

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

July 16, 2013

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

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Walton announced: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before January 02, 2013, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded these:

See Page 07/16/13-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss Risk Management concerns pertaining to an ongoing internal investigation.

See Page 07/16/13-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss negotiations regarding land acquisitions for the Public Works Department.

See Page 07/16/13-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss litigation concerning Public Works Department (8).

See Page 07/16/13-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an appointment to the Solid Waste Advisory Council.

See Page 07/16/13-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a new job description for the Human Resources Director position.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m., recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:33 p.m.

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

ABSENT: MR. MENNEN.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident, approached the Board concerning the Hunting Policy on the agenda this evening. Many people in Hunterdon are away on vacation at this time and can't be made aware of this.

Ms. Suchau reported the Freeholders' agenda is supposed to be on the County's webpage on Friday nights and it wasn't there.

Ms. Suchau said she's noticed the County's Parks and Recreation Division is doing a lot with the Hunting policy and she feels they need to open this up for public comment. She feels many of the actions they take should be open to the public for discussion. Ms. Suchau feels Parks programs are anti-animal; for example they recently ran a trip to Cowtown Rodeo. The County and government should not encourage a trip to a place that uses cow prods.

Director Walton reported that the trip to Cowtown Rodeo was cancelled.

Ms. Suchau suggested the Hunting Policy be carried over until the public can come and have a chance to comment on it.

RECOGNITION

Director Walton recognized Freeholder J. Matthew Holt who has been presented with the National Association of Regional Councils' Tom Bradley Leadership Award, on Wednesday, July 03, 2013, during the National Regional Council's conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In addition, J. Matthew Holt has been elected to the association's national Board of Directors.

Mr. Holt explained there are 700 regional councils in the country and the National Association oversees them.

Mr. Holt stated that he has long believed that transportation was an issue that Hunterdon County needed to focus on; as well as the region because it has a very direct effect on the quality of life and the economy in Hunterdon and the region. One only has to travel on Routes 78, 22, 31, 202 and 78 to understand the impact of transportation. Focusing on those major corridors would have a direct impact on the municipal and County roads; one that would be negative if it isn't focused on; and one that would be positive if we do.

Mr. Holt stated the Freeholder Board has a responsibility to be the best ambassadors the County could possibly have. The Freeholders cannot solve the County's problems by sitting within our own geographic borders and pretending we do not need assistance. Hunterdon County has changed in the last 40 plus years; there are needs and there are areas that assistance is necessary for. The County's staff and employees are the best possible leaders and ambassadors for Hunterdon County.

Mr. Holt stated it is an honor to represent Hunterdon County and to represent the Freeholders and to get an award like this is only representative of the great place he gets to work and live.

Mr. King reported he recently attended the NJTPA (North Jersey Transportation Authority) meeting at Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) and they are a very enthusiastic group and they are energized under Freeholder Holt's leadership.

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 07/16/13-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a development easement, on the Associated Tree Movers Farm, for Block 15, Lot 27, estimated 48 acres, in Alexandria Township, in an amount not to exceed \$78,720.00.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 07/16/13-2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a development easement, on the Papazian Farm, for Block 15, Lot 27.01, estimated 44 acres, in Alexandria Township, in an estimated sum not to exceed \$81,840.00.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 07/16/13-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing a grant agreement, for the purchase of the Cooper Farm, for Block 15, Lot 6, in Holland Township, (SADC -\$197,080.50; Township - \$58,684.25; County - \$58,684.25), in the amount of \$314,459.00.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES Update

Tom Mathews, Public Works Director provided an update to the Board on various County road and bridge projects.

