

# HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

**September 04, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 3:32 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 August 31, 2012, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

**See Page 09/04/12-1A RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss an update of various bargaining unit negotiations by Labor Counsel.

**See Page 09/04/12-1B RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss new filed litigation concerning the Sheriff's Office.

**See Page 09/04/12-1C RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss contractual issues regarding the Workforce Investment Board which may need to be negotiated.

**See Page 09/04/12-1D RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss existing litigation involving the Prosecutor's Office.

**See Page 09/04/12-1E RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at the Division of Corrections with the Director of Public Safety and Health Services.

**See Page 09/04/12-1F RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss an update to the Ewing property acquisition, in Raritan Township.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 3:34 p.m., recessed at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:45 p.m., after the meeting of the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority concluded.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Andrea Bonnett, East Amwell Township resident questioned if the current status of the County's Room Reservation Policy.

Director Walton stated the County's professionals are still working on revising the Room Reservation/Use policy and he will keep her posted.

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident asked for details on the rental of a home and what kind of home it is. If this is taxpayer property how are people chosen to rent these homes. Also, on the raises for government employees, people are worried about taxes and money that is spent on government employees' salaries. She feels a resolution like this should be announced at a prior meeting and vote on it at the next meeting.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident questioned the status of the acquisition of the Ewing property in Raritan Township.

Shana Taylor, County Counsel, informed those present that the County received a sign contract for the Ewing property acquisition today and her office still has to review it. The next step is to order a survey of the property and a Phase I Environmental Study must still be done. There are view issues which the property owners need to clear up with the title but that should not take long.

Ms. Stewart secured a picture of a stone bridge from John P. Glynn, Public Works Director, which she feels should be done on all County roads.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **County Route 600 (Wescott Drive)/County Route 612 (Sand Hill Road)**

Director Walton opened the public hearing on County Routes 600 and 612.

John P. Glynn, Public Works Director provided a history of the County Route 600 (Wescott Drive)/County Route 612 (Sand Hill Road) project explaining this is an intersection improvement which the County has been working on for sometime. This project also involves the replacement of a small culvert. A small sliver of land is needed from a property owner on the opposite side of the culvert location, and it totals 1,179 feet on the north side of 612 and a small triangular piece, about 674 feet on the southern east side. With this acquisition the County will be able to build an intersection which will improve safety at the intersection. Currently the intersection pinches in at the bridge and this location is a major point of access to the hospital (Hunterdon Medical Center) is through Wescott Drive. Mr. Glynn feels this property can be acquired without litigation.

Director Walton confirmed that no one in the audience (press or public) have any questions or comments about this project/acquisition.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the closing of the public hearing for the acquisition in connection with the County Route 600 (Wescott Drive)/County Route 612 (Sand Hill Road) intersection improvement project.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

**See Page 09/04/12-2A**

### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving proposed improvements and acquisitions in connection with the road construction project on County Route 600 (Wescott Drive) and County Route 612 (Sand Hill Road), in Raritan Township; and authorizing County Counsel and the Public Works Director to make offers and negotiate with property owners in accordance with the appraisals.

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

### **POLYTECH Update**

Kim Metz, Polytech Superintendent informed the Board that today is the first day of school (Teacher In-Service) and the student will report tomorrow. Enrollment is a little above last year. Last year there were around 405 students and enrollment this year is around 410. The true number will be known by October 15, 2012.

Dr. Metz explained that Polytech is in alignment with High Schools that work in technology and the Southern Regional Educational Board wanted to do a case study of high schools that work in technology and they wanted to do a case study on Hunterdon County Polytech because within a two year period Polytech is able to increase the scores in English, Math and Science. And the Southern Regional Educational Board wanted to know how Polytech was able to achieve that as a shared time school district. Dr. Metz stated that Polytech has been implementing all the best practices and strategies that High Schools are provided; in addition Polytech received funding from the State for three years to participate in this study and to attend their national conferences. Polytech is continuing working with high schools that work initiatives using Perkins Grant funds. This Southern Regional Educational Board is recognized nationally and people can obtain this information and contact Polytech to get information on how things are being done.

Dr. Metz informed the Board that Polytech's Newsletter (copies were provided to the Board of Chosen Freeholders). The newsletter has a year in review which talks about the student activities, teacher of the year, summer excite camp and so much more.

Director Walton thanked Dr. Metz for her presentation this evening.

### **ROADS and BRIDGES Update**

John P. Glynn, Public Works Director, brought the Board up to date on various County road and bridge projects.

