

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

February 12, 2013

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 9:40 a.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: MR. WALTON, MR. KING, MR. MELICK, MR. MENNEN.

ABSENT: MR. HOLT.

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 November 13, 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."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW

Public Safety and Health Services Department

George F. Wagner, Director of Public Safety and Health Services came before the Board expressing the need to upgrade the radio equipment and tower in order to be in compliance. The cost for this is estimated at \$500,000. He explained that his department has not had a capital request since 2008, when the building was going through electrical issues and construction. The Finance Director strongly encouraged him to use all existing funds prior to submitting for any new funding. Mr. Wagner feels he has been successful in using all existing funding and Homeland Security grant funding to meet the requirements of the Emergency Services operations.

Mr. Wagner stated his department has around \$7,000 in existing capital funding; plus the Homeland Security grant funding has dwindled drastically and it is down to \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2012, which will be used to maintain the existing infrastructure/maintenance agreements, etc. Any remaining funding received from Homeland Security in excess of the \$100,000 must be used for a regional project as dictated by Homeland Security so Hunterdon has been working with Somerset and Warren Counties in identifying mutual needs.

Mr. Wagner advised his office's major project this year is to replace the original, 1976 Communications' tower using Homeland Security funding. The Purchasing Agent has issued a bid for the tower replacement to obtain a cost. The bid for the tower is coming in around \$300,000. Capital funding is going to be needed to erect the tower and also to outfit the tower with equipment. There is \$150,000 in Homeland Security funding available to be used towards this project. Mr. Wagner feels there is a need in excess of \$100,000 just to outfit the tower, including taking the equipment off the existing tower and placing it on the new tower.

Mr. Wagner stated his office has been working on getting the fire companies off of low band. He provided a history of the County's old UHF system, which were the same as the old UHF TV station frequencies. The federal government has since adopted legislation for a "D Block" late last year and they want everyone to eventually be in the public safety spectrum ("D Block"). At this time, no-one is understanding what the "D Block" is and Hunterdon developed another strategy.

Mr. Wagner stated he is asking for the \$500,000 in capital to outfit the tower and be able to roll out the UHF frequencies for the fire companies while utilizing an existing 10 base stations and other necessary equipment which would be necessary to not only maintain but upgrade the system and get the fire companies off of low band.

Mr. Wagner confirmed for Mr. Melick that two towers are needed at that location because the one tower is owned by the state and it is saturated, so nothing else can be placed on it. He added that the original tower will be removed, so all the County is doing is replacing a tower.

Mr. Wagner also confirmed for the Board that the County, through Frank Bell, has received site plan approval from the municipality already as a courtesy review. The municipalities only suggestion is to set the tower back an additional 10 feet.

Mr. Wagner informed the Board that it would not be his recommendation to move the County up to the public safety broadband network because it's his understanding it will be privatized and eventually there will be user fees. His recommendation is the autonomous system which would be separate from the broadband network.

Mrs. Browne confirmed with Mr. Wagner that the cost for the tower and equipment would be around \$350,000 plus the Homeland Security funds. So the County should place in the budget \$500,000 which will be offset when the Homeland Security funds are received.

Fire School

Mr. Wagner, Mr. Bell and Mr. Glynn came before the Board regarding the County's Fire School/Academy.

Mr. Wagner explained his request for \$200,000 for the Fire School after previous discussions at the Director's level and also a Facilities Meeting in reference to the present site location, the Fire School, and also what it would take if the Fire School were relocated to the Drag Strip property.

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that the Fire School is currently located on property owned by the State Correctional Facility. The County is using 7 acres adjacent to Spruce Run Creek. There are certain facilities at that location that need to be replaced now and in the future the burn building will need a major rehabilitation. He is concerned about environmental issues because of the proximity to the creek. The facility was built over a period of years with a homegrown committee and it was done by the old method of how Hunterdon County did things (work with the users and identify the needs). The facility was originally for police, fire and rescue and the police moved away from it and it ended up being for fire and rescue. Mr. Glynn said to invest in that site, given the constraints of that site, he would recommend to the Board that the facility be relocated and a site that is out of site, is the Drag Strip property but before anything is done, the Drag Strip property has to be evaluated to make sure it is the pristine site and the proper site for this facility if the Board decides to move the facility.

Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Bell to address the burn building since he was the original architect of that building.

Mr. Bell advised there are several areas that do need repair at the burn building due to structural failures in one corner; some doors that are coming apart; and some issues with the floor system. That is the nature of this type of building. There is a SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) in place that protects the building and the trainers are following the SOP. Mr. Bell stated there are live fires in the burn building and it is highly used and it is a very difficult building to keep structurally going. A proposal was received from an engineer who actually did the work for the County around 10 years ago on the building. Back then (2004) proposal was around \$30,000 for repairs and \$15,000 for engineering costs, for a total of \$45,000 which satisfied the County's needs for approximately 10 years. Mr. Bell stated in order to continuing using the burn building the County will have to minimally consider repairing one structural area.

Mr. Bell suggested to the Board in moving forward with a study to look at all the aspects of the burn building to make sure nothing is missed. This will provide the County will a few extra years of life from the building and it will allow time to go through a planning process for what will be done in the future.

Director Walton confirmed the \$200,000 will cover both projects, the study of the existing building and the site planning for the relocation.

Mr. Bell confirmed with Mrs. Browne that there is around \$10,000 in old burn building money available. This funding could be used for the study for the engineer but money would be needed for repairs and to perform the relocation study.

Mr. Glynn recommended to the Board that a committee of users be brought together in order to identify the site, identify what needs to be constructed and then have the committee agreed to a site which would satisfy their needs. He feels by the end of the year there could be a consultant brought on board to look at the alternate build out.

Director Walton confirmed with Mr. Glynn, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Bell that \$200,000 should get this work done.

Mr. Mennen questioned where the analysis is that he asked for a year ago.

Director Walton stated a memorandum was received from the Fire School who communicated with other fire schools and they were unable to meet Hunterdon's needs.

Mr. Melick stated the Oldwick Fire Company was scheduling classes for Fire Fighter I out of County. He feels that brings up the question of whether shared services have been investigated.

Director Walton explained that shared services was investigated by the Chief Instructor of the County's Fire School and the answer was they could not handle the number of people from Hunterdon County.

Mrs. Yard confirmed with Mr. Wagner that a discrepancy was found with the information received from Mercer County.

Mr. Wagner feels everyone needs to be on the same page as to what training Hunterdon County is going to provide and what the actual needs are. There are two major uses of the burn building: (1) Fire Fighter I class which is a training prop used twice a year for these classes and (2) also for any additional training which the County choses to have such as for individual fire companies or for ladder training.

Mr. Melick explained that the Oldwick Fire Company sanctioned its fire fighters going out of county to training.

Director Walton agreed that from time to time, Hunterdon's fire companies will send a student or two to neighboring counties for training due to scheduling or other reasons. The question is whether another county would be able to handle the 25 to 40 students twice a year which Hunterdon trains at its fire school. Director Walton feels the answer to that is no.

Mrs. Yard stated having a conversation with a lead instructor, calling another facility up seeing if there is room for additional students is counterproductive. She called down to Mercer County and was told they would love to have Hunterdon's students come to their new facility. Mrs. Yard stated that she and Mr. Wagner were going to travel down to Mercer to look at their facility but that hasn't happened yet.

Director Walton thinks the work was done to his satisfaction.

Mr. King confirmed with Mr. Wagner that he is looking for \$200,000 to make sure the existing structure will survive over the next few years while the County determines where the structure should be placed.

Mr. Mennen said the \$200,000 includes planning for construction of a new facility. He would like to know how the \$200,000 breaks down for existing versus planning.

Mr. Bell advised the County currently has a proposal from the engineer of \$8,400 to do the first initial phase to evaluate the burn building structure to understand what repairs definitely need to be made. What the urgent repairs are and what the non-urgent repairs are.

Mr. King confirmed the existing \$10,000 in burn building money can be used for this purpose.

