

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

September 18, 2012

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:32 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 September 14, 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 09/18/12-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an update on the Prosecutor's negotiations for all three bargaining units with Labor Counsel.

See Page 09/18/12-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an internal investigation concerning a County employee with County Counsel.

See Page 09/18/12-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation regarding an investigator in the Prosecutor's Office.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:35 p.m., recessed at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:35 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident, asked that the Board allow the public to be brought into government actions; for example regarding the Ewing property which is mentioned in tonight's agenda, the people could have been brought in on the purchase and have had a chance to see the property but they were not. She finds that to be exclusionary government.

Ms. Suchau regarding the vehicle policy, the people should have a list of who is assigned vehicles so the public can have input into the decisions which the Freeholders make.

POLYTECH

Kimberly Metz, Polytech Superintendent, came before the Board and introduced Shelby Blair and Doug Clark who participated in a summer Culinary Arts program.

Miss Blair is a senior at Hunterdon Central High School and informed the Board that she was excited to be able to take Polytech's summer Culinary Arts program and felt the summer program was designed for students who are involved and really wanted to be in the program. Miss Blair felt this was a good experience for her.

Mr. Clark is a senior at North Hunterdon Regional High School and he explained the program for him was very educational and the Culinary Arts program during the summer did have some field trips which peaked the students' interests in continuing in this line of work.

Dr. Metz advised the Board that the students were also able to work in Polytech's garden. Polytech is hoping to expand the garden and has applied for a Green Garden Grant, to add hot beds and such.

Dr. Metz reported that Tuesday, October 02, 2012 is Polytech's Open House and invited the Board to attend adding that the Culinary Students will be preparing food.

The Board thanked Miss Blair and Mr. Clark for taking the time to come and share their experience with the Board.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (RVCC)

Casey Crabill, RVCC President and Dr. Catherine McVicker, President of the Board of Trustees for the college.

Dr. Crabill advised the Board that RVCC has just kicked off its Fall Semester and this semester there are 8,190 students enrolled in the opening semester. This does not count late start classes; as a second semester which starts in about two weeks. RVCC continues to enroll and of the 8,190 students – 2,046 are Hunterdon County residents; 306 more are recent Hunterdon County graduate residents.

Dr. Crabill provided the Board with a list of service learning placements in Hunterdon County. Those are places in the County where RVCC students are exercising service learning this semester; which means they are taking what they are learning in the classroom and providing service to these agencies. An example would be to help in tutoring children; taking accounting skills and helping an agency upgrade their accounts; or something that moves the agency along. The students have learning goals and the agencies provide supervision.

Dr. Crabill stated regarding service learning, RVCC is ranked first in the country among community college in service learning; both for the breathe of the classes involved, as well as the depth of experiences students receive. RVCC does this because it helps students apply their learning to the real world. This is very valuable once their education is completed they are able to put together a resume that speaks to employers about things they can actually do.

Dr. Crabill feels part of RVCC's mission is to create a habit of service and RVCC has aspirations that the students will graduate to be good citizens. This is a way to help instill that in RVCC's students and it also strengthens the community by getting students active, involved and engaged. RVCC is very proud of this program.

Dr. Crabill informed the Board that RVCC has a brand new partnership with Hunterdon County Polytech for RVCC's new automotive program. A year ago, RVCC was awarded a State Department of Labor grant for \$4.6 million to upgrade program for students who want to go straight to work. The goal of the program is that it would be developed with substantial employer input so that the skills students learned were the real skills that employers were looking for. RVCC convened curriculum panels with people in the automotive field in both Somerset and Hunterdon Counties, including human resource personnel in the dealerships, as well as front line supervisors. These people assisted in putting together the panel of skills that students need to have to be valuable to those employers as first time employees. Those skills were put together in the new automotive curriculum. They are validated skills and employers are so interested in the program that someone who has been in the automotive dealership for 25 years asked to teach because he is looking for students out of this program to work for him.

