

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

May 15, 2012

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:02 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Walton announced: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before January 03, 2012, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 05/15/12-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss negotiations in the Prosecutor's Office with Labor Counsel.

See Page 05/15/12-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a rice notice for the Open Space Trust Coordinator.

See Page 05/15/12-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss various budget reduction measures.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:04 p.m., recessed at 5:23 p.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m. in the Historic Court House.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Walton informed those present that the Freeholders are reconvening in the Historic Court House in order to present the 2012 Mini-Historian awards to those Fourth Grade students in the County who participated in this essay program.

CULTURAL & HERITAGE

Stephanie Stevens, Cultural & Heritage Commission Chairperson introduced the Board of Chosen Freeholders to the students and parents present for the awards of Mini-Historian and explained, what a Freeholder is and does and that Hunterdon County was founded in 1714. Hunterdon County is 298 years old. Mrs. Stevens thanked the parents for encouraging their children to learn about Hunterdon County and the teachers for instilling an interest in history in their students.

Mrs. Stevens provided a small history lesson covering the Hunterdon County historic Court House. The first Court House for Hunterdon County was built on this foundation in 1793 but it burned down, and was replaced in 1848. At that time there were only two freeholders on the Board of Chosen Freeholders and it took only one month to build the building and while the court house was being built, meetings were held in the Methodist Church in Flemington Borough.

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented ribbons to the Honorable Mentions: from Frenchtown Elementary School, Dorothy Bach, *The Hummer Building*; Daniel Hanczaryk, *The National Hotel*; Keilah Hanley, *The Railroad*. From High Bridge Elementary School, Joshua Kinsky, *St Joseph's Church*, Lucy Kucharski, *St Joseph's Church*. From Readington Township - Three Bridges School, Nick DeCola, *The Centerville Hotel*. From Tewksbury Elementary School, Liam Allen, *The Tewksbury Township Library*; Isabella Bana, *The Lenape Indians*; Amelia Puglia, *Hill and Dale Farm*, Dylan Fritz, *Hell Mountain* and Abigail Schlotterbeck, *The Mountainville General Store*.

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented ribbons to the Second Place winners: from Franklin Township School, Alice Lundgren, *The Quaker Meeting House*; from Lebanon Township - Valley View School, Grace Trumpy, *Penwill Mills* and from Tewksbury Elementary School, Andrew Melick, *Zion Lutheran Church in Oldwick, NJ*.

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented ribbons to the First Place winners: from the Thomas B. Conley School - Bethlehem Township, Rylee McKinney, *Van Syckel Tavern*; from Bloomsbury Elementary School, Tommy Madden, Taylor Moon, *Old Train Station*; from the Round Valley School - Clinton Township, Celia Carlise, *My House*; from the Franklin Township School, Morgan

Kneller, *Jacob Gearhart's Farmstead*; from the Frenchtown Elementary School, Sarah Neerwinski, *The Frenchtown Fire Department*; from the High Bridge Elementary School, Alexis Judd, *Taylor Wharton Iron & Steel Company*; from the Valley View School - Lebanon Township, Julia N. Wilhelms, *The Whitehall Schoolhouse*; from the Three Bridges School - Readington Township, Allison Mulvaney, *Bauman / Stickney House*; from the Tewksbury Elementary School, Derek Fenton, *Outhouses in Tewksbury Township* and from Union Township School, Á Megan Haggerty, *Linden Farm*.

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented a ribbon to the Runner Up from Tewksbury Elementary School, Derek Fenton, "Outhouses in Tewksbury Township".

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented a ribbon to the 2012 Hunterdon County Mini-Historian, from the High Bridge Elementary School, Alexis Judd, "Taylor Wharton Iron & Steel Company".

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 6:01 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at the Main Street County Complex at 6:17 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident came before the Board stating she promised the Governor's Director of Constituent Relationships that she would initiate an apology today to the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders and to John P. Glynn, Director of Public Works, because she attended the Town Hall meeting last week in Franklin Township and got the next to last question with the Governor. One of her questions dealt with the never ending story of the Wertsville Road Bridges (goes back to 2009). She asked about trying to push to get the permits needed for bridge projects. She asked that the counties be allowed to self-certify that these public roads and bridges are in compliance with the state's rules because of the thousands of dollars being wasted and regarding the permit fees.

Mr. Melick and Mr. Mennen came into the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Ms. Gavigan also discussed at the Town Hall meeting the losses of preservation opportunities and increased costs because of the length of the thickness of the application policy for preservation and open space. The consequence of the banking crisis of having problems in getting loans subordinated because no one knows who owns what so that preservation activating can move forward. Ms. Gavigan stated the Governor was responsive and she spoke with his staff and she sent them information. She made it clear that she was acting on her own. Emails have been sent both DEP and the Department of Agriculture and she was assured she would get a response by the end of the week.

Lois Stewart, resident of Flemington Borough, stated at the last meeting the Freeholders told her that there would be no increase in the staff at the Prosecutor's Office. On the consent agenda the Freeholders' approved an appointment to an unclassified, full time County Investigator in the Prosecutor's Office. She asked if that doesn't increase the staff.

