

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

November 20, 2012

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

PRESENT: MR. WALTON, MR. MELICK, MR. MENNEN, MR. HOLT, 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. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 11/20/12-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the Tax Administrator's vacancy. (8)

See Page 11/20/12-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a need in the Housing Rehabilitation program. (7)

See Page 11/20/12-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a current offer from TRANSCO (Transcontinental Gas Pipeline) to the County of Hunterdon for an easement.

See Page 11/20/12-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an update on litigation involving the Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 11/20/12-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a recent court action involving a County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) decision.

See Page 11/20/12-1F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the possible acquisition of a parcel in Bethlehem Township through the Open Space Program.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Bonnett, East Amwell Township resident congratulated the victors in the Freeholder campaign.

Ms. Bonnett understands that at the last meeting there was much discussion about the Planned Parenthood issue and asked if there has been a decision made by the County on this issue.

Director Walton advised Ms. Bonnett that the County will be bidding, as is done with all social service programs, for a bidder for a vendor to provide those health services to the County. The proposals will be evaluated by the County's Social Services professionals and a selection will be made.

Mr. Monserrate Velaquez came before the Board to express concerns he has with the County's Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services. Mr. Velaquez has been unemployed for three years; he is a long time resident of Raritan Township and a student at Raritan Valley Community College. Mr. Velaquez is a single father of a senior at Hunterdon Central High School. After losing his unemployment benefits, he turned to the County for assistance and feels he is being met with resistance by the Division of Social Services while seeking the services he said he needs for his son and himself.

After further discussion, Director Walton expressed concern and he will look into Mr. Velaquez' case with the Director of the Department of Human Services, which oversees the Division of Social Services.

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident, informed the Board that shooting ranges are being closed down because the lead accumulation caused by the firing of guns using lead shot.

Director Walton confirmed with George Wagner, Director of Public Safety, that non-lead shot is used at the County's facilities.

Barbara Suchau feels the County's gathering policy requires insurance which acts as a preventative for people to gather together. She asked the Board to reconsider the need for insurance.

Director Walton stated that the County has, from time to time, waived the insurance requirement for certain organizations when they asked.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident informed the Board that JCP&L will be attending a Township Committee meeting and she asked if a representative or two from the Freeholder Board attend this meeting.

Mr. Holt left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

FINANCE

Kim Browne, Finance Director informed the Board that the Finance Department has provided copies of the 2011 audit to the Board and at this time, she is asking the Board to acknowledge receipt of same.

The Board thanked Mrs. Browne and her staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion acknowledging receipt of the Hunterdon County 2011 Audit.

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

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE/PLANNING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-2A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant agreement with East Amwell Township, (Schibilia), for Block 11, Lot 37, consisting of 40 acres, (SADC-\$144,258.31; County - \$36,512.56; Township-\$40,032.13), total amount of \$220,803.

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

Mr. Holt returned to the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-2B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract for sale of development easement from Sandra Search, Dale Makatura and Diana Makatura (Maplewood Farm), in Kingwood Township, Block 6, Lot 7, estimated 110 acres, (SADC-\$627,000; County-\$209,000; Township-\$209,000; FRPP grant-\$440,000), total amount of \$1,100,000.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-2C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.3556, through State Contract #A-77560, with Software House International, for software for Information Services, in the amount of \$17,058.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-2D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2012-16, for Maintenance, Service, and Supplies for County Copier Equipment, with Ditto Copy Systems, in an amount not to exceed \$40,333.20.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #PROS.793142, using NJSA 40A:11-5(1)(g), with Ditschman Flemington Ford, for undercover vehicles for the Prosecutor's Office, in the amount of \$32,844.

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

COUNTY Update

Human Services Position

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator, informed the Board of two vacancies for consideration this evening. The APS (Adult Protective Services) unit of Human Services Department is asking to fill the vacancy of Social Worker Aging, as the person in that title took another position with the County. The APS unit is supposed to be two people strong and \$75,000 is received each year through the Area Plan Grant to deliver this service. The services they provide are to the County's most vulnerable residents. APS has a very strict protocol if someone calls advising someone is in crisis, the County must respond within so many hours to make an evaluation and get services provided.

After further discussion, Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion granting permission to post and backfill the vacant position in the APS Unit of Social Worker Aging.

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

Overtime/Storm/future policy

Mrs. Yard and George Wagner, Public Safety Director, came before the Board regarding the recent storm the County was just hit by. Mrs. Yard recognized Mr. Wagner; Jennifer Shore, Human Services Director, John Glynn, Director of Public Works, the Sheriff, Tag Rainey, Health Services and Brayden Fahey, OEM Coordinator; but she also wanted to recognize all the County's employees who are not seen, such as the Public Health Nursing staff that provided round the clock nursing care because there were medically fragile people in the County's shelter.

Mrs. Yard explained the County has people who are exempt from overtime because of their status (Unclassified) and there are the contractual employees. Many unclassified people (61) are exempt from getting overtime and the contractual people are covered under a bargaining agreement which outlines overtime.

Mrs. Yard explained the situation of having unclassified personnel working with union people who are getting time and a half, while they receive nothing, for many additional hours. These unclassified people worked through the storm for no additional pay.

