

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

May 21, 2013

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 3:00 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT, MR. KING, MR. MELICK.
ABSENT: 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 May 10, 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. King moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 05/21/13-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an update on the Trout litigation.

See Page 05/21/13-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss policies including a medical leave policy, leave of absence policy, family medical leave policy and a donated sick leave policy.

See Page 05/21/13-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a potential new position of Assistant County Engineer.

See Page 05/21/13-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an update on the Human Resources Office transition.

See Page 05/21/13-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss appointments to various boards.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 3:03 p.m., recessed at 3:58 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 4:04 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident, questioned the Board why the auditing contract wasn't bid.

Shana Taylor, County Counsel, reported that just because something is a professional services contract does not mean that it wasn't bid or that Requests for Proposals were not received.

Director Walton explained that the Purchasing Department sent out Requests for Proposals for the auditing contract, so it was bid.

Ms. Suchau asked the Board to consider keeping the Library open on Sunday during the summer because it is a valuable asset for the residents.

Director Walton stated he will talk with the Library Director regarding summer hours for the Library.

Ms. Suchau said regarding the County Tax for Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation – there are taxes on local levels, County levels and state levels for this. Did anyone consider this when thinking about taxes on the general taxpayer.

Director Walton advised that the state no longer taxes for open space; some municipalities tax for open space but not all. This Board revisited the Open Space Tax a year ago and decided not to lower it.

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a development easement from Richard and Marjorie Yard, Block 44, Lot 15, in Delaware Township, estimated 33 acres, (SADC-\$328,350; County-\$65,670; Township-\$65,670), total amount of \$459,690.

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

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a development easement on the Rainbow Farm, owned by Barbara Hay, Block 21, Lot 16.03, estimated 24 acres, (SADC-\$216,720; County-\$72,240; Township-\$72,240), total amount of \$361,200.

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

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a development easement from Marjorie Y. Lovenberg Revocable Trust and Joel R. Higgins, Block 27, Lot 20, in Delaware Township, estimated 44 acres, (SADC-\$232,320; County-\$77,440; Township-\$77,440), total amount of \$387,200.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-2D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Accepting the recommendation of the Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board approving an application for Theodore and Susan Blew, for the construction of a farmhouse on Block 42, Lot 4, in Franklin Township.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 05/21/13-2E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #26656, using NJSA 40A:11-5(1)DD, with Queues Enforth Development, for software maintenance, for the Emergency Services Division of Public Safety, in the amount of \$39,480.

See Page 05/21/13-2F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #40033269, using County Quote #0033-2013, with Kloeckner Metals, for reinforcing bars, for Roads and Bridges of the Public Works Department, in the amount of \$16,910.

See Page 05/21/13-2G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #CountyClerk.1507, using NJSA 40A:11-5(1)L, with Sky Printing, for ballots, for the County Clerk, in the amount of \$55,323.50.

See Page 05/21/13-2H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.3675, using NJSA 40A:11-5(1)DD, with Dominion Voting, for software License renewal, for the Division of Information Services, in the amount of \$16,537.50.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 05/21/13-2I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional auditing agreement for the annual County Audit for the years ending December 31, 2013 and 2014, with Wiss & Company, LLP, in an amount not to exceed \$123,300.

RESOLVED, Approving a professional accounting services agreement for the County's Department of Human Services, with David W. Ciarrocca, C.P.A., for a two year period, in an amount not to exceed \$27,000.

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the professional services agreement with French & Parrello Associates, PA, for engineering consulting in connection with the "Historical Preservation of County Bridge RQ-179, on Stanton Station Road, in Raritan and Readington Townships, increase of \$61,564.49.

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

ROADS AND BRIDGES UPDATE

John P. Glynn, Director, Public Works, updated the Board on various County road and bridge projects.

