will be done with NJDOT.
- A public information meeting is scheduled for County Bridge L-25-W, on Point Mountain Road, in Lebanon Township and Mansfield Township in Warren County, on May 09, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. to be held in Mansfield Township. This is an inter-county bridge which will be widened up to 26' and work will be done on the approach way. The profile is unchanged and the bridge will be a prefabricated truss.
- A public information meeting was held for Culvert U-18, on Race Street, in Union Township, on April 25, 2012. This culvert is in the Rockhill Historic District so an application will be made to the State Historic Preservation Office in order to do this work. A precast Arch will be used. Residents support this project and Mr. Glynn is waiting to receive comments so they can be incorporated in the final plans.
- Mr. Glynn informed the Board that the dispute with a property owner concerning the project on County Bridge F-45, on White Bridge Road, in Franklin Township, is close to being settled. The County has received preliminary final plans and they were forwarded to NJDOT for comments.
- The County is waiting on approval for the final plans for County Bridge E-174, East Amwell Township form NJDEP for the modified plans for the storm water project.
- An updated status meeting was held on Exit 15-Interstate 78, County Route 513, on April 20, 2012. The consultant is going back to address the comments raised about grades and access.
- The final plans are currently at NJDOT for County Bridge D-300, on Raven Rock-Rosemont Road, in Delaware Township. This is a Phoenix truss.

- The County is waiting on information from NJDOT on County Routes 512/513. This is one of the high risk rural roads that the County has funding for.
- The County met with the property owner concerning County Routes 600/612 and comments were received which will be incorporated into the final plans for that intersection improvement.

Kingwood Township First Aid letter/for the record

Director Walton informed the Board that a letter was received which the writer has requested it be read into the record. Director Walton read the letter from Kingwood Township First Aid and Rescue Squad, Inc., in regard to a policy change which was adopted by the Hunterdon County Emergency Services Chiefs' Association in conjunction with the District First Aid Council. What had occurred in the last six months were some calls concerning cardiac patients where the Rescue Squad (ambulance) was unable to respond in a timely fashion. After having two of these incidents with cardiac patients, it was suggested by the County's staff that the First Aids and Rescue Squads look at their policy concerning dispatch services and how those responding agencies are dispatched. The policy discussed with all the agencies, everyone was invited to the table to be a part of those discussions; both of the large first aid organizations and the county were invited to participate and a policy was developed which was approved by a 16 to 1 abstention vote by the Hunterdon County Emergency Services Chief's Association. Kingwood Township wrote their letter on April 09, 2012 to clear some error and/or concern regarding the policy.

Director Walton read the germane portions of Kingwood Township First Aid and Rescue Squad, Inc.'s letter to the public. "Recently there has been a move by the Hunterdon County Chiefs' Association to change the altering procedure for Emergency Services in favor of paid services. This has been supported by misinformation, erroneous facts and this letter is intended to place the facts on the record. It has been stated that a call on July 21, 2011 took 45 minutes from time of alter to time of rescue personnel on scene. This is no true, the time elapsed from time of dispatch to ambulance on scene was 28 minutes. It has been stated that the call was scratched by Kingwood Rescue. This is not true. Kingwood Rescue was dispatched as second since Stockton Rescue was unable to man the call. The time from dispatch to on scene for Kingwood was 19 minutes. Considering this call was below the southern border of Kingwood's normal operating territory this was not unreasonable. Also, there is no direct route for response. It is unfortunate that information provided to the Freeholders is all coming from organization which have an invested interest in putting the volunteers out of business, increasing their status and income. "Volunteer quads have served the County well for many years and do not deserve to be thrown to the side" in favor of money making operations. It is questionable why a service that has served the County so well over the years be changed because of one call. Granted the time to get an ambulance on scene was excessive however it needs to be recognized that this type of call is rare. Most call in Hunterdon County do not involve life threatening situations and do not warrant having a paid crew sitting and waiting for activation. If this were the correct way to go it would require an ambulance and staff sitting at every major intersection." By copy of this letter he is ensuring that all members of the Freeholder Board are aware of the information that they have been receiving is erroneous and slated to support a long range plan to for Fee for Service squads is unfortunate. There only seems to be one source consulted but there are other sources of facts." The letter was signed by the Captain of the Kingwood Rescue Squad.