Dr. Crabill stated RVCC was excited when it approached Polytech about whether an arrangement could be developed so they could use the automotive labs at Polytech in the evenings to make this available. Dr. Metz agreed quickly stating it was a great fit for Polytech. Dr. Metz also felt that students who go through the high school program would benefit from this RVCC curriculum and they would be that much further ahead once they completed their high school automotive program. The program has been designed so it would be completed in 12 months. The program runs from August 2012 to August 2013, gets the students in and validates their credentials. Each student must pass a test on the skills before they are able to move onto the next module. This is a new way of approaching workplace curriculum for RVCC but Dr. Crabill feels this is a valuable approach and is excited to have this opportunity and stated she was grateful for her colleagues at the Polytech to make this happen.

Dr. Crabill informed the Board that RVCC's annual report is now available online and it is linked to RVCC's website. This will save the college funds which would normally be spent printing the report and mailing it out. The report is interactive with videos and so much more.

Dr. McVicker advised the folder the Board was given has information in it on RVCC and additional information can be added to it and when the time comes next year to consider the budget for the college, the Board will have all this information to base its decisions on.

Dr. McVicker stated RVCC's is one of the five best in the country and if she forgets modesty, then RVCC is the best in the country. The faculty, staff and administration of RVCC are regularly called and invited to participate in national bodies or give their opinions about things happening across the country in community colleges. That doesn't happen unless things are being done right. Excellence is the key word for RVCC. The Board of Trustees is committed to excellence; as well as the administration; the faculty is exciting and the students are excited and that is what RVCC aims to keep providing for the stakeholders.

The Board thanked Dr. Crabill and Dr. McVicker for coming before the Board this evening.

Dr. Crabill stated she would like to continue to come before the Board from time to time, to keep them informed of what is going on at RVCC.

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

John P. Glynn, Director, Public Works Department provided the Board with an update of various County road and bridge projects.

- The historical professional will be at County Route 579, in Ringoes, on Friday, September 21, 2012 to begin assessing the historical impact with the sidewalk project. The report should be done in around two weeks.
- The trust fund projects are in review currently: County Route 523 and 609.

- Surface treatment, County Routes 519, 616, 513 and 579 have been completed. The two outstanding roads are 643 and 635. The Justice Center will be the last area to be worked on.
- Stonework is ongoing on the Stephensburg Road Bridge. Cap stones have been ordered. The contractor is looking to have this project paved and opened in about three weeks. This bridge has been closed over a year because of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee which came through and wiped everything out.
- Around ¾'s of the beams have been manufactured for County Bridge W-71, in West Amwell Township. The beams should be received sometime next week and then they will be set.
- Bridge Painting: Cider Mill Road bridge has been completed; Bloomsbury is almost complete; the baring area on the Lipton Tea Bridge has been completed and the contractor is working on the Califon Bridge.
- In House projects: The Old Mountain Road project, Bridge T-85-A has started, part of the deck has been removed and new floor beams are being put in to strengthen it. All the panels are there. T-59 on Cold Spring Road is being worked on because a section in the middle of the arch was failing and the County will be pushing that back in place and repour and reset the stone.
- Mr. Glynn will be making a presentation to the Historic Sites Council for U-18 on October 18, 2012.
- The Stockton Drainage Study is complete and it will be sent to the reviewing engineer for Stockton Borough.
- Documentation has been received from NJDOT on County Route 519, Warren Glen and they have authorized a right of way and it will be submitted onto FHWA for their approval and authorization for the County to finish the right of way issue.
- Bridge F-45, in Franklin Township, the County received authorization from NJDOT and they are submitting it to the FHWA for their authorization.
- Lehigh Valley Railroad Bridge has been put off again. Final design can't begin until the alternative study is accepted.
- NJDEP coordinator came and spoke with Mr. Glynn concerning County Bridge E-174 in East Amwell Township. DEP should be cutting the modification to the permit by the end of this week and then the County will complete the right of way documentation.
- Bridge D-300 has been authorized for construction and it will be advertised for bid.
- Mr. Glynn expects to receive authorization from FHWA for County Bridge RQ-179 and once received it will be advertised for bid.
- County Routes 512/513 in Califon Borough, the County is waiting a letter from JCP&L for coordination of the utilities. Once that is received the County will get the project authorized for a High Risk Rural Road funding sources.
- A request was received for more documents for FEMA and that is being done.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION/PLANNING

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 09/18/12-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the purchase of the Ewing Family Estate, Block 15, Lot 1.01, in Raritan Township, 58.5 acres.