- County Route 513 in High Bridge Borough to the Morris County Line, specifications are being completed; this is the County's trust fund money for this year.
- The County is waiting to hear from NJDOT (New Jersey Department of Transportation), on County Route 519, from Hillcrest to Holland Township. This is a high risk rural road (HRRR) project.
- Sidewalks are complete on County Route 579/602 in East Amwell Township and milling is set for May 28, 2013 to start.
- The County is also waiting to hear from NJDOT on County Route 614 as this is also a HRRR project.
- Transportation Trust Fund projects include County Route 523, Lamington Road and County Route 609 for resurfacing on the week of May 28, 2013.
- Surface Treatment bids on due on June 13, 2013.
- Inter-County Bridge E-140-M, on County Route 518 in East Amwell Township, is a joint project with Mercer County. The start of construction is July 01, 2013.
- The plans for County Bridge Q-168, on Pennsylvania Avenue will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The bridge is listed as one of the historic bridges in Hunterdon County. The bridge is going to be obsolete by rerouting the road around it.
- Construction starts on June 17, 2013 on U-18, on Race Street in Union Township.
- The Landsdown Trail is now finished and open.
- Currently being worked on is the Columbia Trail, from Hoffman's Crossing north to Califon.
- The demolition projects are complete except for trying to get seed and grass to grow on the Mountain Farm project due to the wind.
- The County has talked with the Cultural and Heritage Commission regarding the Wescott House in Delaware Township, which was offered to the Township, and they want to preserve the building. The building used to be a one room school house.
- The consultant for Warren Glen Hill has completed the application for the mitigation plan since the County is locating the storm water in the transition zone of the Musconetcong. An application has to be made to the owner and DEP for this.
- A preconstruction meeting for County Bridge F-45, on Whitebridge Road, in Franklin Township is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2013. The contractor is ready to start.
- A third public hearing will be held tomorrow at the Bloomsbury Fire House for the Lehigh Valley Rail Road Bridge.
- There is a conflict with a utility line at the Raven Rock Road project. The County will be meeting on the site with JCP&L (Jersey Central Power and Light) and the contractor in an attempt to get the line raised by the end of the week.
- A public meeting will be held at the Clinton Municipal Building on Exit 15, Interstate 78, on June 05, 2013.
- Work has started on County Bridge RQ-179, on Stanton Road.
- A preconstruction meeting is set for May 23, 2013, for the County Route 513/512 Intersection in Califon.

Federal Aid Handbook

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that approval is needed for Hunterdon County's Federal Aid Handbook. In order to qualify to meet the guidelines for receipt of federal aid the County had to create this handbook. The Handbook is now perfected to the State Department of Transportation's standards and federal standards. The County cannot qualify for federal aid without having this handbook in place.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion approving the Federal Aid Handbook for the County of Hunterdon.

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

Mr. Glynn informed the Board that the County is going through another cycle of inspections and a lot of the County's bridges are coming back. There was an emergency priority repair on Pennsylvania Avenue as there was a hole through the deck. There are six priority one repairs and a lot of them are from washout from the major storms the County has had. There are also thirty-five priority repairs that have to be completed. Priority one has to be completed within six months and Priority two is within in year.

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 #5 removed from the agenda.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve the Claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated May 21, 2013, minus Check #141524.

See Page 05/21/13-4A **CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion to approve Check #141524 in the Claims Register dated May 21, 2013 was held at this time.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

See Page 05/21/13-4B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Alexander Howard appointed seasonal, as needed, Lab Assistant, in Mosquito Control, Health Services Division of Public Safety and Health Services.

See Page 05/21/13-4C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Jeffrey Godwin appointed provisional Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Dennis Heil appointed seasonal, as needed Structural Engineer, Engineering Division of Public Works Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Frank Dahihaus appointed seasonal, as needed Laborer, Division of Buildings and Maintenance, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Matthew LaFevre appointed seasonal, as needed Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Patrick LaFevre appointed seasonal, as needed Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Robby Bennett reappointed unclassified, full time Assistant County Superintendent, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4I **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Emma Scheick appointed seasonal, as needed Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4J **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Brett Durborow appointed seasonal, as needed Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4K **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Emily Parker appointed seasonal, as needed Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 05/21/13-4L **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Nicholas Zalewski appointed seasonal, as needed Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 05/21/13-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, RESOLUTION - Emily Olivo appointed seasonal, as needed Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 05/21/13-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Lauren Lynn appointed seasonal, as needed Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 05/21/13-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Shu Chen Chiang appointed permanent, full time Public Health Nursing Supervisor, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 05/21/13-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Thomas Matthews appointed unclassified, full time Director of Public Works, Public Works Department, effective July 01, 2013.

See Page 05/21/13-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Purchasing Department to solicit bids for County Bid #2013-12, to furnish and deliver 87 Octane Gasoline (2013 operating budget).