- The County is trying to meet the requirements of the FHWA with respect to the ADA requirements for County Route 519 (Bridge Street), in Milford Borough. The County is working with the property owners to try to acquire a small piece of right of way in order to widen the sidewalk.
- The County is entering into a contract with for the Phase I Historical Assessment for County Route 579, in Ringoes (East Amwell Township). This assessment should be completed in one month. An extension has been received from NJDOT to January 2013 for this project.
- A cost estimate is needed by the Fall of 2012 for County Route 637-Readington Road, in Readington Township (Hunterdon) and Branchburg Township (Somerset). An Inter-County Agreement with Somerset County has not yet been entered into, until after receipt of that cost estimate.

- County Route 523, Lamington Road, from County Route 517 to Somerset County Line, in Tewksbury Township is a Transportation Trust Fund project. The design is complete and a final review is being done before bringing the plans and specifications before the Board for approval.
- Surface Treatment for County Route 609, from County Route 514 to County Route 602 in East Amwell Township is also a Transportation Trust Fund project. The contractor has completed County Routes 513, 519, 616 and 651. Roads which are outstanding is a section of Route 579 from Route 614 over the hill and Routes 619 and 635 in Bethlehem Township.
- The County is waiting for NJDOT's approval on the movement of the bridge replacement money for Bridge C-26, on Cratetown Road, in Clinton Township.
- The arch and parapet walls are completed for Inter-County Bridge L-97-W, on Stephensburg Road, in Lebanon Township (Hunterdon) and in Mansfield Township (Warren County). The wood has been split between Hunterdon and Warren.
- Somerset County is completing their final review for Inter-County Bridge T-36-S, on Black River Road, in Tewksbury Township (Hunterdon) and Bedminster Township (Somerset). Hunterdon is awaiting Somerset's comments on the final documents, plans and specifications.
- The pre-stress concrete beams for County Bridge W-71, on County Route 579, in West Amwell Township are scheduled for manufacturing on September 06, 2012.
- 2012 Bridge Painting – Bridge E-233 on Cider Mill Road in East Amwell Township is complete; Inter-County Bridge I-3-W on Church Street in Bloomsbury Township (Hunterdon) and Greenwich Township (Warren) will be completed shortly and then Bridge J-1, on Main Street in Califon Borough will be worked on.
- Bridge D-494 on Featherbed Lane in Delaware Township is complete and open.
- A soil test pit was done for Culvert X-6, on Mine Road, in High Bridge Borough.
- The scope of work has been completed for the Stockton Borough Drainage Study and it will be returned to the Borough Engineer for review.
- The alternative analysis for County Route 579 over the Lehigh Valley Railroad was submitted to the FHWA but approval has not yet been received from NJDOT. The project is being help up.
- Mr. Glynn has been informed the County will be receiving its permit for Bridge E-174, in East Amwell Township.
- The utility meeting for County Bridge D-300, on Raven Rock-Rosemont Road, in Delaware Township is on schedule and will be advanced to construction.
- The S.C.S. certification has been received for County Bridge RQ-179 was received last week.

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that he received a request from the Tewksbury Historical Society is asking to borrow the County's variable message board for their Harvest Festival, which is the week before September 29, 2012. The County does not have a defined need for it during the period they are requesting to use it. They will have to follow the County's requirements, including providing a certificate of insurance and the management for the event. Mr. Glynn stated that the Township of Tewksbury should be the responsible party for the variable message board. If Tewksbury won't sign for the variable message board then an insurance bond will have to be posted for the use of the variable message board. The Board agreed to this request provided Tewksbury Township takes responsibility for the variable message board.

#### **PURCHASING**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 09/04/12-3A**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the extension of County Bid #2009-25, to provide long distance telephone service, to Embarq Communications, (d/b/a CenturyLink), in the amount of \$86,292.00 for a 3 year contract.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

**See Page 09/04/12-3B**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a professional services agreement, using County Quote #0067-2012, for farmland appraisals, with Vanguard Appraisal Services, for the following farms: Zander 1 Farm in Alexandria Township, Block 22, Lot 26; Zander II Farm, in Kingwood Township, Block 5, Lot 3; Helmer Farm in Kingwood Township, Block 2, Lot 5; KJA Holdings/John Alexis, in Holland Township, Block 25, Lot 34; and Readington/Toll 2 Farm, in Readington Township, Block 94, Lot 19, in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.