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

Sue Dziamara, Planning Board came before the Board requesting approval of the Report on the Hoffman Farm property in Holland Township and to set a public hearing for Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Director Walton confirmed the first public hearing will be held in the County seat and the second public hearing will be held in Holland Township at the municipal building on November 07, 2012.

Shana Taylor, County Counsel informed the Board that a representative of Holland Township, along with their Counsel has contacted Kevin Richardson, the Open Space Trust Fund Coordinator, with regard to language in the report; the second paragraph under the benefits portion. Holland Counsel suggests the italic language which says "in connection with and as part of the Hunterdon County Park System" because it is a joint action of both the Township and the County will utilize it as open space in connection with both park systems jointly. Holland is uncomfortable with the language and the change would not substantively change anything. Ms. Taylor recommended the language be taken out as the suggested revision to the report as presented.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to accept the report on the Hoffman Farm property in Holland Township, jointly owned by Hunterdon County and Holland Township, as modified by County Counsel.

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to hold a public hearing on the Hoffman Farm property in Holland Township, at the October 16, 2012 regular meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders at 5:30 p.m., in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, at 71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey.

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

Ms. Dziamara advised that this report was completed on the Hoffman Farm property owned by the County of Hunterdon and the Township of Holland; copies of the report are available in the back of the meeting room for tonight's meeting; copies were also posted on the County's webpage on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 for public review; and copies have been sent to the Hunterdon County Library Headquarters at the Route 12 County Complex to be placed on their information table.

Ms. Dziamara stated in preparation for the auctioning of the property which is in the best interest of the County and the Township, the second required public hearing will be held in Holland Township, on November 07, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The County's public hearing will be October 16, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

FOR DISCUSSION

County Vehicle Policy.

Director Walton moved and Mr. Sworen seconded a motion to approve an agreement with the County Prosecutor for amendments to the County's vehicle policy concerning the Prosecutor's vehicles.

Mr. Mennen is troubled by the agreement for the modification of the policy as presented because it is department specific and that is a bad precedent for the County to get into. There has been a lot of talk about vehicle use by this Board and the time period for that dialog can be measured in years. The dialog has gotten sidetracked to some degree. Mr. Mennen reported he has taken a lot of time to digest the discussions, which range from suggestions to leave the policy alone for this one department; to a suggestion that no County vehicle leave the County of Hunterdon at night. The spotlight of this discussion seems to have denigrated to a dispute between this Board and the Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Mennen feels that is an injustice to the dialog generally because the dialog is about the use of County owned vehicles after business hours. The fact is that the vast majority of take home vehicles are in this department so that is why the discussion has centered on the Prosecutor's Office. There are those who will attempt to say there is criticism of the Prosecutor but it is really an injustice to the discussion generally because no one can deny the fact the Prosecutor's Office today, is in better shape than it was a year ago or three years ago. The Prosecutor's Office is better managed in terms of the law enforcement functions.

Mr. Mennen stated he was asked to second a motion, at a previous meeting and he didn't because he wanted to think about it. He explained after having digested and listened to all the discussion from each member of the Board, the Prosecutor and from the public, the conclusion which seems painfully clear to him is that a vehicle owned by a government agency for commuting (going home at night) is a luxury. It is not a necessity. County government should not be in the business of giving luxuries in this economic environment. This is not confined to the Prosecutor's Office; this goes for every single vehicle owned by the County. Also, it should not be limited to say the vehicles should not leave the County; the vehicles should not be going home no matter where someone lives; it is a luxury. The County cannot afford luxuries in this environment.

Mr. Mennen regrets this discussion has become so singularly focused on the Prosecutor's Office. In excess of 20 vehicles go home at night from that department out of the 27 vehicles that go home. It seems natural that, that is where the majority of the focus would fall.

Mr. Mennen feels the discussion is whether any vehicles should be going home and he feels the answer is "no" because the County cannot afford it; it should not be done as it is a luxury not a necessity.