See Page 05/21/13-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

See Page 05/21/13-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Geoff Stanley to the Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 05/21/13-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a consulting services agreement with Dr. Ronald Frank to provide POD planning and management services to residents of the County as part of the annual Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (LCCPHEP) grant, from the NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000.

See Page 05/21/13-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing a public hearing be held on June 04, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., in the Freeholders' Meeting Room, for consideration of a proposed improvement acquisition for County Bridge E-174, on County Route 602, (Wertsville Road), in East Amwell Township.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 05/21/13-5J

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring May 2013 as Older Americans Month.

See Page 05/21/13-5K

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Wyatt G. Chingery for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/21/13-5L

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Dr. Casey Crabill and the RVCC Board of Trustees on receiving the Chabad of Hunterdon County Community Service Award.

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

Director Walton reported that Dr. Crabill has services the citizens of Hunterdon County well during her time as president of Raritan Valley Community College. He noted her good bye festivities are this evening at the college.

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-5M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application with NJ TRANSIT, for a general public transportation grant under Section 5311, in the amount of \$141,656.50.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an award notice from the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission, for the 2013 State/Community Partnership and Family Court Appropriations, in the amount of \$292,490.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 4:25 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

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

FINANCE

Kim Browne, Finance Director and Margaret Pasqua, County Treasurer came before the Board.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the County Budget be read by title only.

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

Director Walton opened the public hearing on the 2013 County Budget.

Barbara Suchau questioned the amount for the open space tax in the capital budget.

Ms. Suchau is also concerned about the Library staying open during the summer from around 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It would not have to be every library in the County, just the Library Headquarters on Route 12, in Raritan Township.

Ms. Suchau questioned the amount of \$335,000 for the parks purchases and who would have the details on that since it is a capital project.

Director Walton explained to those present that in the individual ordinances there is further detail other than just saying parks. You have to read the budget documents.

There being no further comments or questions from the press or public, Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to close the public hearing on the adoption of the 2013 County Budget.

Mr. Holt commented that the County is a family and he's spent the last five years with the members of this Board working to reduce spending and reduce the budget that has been in reaction to a declining economic market. Spending levels and budget levels are now back to where they were ten years ago; within that timeframe, the County has taken a surplus of \$40 million down to \$20 million. That number speaks loudly for the need for this Board to be very careful in moving forward to insure that surplus levels do not continue to erode. In an era when Hunterdon County is heading into a 2% CAP model; the examination of the County's surplus on an annual basis is one of the most critical components of the budget. Mr. Holt noted it is both the combination of the surplus and the debt capacity that puts the County in the position for the AAA Bond rating.

Mr. Holt said for many years the County worked to put an annual contribution in capital budget accounts and by building surplus in those accounts in order to save dollars. Over the past few years, the County's mode of operation has changed into one that has been more reactionary and things have been deferred. There was a time, a few decades ago when Hunterdon's infrastructure was not as it is today and only through careful planning has this Board been able to bring it to where it is today; to where the County is maintaining it.

Mr. Holt reported that the County has reduced its vehicle fleet by approximately 25%; at the same time the County has worked on exchanging vehicles with high miles and the net result has been a savings in terms of what has been expended in vehicles for the past few years. The fleet is now taken to an average of 90,000 miles per vehicle and when maintenance costs increase then the County needs to look at putting money in a capital account to cover the cost of replacement vehicles as needed. Mr. Holt feels Hunterdon County has to plan for the next 5 to 10 years in order to maintain the fiscal stability of this county.

Mr. Holt stated that economic development is a priority and must take place in Hunterdon and this Board must be involved. Mr. Holt is an advocate of transportation and Routes 78, 202 and 31 must be looked at as these corridors must be made more salient. The era of only traveling on 4 wheels must end. The County needs to focus on its future infrastructure, with the Fire School being one example; to be a leader in shared services; costs have to be shared and the County needs to find ways to collectively work with municipalities and the schools to lower the overall tax bill.

Director Walton advised those present that he believes this budget is in the best interest of the taxpayers and he will be voting for it. The government must perform basic necessary tasks and if those tasks were cut it would damage the County's ability to deliver those services. The County has been deficit spending for the last several years and that is not wise or conservative but it was a necessary evil given the economic downturn the County is still experiencing; however, neglecting our roads, buildings, equipment and our infrastructure will only lead to future tax spikes. Part of the job for the freeholders is to leave the County better than it was found. Director Walton stated short term thinking ruined many municipalities and counties and he doesn't feel this Board should go down that road. Over the last couple of years, thanks to our County Administrator, Department Heads and Division Leaders, numerous reforms have been made which resulted in substantial savings for Hunterdon's residents and the fruits of that labor our born out in this budget. Despite a \$350,000 increase in health costs and a \$800,000 increase in labor costs, and numerous other uncontrollable spending increases, this Board delivered a flat budget that takes no more taxes and spends no more money.