Mr. Bell stated the second phase would be for an analysis of the costs to make those urgent repairs for the safety issues and also to receive a quote from the engineer to repair the construction documents for the burn building in order to put it out to bid.

Mr. Bell confirmed the evaluation of the building would have to be done prior to moving onto step two. Also, the County doesn't have to go with this engineer as Purchasing can put out an RFP.

Mr. Bell, Mr. Wagner and Mr. Glynn stated that at this time, they are minimally suggesting a report done in order to find out what the urgent repairs are that must be done and get a cost estimate for those repairs before taking the next step.

Mr. Glynn recommended the Board consider the issues with the current site for the burn building and consider relocating the facility. It is his feeling this site will eventually be closed.

Mrs. Yard invited Mr. Wagner to join her in a trip to Mercer County to see their burn building.

Director Walton feels this has been discussed many times, reviewed and analyzed.

Mr. Mennen asked what counties did the County talk with concerning training.

Mr. Wagner stated the Chief Instructor has interacted with the Counties of Mercer, Warren and Morris and maybe Somerset.

Mrs. Yard told Mr. Wagner that when this process started that Hunterdon needed to be careful in who asks the question especially if they have a vested interest in the answer.

Mr. Wagner said there are two uses of the burn building, one is the fire fighter I class which is the practical aspect of what is learned in a classroom and the second use is as a drill for the fire companies to come to. Whether the fire companies would be able to go to other counties for training would be a individual decision.

Mr. Mennen asked how many days is Hunterdon's burn building facility in use.

Mr. Wagner stated Fire Fighter I is run twice a year and it is at minimum a three month course. He explained the difference between the Fire Fighter I course, the individual drills and the use of the burn building.

Director Walton added that the County also offers Fire Fighter II courses and dozens of other classes that take place at the training center.

Mr. King confirmed that the SWAT teams also use the facility for classes.

Mr. Mennen would like to know how many days a year this facility (Burn Building and Fire School) is used.

Mr. Glynn added that emergency service groups also use the facility, including cutting vehicles apart for training. It is his feeling this site will eventually be closed because of environmental matters.

After further discussion, Mrs. Yard confirmed the Board agreed the burn building should be assessed with the existing funding available.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that the next step is to determine need versus want with the groups that use the facility. In addition, she and Mr. Wagner will go down and look at Mercer County's new facility.

Mrs. Yard questioned the life space of the burn building.

Mr. Bell advised the County built the burn building roughly 21 years ago, in the early 1990's. The first set of repairs took place 12 years after it was built and now eight years have passed and the building is again in need of repairs. Mr. Bell feels if the repairs are done correctly it will provide the County with more time in the building, so the County will have time to plan for any future changes.

Director Walton stated the Board voted last year to relocate the facility and begin studying this project by at least a three to two vote. Now the question is how much to spend to do the work.

Mr. Mennen suggested someone contact the municipality where the Drag Strip property is to see if they would object to a facility being placed there.

Mr. Glynn explained no one has approached Franklin Township because the County has not made any decisions yet.

Mr. Mennen asked what can be done to determine wants versus needs for this project especially since Mrs. Yard received different information from Mercer County that the Fire Instructor.

Mr. Wagner and Mrs. Yard will contact Mercer County to ask if they are willing and able to accept individual students; would they accept Fire Fighter I students; and also ask if the training props are available to fire companies and if so at what costs.

Director Walton stated taking one or two people from a fire company from time to time is no problem but being discussed for the future is not having fire fighter training in Hunterdon County. That is going to be a burden on neighboring counties to handle that load. Also, does Hunterdon County want to send its volunteers all over instead of having them trained in Hunterdon County.

Mr. Melick stated shared services don't come easy and it is very difficult. People do not like to change the way they do things.

Director Walton feels this facility is the best shared service Hunterdon County has. Hunterdon's municipalities do not have to train their fire fighters because the County, as a shared service, trains for all 26 municipalities.

Mr. Mennen said he would rather have this discussion after getting an analysis of the current burn building facility.

Director Walton informed Mrs. Browne that currently there are two votes to keep the \$200,000 in the budget and 2 votes not to.