Mr. Mennen asked that Director Walton rescind his motion and the second. He asked that someone join him in seconding a motion which he would make to preclude the use of any County owned vehicle for commuting for any County employee.

Mr. Melick agreed the amendment/policy focuses primarily on one department but that this because this department has the largest number of vehicles for anyone department, which are used for commuting. He is being driven by the cost and operation of running this County's government. Gasoline is approaching \$4.00 a gallon and the costs are great where there are people using vehicles to commute. The taxpayers pay the bills for the County and it is a luxury they should not have to pay. If you look at the financials in the newspapers, there is a list of people who can't pay their taxes prompting Sheriff's Sales. Mr. Melick stated he is concerned about the taxpayer. Government has to be brought back and that means getting rid of frills. In the past, the County had realigned departments which included layoffs over the past few years. The efficiency of County service has not suffered. In the Health Division there are less employees yet there are more inspections being done. The County has cut back on frills and more work is getting done.

Mr. Melick stated he is already thinking about next year's budget because it appears that revenue is not coming in to the County. The County needs to keep up performance in order to increase efficiency in government. He does not feel this agreement/amendment is the way to go especially with the price of gas. These luxuries are wrong way to go for the taxpayers of Hunterdon County. The County has very good policies on the books which make employees accountable.

Mr. Mennen added that there is also an exponential increase in liability exposure. Every time someone uses a County owned vehicle and has an accident or incident, it makes no difference to a litigant whether it is between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or whether it is on the way home from work. It is an addition to the expense and the fact that it is a luxury, it is just not worth potential risk of exposure.

Director Walton stated that public safety is not luxury it is the first and foremost responsibility of local government. It is something which the County must pay. There is an expectation and requirement of local government. Most of the vehicles that go home each night are public safety vehicles; such as the OEM Coordinator, the EMS Coordinator and the Fire Coordinator. Those people are on-call 24-7. They carry pagers and respond to scenes directly. Most of the vehicles in the Prosecutor's Office are of a similar nature. They respond to scenes and are on site when called upon. There is a cost for this but it keeps the residents safe. He will not sacrifice public safety to be able to boast that he cut taxes or spending to a certain degree. He feels it is irresponsible to jeopardize safety for a dollar.

Director Walton confirmed this policy is for the Prosecutor's Office because the County's policy is incongruent with state statute, with Attorney General Guidelines. To continue to have a policy that is incongruent with statute and policy of the Attorney General does not make sense.

Director Walton advised he will not rescind his motion. He intends to vote for this agreement and policy revision.

Mr. Sworen advised this is a problem which was created by Freeholder Board long before he got here. His personal opinion is that no one should take a vehicle home, for any reason. He has worked in industries where he was on-call 24/7, did not matter if he was at dinner, on vacation or visiting, if someone went wrong he got the phone call and had to respond either by phone or drive his car to the office or site to get it done. He received no remuneration or mileage for this; it was just part of his job.

Mr. Sworen feels this agreement/policy amendment is a good first bite at changing the process which this Board finds itself in today. This will reduce the number of vehicles. It is not perfect but it will reduce the number of vehicles and it will maintain the public safety and it is an agreement worked out with the Prosecutor, which is important. Too many hours have been spent on this issue. He would like to get this part done tonight, than this Board can go back and look at the other issues.

Mr. Sworen agreed that the Prosecutor's people are not first responders; they do not have to respond immediately. They do not chase down felons but they have a responsibility to be on-site/on-scene, to make sure evidence is secured and to make sure the system is correct and people are not doing things that are not correct after an incident happens. That is important to public safety.

Mr. Sworen is concerned because these vehicles have equipment in them that is law enforcement equipment. To change that process would require the removal of the equipment and find a place to store it or have a secure place to secure all these vehicles. That does not exist today. The cost for the vehicles to go home is around \$30,000 plus a year. If the County had to pay off the employees for that cost, it would be greater than \$30,000. If the County built a secure lot for the vehicles it would cost more. Mr. Sworen feels the County should still work in this direction but he feels this agreement is the first step at looking at other solutions in the future.

