

Director Walton reported that every municipality in the County have transferred their general assistant program to the County's Social Services Agency. There are a handful of municipalities that handle one small aspect of it in their municipal purview but uniformly, the Social Services and Welfare issues of this County are handled by Hunterdon County Government for many years.

Director Walton reported the commodity being purchased this event is to pay for the ballots for the election of a governor.

JCP&L

John Anderson, Hunterdon County's Representative with JCP&L, reported the new substation in Tewksbury Township has been energized.

Director Walton confirmed with Mr. Anderson that all the resident's concerns have been generally met.

Mr. Anderson reported that several meetings ago a resident in East Amwell Township asked about tree conditions on Route 31 between Route 202 and East Amwell Township. JCP&L have looked at this and did not find any tree conditions there that were unusual or out of the ordinary.

Mr. Anderson thanked Hunterdon County for the work done on County Route 517 through Tewksbury Township in removing potential hazards, through the Dinner Pot section. He feels it was the collaborative effort between the County and JCP&L to address the safety concerns.

Mr. King thanked Mr. Anderson for his work.

Director Walton recognized a special guest this evening, Brandon Kopp, Boy Scout, who is working on a merit badge in learning about County Government. Director Walton confirmed with Scout Kopp that he has to hear an argument, for two sides of an issue.

POLYTECH

Dr. Kim Metz, Superintendent of Polytech came before the Board and introduced Jill Plesnarski, who works in a male dominated field, as a licensed operator and lab supervisor for the Readington/Lebanon Sewage Authority; and she has also been teaching Polytech's waste water classes for the last 15 years.

Ms. Plesnarski thanked the Freeholders for their constant support of Polytech. Ms. Plesnarski currently sits on Polytech's Advisory Committee with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for all wastewater licensing. Polytech has been handpicked as the pilot program to bring the wastewater licensing course which is required by the state to obtain a Wastewater License, as an online program. Young people are being encouraged to go into the waste water and water utility fields and the best way to do that, is to make it attractive to the young students and part of it is making it available online, since that is what the youth is used to.

Ms. Plesnarski advised the wastewater courses are state mandated but very few places in New Jersey offer them. Polytech always runs these classes and students come as far away as Atlantic County, Morris County, and so on. This course doesn't support Hunterdon County, it supports other counties.

The Board thanked Ms. Plesnarski for coming this evening.

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/15/13-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Deed of Easement from Linda Peterson (High Plain Farm), for Block 30, Lot 14, in Franklin Township, estimated 35 acres, (SADC-\$140,032; County-\$38,508.80; Township-\$38,508.80), total amount of \$217,049.60.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 10/15/13-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #CountyClerk.1553, pursuant to NJSA 40A:11-5(1)L, with Sky Printing LLC, for ballots, for the County Clerk's Office, in the amount of \$66,768.

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

ROADS AND BRIDGE UPDATE

Tom Mathews, Director, Department of Public Works updated the Board on various County road and bridge projects.

- Construction began today on County Route 513, from High Bridge Borough to the Morris County Line, 2013 NJDOT Transportation Trust Fund project.
- County Route 519, from Hillcrest Drive to Holland Township, High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) project. Written FHWA authorization has been received. Project is to begin construction in 2014.

- County Route 614, is a HRRR project, written authorization has been received from Federal Highway, bidding will be done this fall for a Spring construction.
- County Route 651 is also a HRRR project but it is for 2014. The preliminary design is commencing and there will be a kickoff meeting on October 31, 2014 at NJTPA at 2:00 p.m.
- The 2013 Surface Treatment project is now substantially complete. Punch list items are being addressed.
- Bridge Eo-140-M, on County Route 518, in East Amwell Township, the construction of the superstructure is commencing.
- Bridge RT-16 on County Route 523, by Halls Mill Road, the permit application should be submitted in November 2013.
- County Culvert U-18, on Race Street, in Union Township, the project is now complete, with punch list items are being addressed and the road has been open for two weeks, now.
- County Culvert E-152, the corrugated metal deck is being replaced with precast concert panels. The culvert will be closed on October 28, 2013 for two weeks.
- Bridge U-38, on Van Sickle's Corner Road, will be closed for 4 to 6 weeks, starting today.
- County Route 519, Warren Glen Hill safety improvement, revised right of way is 60% complete and this project will be discussed on October 31, 2013's NJTPA meeting.
- County Bridge F-45, on White Bridge Road, in Franklin Township, the shop drawings have been resubmitted and forwarded to the consultant for review and the contractor is asking for an extension of contract time due to the truss delivery date.
- County Route 579 over the Lehigh Valley Railroad, this project will also be discussed by the NJTPA on October 31, 2013.
- County Bridge E-174, in East Amwell Township, verbal agreements for this project for the right of way negotiations have been received. The closing will be shortly. This project will also be discussed on October 31, 2013 at the NJTPA meeting.
- County Route 513, Exit 15 on Interstate 78, right of way authorization advances.
- Bridge RQ-179, on Stanton Station Road, the County received an FHWA compliance assessment report and a response is being prepared.
- Intersection of County Routes 512/513, punch list items are commencing.
- Intersection of County Routes 600/612, the right of way has been ascertained from the property owners and final plans have been approved and the specifications are under review.