Mr. Mennen feels the analysis can be done before the budget is adopted; and Mrs. Yard and Mr. Wagner can make their telephone calls to their counterparts for information and visit those facilities is necessary; so the Board will be able to make an informed decision.

Vision 2020-Library

Mark Titus, Library Director came before the Board to present his Vision 2020 for the Library.

Director Walton stated at the last meeting in executive session the Board discussed a new appointment to the Library Commission and he questioned what direction the Library is looking to go in. The Board is concerned about the number of DVD's purchased because it interferes with private enterprise. Also, with the increasing use of the internet for research and books on line, he would like to know what the future of the Library will be with physical books on the shelves. What is the Library Committee doing to plan for this 21st Century Library and how does that tie into budgetary needs for capital, personnel and operating expense.

Mrs. Yard informed Mr. Titus that she reminded the Board and they applaud his accomplishments regarding recalculating and reallocating staffing. When Mr. Titus was brought into the County's family the intention was to provide more programs at the Library and Mr. Titus has done a terrific job in bringing in programs.

Mrs. Browne reported that she and Mr. Titus met with the Human Resources Director, Cheryl Wieder regarding staffing. In 2008 the Library staff was at 87 positions and as of February 2013, there are 61 positions staffing the Library. This was caused by retirements and other issues, the staffing was decreased.

Mrs. Browne stated Mr. Titus put together a plan on how some of the retirements could be replaced. Mr. Titus is suggested and Mrs. Browne and Ms. Wieder agree that part time people can be used to replace people in order to cut down on benefit costs.

Mr. Titus confirmed for Mr. Melick that Hunterdon's Library has not been involved with statewide Library discussions because he does not participate in those meetings. Hunterdon's Library is not affiliated with any state associations and it operates independently. Mr. Titus stated he also does not follow what the state has been doing.

Mr. Melick confirmed with Mr. Titus that the County does receive some state funding.

Mrs. Browne informed the Board that the state funding for the Library has been reduced substantially and it's down right now to \$50,000.

Mr. Titus explained Hunterdon County's Library has undergone a drastic transformation on how the operation of the Library is approached. When he first came to Hunterdon County, he was involved with the statewide association and he was treasurer of the finance committee and had a lot of interaction with people who knew what was going on at all the libraries in the state. Over a period of time those resources and those connections/memberships/affiliations were eliminated. Mr. Titus has been focused on what the Hunterdon County Library involves and needs.

Mrs. Yard confirmed with Mr. Titus that the focus of libraries, even when he first came to Hunterdon, was that libraries were becoming more of a community center because people did not need to step into a library to get information because it could be obtained electronically.

Mr. Titus explained the concept of a library becoming a community center really involves people coming into the facility for the programs. There has been a huge change in how media is delivered; there has been a huge change in how people get information and Hunterdon County has risen to those needs and it is an ongoing process. Mr. Titus explained the publishing industry is going through tremendous changes and the recording industry just went through major changes to the point where it is decentralized.

Mr. Titus stated the County has decreased revenues and decreased expectations in terms of what the Library can do. He tries to keep Hunterdon "real" to what is happening in Hunterdon and he's not concerned about what is going on in other places.

Director Walton again expressed concern over the number of DVD's the County Library purchases stating just because people want it, doesn't mean that government should provide it especially if there are alternatives available in the marketplace.

Mr. Titus explained the function of a library is to provide resources for the citizens and libraries have been doing this since the beginning. Currently the library provides e-books that people can access from home that they can download to their electronic appliances (Kindle).

Mr. Titus advised the Library does various programs such as literacy programs, English as a second language programs, job programs and more. The Library is very innovative. The Library also has Workforce Wednesdays for people and it's a very popular program.

Mr. Titus stated his goal has always been that the Library is a central part of this community bringing together different elements and one of the most important functions is for business development for the financial health of this County. The Library is very involved with the Chamber of Commerce and partners with them for various programs. The goal is to bring together all the different resources. The Library does not have teachers but it brings together teachers to partner with the Library to do after school programs. Currently people are using the Library to tutor and it's a natural place to that.