Mr. Mennen hopes that after this vote is done, which it appears there are three votes to adopt it, that Director Walton will think long and hard about his own remarks, where it was said that most of the vehicles going home, meet the mission described. Mr. Mennen asked Director Walton to spend time to find those vehicles that don't meet the public safety mission and get them off the road. That is not confined to the Prosecutor's Office or to Public Safety. He does not want this discussion to get hijacked in that direction, which way too many discussions on this Board do. He feels there are some overstatements in some of the rationalizations used with regard to state statute or Attorney General policy. These do not preclude this Board from exercising our fiduciary obligation and responsibility. Policies referred to are not exclusive, Just because someone in Trenton may say the way you are doing it is okay, doesn't mean it is the only way it can be done.

Mr. Mennen again stated taking vehicles home is a luxury that can't be done anymore. He asked Director Walton if he would like to start with him in identifying those vehicles that are not public safety related.

Director Walton has no issue with that.

Mr. Melick said someone mentioned a secure lot. The County's garages have secure lots and are in all boundaries of the County.

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

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. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the Claims Register dated September 18, 2012.

See Page 09/18/12-5A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 09/18/12-6A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Nicole Karpenko appointed permanent, full time Keyboarding Clerk 2, County Clerk's Office.

See Page 09/18/12-6B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Raymond Krov appointed provisional, full time Correction Officer, Division of Corrections, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 09/18/12-6C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, David Muscatell appointed provisional, full time Correction Officer, Division of Corrections, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 09/18/12-6D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Vincent Bivona appointed provisional, full time Correction Officer, Division of Corrections, Public Safety and Health Services Department

See Page 09/18/12-6E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, John Paulmeno appointed unclassified, full time Correctional Administrator, Division of Corrections, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 09/18/12-6F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Andrea Kordonis, Library Assistant, hours adjusted to 35 per week as part of restructuring the Library.

See Page 09/18/12-6G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Gail Naumann, Library Assistant, hours adjusted to 19 per week as part of restructuring the Library.

See Page 09/18/12-6H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Jane Ricketts, Librarian, hours adjusted to 35 per week as part of the restructuring of the Library.

See Page 09/18/12-6I **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Renato Massimo appointed temporary, seasonal Laboratory Assistant, Public Health Services Division, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 09/18/12-6J **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Carl Schottman appointed provisional, full time County Park Ranger, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 09/18/12-6K **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving longevity for Division of Corrections employees covered under FOP Lodge #133.

See Page 09/18/12-6L **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a professional agreement, using County Quote #0071-2012, for farmland surveys, with Heritage Consulting Engineers, for the Peterson Farm, Block 30, Lot 14, in Franklin Township and the Cooper Farm, Block 16, Lot 16, in Holland Township, in the amount of \$6,900.

See Page 09/18/12-6M **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving Artists' Indemnity agreements for the Cultural and Heritage Commission's art exhibition in the Sawmill Gallery at the Prallsville Mills, in Stockton Borough, from September 09 to 30, 2012.

See Page 09/18/12-6N **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement for Medical Director Services through the Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (LCCPHEP) Grant, with the Hunterdon Medical Center (Dr. Cindy Barter), in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 annually, for the period of September 19, 2012 through June 30, 2013. (subject to receipt and review by County Counsel).

See Page 09/18/12-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement for professional public health epidemiology services, as part of the annual Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (LCCPHEP) Grant, with Karen Burd Demarco, M.P.H., in an amount not to exceed \$39,060, for the period of October 22, 2012 through June 30, 2013. (subject to receipt and review by County Counsel).

See Page 09/18/12-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #3, for County Bid #2012-24, for the Addition and Fuel Island Upgrade at the Everittstown Garage, for the deduction for paving, in the decreased amount of \$92,000.

See Page 09/18/12-7C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement for a Phase I Environmental Property Assessment, for Block 15, Lot 1.01, in Raritan Township, (Ewing property), with Gould Environmental Inc., in the amount of \$3,600.

See Page 09/18/12-7D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement for a land surveying services, for Block 15, Lot 1.01, in Raritan Township, (Ewing property), with Van Cleef Engineering Associates, in the amount of \$2,300.

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

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

See Page 09/18/12-7E

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Richard "Dick" Stothoff for being chosen as the recipient of the Raritan Township Republican Club's 2012 Outstanding Community Service Award.

