

Special Meeting
HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822
December 16, 2014

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened in Open Session at 8:30 a.m., in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings act.

PRESENT: MR. HOLT, MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON.
ABSENT: MS. LAGAY.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Holt: "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 December 23, 2014, 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. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 12/30/14-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss changes to the County's Table of Organization.

See Page 12/30/14-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a contract for Animal Control Services.

See Page 12/30/14-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a review of the County's insurance proposals.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m., recessed at 9:30 a.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 9:35 a.m.

PRESENT: MR. HOLT, MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON.
ABSENT: MS. LAGAY.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

Insurance

Jim Griffith introduced himself as a Hunterdon County resident and as an Administrator of the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund. The Joint Insurance Fund has been in existence since 2000 and has consistently paid dividends which return to surplus to its members as authorized by the State of New Jersey; and that amount now totals over \$11 million in returns to its members which include public entities. The dividend information was provided to Hunterdon's Chief Finance Officer which also included their audited Financial Statement for the Joint Insurance Fund.

Mr. Griffith appreciates the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders entertaining the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund proposals for the insurance program for the County.

FINANCE

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 12/30/14-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Transfers between appropriations.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MR. KING, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 12/30/14-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2014 County Budget, for the PHILEP grant, in the amount of \$262,620.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 12/30/14-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2014 County Budget, for the 2013 Recycling Enhancement Act Tax Entitlement Grant, in the amount of \$110,000.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MR. KING, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.**

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 12/30/14-2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2014 County Budget, for the Sandy SSBG 2015, in the amount of \$25,000.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. KING, MR. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.**

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 12/30/14-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting the Division of Local Government Services insert an item of revenue in the 2014 County Budget, for the Social Services Homeless Grant, in the amount of \$3,688.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. KING, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.**

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 12/30/14-2D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the membership in the "Public Alliance Insurance Coverage" (PAIC) and approving the appointment of Beth Schermerhorn, the County's Chief Finance Officer, as the PAIC Commissioner for the County.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.**

PLANNING SERVICES

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 12/30/14-2E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Planning Services Division to submit the County's final Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) strategy to the United State Economic Development Administration for review and approval.

Sue Dziamara, Planning Division Head, explained over the past fifteen months, the County has had great representation from the private sector. Mrs. Dziamara thanked those private sector members for their contributions and participation; she looks forward to implementation in 2015.

Director Holt advised this activity started back in 2011 with the acceptance by the Board of Chosen Freeholders at that time, into a program called the North Jersey Coalition, which was a Housing and Urban Development grant which came through Rutgers and NJTPA (North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority). The decision to join in the North Jersey Coalition resulted in a grant which allowed the County to proceed forward with a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The basis for that strategy is to allow the County to establish where it is today with the economy in the County. The economy in Hunterdon today is very different than it was ten years ago or twenty years ago and it is certainly different than it was fifty years ago.

Director Holt was very supportive of the County undertaking this action because in order to determine what is the best course of action for the County of Hunterdon and its economic future; we have to understand where we are at this particular point in time; we have to understand where the positives are and where the negatives are.

Director Holt thanked the entire Freeholder Board for its support; he thanked Freeholders King and Lagay for their direct involvement on a day to day basis. He thanked the County's Planning Division and the County's entire staff but most importantly through this process there was a tremendous outreach from many different areas within Hunterdon who provided the basis to determine where the County sits today and what the potential strategies are in terms of setting the course for the best action in moving forward in terms of the County's economy.

Director Holt said focusing on the County's economy is paramount to ensuring that whatever this Board chooses this County to be in the future, it has to be attained; and to do that we have to focus on the economy; the demographics of what is occurring in the County; we have to look at how this will impact the school systems and job creation; and how this impacts the transportation areas and the public safety sector.

Director Holt feels this action allows the County to establish that baseline and to set a path that will be put in place. The Board has not yet determined what that path is or what it will be but we do know today where we are as a County.

Director Holt stated the action taken today only authorizes the submission of the CEDS to the United State Economic Development Administration. It will be reviewed and it will come back to Hunterdon with comments and there will be further public hearings until there is finally an adoption by the Board.

Director Holt stated the Board is very proud of its CEDS plan and feel it is a step in the right direction.

Mr. King suggested this would not have been possible without Freeholder Director Holt's leadership. It has taken 15 months from the time our Planning Division got involved to get to this point. Mr. King congratulated Director Holt on seeing this to fruition.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.**

PURCHASING

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 12/30/14-3A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a two month extension (January and February 2015), for County Bid #2009-14, for Refuse Disposal, with Raritan Valley Disposal, in the amount of \$18,756.22. (The County is reviewing recently received Refuse Disposal Proposals).

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Holt 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. Lanza seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated December 30, 2014.

See Page 12/30/14-3B CLAIMS REGISTER

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.**

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 12/30/14-3C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Katherine Terhune, Detective, Prosecutor's Office, salary adjustment (graduated the Academy).

See Page 12/30/14-3D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Rhonda Kelly appointed unclassified, Confidential Aide, Division of Corrections, Department of Public Safety and Health Services.