**See Page 09/04/12-3C**

#### **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a professional services agreement, using County Quote #0067-2012, for farmland appraisals, with C.L. Orbacker and Associates, Inc., for the following farms: Zander 1 Farm in Alexandria Township, Block 22, Lot 26; Zander II Farm, in Kingwood Township, Block 5, Lot 3; Helmer Farm in Kingwood Township, Block 2, Lot 5; and KJA Holdings/John Alexis, in Holland Township, Block 25, Lot 34, in an amount not to exceed \$6,700.

**RESOLVED**, Approving a professional services agreement, using County Quote #0067-2012, for farmland appraisals, with Tom Rodriguez Associates, for the following farm: Readington/Toll 2 Farm, in Readington Township, Block 94, Lot 19, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.

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

**COUNTY Update**

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator came before the Board to discuss a vacancy in the Housing Division of the Human Services Department (senior secretary), which is federally funded and a vacancy in the Social Services Division of the Human Services Department (fraud unit) which is funded by several grant streams.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion approving the backfilling of the two vacant positions in the Department of Human Services for the Housing Division and the Social Services Division.

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

Mrs. Yard informed the Board of a vacancy in the Division of Central Printing and Mail, in the Finance/Administration Department. The Board had approved at an earlier meeting to fill a Park Ranger position and it has been filled from another Department which caused a vacancy in this Division. Mrs. Yard reported the County receives \$35,000 from the state since the County does all the mail (retrieving and delivery) for the Justice Center which houses state employees. This is a small amount to help offset this position.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion approving the backfilling of the vacant positions in the Division of Central Printing and Mail, in the Finance/Administration Department.

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

**COUNTY COUNSEL**

Shana Taylor, County Counsel brought the Board up to date concerning the Wescott Preserve in Delaware Township. She reached out to Delaware Township at the Board's direction at a previous meeting instructing her to inform them that the County would like to deed over the property which was leased on Wescott Preserve to the Township and all the liability associated with that property, if they are going to be using it for low income housing. Ms. Taylor stated Delaware Township responded on August 29, 2012 and stated they would prefer to have a lease with the County to use it for low income housing and to have a 30 year lease with the County for that unit.

Ms. Taylor stated the Board initial decision was that the County was not interested in holding a 30 year lease with Delaware Township for this unit. Ms. Taylor has since found out that the County cannot legally enter into a lease with Delaware Township or any municipality for affordable house because it would require a diversion through Green Acres. The Delaware Township Clerk has been advised of this, also.

Director Walton stated that a diversion would not serve the County's purposes; therefore if a diversion should be sought, it should be done by the municipality.

Mr. Mennen stated the unit should not and cannot be used for low income housing because it violates the Green Acres' encumbrance.

Ms. Taylor confirmed the Board is still committed to Delaware Township taking ownership of that property/unit.

Mr. Holt confirmed Ms. Taylor advised Delaware Township that the way this has been done in the past can no longer be done legally and if Delaware wants the property they have to obtain a diversion. It is the Township's responsibility to take care of the diversion as it is to their advantage not the County's. If Delaware Township wants to obtain a diversion then the property is theirs. He confirmed that legally the County cannot provide a lease to Delaware Township for the unit.

Mr. Mennen advised the County isn't interested in owning something just to lease it to Delaware Township, who then leases it out to someone else.

The Board directed Ms. Taylor to contact Delaware Township and again reaffirm the offer for the unit at Wescott Preserve and that they have to seek a diversion through Green Acres.

**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. Mennen seconded a motion to approve the Claims Register dated September 04, 2012.

**See Page 09/04/12-5A**

**CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of July 05, 2012.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of August 21, 2012.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

**See Page 09/04/12-5B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Geoffrey Underhill appointed permanent, full time Senior Technician MIS, in the Division of Social Services, Department of Human Services.

**See Page 09/04/12-5C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving grant merit-based salary increases to unclassified and non-contractual employees for 2011.

**See Page 09/04/12-5D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Suzanne Bennett appointed provisional, full time Keyboarding Clerk 3, County Clerk's Office.

**See Page 09/04/12-5E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Mary Beth Hurford appointed temporary, as needed Clerk, Board of Elections.

**See Page 09/04/12-5F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Robin Krog voluntary transfer to full time Family Service Worker, Division of Social Services, Department of Human Services.

**See Page 09/04/12-5G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the subordination of a mortgage for Cynthia Echevarria.

**See Page 09/04/12-5H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Service and Occupancy agreement with Ben Walck, for the home at the Mountain Farm, in Lebanon Township, monthly rent to be \$850.

**See Page 09/04/12-5I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving No Passing Zones be established and maintained along Rosemont-Ringoes Road, County Road numbers 6 and 23 (604) in Delaware, East Amwell and Raritan Townships.