See Page 09/18/12-7F

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Beverly N. Drake for having served on the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 09/18/12-7G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a revision to the VOCA grant application, to change the term to August 01, 2012 to July 31, 2013.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/18/12-7H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Health Services Grant application, for 2013, with the State Department of Human Services, for alcohol and drug abuse services, in the amount of \$247,838 - state funds and County Match of \$32,901.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/18/12-7I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the renewal of a grant application for the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA).

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 09/18/12-7J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a 2013 grant agreement and General Operating Support contract with the New Jersey Historical Commission, in the amount of \$13,146.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Frenchtown Fire Department, requesting permission to hold a Coin Toss on Saturday, October 06, 2012 and Sunday, October 07, 2012, at the intersection of Kingwood Avenue and Race Street, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

A letter was received from the Milford N.J. Fire Co., Inc., requesting permission to hold a Coin Toss on Saturday, October 06, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., at Bridge Street; at the intersection of County Routes 519 and 619; and in front of the Milford Fire House on Water Street. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

Correspondence was received from the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, requesting to use the County's electronic signs for their 24th Annual Business and Home Expo & Restaurant Showcase on October 16, 2012. Signs needed from Sunday, October 14, 2012 until close of the event on the 16th. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion granting permission.

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

A request was received from the Fairmount Fire Company, requesting permission to hold a Coin Toss on Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the intersection of County Routes 512 and 517. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Budget

Mr. Melick discussed the County's budget stating it went up a penny last year. The taxpayer is still hurting and revenues are down. The public needs someone to work for them.

Mercer County Community College

Mr. Sworen reported he was at an event a few nights ago and was talking with Kathryn Kisch who is the Director for Einstein's Alley, which is a group started 10/12 years ago which deals with entrepreneurs and getting the money people with those entrepreneurs building small businesses. It is getting the right people in a room together, having meetings. They did a lot of work with Princeton University when Einstein's Alley first started and they have been involved with the Mercer County Community College and Middlesex County Community College. Mr. Sworen reported that Ms. Kisch will be reaching out to Raritan Valley Community College to get them involved as a community college with Einstein's Alley and to start building jobs and creating new businesses. Ms. Kisch will be approaching the Freeholder Board in the near future to talk about getting information distributed in order to enter Hunterdon County into this process.

Incident during Balloon Festival

Director Walton stated there was an article last week on NJ.COM regarding an act of theft by 5 volunteer firefighters (Readington Township) and there have been many disparaging remarks online about volunteer firefighters following that article. In every profession, in every advocacy you have a few bad apples. The notion that these five individuals represent the 60,000 plus firefighters in the State of New Jersey is silly. The volunteer firefighters he works with are the finest individuals he has ever had the pleasure of meeting and working with and to disparage their good name because of the act of five individuals is not fair.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Roll Calls

Andrea Bonnett, East Amwell Township resident, questioned how the roll call works since most of the actions are moved by either Mr. Holt or Mr. Sworen.

Mr. Mennen explained the final vote is what really counts.

Ewing Property

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, expressed deep gratitude to the board on the purchase of the Ewing property in Raritan Township.

Meetings

Ms. Stewart thanked Director Walton for permitting people to raise their concerns during Freeholder Meetings and to make comments.

Luxuries/necessities

Ms. Stewart thanked Mr. Mennen for talking about luxuries as opposed to necessities because it is true that expenses in Hunterdon County continue to rise even though some incomes do not. There are a couple of people who understand that.

Ms. Stewart reported that according to the Alice Report the Borough of Flemington has a poverty level of around 40%. It is crucial that the Freeholder Board be very cognizant of the situation of your constituency.

Electric Signs

Ms. Stewart asked if the Board was aware of a 5 second rule on electronic signs, that messages have to remain on for 5 seconds because if not, it is a visual distraction.

The Clerk of the Board, Denise Doolan, will check with the Public Works Department to see if this is being done. Mrs. Doolan stated that she believes this issue was mentioned also in 2011 and that the County Administrator, Cynthia Yard, did check into the matter and that Hunterdon County is compliant.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board