Mr. Titus advised there are a number of things he could put before the Board for a Vision 2020 but he is concerned about being able to have enough resources and staff to be able to just operate the Library.

Mrs. Browne reported that the Library budget is \$6.6 million and of that the Salary/Wage/Fringe is around 64%; plus \$1.5 million for the Pino; the loan payment back to the County of \$500,000, leaving the Library \$700,000 to work with for operating and supplies.

Mr. Titus added that out of the operating funds he only spends 13% on media.

Mr. Titus asked the Board if it supports the concept of a public library and to what degree. He understands this is about dollars.

Director Walton stated the County does support the Library. The question is how the Library should function.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders discussed e-books, hard covered books, dvd's and programs available at the County Library.

Mr. Titus further explained to the Board that while Hunterdon County is an affluent county, there are still many people who do not have the funds to purchase dvd's or e-books. There are people who come to the Library that don't have computers or are unemployed. There are people who hardly have enough to pay their rent and that does exist here in Hunterdon County and the Library is there to serve everyone.

Mrs. Yard noted that Mr. Titus has changed with the times and the changing needs and he has changed his staffing requests because he may not need 10 reference Librarians and can fill those vacancies with assistant librarians. Mr. Titus is making sure the Library tax covers the Library's expenses.

Mr. Melick complimented Mr. Titus on his creativity in filling positions in the Library and the many programs made available to the public. He told Mr. Titus he is doing a good job during a difficult situation.

Director Walton informed Mr. Titus he is pleased with what has been told to him today.

Mr. Titus said he could theoretically talk about vision for 2020 but is that going to be of use to anybody because it's not known what the future is going to bring. He's not afraid of change which is why he came to Hunterdon; one of his purposes was always try to partner with organizations and people in order to make programs happen. He invites change. Since he came the Library has partnered with the Hunterdon Medical Center, the Red Mill and many others to have programs. The Library shares ideas and the entire County benefits because everyone is supporting each other. People want services and cultural programs and this is being accomplished through the Library. There are people who use Hunterdon's Libraries and tell Mr. Titus they moved here because of the Library and its services. People feel the Library is a valuable part of their life experience in this County. People value the programs and the services. Hunterdon gets more good will because of the Library and it reflects well on the Freeholder Board for this great service. The bookmobile is known before it parks because it was made to be flashy and people know its Hunterdon County's bookmobile and people get excited to see it. They know it's a tangible thing which their tax dollars get them.

Mr. Titus said the Library is always trying to stay current. The Library's new website will be ready in a few weeks and people are proud of that.

Director Walton feels the Board is looking for the transition from paper to digital. There is an article online in the Hunterdon County Democrat on this. While Director Walton isn't sure ending paper is the end result of the Library. He agreed that the programs at the Library brings people in and asked Mr. Titus to keep up the good work with social outreach efforts.

Vision 2020-Human Services

Jennifer Shore, Human Services Administrator provided the Board with an overview of her department and the proposed budget reductions being proposed for the provider services agreements.

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that Mrs. Shore was directed to look at the provider service agreements/contracts/funding. Three years ago the County allotted \$1.4 million for these services, then it was reduced to \$1.2 million and last year it was reduced to \$1 million.

Mrs. Yard reported that Mrs. Shore has been with the County a little over one year and she brought a fresh set of eyes to the County's service delivery system at Human Services. Mrs. Shore is in the process of weighting services. When people request County dollars for services she looks into the costs for services.

Mrs. Yard feels Mrs. Shore should be congratulated for a job well done. She is doing great things with the Human Services Department and the delivery of services.

Mrs. Shore explained to the Board that the Grant/Allocation Committee was reconvened and one reason is because the money is granted for provider service agreements in two year cycles and providers are away that funding can be changed at any time during that two year period because the agreements are funding dependent. Mrs. Shore stated during the next funding round the County won't ask for a Request for Proposal (RFP) that aren't a priority. If the service doesn't come under health and safety the County probably won't entertain those RFP.