Speed Limit presentation

Mr. Mathews explained to the Board that in general the maximum speed limits on rural and urban roads are established statutorily. In New Jersey, its 25 mph in a business or residential district; its 35 mph in a suburban business or residential district and its 50 mph every place else. Those speeds zones can be altered to make them slower, especially the 50 mph zone, and to do that, an engineering study has to be done; the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices suggests that it be within 5 mph within the 85th percentile of free-flowing traffic. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) also agrees with that.

Mr. Mathews advised there are other considerations taken into account if an altered speed zone is being considered, such as the road characteristics, the shoulder conditions, the grade and alignment, the site distance, roadside development, environment, pedestrian activity, reported crash experience for the last 12 months, and if the speed limit is going to be accepted and reasonable by the majority of the road users.

Mr. Mathews reported when asked to lower a speed limit, the County has to look if there has been a significant change in the condition along that section of roadway; has there been a reduction in the 85th percentile speed below the posted speed limit; has there been a changed in the reported accident experience for the last 12 months.

Mr. Mathews stated everyone agrees that if the traveling public would just do the current speed limit, they would be happy. It is more of a speeding issue not the limit. Freeholder Melick brought up a great point at the last meeting, on October 01, 2013, that enforcement and handing out tickets makes people do the speed limit. There are a handful of municipalities in the County that do not have local enforcement. When the roadways are designed, the County looks at basic and simple ways to do traffic calming measures to slow the vehicles down, because there is no enforcement. The three "e's" for speed control are Education, Engineering and Enforcement. If you lose one of those "e's" there will be a speeding problem. The County does own a speed/radar trailer and it is out currently in Little York.

Mr. Mathews advised he has been looking at the County's speed limits for the past 18 years and 98% of the County's road have been investigated and speeds have been lowered to the point he can't imagine lowering the speed limit anyplace else.

Director Walton stated that letters came to the Board from Frenchtown Borough about lowering the speed limits.

Mr. Mathews explained that the speed limit in Frenchtown has been lowered three times over the pasta eighteen years.

Mr. Mathews stated that 513 was lowered because he concurred it met statutorily the 35 mph.

Director Walton opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments.

Mr. Holt asked Mr. Mathews the last time that Wertsville Road in East Amwell Township was looked at by the County.

Mr. Mathews stated East Amwell Township has a trailer to review speed limits but the County's trailer has never been on County Route 602. East Amwell does put their trailer on County Route 602. He has been sent a schedule of approved locations that East Amwell Township puts their trailer and 602 is used often. Mr. Mathews confirmed he cannot produce a report from the Trailer; it is only a device to remind drivers of their speed and this is what the speed limit is.

Mr. Holt stated he is willing to look at any mechanism that might lower the speed limit on County Route 602 but it has to be a collaborative effort with the municipality who must figure out how to enforce whatever the County puts in place. The speed limit through that section of the road, based on road conditions, maybe sound but the residents can't get people to drive the 50 mph speed limit through that area. Mr. Holt feels in order for the County to take action there must be an enforcement component of the equation and that must come from the local municipality.

Mr. Mathews stated people will drive as fast as they feel comfortable. An example is Route 12; it is a straight road and it is a wide road, with an 8 to 10 foot shoulder but people do not speed on Route 12. The reason is you can't drive from Flemington to Frenchtown without seeing State Police or a Raritan Township cop. People feel uncomfortable breaking the speed limit on Route 12 because it is well enforced. There are certain areas people don't feel comfortable speeding including Tewksbury Township, Oldwick or even Hopewell Township.

Director Walton confirmed with Mr. Mathews that a proven traffic calming device is to make the white lines on the road more narrow.

Director Walton questioned how a residential area is defined. He recalls Hampton Borough came to the County and said that County Route 635, Charlestown Road, should be 25 mph because there were houses on it. The County left the speed limit 35 mph except it was reduced to 25 mph on New Street. Who makes that decision.

Mr. Mathews explained it is stated in the statutory definition: "a residential district is where any 600' there is 50% houses and 50% open space". The business district is the same.