Director Walton explained the County's role in setting dispatch is, the County takes from the municipalities the agencies they dictate to serve their residents. The County then dispatches those agencies based upon who they name as their first engine/apparatus and then their second apparatus. The County takes from the Emergency Services Chiefs' Organization whether it be for police, fire or first aid and rescue, the policies on how much time elapses between the first call and the second call and third call. In response, to the call which Kingwood references in its letter it was suggested to the First Aid Chiefs' Association that they revisit their policy for dispatching to ensure there isn't a 28 minute lapse from the time of a call for a cardiac patient and the time to being on scene. The policy was approved by 16 of the first aid squads in the County with one abstention, did not dictate that paid services get called out but rather that staffed ambulances get called out. The idea being if there is an inability for the first due company to respond to the call and there is an agency that has members sitting in their ambulance that dispatch can call the staffed ambulance to respond to that scene. The staffed ambulance could be one that just left the Hunterdon Medical Center on route back to their station. It could be an ambulance sitting at a County fair with crews ready to go. It could be a paid ambulance as some agencies in the County has. The policy does not specify paid, it specifies staffed. If you are a cardiac patient, you don't care who is coming to help you, just that someone gets there soon. The policy tries to address those concerns while also addressing the concerns of the volunteer squads and all the other agencies. The reason why this is a concern for the volunteer squads is because if a volunteer agency knows they are going to be scratched on very call, then those volunteer agencies are less likely to respond. No one wants to set up a system whereby the volunteer squads are immediately dismissed and go right to the paid squads. You want to go to staffed ambulances as a second course but first allow the agency that is responsible to respond to those calls.

Director Walton stated moving forward in this County, emergency services may move into the direction of having paid staff more often. That is simple a matter of the course of things today with more and more requirements placed upon volunteers and resources. This policy, this choice and incidents which come up, is not a device to eliminate volunteer squads rather it is a device to make sure that all squads are working together for the betterment of the County's residents.

Director Walton opened the meeting to any member of the Kingwood Squad who wishes to contradict what has been said.

Frank Statnicki, President of the Hunterdon County EMS Squad Chiefs' Association, representing every EMS agency in Hunterdon County. Mr. Statnicki stated this started in July of 2011, there were local meetings to draw out a new policy to decrease the amount of time because there were multiple incidents where it took thirty minutes, forty minutes to get an ambulance to a scene which is not acceptable. When you call 911 you think someone will be on scene within a few minutes, no matter where you live. It should be equal whether you live in a very populated area or if you live in a rural area. The policy was originally presented to the County's Emergency Services Center and it was not able to be implemented because there were too many variations. They asked the County to take the policy to reduce the amount of time to get an ambulance (whether it was staffed or a mutual aid ambulance) to the scene, so the policy could be used by dispatchers. The policy has to be functional. In April the County came back and a special meeting was held to present the new policy which met what they wanted to accomplish by reducing the amount of time but it took everyone's conversations with every organization in the County; large squad, small squad, volunteers, and paid. They came up with a way to get ambulances to the site quicker, especially on ALS calls. If the home squad ambulance is not on the way the County is going to be able to dispatch the next town's ambulance or staffed ambulance immediately. Then there won't be thirty or forty minute response times. If an ambulance isn't there under 10 minutes then a cardiac arrest is dead. The American Heart Association puts that information out.

Chief Statnicki advised the Freeholder Board that 15 squads voted yes on the policy and 1 abstained. The discussion over the last three meetings of the Association had 16 agencies participated including the County. There are 18 squads in Hunterdon County and 16 have been present for the last three meetings to discuss this policy and try to make it better for the municipalities that they all serve.

Director Walton thanked Chief Statnicki for coming this evening.

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Arbor Day

Mr. Sworen reported that members of the public attended the County's Arbor Day event.

Golf Course awards

Mr. Sworen reported the County's Golf Course received a River Friendly Award from the New Jersey Water Supply. Three golf courses in the State of New Jersey have received the award; the other two are in Somerset County.

Mr. Sworen reported that Jeff Daton from Kemper Sports Management, who runs the County's Golf Course, won the award for Golf Professional of the year for 2012.

Parks and Recreation

Director Walton advised a note was sent to the County with regard to Tom Shepperd who works in the County's Parks and Recreation Division with his service at Echo Hill Park who assistance an individual at the park regarding the layout of the trail system and he went on to explained what to watch out for on the trails. Mr. Shepperd left the task being performed to assistant this individual and she was very appreciative for his kindness.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Open Space

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough Resident, asked the amount of money being taken from the Open Space to pay down debt and if it will be used for the golf course. She requested a break down on those funds.

Director Walton informed Ms. Stewart that Kevin Richardson, Open Space Trust Fund Coordinator is reviewing that amount for consideration by the Board.

Mrs. Yard volunteered to get the break down figures for Open Space to Ms. Stewart.

South County Library Lease

Ms. Stewart questioned the status of the lease for the South County Branch Library.

Director Walton explained that a lease for the South County Branch Library has been negotiated and the County expects to move in later in June. It is roughly 4 miles south on Route 179 going toward Lambertville from the current location.

Vehicles

Ms. Stewart asked what the Board has decided about the Prosecutor's request for new vehicles and additional staff.

Director Walton advised at the last meeting the County Prosecutor request for his operating budget was cut by an amount which approximates the cost for the commutation expenses incurred by his detectives. The estimated based upon the County's analysis was that the commutation costs around \$30,000 to \$35,000 for those personnel which the County believes would not have to have vehicles to go home. This is not the vehicles the people who are assigned to specific task forces but just the rank and file detective members.

Ms. Stewart confirmed with Director Walton that the Prosecutor can spend the money the County gives him as he sees fit because he is a constitutional officer.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board