See Page 12/30/14-3E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a change in the Petty Cash Custodian for the Division of Buildings and Maintenance, to Justin Tibbetts.

See Page 12/30/14-3F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a change in the Petty Cash Custodian for the Division of Corrections, to John Paulmeno.

See Page 12/30/14-3G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a State Aid Change Order #1, for County Bid #2014-01, for the realignment of Pennsylvania Avenue Extension (Bridge Q-168), in Raritan Township, with Bob Viersma & Sons, Inc., decrease of \$81,323.69.

See Page 12/30/14-3H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Federal Aid Change Order #4, for County Bid #2012-25, for the rehabilitation of County Bridge D-300, on Rosemont-Raven Rock Road, in Delaware Township, with Rencor, Inc., increase of \$34,846.33.

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Ridgeley Hutchinson to the Hunterdon County Vocational Board of Education (Polytech).

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement with Animal Control Investigative Services, to allow the County to provide as a shared service to municipalities, in an amount not to exceed \$57,600.

Director Holt stated that Freeholder Walton has been a very strong advocate of shared services and this is the result of his work, the Board's support, the Division of Health Services, the County's Legal Office, and the Purchasing Department. This is a step in a direction which will provide services for animal control at a reduced cost for 10 out of 26 municipalities in the County.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. KING, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT.
(ABSENT) MS. LAGAY.**

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mr. Walton stated this is the end of his first full term that he has ever completed in elected office; he was appointed to several interim terms; has been elected to full terms but never got to finish them; so this is his first full term. He is looking forward to his next full term on the Freeholder Board.

Mr. Lanza stated he has just finished his 1st year of his 1st term in elected office and he is very grateful for the opportunity the voters of Hunterdon County have given him to serve on this Board, with these individuals. Through the course of the past year, his respect for these individuals has grown with his experience. Mr. Lanza looks forward to working with this Board for the next couple of years and he looks forward to helping re-elect Messrs. Holt and King next year.

Mr. King congratulated Director Holt on a good year and for his outstanding leadership.

Director Holt advised 2014 has been the 300th anniversary of this County. Tomorrow at 11:00 a.m., a time capsule will be buried in the Court Street Park, behind the Main Street County Complex. There probably is no person in this room who will be around in 100 years when the time capsule is opened but anyone wishing to partake tomorrow is more than welcome.

Director Holt offered tremendous thanks to the 300th Committee/Tri-Centennial Committee lead by Marcia Karrow and many others; plus the hundreds of volunteers who have put together over the past year, close to 200 events celebrating Hunterdon County. This has shown that there is a tremendous interest in this County and its history. What started as the idea for one major event worked into almost 200 events around the County. The 300th Committee has done a remarkable job.

Director Holt explained this has been his second time sitting as Director. It is incredible to work with the individuals on this Board. This Board has so much potential in terms of doing the right things for this County. There is a trust factor that exists among this membership; there is a communication level that exists within this membership; there is a strong directive to the County's staff in terms of what is expected from them and in terms of bringing themselves 100% to the table and they have responded. Director Holt feels that Hunterdon County continues to get better as it moves forward and hopes that this group of members are together for many years because he feels it is the best for Hunterdon County.

Director Holt thanked the members of the Board for their support and thanked the staff for their support this past year. He looks forward to handing the reigns over to another member.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

Shared Service/East Amwell Calendar

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident thanked the Freeholder Director and the Board and the County Division of Information Technology and Central Printing for their assistance in resurrecting the East Amwell Township Calendar with historical pictures. It would not have been possible without this shared service and cooperation of the County's staff.

Ms. Gavigan presented the Board with a copy of the calendar.

Clinton Town's 150 Anniversary

Megan Jones Holt, resident of the Town of Clinton, invited the Board of Chosen Freeholders to Clinton Town's 150th to be celebrated this Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.

CEDS

Robert Wise, Hunterdon Healthcare System (former Hunterdon Medical Center) congratulated the Freeholders, the events for the 300th over the last year, stating they did reinvigorate the County and he looks forward to the development of a document that will serve the residents of the County and the businesses that will be a part of this planning process. The Hunterdon Healthcare System will make sure it contributes time and energy towards the success of the CEDS. The Hunterdon Healthcare System hires approximately 400 employees every year.

Director Holt appreciates the support of the Hunterdon Healthcare System.

Bonnie Duncan, resident of Clinton Township/United Way representative echoed the sentiments of Mr. Wise. She applauded the CEDS submission and offered the support of the United Way to help with the implementation.

Director Holt stated the intention of this Board is that the CEDS document will turn into an action plan that is a multi-year strategy of the right direction for this County; one that recognizes its history, its agriculture base and everything that is good about the County and looks at the areas in need of improvement and strategizes how to do that.

Animal Control

Questions were answered for the press regarding animal control shared services.

Bridge Closure/L-69, on Newport Road

Tom Mathews, Director of Public Works reported to the Board that through a visual inspection this morning, there has been the unplanned closure of County Bridge L-69, on Newport Road, in Lebanon Township. This is a one lane stone arch and it will be closed for 8 to 10 weeks, depending on the weather.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board