Currently the Committee is going through every single program which is funded through County money and they also looked at what other sources of revenue were available through the Human Services Department delivery system which is the JJC funding, substance abuse funding, mental health funding as well as the Area Agency on Aging (Triple A) funding. All those funding sources were taken into consideration and the Triple A money which is the largest grant for older Americans. When the allocations were considered; if there was an agency receiving money through one or more sources she tried to consolidate them under the Triple A money thus reducing the County money. That had already occurred for Meals on Wheels without compromising any service. They received the same amount of funding but it was paid for in total by the state.

Mrs. Shore reported that the Committee checked to make sure that programs met a health and safety need; what other resources are within the community that provides a similar overlapping services; if the services were mandatory or discretionary and what the agencies overall operating budget and that is necessary when looking at larger providers such as the Hunterdon Medical Center. While they provide an important service her office takes into consideration they have ample reserves and resources to provide their own programs. The Committee also reviewed what providers were cut in 2011 and factored in, making sure that no program was disproportionately cut with a few exceptions which were completely not within a priority area. Also looked at what impact the cut would have on the County's delivery system. Mrs. Shore informed the Board that through this process her department was able to cut \$81,000 in terms of internal programs and she explained how state funds are now paying for some staff's salaries to administer programs saving the County money. Also, \$41,000 and change was cut in external programs.

Mrs. Yard said Mrs. Shore and her people have looked hard at programs and services and grants and she has 100% control on what Human Services is able to provide and where the monies come from.

Mrs. Shore advised the only program which was cut 100% was the program for youth engagement through the Hunterdon County YMCA. It was a mock United National (UN) program. While it provides an important service it is really out of the realm of what Human Services does.

Mrs. Shore explained there are going to be changes in Human Services this year because there is a change to the statewide system in terms of operation of the DSS (Division of Social Services) budget as it will be changed to a consolidated assistance support system which is a computer system which will do all the income management. Mrs. Shore is not sure how that will play out in terms of layoffs, changing staff job descriptions; being looked at is adding a different line of titles into the contract in anticipation of this being approved.

Mrs. Shore reported she is looking at various training (Cultural or Diversity Training, etc.) and opening that up to providers who have contracts with the County in order to share the costs for the training, thus cutting the County's expenses by 50% and continue to have them on a revolving basis.

Mrs. Shore informed the Board that by the second quarter of the year, the County should have a contract with Logisticare for transportation. The reason for the contract is not to increase the County's revenue but there are citizens who are not getting their needs met in terms of medical transportation. This is being done to meet a need not to make a profit.

Mr. King questioned the decline in ridership.

Mrs. Shore stated people have a strong feeling about who rides the LINK and most don't consider themselves that person. There is a LINK stigma and people find it hard to overcome. It isn't just for the needy anymore. The reality is that most LINK riders are disabled. Mrs. Shore is trying to increase the comfort level of the seniors to use the LINK and she has been working with HART (Hunterdon Area Rural Transit) to provide public education for the seniors on how to ride the LINK. The LINK was volunteered to help cart the kids around for Bring Your Child to Work day as a way to get people comfortable with it. The LINK should be for everyone in the community and people should feel comfortable riding on the LINK.

Mrs. Shore advised her department deals with a lot of very confidential information and as the technology changes she wants to make sure there are practices in place around privacy, cultural sensitivity and that all leads to training.

Director Walton questioned if the issue with the LINK and the 24/7 telephone line has been resolved.

Mrs. Shore stated her department took aggressive action and pulled Hunterdon Helpline's funding and threatened to cancel their contract and the next day the Executive Director of the agency was changed who came up with a corrective action plan which was approved and their funding has been restored. Susan Lax is now the Executive Director of Hunterdon Helpline now and Human Services is closely monitoring this matter.

Director Walton asked if there is any thought being considered about doing a public information session at the Library or elsewhere, to help people understand in what to look for and to be comfortable in reporting mental health issues.

Mrs. Shore feels that could be done. One of the services not cut, for just that reason, was the school based system where Hunterdon Behavioral Health is funding in order to have a counselor in almost every school in the County.