- County Route 513 from High Bridge to the Morris County Line will be the 2013 Transportation Trust Fund project. Final plans and specifications are on tonight's agenda for consideration.
- Punch list items are commencing for the project in Ringoes, New Jersey for County Routes 579 and 602, in East Amwell Township.
- The 2012 Transportation Trust Fund project is coming to an end, County Route 523, Lamington Road and Route 609, Manners Road and punch list items are commencing.
- Work will begin on July 23, 2013 for the 2013 Surface Treatment/Chip Seal program. The first road to be worked on is County Route 645 and then the project moves to County Route 519.
- Construction started on July 08, 2013 for Inter-County Bridge E-140-M, with Mercer County; the removal and clearing site of the bridge has begun.
- The alternative analysis was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for Inter-County Bridge L-25-W, on Point Mountain Road.

- Final plans are being reviewed for County Bridge Q-168 on Pennsylvania Avenue and detour plans have been submitted to the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
- A contract modification has been executed for County Bridge RT-116 on County Route 523, and the storm water management plan is in the process of being revised.
- Inter-County Bridge T-36-S was approved by Somerset County at their last Freeholder meeting so the project is ready to go to bid. Hunterdon County will be the lead on this project.
- The Multi-Use Trail/Bridge project from Echo Hill to the Arboretum is under design.
- The substructure for County Culvert HA-13, on Sweet Hollow Road is under construction.
- The demolition of County Culvert U-18, on Race Street is complete and the foundation excavation is commencing and the pre-cast arch has been fabricated and the seal coat was placed on it today.
- The construction of the substructure for County Bridge F-45 on Whitebridge Road, in Franklin Township, is still commencing.
- County Bridge D-300, on Raven Rock-Rosement Road in Delaware Township was moved on June 25, 2013 and is being dismantled and being delivered piece by piece to the fabricator.
- County Route 513, Exit 15 on Interstate 78 is being advanced to get to right of way authorization approval.
- County Bridge RQ-179, in Readington Township, the east and west scour protection has been completed and the construction of the wing walls is commencing.
- Construction started on July 09, 2013, for the County Routes 512/513 Intersection improvements in Califon.
- Final plans and specifications for the County Routes 600/612 Intersection improvements have been reviewed and revisions are necessary.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION

Director Walton recognized Katelyn Cathcart and Mallory Dowd, students at Hunterdon Central Regional High School who worked with Judge Mawla, to create a Facebook page to communicate with youth in the County.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 07/16/13-3A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Katelyn Cathcart and Mallory Dowd for creating a Facebook site for the Hunterdon County Youth Services Commission (YSC) to better communicate with youth and provide information and contacts on services provided by the YSC.

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

PURCHASING

John Davenport, County Purchasing Agent came before the Board to discuss Hunterdon's bid threshold and increasing the \$25,000 amount to \$36,000 which is the threshold that the State uses.

Director Walton confirmed with Mr. Davenport that currently anything costing more than \$25,000 must come before the Board for approval and that the State is \$36,000 under the Local Public Contracts Law.

Director Walton questioned how many purchases has the County made at the \$36,000 range. Mr. Davenport did not do an analysis but feels that so far in 2013, there were around 15; such as the one on tonight's agenda for the award of structural steel for a bridge project. This is an in-house bridge project that the County took quotes for first but they came in over the estimated cost so the County put it out to bid; so there is now a 60 day process instead of a 15 to 20 day process. Mr. Davenport feels there are operational efficiencies related to increasing the bid threshold. He doesn't feel from a purchasing standpoint that this will reduce the amount competition or hurt the County in any way for getting the best pricing because when structural steel was quoted, he received 6 responses and when it was bid, only 3 responses were received because people don't want to go through the paperwork of putting together a formal bid.

Mr. King has a lot of faith in the Purchasing Department and this resolution will survive Mr. Davenport's years.

County Administrator, Cynthia J. Yard, reported to the Board that Mr. Davenport has worked very hard on the County's Purchasing Manual. She stressed that all the internal controls are in place. Mrs. Yard and Mr. Davenport worked on the Purchasing Manual for many years. She recommended if this request is approved that the Purchasing Manual be brought up to date and that the internal controls are in faith.

Mrs. Yard and Mr. Davenport are to work together to make sure that the Purchasing Manual is up to date.

Mr. King confirmed that the Purchasing Manual would have to be changed, in order to be brought up to date in order to include the increase for the County's bid threshold.