Director Walton reported that in the process of compiling this budget, seven public hearings were held during which ten County Department Heads, Division Heads and Constitutional Officers appeared to discuss their budget requests. There were 13 ½ hours of public debate is good government. No one is patting themselves on the back about this budget. This is just a job well done recognizing the budget is a ceiling, a snapshot in time and only part of the ongoing work in which the County employees deal with to conserve and spend wisely; take as little money from the taxpayer as possible and as little money as is necessary.

Mr. Mennen stated that everyone on the Freeholder Board puts forth their best effort; as does the County's employees who are often left to decipher the direction which this Board gives and is sometimes confusing and/or contradictory. Mr. Mennen applauded the employees for their ability to put things together.

Mr. Mennen agreed with Director Walton that multiple hearings and discussions have taken place in the formulation of this budget and they have not been contentious or argumentative or mean spirited but they have been the subject of some debate; however; there has been some disagreement and free flowing debate. During the course of those proceedings, Mr. Mennen expressed some concerns with this budget and the process as to result. He thinks there is spending in this budget which is not necessary in this environmental; the County could have drilled down a little harder.

Mr. Mennen has maintained that he feels it is a misnomer to classify this budget as flat. When you see a reduction in the ratable base of over 3% yet you maintain the same tax levy, that isn't flat. This budget has the relaxation of some of the regulations the Freeholder Board put in place over the years to address these fiscal concerns and economic concerns. Mr. Mennen has expressed his disagreement to some of those relaxations. There is an increase in the number of positions in this budget where he doesn't think there was a true demonstration of the necessity. He takes issue with the statement about not asking questions or not wishing to hear from certain staff members as there was a long dialog, which can be found in the minutes, where he asked a specific department head to come to a meeting and it was indicated to him that several of the Freeholders had exparte communications, one on one with that department and you were prepared to make budget decisions on that. Mr. Mennen said at the time, that he did not think that was fair to the public. The public was deprived of the opportunity to see the give and take.

Mr. Mennen stated cars, continues to be an issue for him; generally he feels the County could have drilled down and delivered a budget that spent less. This is the first budget since he has been on the Board which demonstrates an increase in spending over the years. Since he came, every year the County spent less than the year before. This represents a turn around; last year the budgeted amount of \$88,643,000 and this year it is \$88,826,000. This is an increase, it's a change in direction and it's a change in the curve. The ratable base is down this year another 3.1%. Since Mr. Mennen has been a Freeholder the ratable base for Hunterdon has been down 17%; that is in excess of \$4 billion gone; from \$25 billion to \$21 billion. Last year he County raised \$64,155,000 in tax revenue off of a ratable base of %21.973 billion. This year the same \$64 plus million is being raised in tax revenue from a rate able base of \$21.295 billion. It isn't possible to say this is a flat tax in the budget.

Mr. Mennen stated he isn't being argumentative or nasty or even mean spirited; there has been general disagreement and debates and he respects each Board member for their hard work; however, Mr. Mennen feels that more could have been done.

Mr. Melick reported this is the 36th budget process he has participated in as a Freeholder. A lot of things done here were done differently than in the past. Mr. Melick remembers while he was Freeholder the County has fixed over 200 bridges and numerous roads and redid the County's buildings. The County is responsible to respect the taxpayers' investment.

Mr. Melick stated millions of dollars have been spent in labor saving initiatives; to do things the way industry does in order to save on expenditures of labor. A couple years ago a few departments were reorganized and got more revenue in.

Mr. Melick also doesn't feel this budget is a flat tax because a lot of money is being taken from surplus (57%). The County hasn't addressed the MERCK problem yet. They are the largest taxpayer in Hunterdon County and they are closing. On Route 22, there are at least 100 professional units that are empty, between the Somerset County Line to Clinton. The County has to make more of an effort to address workforce efficiencies which would not jeopardize any improvements needed in the County.