Mrs. Shore advised there cannot be an assumption that professionals are capable of making that kind of diagnostic assessment that someone could be potentially dangerous or not dangerous. There is a delicate balance between having people have access to counseling if they need it versus counselors being able to take over the role of law enforcement and being able to predict potential threats. There is no evidence that is possible.

After further discussion, the Board approved the cuts as outlined by the Human Services Director.

Vision 2020-Public Works.

Economic Development

John P. Glynn, Public Works Director came before the Board regarding an Economic Development Plan for the County. The County in general has not taken a leadership role in the repurposing of a lot of the vacant facilities. The economy is not changing as much as everyone thinks it is. Mr. Glynn feels the County has to take a leadership in developing a role to assist in redevelopment and some of that can be done through regulation. If you look at all the regulations that control the redevelopment of properties and have a moratorium on them in able to assist private enterprise to get moving again.

Director Walton asked if that is a County issue or is it mostly zoning laws.

Mr. Glynn stated it is both; the County has the primer capability. An example is the old Agway property in Flemington which is near a County Road (Foran Blvd). The County is not involved in its redevelopment and it should be. Look at the vacant paper mills in Milford (Riegall), Alexandria and Holland. A lot of the vacant plants have clean up issues. These are huge sites that need to be redeveloped. The question is how can Hunterdon County help or provide relief in order to move these projects forward. Hunterdon County should be a participant in the redevelopment of these areas. The regulations in New Jersey are keeping investors out; as well as taxes.

Garage Facilities

Mr. Glynn approached the Board regarding upgrading the garage facilities. Some improvements are in the capital budget and some repairs are being made.

Mr. Glynn stated regarding compressed natural gas; he's been working with Elizabethtown Gas on developing a process. It would cost around \$11,000 to covert trucks or cars to use compressed natural gas but the County does not have any fueling stations for this.

Mr. King stated he was recently at a symposium on this matter and PSE&G is eager to cooperate with counties to establish fueling stations for compressed natural gas.

Mr. Glynn reported that the Route 12 County Garage and the Lebanon County Garage facilities have access to natural gas. The equipment for a portable fueling station is around \$60,000 and a fixed station is around \$750,000. The initial costs for updating the trucks would be around \$11,000 per vehicle but those costs could be recovered in around six years and the County would not be dependent upon outside agencies (foreign countries) as natural gas is from the United States. Mr. Glynn believes the County should begin thinking about converting the fleet towards compressed natural gas.

Director Walton asked Mr. Walton to put together a road map of what has to be done in order to accomplish this.

Mr. Glynn stated PSE&G has a station in Readington Township and they might put a station up there. He recommended moving slow into this and develop a site and see what the economics are of the site. The County should be advancing to convert the fleet to bi-fuel.

Mrs. Yard suggested Mr. Glynn develop a roadmap so that the County can move forward beyond July, 2013, when he retires. Suggest what needs to be placed in the budget for 2014 and beyond in order to move in that direction.

Mr. Glynn stated the compressed natural gas source is here and it is a reliable and readily available source.

Golf Course Clubhouse

Mr. Glynn reported to the Board that he is working on some options regarding the clubhouse at the Heron Glen Golf Course on how it can finance itself. Revenue is coming in around \$350,000 from the course. The Board has to look at the condition of the clubhouse and it is extremely poor. This clubhouse was built with the understanding a clubhouse would be built in 8 years and what is currently there has been around for 12 years. The floor is deteriorating and a fixture fell through in a restroom.

Mr. Glynn is looking at getting a clubhouse without spending capital dollars but using the funds from the return on the golf course. He would not recommend turning the golf course over to a private manager for 20 years as has been discussed. This is a public building that needs to be looked at and where the problem points are. If that is done, then a complete design of a facility would be needed before bidding on the next management contract. Being considering is a clubhouse that is between 4,000 to 7,000 square feet. This would get rid of the tent and be a much more efficient operation.

Mr. Glynn stated a plan is being put together to consider both options; (1) long term contract with the private sector and (2) take a funding source and return revenue from the golf course to pay it off.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board