Director Walton confirmed the Purchasing Manual was approved through resolution by the Board and once this change is made to the manual it too would have to be approved by the Board.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 07/16/13-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing and increase in the County's bid threshold to \$36,000.00 for purchases.

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

Fee for Municipal-County Shared Service Agreements/ Purchasing Agent

Mr. Davenport brought before the Board a discussion for a fee for municipal/county shared service agreement for Purchasing. He was asked to look at what the costs might be if the County was to provide services to a municipality with regard to purchasing. He based his hourly rate on the 2009 PINO Report. The currently hourly rate for services in Purchasing is \$237.94 an hour.

Director Walton confirmed with Mr. Davenport that the \$237.94 would be the indirect cost.

Mrs. Yard confirmed for the Board that the PINO report is the County's measurement for costs. When Mr. Davenport says the cost is \$237.94 that would include turning the lights on, using heat or air conditioning and more. Mrs. Yard will check with Central Printing, Mail and Information Technologies to determine how they cost out In-Kind print requests.

Mrs. Yard confirmed there are many factors to be considered including what if the municipalities don't pay for services and if the current staff can't keep up with requests. The County's GIS Division did a presentation to the Board several years ago on this where municipalities would purchase a certain amount of various people's time for services.

Director Walton stated if it came to a point where someone else has to be brought in for shared services, that could be done in order to offer shared services as long as it is cost effective.

Mr. Davenport feels conceptually it is a good idea but he's not in the position currently to do that but operational efficiencies could be offered to municipalities on project where they may not have the expertise in Purchasing to move forward.

Mr. Melick suggested in the next two weeks everyone should try to discover all the hidden costs to provide this service. He suggested doing what business does and tack on a 15% mark up to cover the hidden costs.

Mr. Davenport suggested providing an "Al a Carte" type of rather than having the County's Purchasing Agent be the QPA (Qualified Purchasing Agent) for the municipalities. An hourly rate could be assigned for Purchasing Agent services and Buyer services, to assist municipalities in developing a bid specification or an RFP/Quote which the municipality could then put out.

Mr. Melick said some services are readily available in the market place in Hunterdon County by contractors and the County should be very careful of competing against these people.

Mr. Holt feels the discussion is if an Al a Carte of services can be done on an as needed basis. The main discussion is whether centralized purchasing has value in terms of the entire 26 municipality base with the County. A baseline has to be established if the County wants to enter into something like this and the theoretical cost for purchasing is x-amount per hour and the second part is the administrator or finance costs. This can be done with a percentage markup.

Mrs. Yard recommended the municipalities also start thinking about consolidation.

Purchasing Resolutions

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 07/16/13-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #CountyClerk.1520, for printing ballots for the Special Election, with Sky Printing, in the amount of \$50,971.80, for the County Clerk's Office.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 07/16/13-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the award of Bid #2013-13, to Eddie Kane Steel Products, Inc., for structural steel, in the amount of \$33,084.06, for the Roads, Bridges, and Engineering Division of the Public Works Dept.

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

COUNTY Update

Special Elections

Cynthia J. Yard, County Administrator reported she was asked by the Board of Elections to advise the Board that the funding for the August and October, Special Elections will not be received by the County until both elections are over.

Mr. Holt confirmed with Mrs. Yard that the Board of Elections will be tracking their overtime separately. Mrs. Yard added that overtime has been calculated in their budget.

Two Division positions, Housing and JJC Program Development, in the Human Services Department

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that there are two requests from the Department of Human Services to fill two (2) Division positions, one in a clerical person (Keyboarding Clerk) for Housing and the position is fully federally funded under the Section 8 HUD program. The other position is in the JJC program, which was caused by a retirement and this position is fully state funded. The filling of these two positions would be cost neutral to the County's budget.

Director Walton confirmed these positions would be posted internally first.

Mrs. Yard stated the County is trying to put people into generic titles through Civil Service so they aren't only doing one function.