Director Walton advised Ms. Stewart that he answered her at the last meeting and he believes he said there was no increase approved in the Prosecutor's Budget for personnel. He's given a dollar amount and what he does with those funds are within his power. The position which was filled was backfilling a vacancy in the department as opposed to additional staff.

FINANCE

Kim Browne, Finance Director and Margaret Pasqua, Treasurer came before the Board.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/15/01-2A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Authorizing the establishment of funds in the County Budget for the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority.

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

Mrs. Browne and Mrs. Pasqua informed the Board that for 2012 the County's total appropriation for the Budget is \$88,643,053.00. This is a decrease from the 2011 introduced budget of around 2% (\$1.9 Million).

The amount to be raised by taxation is introduced at \$64,155,000. That is a decrease from the 2011 budget of around 3% (\$2 million). This does include a half cent increase in the tax rate.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 05/15/01-2B **2012 COUNTY BUDGET**

RESOLVED, Introduction of the 2012 County Budget with the public hearing on June 19, 2012.

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

Mr. Mennen explained that he cannot fathom nor support a tax increase in this environment.

Mr. Melick advised earlier in the year this Board gave the County's staff instructions to assist in working on this budget to reduce it. Most of the County's departments made reductions or had them made. It is his understanding that the County is able to give the taxpayers the same level of service with these reductions. However, there are some particular items that the Board, as whole, did not work on. Businesses need revenue to support them and that revenue is not there for the County.

The Board thanked Mrs. Browne and Mrs. Pasqua for their outstanding job in getting the budget put together.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders will address there concerns in more depth at the public hearing on the County budget on June 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m., to be held in the Freeholders Meeting Room, at the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey.

FARMLAND/PLANNING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/15/12-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving of a Contract for Sale of Development Easement, from Hill and Dale Farms, Inc., on Block 38, Lot 1.05, Tewksbury Township, consisting of 43 acres, (SADC - \$387,000; County - \$107,500; Township - \$0; FRPP - \$150,500), total amount of \$645,000.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/15/12-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving, upon the recommendation of the Open Space Trust Coordinator, a request by the D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., to convey its 20% interest in Block 27, Lots 53 and 53.01, (n/f Lang Parcel), in East Amwell Township, to the County after closing.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 05/15//12-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #CountyClerk.1411, with Sky Printing, for primary ballots, for the County Clerk's Office, in the amount of \$71,824.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 05/15//12-3D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.3472, using State Contract #A-77560, with Software House International, for software maintenance, for Information Services, in the amount of \$13,230.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/15//12-3E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.3473, using State Contract #A-77560, with Software House International, for replacement software, for Information Services, in the amount of \$18,546.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/15//12-3E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #26118, through GSA Contract #GS-35F-0692P, with Everbridge, for the Citizens Alert System, for the Public Safety Department, in the amount of \$18,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 05/15//12-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #40030120, using State Contract #A-53804, with Motorola, for radios, for Roads and Bridges, in the amount of \$33,622.25.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 05/15//12-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2012-03, for the First Responder Notification System, to Emergency Services Marketing Corporation, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$80,373.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 05/15//12-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2012-08, to furnish and deliver Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel, to the County, to Rachles/Michele's Oil Co., Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$2,703,000 for a three year period.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

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

- The County has around 40 bridges in need of repairs still in connection with damage caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.
- There are a couple outstanding claims on the County Route 519 project. The contractor should have everything resolved within two weeks.
- Route 523/517 is 70% designed. The contractor has returned to do the topsoil and seeding on Route 523. Matting still needs to be done in one area; and then the contractor will do the corrective action (pavement).
- The County is waiting to get authorization from the State Historic Preservation Office for the sidewalk project in Ringoes, on Route 579, with the resurfacing of Route 579 and 602, but it needs to go through DOT, the Bureau of Environmental Assessment first because East Amwell is using state funding for the sidewalk repair.
- Route 609 project will be wrapped in with the Route 523, it should be ready to go to bid in early August 2012.
- The joint project with Somerset County, Somerset is waiting to have their public hearing.
- The plans for the bridge on Cratetown Road have been sent to the Clinton Township Committee, as well as the Historic Advisory Committee.
- A public meeting was held for InterCounty Bridge L-25-W last week and comments were received and they will be incorporated into the project. This is a truss bridge and community outreach was put together concerning the width of the bridge and they are asking for stone veneer. This project has to go to DEP first.
- A startup stated hasn't been received for the Stephensburg Bridge. The bridge has been closed for a year because of the flood issue.
- Authorization has been received fro T-36-S from the Highland Group. This is a joint project with Somerset County.
- Bids have been received from W-71 in West Amwell Township. A preconstruction meeting will be held once the award is made for the bid.
- A public information meeting was held on April 25, 2012 concerning U-18. Public comments will be addressed. This is in the Rock Hill Historic District and needs to go to DEP for authorization and through the State Historic Preservation Office.
- A draft of work was sent to Stockton Borough for their review and comment on their drainage issue. The County is waiting to hear back from the Mayor.
- There are ongoing meetings with the property owners for the Warren Glen Hill project. This is a federal aid project and the County will be back in the area this coming Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the issue with an additional property owner. Holland Township is on board with the project. Meetings have to be scheduled with Green Acres, as well as DEP because of a storm water issue.
- The final scope of work for design of the Rail Road Bridge on Route 579 is being done.
- A meeting is schedule on May 17, 2012 for Raven Rock Road for the utilities.
- Estimated construction costs for Route 513, Exist 15/Interstate 78, has kicked the project into a value engineering situation with DOT. An outside agency will look at the project in the total scope to determine if there is a way to lesson the costs.
- Comments have been received from the property owner for Routes 600/612 revised plans went to the property owner.
- A meeting will be held with Delaware Township concerning a drainage issue at Covered Bridge Road. The County will not be the lead in the project but will be a party.
- The issue on Coopalong Creek at Bridge F-45, the debris has been removed.