**See Page 09/04/12-5J**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Mid-Block Pedestrian Crosswalk on County Route 579 (John Ringo Road), in East Amwell Township.

**See Page 09/04/12-5K**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the solicitation of bids for #2012-18 for Home Health Services, Certified and Non Certified; #2012-19 for Snow and Ice Control Materials; #2012-20 for Maintenance Repair Materials; #2012-21 for Payroll Services; and #2012-22 for the Hoffman property hunting license agreement.

**See Page 09/04/12-5L**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the release of Maintenance Bond #0384682, with Toll Brothers II, LP, Alexandria Estates, North Side, Block 15, Lot 9, for improvements to County Route 513/625, in the amount of \$47,146.

See Page 09/04/12-6A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Mutual Assistance Agreement with the Township of Washington, for the Fatal Accident Collision Team (FACT), to provide specialized law enforcement services for fatal motor vehicle collisions and motor vehicle collisions that result in serious bodily injury.

See Page 09/04/12-6B

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the acquisition of a right-of-way on County Route 519, in the amount of \$15,798.20 and a bridge maintenance easement, for structures A-56 in the amount of \$240.80 and A-58 in the amount of \$249.40, in Alexandria Township (Nemeth property).

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

**GRANTS**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 09/04/12-6C

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the renewal of a Title IV-D Reimbursement grant application, with the State Department of Family Development, in the amount of \$194,427.50 (\$110,644.60-salaries - \$83,782.90-fringe benefits).

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 09/04/12-6D

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing George Wisniewski for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout, Boy Scout Troop 62.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A request was received from the North Hunterdon Rotary Club, requesting permission borrow 350 safety cones, for the annual 26<sup>th</sup> Skylands' Triathlon on September 09, 2012. The cones would be used for the bike course at the park. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

A letter was received from CEA and Johanna Foods, requesting permission to place 12 portable restrooms in the Main Street County Parking lot for use during the annual Turkey Trot, on November 22, 2012. Units will be placed in the area on November 21, 2012 and removed on November 23, 2012. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen 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. MENNEN, MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. WALTON.**

**FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS**

**Vehicles**

Mr. Melick questioned if the chronology of the vehicles issue will be placed on the agenda.

Mrs. Yard reported that she just finished the chronology and isn't sure the entire Board has had a chance to review it or discuss it.

Director Walton instructed the Clerk of the Board, Denise Doolan to place this matter on the September 18, 2012 agenda for discussion by the Board.

**Prosecutor's Agreement**

Director Walton reported that he and Freeholder Holt have been in conversation with the County Prosecutor in an effort to resolve differences on several issues and an agreement has been reached. There are concessions on both sides. In short, the County recognizes the Prosecutor's authority to assign cars and take home vehicles. The Prosecutor agreed to abide strictly to the County's reporting policies. The Prosecutor also agrees to reduce his fleet by 15% which is a savings to the taxpayers and the County. The Prosecutor also agrees to not allow any future new hire to get a vehicle as a condition of employment. This also benefits the taxpayer and allows the Prosecutor to run his department as he sees fit.

Director Walton directed the Clerk of the Board to also place this matter on the September 18, 2012 agenda for discussion by the Board.

Director Walton confirmed for Mr. Melick that the Freeholder Board will receive a report from the Prosecutor's Office on the recent accident involving a vehicle from his department.

Mrs. Yard informed Mr. Melick that the only thing the County asks any department to do is advise the Board if action has been taken. She doesn't know if it is public information.

Mrs. Yard recommended that the chronology she prepared and Director Walton's agreement should be shared with labor counsel, Matthew Giacobbe, since he is in negotiations with the Bargaining units at the Prosecutor's Office. Director Walton agreed.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

#### Proverty Level Study – Rutgers University

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident informed the Board that Rutgers' University has put a new study out on proverty levels on September 01, 2012. Rutgers' looks at different levels than what the federal government utilizes because of the high cost of living in Hunterdon County. Based on Rutgers' levels some of the towns in Hunterdon County, including Flemington Borough are around 40% are in the poverty level. She recommended the Freeholder Board be aware of this study. Also, some people are working two jobs and are still in the poverty level. Services cannot be cut that these people need.

Director Walton advised Ms. Stewart that he and the Freeholders are aware of that study because a presentation on this was made by NORWESCAP on this issue.

Director Walton informed Ms. Stewart that the County has had a hiring freeze, since before he came on the Board and very few exceptions have been made to backfill positions. The one department which has been allowed to fill positions is the Department of Human Services which provides assistance to the public. The Board recognizes there was an increase in need in that department and staff was increased to meet needs.