Director Walton asked what the internal control is that ensure that road is being looked at by the Engineering Division of Public Works. Mr. Mathews said the County goes by the 85th percentile.

Director Walton confirmed with Mr. Mathews that his office could set a policy where the lowest speed limit would be chosen.

Mr. Holt asked for a report on County Route 602 from the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department. He would like to look at traffic calming devices for inclusion in the budget discussion for next year.

After further discussion, the Board directed Mr. Mathews chose the lower speed limit when applicable and reminded those in the public that enforcement is the best way to encourage vehicles to do the speed limit.

COUNTY Update

The County Administrator, Cynthia J. Yard has no updates for the County at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated October 15, 2013.

See Pager 10/15/13-4A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Melick seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of September 17, 2013.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 10/15/13-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Adam Prokofiew appointed full time, provisional Clerk Driver, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 10/15/13-5A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Graham Knirk appointed full time, permanent Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 10/15/13-5B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, James Brown appointed full time, permanent Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 10/15/13-5C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Theresa Cleary Knight, Sane Coordinator, Prosecutor's Office, salary adjustment.

See Page 10/15/13-5D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for AFSME employees for 2013.

See Page 10/15/13-5E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Public Safety Telecommunication Trainees, salary adjustment. (completed training).

See Page 10/15/13-5F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Accepting January 01, 2014 as the official date of retirement for the Administrator.

See Page 10/15/13-5G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Herbert DeKorte appointed unclassified, full time Security Investigator, Sheriff's Office.

See Page 10/15/13-5H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Cynthia Niciecki appointed part-time Security Guard, Sheriff's Office.

See Page 10/15/13-5I RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Appointing John Phillips to the Hunterdon County Vocational School Board of Education, known as Polytech.

See Page 10/15/13-5J RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, Final, for County Bid 2012-28, for the rehabilitation of County Bridge F-45, on White Bridge Road, in Franklin Township, with Kalogridis Contracting, LLC, decrease of \$750.

See Page 10/15/13-5K RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Service Agreement with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, for a subcontractor to provide technical assistant services for the Local Government Capacity Grant Program.

See Page 10/15/13-5L RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the release of executive session minutes of May, June and July 2013.

See Page 10/15/13-5M RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Municipal General Assistance program of West Amwell Township be transferred to the County of Hunterdon, Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services, effective November 01, 2013.

See Page 10/15/13-5N RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the indemnification for employment litigation Tort Claim.

See Page 10/15/13-5O RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the extension of a subcontract agreement #LWD-WFNJ-PY12-HCDSS, (temporary assistance to needy families, general assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance program, for one month, through July 31, 2013.

See Page 10/15/13-5P RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a lease agreement through Section 5310, with New Jersey Transit Corporation for a vehicle to be used in the Consolidated Transportation System, LINK.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/15/13-6A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing the Mt. Airy 4-H Dairy Club on its 90th Anniversary, to be celebrated on November 30, 2013.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 10/15/13-6B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing James Gallagher for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 10/15/13-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a federal aid grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, for the preliminary and final design of improvements to County Route 513/Interstate 78 Interchange (Exit 15, in Clinton, Franklin and Union Townships and the Town of Clinton.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Melick seconded these:

See Page 10/15/13-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification with the Division of Family Development to implement the Sandy Homeowner/ Renter Assistance Program, through the Social Services Block Grant, in the amount of \$108,000.

See Page 10/15/13-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification with Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon, for Home Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to seniors, increase in congregate meals of \$5,109 and an increase in nutrition services of \$352.

See Page 10/15/13-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification with Brideside Adult Day Centers, Inc., for additional programming services, increase of \$32,120.

See Page 10/15/13-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification with Hunterdon Behavioral Health, decrease in funding due to loss of staff, amending contract amount to \$20,139.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

There were no Freeholder comments this evening.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident, stated the speed limit on County Route 523, in Readington Township is 40 mph and it has a better sight line and it has wide shoulders. Also, the road that goes into Holland Township, is 40 mph in Little York. Ms. Gavigan feels the County should be uniform when setting its speed limits.

Mr. Melick again noted the problem of enforcement. Writing tickets will slow the speeders down.

Ms. Gavigan recommended to the Board lowering the speed limit on County Route 602, Wertsville Road to 40 mph. She said there are no shoulders on this road.

Mr. Holt stated that signs can be changed but the road conditions stay the same.

After further discussion, the Board directed Mr. Mathews to look at this request to lower the speed limit on County Route 602 and make recommendations to the County on ways to calm the traffic, as has been done with other roads in the County, and report back to the Board.

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident stated that there are speeders on Route 12.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Walton adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board