See Page 05/15/12-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, John Langley appointed temporary, seasonal Recreation Leader (Canoe Staff), Parks and Recreation.

See Page 05/15/12-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Francis Duggan appointed temporary, seasonal Recreation Leader (Canoe Staff), Parks and Recreation.

See Page 05/15/12-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Lauren Lynn appointed temporary, seasonal Recreation Leader (Summer Camp), Parks and Recreation.

See Page 05/15/12-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Emma Scheick appointed temporary, seasonal Recreation Leader (Summer Camp), Parks and Recreation.

See Page 05/15/12-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Tamela Buza appointed temporary, when and as needed, Clerk, Surrogate's Court.

See Page 05/15/12-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Aaron Culton appointed temporary, part time, Assistant Counsel, County Counsel's Office.

See Page 05/15/12-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Designating "Through Streets" and "Stop" intersections effecting County Route 579, in the Townships of Alexandria, Bethlehem, Franklin, Raritan, Union and West Amwell and the Borough of Bloomsbury.

See Page 05/15/12-6H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Designating "Through Streets" and "Stop" intersections effecting County Route 614, in the Townships of Alexandria, Holland and Union.

See Page 05/15/12-6I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing a Red Light Permit, upon the recommendation of the Public Safety Director, to Gary Habelitz, Chief Medical Investigator, County Medical Examiner's Office.

See Page 05/15/12-6J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing a Red Light Permit, upon the recommendation of the Public Safety Director, to Robert Kozarek, Deputy Chief Medical Investigator, County Medical Examiner's Office.

See Page 05/15/12-6K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a property damage release with Republic Services and Greg Jusinski, amount to be paid to the County is \$2,099.54.

See Page 05/15/12-6L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Amendment to Overtime Reporting Policy.

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

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/15/12-6M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Gerhardt W. Gerckens for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Flemington Rotary, Lynn Hyman, asking permission to place 2 Port-O-Johns, in the Main Street County Complex parking area, on Sunday, May 20, 2012, during their 4th Annual Bark in the Park Dog Walk. Units would be dropped on Friday, May 18, 2012 and picked up Monday, May 21, 2012. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

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

The Running Company sent a letter asking permission to use and if possible close Readington Road, from 42nd Street to Thor Solberg Road, (if not feasible, a runners lane will be coned off), on Sunday, October 21, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

Correspondence was received from the East Whitehouse Fire Department, requesting permission to hold their 12th Annual Coin Toss, on Saturday, July 28, 2012 and Sunday, July 29, 2012, at the intersection of County Route 523 and Route 22. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

A request was received from the Franklin Township Committee, asking permission to close Quakertown Road between Pittstown Road and Locust Grove Road, on Saturday, June 16, 2012, between 3:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., as the Quakertown Fire Company will be hosting an event to benefit *Wounded Warriors*. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mr. Sworen recognized Freeholder Matt Holt on his appointment on becoming Director on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc., representing the County of Hunterdon.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders congratulated Mr. Holt.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Fiedler Realty

Henry Reiwerts and Jeff Fiedler, with Fiedler Realty out of Hackettstown, New Jersey, came before the Board and explained that recently they have entered into the real estate auction business and have held a number of successful auctions. He wanted to make the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders aware of their capabilities should such services ever be needed by the County in the future.

The Board thanked Mr. Reiwerts and Mr. Fiedler and recommended that they contact the County's Purchasing Agent, John Davenport. Mr. Reiwerts advised he did reach out to Mr. Davenport when he left today's meeting.

Flemington BID

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident asked for an update on the Choir School building and the Hawke property parking area on Main Street.

Director Walton informed Ms. Stewart that a church in Flemington Borough has reached out to the County in order to use both facilities and that was forwarded to the County's Facilities Committee. Currently, the Flemington Business Improvement District (BID) is due to appear before the County on June 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m., to provide an update on their efforts. At the current time the County is holding those facilities as asked by the Flemington BID.

County Budget

Various questions were answered concerning the County's budget and negotiation impacts on the budget.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board