#### Public speaking time

Ms. Stewart recommended that the public have more than two minutes to speak at the start of the meeting or before the Consent Agenda the public should again be allowed to speak because if someone has a question about a consent item they can ask the Board.

Director Walton will give that suggestion thought.

#### Wescott Preserve

Ms. Stewart questioned why the Board is giving Green Acres property to away.

Director Walton explained the County is not giving the property away. The County secured a large parcel of land but there is a small parcel on which sits a house and the house was being used for low income housing by Delaware Township. Delaware Township would like to continue that use and the County investigated this matter and discovered that because the property was purchased with Green Acres funds it is illegal for Delaware Township to use the house for low income housing, it has to be used for recreation. The house and the acre it sits on does not benefit the County in any way and the County would be happy to sell it to Delaware Township if they wish to utilize that house for low income housing, and it would be the Township's responsibility to get the diversion from Green Acres.

#### Car Policy

Ms. Stewart is the County going to have a vehicle policy for all cars under County government or does what was discussed today only pertain to the County Prosecutor's Office.

Director Walton explained it will be one policy, County-wide. He assured Ms. Stewart that this policy will be further discussed at the September 18, 2012 meeting.

#### Correspondence

Andrea Bonette, East Amwell Township resident stated that an item listed on the Correspondence List is mysterious; it says its from John Peterson and that Garden State Growers is guilty.

Denise Doolan, Freeholder Board Clerk, explained that was an email received by the Freeholders Office, and that is all it said.

#### DYFS

Ms. Bonette informed the Board that she has been concerned for some time about the conduct of some of the employees of the Division of Youth and Family Services. She asked if the County has anything to do with this office.

Director Walton advised this is a state office, not a County office and that the County has no control or input in this office.

#### Public Detail

Barbara Suchua, Raritan Township resident, feels the County should have more details on what is placed on the agenda, for example the grant based salary merit increases under the Consent Agenda. She feels the resolution should have included the old salary and the new salary as an easy way to tell what the increases given are.

Director Walton explained this was discussed at a previous public meeting. The Freeholders did discuss that initiative and the dollar amount to be given to those employees, which was a flat dollar amount as opposed to a percentage. It was given to employees who are not members of a Union who received good reviews based upon their 2011 job performance. The information is available by filing an OPRA (Open Public Records Act) request.

Mountain Farm

Ms. Suchua asked why the County is entering into a Service and Occupancy Agreement at the Mountain Farm in Lebanon Township. What is being rented to him and why this person was chosen.

Director Walton explained the home is located on a large Open Space property in Lebanon Township and was previously occupied by the County's former Parks and Recreation Director. Since he had left, the house was vacant. In exchange for a reduced rent, this individual will do chores on and around the property to help with the upkeep.

Director Walton confirmed with Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator that this was put out for the County's employees to apply to.

Mrs. Yard stated the Board of Chosen Freeholders directed the County's Facilities Evaluation Committee to put out an offer to the employees; screening the candidates; interviewing them and to explain what the Service and Occupancy agreement entailed. County Counsel drew up the agreement after an individual was chosen. This is in accordance with the statutes which govern how this can be done with public lands/property. This individual will have certain duties to perform on a regular basis. The agreement is public information should anyone want to look at it.

Speed Limit/Wertsville Road/East Amwell Township

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident, informed the Board that her neighbor Russell Whitehead, age 88, two weeks ago he was almost hit by commuter traffic flying around the bend in the road by the pipeline. Last Thursday, Mr. Whitehouse was found unconscious surrounded by his mail. He has no recollection and is now out of the hospital.

Ms. Gavigan asked if there is anyway the County can reduce the speed limit to 35 mph, as has been done in Tewksbury, Sergeantsville and so forth where there are residences close to the road. Also, further down on Wertsville Road past Manner's Road there was just a serious accident. The current speed limit is 45 mph.

Garden State Growers

Ms. Gavigan informed the Board that John Peterson used to be on the County's Agricultural Development Board. He has been very active and lives on a preserved farm going back to the 1800's. Ms. Gavigan stated that last week there were discussions with the Courts about the remediation which is required for the den Hollander property. County funds were used for the purchase of 14 acres which was used for hoop houses.

Ms. Gavigan questioned if the County was at the table to discuss the level of remediation and the level of oversight that will be put in place.

Ms. Taylor stated Hunterdon County is a member of the lawsuit and the County sits at the table. She attended the case management hearing last Friday.

Questions answered for the press.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board