Mr. Melick stated there are items in the budget he doesn't understand. The Board has adopted on a split vote several initiatives; one was about the taking home of Prosecutor's vehicles for employees who reside out of the County. A revise policy was adopted, 3 to 1, so those vehicles could be taken home. The County is appropriating \$100,000 more for gasoline in this year's budget.

Mr. King thanked the Finance Director, Kim Browne and the County Treasurer, Margaret Pasqua for all their work done in the budget and for explaining the details to him. He thanked the County Administrator, Cynthia Yard for being able to pull together the departments and for coming to the table with ideas on how to run the County on a day to day basis; as well as getting things done.

Mr. King is optimistic that this budget holds flat the amount to be raised by taxation. It also requires less in surplus to balance this budget than in previous budgets. The actual spending is relatively flat. It can be argued that there are a couple of dollars more on one side of the equation. What he finds encouraging is that miscellaneous revenue is on the upswing which is a fine indicator of things to come for economics.

Mr. King is encouraged by the sincere dedication to improving the capital side of the budget. He's aware of increases associated with personnel but he's spent five months listening to people collectively authorize raises, himself included, in addition to personnel for the payroll. The reason behind that is the County is now at the point where responsibilities have to be filled.

Director Walton thanked the Finance Department, the County employees and the County Administrator who holds this together. He thanked all the employees in the County who have to carry out this budget over the next year.

Director Walton thanked his colleagues for their respectful comments.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-8A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Library Tax.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-8B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the tax for Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Mennen seconded these:

See Page 05/21/13-8C CAPITAL ORDINANCE #1-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 1-13, authorizing the acquisition of heavy public works machinery, equipment and trucks for the Public Works Department and Vehicle Services, in the amount of \$695,000.

See Page 05/21/13-8D CAPITAL ORDINANCE #2-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 2-13, authorizing the acquisition of vehicles, in the amount of \$400,000.

See Page 05/21/13-8E CAPITAL ORDINANCE #3-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 3-13, authorizing the acquisition of office furniture, fixtures and business equipment, in the amount of \$140,000.

See Page 05/21/13-8F CAPITAL ORDINANCE #4-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 4-13, authorizing improvements to County parks facilities, in the amount of \$335,000.

See Page 05/21/13-8G CAPITAL ORDINANCE #5-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 5-13, authorizing the acquisition of equipment for the Prosecutor's Office, in the amount of \$20,100.

See Page 05/21/13-9A

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #6-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 6-13, authorizing the acquisition of computer equipment, in the amount of \$211,500

See Page 05/21/13-9B

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #7-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 7-13, authorizing upgrades to radio equipment and tower sites for the Division of Emergency Management, in the amount of \$500,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9C

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #8-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 8-13, authorizing the acquisition of maintenance equipment for the Division of Parks and Recreation, in the amount of \$180,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9D

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #9-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 9-13, authorizing the expansion of the Traffic Maintenance Garage Bay, in the amount of \$100,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9D

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #10-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 10-13, authorizing the upgrade and maintenance of the fueling systems at the Lebanon and South County Garage sites, in the amount of \$225,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9E

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #10113

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 11-13, authorizing improvements and expansion at the Everittstown Garage, in the amount of \$275,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9F

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #12-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 12-13, authorizing improvements to the Justice Center, in the amount of \$54,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9G

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #13-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 13-13, authorizing the upgrading of the Building Management System for the North Branch System, in the amount of \$20,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9H

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #14-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 14-13, authorizing improvements to the sewer system at the County Correctional Facility, in the amount of \$150,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9I

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #15-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 15-13, authorizing improvements and renovations to various County facilities, in the amount of \$200,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9J

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #16-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 16-13, authorizing the repair and replacement of various sidewalks, in the amount of \$150,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9K

BOND ORDINANCE #17-13

INTRODUCTION, Bond Ordinance No. 17-13, authorizing the improvement of various public highways, roads and streets, in the amount of \$5,700,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9L

COND ORDINANCE #18-13

INTRODUCTION, Bond Ordinance No. 18-13, authorizing the improvement of various bridges and culverts, in the amount of \$8,400,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9M

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #19-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 19-13, authorizing the acquisition of Deed Easements for development rights on agricultural land, under the Farmland Preservation Program, in the amount of \$1,400,000.