Director Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion authorizing the filling of the Housing clerical position and the JJC position.

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

Sheriff's Office Sergeant

Mrs. Yard advised the Board that the Sheriff informed her that one of his two sergeants is out on leave and has every intention of retiring. The Sheriff is asking to hire a Sheriff's Officer, not a sergeant, in order to get someone into the academy, which starts in August.

Mrs. Yard reported when the analysis was done for security at the Justice Center at the request of Assignment Judge Ciccone, it was decided that 14 officers was the appropriate number. Sheriff Brown has been operating below that 14 officer recommendation. Sheriff Brown is asking for an officer and not a sergeant at this time so that he can have time to analyze and evaluate if there are candidates within his office to fill the sergeant's position.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion approving the hiring of a Sheriff's Officer, in the Sheriff' Office at this time.

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

Stockton Borough School request for archive storage space

Mrs. Yard informed the Board that a request was received from the Chief School Administrator of the Stockton Borough School. This person has talked with Bob Thurgarland, the Division Manager of Central Printing, Main and Information Services who oversees the County's Records, Retention Center. Stockton Borough School would like to archive 50 boxes in the County's new storage facility. Mr. Thurgarland has explained to the Chief School Administrator that the storage facility was made possible by the PARIS grant and was created for the purpose of assisting the County of Hunterdon and its constituent municipalities and for the preservation/conservation and improvement of the records and records management.

Mrs. Yard advised Mr. Thurgarland is unsure if the schools can use the storage area because it was built with municipalities providing the County with their PARIS money so they would have storage.

Mr. Melick suggested charging a nominal fee for storage; not to make money on but to keep track of the space.

Mr. King question if Stockton Borough could allow the Stockton Borough School to use their space.

After further discussion, the Board directed Mrs. Yard, County Counsel Taylor and Mr. Thurgarland to look at the PARIS grant rules and report back to the Board.

Ms. Taylor feels the grant may dictate the use.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Walton announced: "All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately."

Item #20 was held at this time.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated July 16, 2013.

See Page 07/16/13-6A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 07/16/13-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Graham Knirk appointed temporary, seasonal Laborer, in the Parks Division, of the Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 07/16/13-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Ian Vogel appointed seasonal, when and as needed, Recreation Leader for summer programs, in the Division of Parks, of the Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 07/16/13-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Elizabeth Fulmer appointed Recreation Program Coordinator, in the Division of Parks, of the Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 07/16/13-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Melissa Tulley appointed full-time, provisional Program Development Specialist, in the Human Services Department.

See Page 07/16/13-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Yamiris Marcano appointed part-time Bilingual Library Assistant, Library.

See Page 07/16/13-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Marianne Sievers appointed part-time Library Assistant, Library.

See Page 07/16/13-6H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Dana Bivona Social Worker Aging, is assigned to the Human Services Department.

See Page 07/16/13-6I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jennifer O'Sullivan appointed full-time Public Health Investigator, in the Division of Public Health Services, Department of Public Safety.

See Page 07/16/13-6J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Tara Smith appointed full-time, Social Worker Aging, in the Clinical Services Division, Human Services Department.

See Page 07/16/13-6K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Correcting the resolution of July 2, 2013, Lauren Atkinson, appointed part-time (ten hours per week), Clerk I, Board of Elections, Finance and Administrative Services Department.

See Page 07/16/13-6L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Anne Hewitt to the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

See Page 07/16/13-6M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment on County Bid #2013-05, for the Columbia and Landsdown Trail Improvements, with Earthworks, Inc., in the amount of \$102,192.89.

See Page 07/16/13-6N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Final Change Order #1, FINAL, Bid #2013-05, for the Columbia and Landsdown Trail Improvements, with Earthworks, Inc., for a decreased amount of \$3,767.64.

See Page 07/16/13-6O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Maintenance Bond, drawn on NGM Insurance Company, for Bid #2013-05, for the Columbia and Landsdown Trail Improvements, with Earthworks, Inc., in the amount of \$11,563.60.