Mrs. Yard stated it was thought that FEMA was going to reimburse the County for the unclassified people. Mr. Wagner found out this morning at a meeting with FEMA, that unless the County has a procedure which talks about in the event of an emergency, FEMA would not reimburse for those unclassified people but they will for the classified people working overtime.

Mrs. Yard stated a policy will not be drafted and brought before the Board in the near future for consideration. Mr. Wagner added that the County Policy will address during a declared emergency Federal, State or Local, that certain criteria would take effect.

After further discussion, Mrs. Yard was asked to bring this financial discussion up again during the budget session.

Brayden Fahey, Emergency Management Coordinator for the County, advised the Board that he meet with JCP&L today concerning the recent storm and the loss of electricity throughout the County for many days. He expressed to concern to JCP&L about the significant outages but he was also concerned because 14 days into the storm there were still roads that were closed and emergency vehicles were unable to travel them. Mr. Fahey hopes to be able to work with JCP&L in order to change the process regarding emergency response.

Mr. Fahey stated that on an ordinary day Emergency Services (911 Center) does between 90 and 100 – 911 calls. In a four hour winder during the storm, they took almost 1,500 calls the night the storm hit. In the next two to four weeks, the County will be meeting with the local Offices of Emergency Management to review the response as a whole and go over lessons learned.

Mrs. Yard advised the Senior Managers will be brining Division Managers of their choice to the County's debriefing next week and then a true picture of how the County handled this emergency will be reported back to the Board.

Sheriff Brown stated that throughout the storm, the cooperation between all the agencies in Hunterdon County was fantastic. The Justice Center did not have power for four days and a generator was used.

FOR DISCUSSION

Shana Taylor, County Counsel, stated a few months ago there was a discussion regarding County's Policy #2010-04, Use of County Lands, Facilities and Meeting Rooms. Ms. Taylor has made some simple revisions to the policy to clarify a few issues; in addition, the law has changed in a few areas with regard to Title 19, so she incorporated those changes into policy. Ms. Taylor provided the Board with a copy of the policy and quickly described the changes.

Director Walton directed the Clerk of the Board, Denise Doolan to place this revised policy on the next agenda, for December 04, 2012 for the Board's consideration.

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."

Item #8 held until the next meeting, for more information.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve Claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated November 20, 2012.

See Page 11/20/12-4A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 11/20/12-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Betty Morrison-Fatula, Senior Field Representative, Board of Taxation, supervisory adjustment.

See Page 11/20/12-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jennifer Ege appointed permanent, full time Family Service Worker, Social Services Division of Human Services Department.

See Page 11/20/12-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Carol Petrocci appointed permanent, full time Family Service Worker, Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 11/20/12-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement with Somerset County to provide Juvenile Home Detention Services, at a rate of \$88.00 per day per client, for the period of January 01, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

See Page 11/20/12-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Red Light Permit/Siren application with Eugene Romawyczyn for the Hunterdon County Medical Examiner's Office.

See Page 11/20/12-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Janet Hobschaidt Acosta appointed temporary, when and as needed Field Representative Disease Control, Division of Health, Department of Public Safety and Health Services.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-4I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, for County Routes 512 and 513 Intersection Improvements, in Lebanon Township and Califon Borough.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-4J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, for County Bridge RQ-179, on Stanton Station Road, in Raritan and Readington Townships.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, for County Route 519, on Milford-Warren Glen Hill Road, in Holland Township.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 11/20/12-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, for County Bridge F-45, on White Bridge Road, in Franklin Township.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Freeholder Sworen advised the Library served as a warming center during the storm and a few unique issues came up with one very nasty person, who has problems with people, and the staff and Director stepped up and handled issues. The issues were discussed at last week's Library Commission meetings and recommendations have been made for changes during emergency situations. Mr. Sworen suggested the Library Director be allowed to have more flexibility during emergency situations because the Libraries are full each day, and every outlet was providing charges to the public.

Mr. Holt informed the Board that at a meeting he attended yesterday, someone came up to him and expressed thanks for how great the County's facilities at Route 12 were during the storm. They received care at the facility and this person was able to shower. This person was able to take hot meals home to his children and he wanted to express thanks and say it was a great experience during a difficult time.

Mr. Melick asked if the Board has any goals with the County's budget before the budget meetings start next week. Over the past several years, the Board wanted the tax rate not raised.

Director Walton does not feel the County is going to see an increase in review and feels the County should try to reduce spending, as much as is feasible/possible; and keep essential services intact without spending more than needs to be spent.

Mr. Holt said the County's staff knows what the Freeholders' goals are and they have embraced those goals and they will continue to do whatever the Board asks. He feels the Freeholders will do the best job possible, as has been done in the past.

Director Walton said the amount of money coming out of every taxpayers pocket in this County, on average went down, for four years in a row. The Tax Levy for Hunterdon has gone down. Director Walton stated the people are paying less in taxes.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Velaquez finished reading a prepared speech regarding his situation and the Division of Social Services.

Director Walton again confirmed for Mr. Velaquez that he will be discussing his case with the Director of Human Services.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board