See Page 05/21/13-9N

CAPITAL ORDINANCE #20-13

INTRODUCTION, Capital Ordinance No. 20-13, authorizing the acquisition of real property for Open Space, Parks and Recreation purposes, in the amount of \$987,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-10A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the 2013 budget for the MRC Grant, in the amount of \$4,000.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-10B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the 2013 budget for Transportation and Tip, in the amount of \$33,768.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded these:

See Page 05/21/13-10C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the cancellation of a grant receivable for the 2012 Comprehensive Alcohol grant, in the amount of \$9,488.

See Page 05/21/13-10D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the cancellation of a grant receivable for the 2009 Homeland Security Grant, in the amount of \$3,278.73.

See Page 05/21/13-10E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the cancellation of a grant receivable for the 2012 HAVA 261 (Elections), in the amount of \$21.80.

See Page 05/21/13-10F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the cancellation of a grant receivable for the 2012 Title XX Transportation Grant, in the amount of \$1,649.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Mennen seconded this:

See Page 05/21/13-10G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an increase in Petty Cash for the Division of Roads, in the Department of Public Works, to \$180.00.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Walton reported that the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders will shortly be recessing the meeting to go to the Historic Court for the presentation of Mini-Historian awards. All of the Board regular business has been attended to and the Board will be adjourning its meeting over at the Historic Court House.

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public.

A resident stated a comment was made earlier about the ratables having gone down 17% over a six year period in time. He confirmed that it means that the value of the asset called Hunterdon County has decreased by 17%.

Mr. Mennen explained the real estate which goes into setting the County's tax base is down by that number.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 6:05 p.m. to the Historic Court House.

CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION, Mini-Historian Presentation

Stephanie Stevens, Cultural & Heritage Commission Chairperson introduced the Board of Chosen Freeholders to the students and parents present for the awards of Mini-Historian and explained, what a Freeholder is and does and that Hunterdon County was founded in 1714. Hunterdon County is 299 years old. Mrs. Stevens thanked the parents for encouraging their children to learn about Hunterdon County and the teachers for instilling an interest in history in their students.

Mrs. Stevens provided a small history lesson covering the Hunterdon County historic Court House. The first Court House for Hunterdon County was built on this foundation in 1793 but it burned down, and was replaced in 1848. At that time there were only two freeholders on the Board of Chosen Freeholders and it took only one month to build the building and while the court house was being built, meetings were held in the Methodist Church in Flemington Borough.

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented ribbons to the Honorable Mentions: the Frenchtown Elementary School, Hailey Haver, the *Frenchtown School and* Grace Nerwinski, The Doughboy Monument; the High Bridge Elementary School, Liam Boyle, Old Iron Mines and Niklas Oliver, Solitude House; Readington Township - Holland Brook School, Delaina Wallace, The White House Tavern; the Tewksbury Elementary School, Joseph Formica, The Forgotten Railroad, Madeline Mulroony, The Tewksbury Mystery-Christie Hoffman Park, Mark D'Angelo, Oldwick's Zion Church and Jeremy C. Caracciolo, My House, Cadence Clucas, The Magic Shop, Charlotte Abeshaus, Historic Mountainville Hotel, Daniel Colitti, Hell Mountain and Tessa Maddaloni, Sutton Family Farm.

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented ribbons to the Second Place winners: Frenchtown Elementary School, Jon Bach, Saxtonville Tavern and from the Tewksbury Elementary School, Nicole Mikruk, Oldwick.

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented ribbons to the First Place winners: Alexandria Township - Lester B. Wilson Elementary, Zach Erling, St Thomas Episcopal Church; Flemington Borough - Copper Hill Elementary School, Lily Testa, Hunterdon County Courthouse; Franklin Township School, Aaron Fisher, Oak Grove Grange No. 119, Frenchtown Elementary School, Annabella Melillo, Prevost House; High Bridge Elementary School, Elizabeth Curtin, Mine Road; Valley View School - Lebanon Township, James Foran, Penwell and Penwell Mill; Readington Township - Holland Brook School, Allison Mulvaney, Cold Brook School; Readington Township - Three Bridges School, Brian Pijanowski, My House (The Boya House); and the Tewksbury Elementary School, Holly Anthony, Historic Pottersville.

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented the award to the Second Runner Up from the Valley View Elementary School, James Foran for "Penwell and Penwell Mill".

Director Walton and Mrs. Stevens presented the award to the 2013 Hunterdon County Mini-Historian: High Bridge Elementary School, Elizabeth Curtin, "Mine Road".

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board