See Page 07/16/13-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the FFY 2011 Round 13 Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC) agreement, with New Jersey Transit, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015, for a local match of \$115,000.00; Federal funds amount \$115,000.00; for a total amount of \$230,000.00.

See Page 07/16/13-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Plans and Specifications for the resurfacing and safety improvements of CR 513, in the Township of Lebanon and Borough of Califon, County of Hunterdon.

See Page 07/16/13-7C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2013-2014 Controlled Hunting Program.

See Page 07/16/13-7D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing an Emergency Services Training Center Committee be established to program, design, and layout a new, future Emergency Services Training Center.

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

Ethics' Policy

Mr. King stated the agenda states this is a revised Ethics Policy but this is a construct of an Ethics Policy for Hunterdon County; before there has always been ethical dialog wrapped into a number of different types of policies and now it is being brought into a finite form as this is much more advanced. This will supersede those other policies. Mr. King feels this is a very comprehensive Ethics Policy and it would not have been possible without the work of County Counsel.

County Counsel Taylor thanked Freeholder King for the opportunity to be a part of this process. It is a very important policy and it is a proactive policy. This policy will be critical in furthering this Board's demonstrated commitment to protecting the public trust in government. This policy sets the grant work for an environment where ethics and integrity are incorporated into the everyday work life of County officials and employees at every level of the organization. This will hopefully reinforce to the public that the County's business is conducted with impartiality and integrity. Ms. Taylor feels the policy is comprehensive and will act as a guide to County employees, public officials and the public, so that everyone is able to understand the County's philosophy and what they can expect from public employees and officials who are serving them. This new policy provides and enforceable standard for the ethical conduct of all County employees and officials. It covers everything from receiving gifts, conflicts of interest both actual conflicts and activities which may give the rise to an appearance of conflicts, impartiality, seeking employment, use and misuse of positions, guidelines concerning outside activities as well as annual disclosure requirements. This policy, along with training which will be given to County employees and officials to accompany it; will give them the tools they need to meet the ethical challenges in everyday decision making.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 07/16/13-7E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the revised Ethics Policy, County Policy #2013-3.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Bloomsbury PTO and Town Recreation Committee, requesting permission to host a 5K Run, on October 26, 20-13, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., utilizing portions of County Route 579 for the race. Mr. King moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

There were no comments or reports from the Board this evening.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. King left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident, recalls the Board told a resident at a previous meeting that before voting on the consent agenda, that the Freeholders would ask for comments from the public. She thought that was going to be the policy but that did not happen this evening. Ms. Suchau added that she feels the hunting program is a controversial program and that a new approach is needed as she feels the program isn't working.

Ms. Suchau told the Board the steps they should take is to first pass a resolution to ask the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game to stop growing deer. Also, the Board should ask for an independent assessment of hunting for deer management programs to include mammalogists, independent biologists and ecologists rather than so many members of sporting organizations. That is a bias group making assessments on deer. Also, the County should begin a gradual diminution of deer farming on 327,000 acres and baiting practices should be halted because it increases fertility. If the County has a hunting program why aren't humane steps being taken as a new approach rather than what has been done for 30 years.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell resident, said as a Hunterdon County farmer she would love to have the deer stop but the only assistance she receives are the commuters through her area that splat the deer. The deer cause the major damage her crops. When you can find someone who owns the deer than Director Walton and the County may be able to take some action but in the interim the deer are here and we have to learn to live with them.

Maureen Finely, a County employee, said it is her understanding that transportation has been cut for a lot low income or disabled citizens who ride the LINK for free. She would like to figure out why.

Director Walton advised he does not agree with her supposition. The County did an analysis a few years ago and some of the routes were restructured.

Ms. Finely stated regarding people on TANF, if they are not in a work program they are not allowed to ride the LINK without paying for it.

Director Walton feels that is a state policy. He confirmed what she is saying, is that in order to get free transportation you have to be working.

Director Walton informed Ms. Finely that the County will look into her question but he isn't so sure it is a County policy.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board