

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

June 03, 2014

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:03 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

ABSENT: MR. WALTON.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Holt 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, 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. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 06/03/14-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a potential increase in the number of members on the Polytech Board.

See Page 06/03/14-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal requirements for the disposal of County property.

See Page 06/03/14-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an update on union negotiations.

See Page 06/03/14-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the County Administrator's Office vacancy.

See Page 06/03/14-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an update regarding the Finance Office.

See Page 06/03/14-1F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss salary and wages for unclassified and non-contractual employees.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:05 p.m., recessed at 5:20 p.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

No one from the public or press wished to address the Board at this time.

PURCHASING

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 06/03/14-1G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the extension of County Bid #2011-03, for Automated Data Processing Services, for the County Tax Board, with Vital Communications, Inc., for a two year extension, through June 30, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$124,390.24.

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

FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 06/03/14-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing final approval for the acquisition of a Development Easement from Barbara Hay, on Block 21, Lot 16.03, in East Amwell Township, consisting of 22.623 acres, (SADC-\$197,413.68; County-\$65,804.71; Township -\$65,804.71), total amount of \$329,023.10.

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

LAND USE and FACILITIES MANAGEMENT Update

Frank J. Bell, AIA, Director of Land Use and Facilities Management updated the Board on various County facilities and projects.

- Emergency Services Training Center, (new) the Request for Proposals (RFP) has been completed and Mr. Bell will discuss finalizing the RFP with John Davenport, Purchasing Agent, and advertising it.
- Emergency Services Training Center, (existing) the revised date for the door installation and pit, to June 30, 2014. The Fire Marshal has a few more items to coordinate regarding this project.
- Route 12 County Complex, Building #1, Fire Alarm System, the quote has been returned and the purchase order and requisition are being drawn up.
- Route 31 County Complex, Buildings #2 and #3, HVAC System, drawings have been received from the Engineer on May 30, 2014. Mr. Bell and Mr. Davenport will complete the bid documents by the end of June 2014, and it will be advertised.
- Sidewalk Repairs, the completion of the drawings are on schedule for June 30, 2014.
- Jail Grinders, the bid return date is June 12, 2014.
- Justice Center, HVAC renovations are complete. Repairs were made to one of the units.
- Generators, quotes have been received and the purchase order has been drafted. A coordination meeting is being scheduled with the electrician. The Roads and Bridges Division will assist in the excavation for the trenching from the County's Haz-Mat Building to the Traffic Maintenance Buildings and the contractor will lay the conduit and completing the hookups between the panels and the generator. Mr. Bell noted a FEMA grant has been applied for towards the generator for Building #1.
- Echo Hill/Prescott Bridge, a consultant has been hired to assist with the calculations for developing a substructure for the bridge on both sides of the Prescott Brook. Installation should be sometime in August 2014.

Director Holt at this time, footings should be set in place within the timeframe of the permit, so when the project is decided to move forward the County would not have to apply for another permit. At this time, the County is not completing the bridge.

- WIB (Workforce Investment Board), information has been received for the WIB's space allocation. A meeting of the County's Facilities Committee will take place on Friday, to review placing the One-Stop in the lower level of Building #2, at the Route 31 County Complex; also to be discussed is the placement of the GIS Division and Public Health Nursing at Building #1, at the Route 12 County Complex.

HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION/PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Tadhgh Rainey, Health Division Director came before the Board to discuss public health medical interpretation services and asked the Board to allow him to put contracts in place for two people currently contracted with for communicable disease services and Health Officer Services, through the end of the calendar year. There will be grant funds available to these contracts.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Rainey to reach out to the Purchasing Agent to get these contracts in place, to be brought back to the Board for consideration at a later meeting.

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."

Check #145727 is being held at this time.

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated June 03, 2014, minus Check #145727.

See Page 06/03/14-2B

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve Check #145727, as listed on the June 03, 2014 Claims Register.

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

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 06/03/14-3A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Jeffrey Quick appointed unclassified, full time Road Supervisor, Division of Roads, Public Works Department.

See Page 06/03/14-3B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Donald Sutton appointed unclassified, full time Bridge Superintendent, Division of Bridges, Public Works Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-3C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Kenneth Sutphen, Equipment Operator, Public Works Department, salary adjustment.

See Page 06/03/14-3D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Bruce Hewitt appointed provisional, full time Housing Inspector, Division of Housing, Human Services Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-3E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Annette Redelico appointed temporary, as needed Fitness Instructor, Social Services Division, Human Services Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-3F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Nicholas LeFevre appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 06/03/14-3G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Grant Jensen appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 06/03/14-3H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Patrick LeFevre temporary, as needed Seasonal Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works Department.

See Page 06/03/14-3I **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Michael Quick appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Lab Assistant, (Mosquito Control), Health Services Division, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 06/03/14-3J **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Sabrina Herron appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Lab Assistant, Health Services Division, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 06/03/14-3K **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Shane Johnson appointed temporary, Seasonal Accounting Intern, Department of Finance.

See Page 06/03/14-3L **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Mason Plummer appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Summer Recreation Leader, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 06/03/14-3M **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Gregory Kortina appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Summer Camp Assistant, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-3N **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Benjamin Lazarus appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Summer Camp Assistant, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-3O **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Alysia Pinkerton appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Summer Camp Assistant, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-3P **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Sean Mahoney appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Summer Camp Assistant, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Bess Fagerstrom appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Summer Camp Assistant, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Emily Anne Granger appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Park Naturalist, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Frances Duggan appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Recreation Leader, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Daniel DeLuise appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Recreation Leader Intern, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Sophia Latriano appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Recreation Leader Intern, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Emma Scheick appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Summer Camp Leader, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 06/03/14-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Sean Huzar appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Laborer, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 06/03/14-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Geoffrey Underhill appointed temporary, as needed Seasonal Recreation Leader, Division of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management Dept.

See Page 06/03/14-4I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving No Stopping or Standing on Gaunt Place (County Route 652).

See Page 06/03/14-4J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a weight limit on County Bridge RQ-179, on Stanton Station Road, in Raritan and Readington Twps.

See Page 06/03/14-4K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for County Bid #2014-10, for Heavy Trucks and Snow Removal Equipment.

See Page 06/03/14-4L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2014 Certifications and Assurances for the Federal Transit Administration Assistance Program and Annual Affidavit of Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

See Page 06/03/14-4M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a change in custodian of petty cash for the Finance Department, to Janet Previte.

See Page 06/03/14-4N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving TD Bank, N.A. as a bank depository for the County of Hunterdon.

See Page 06/03/14-4O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the professional services agreement with PM Consultants, LLC, in the amount of \$10,000.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 06/03/14-5A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Austin F. Ciccarino for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 06/03/14-5B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Daniel Lewis Hyland for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

GRANTS

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 06/03/14-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, for the provision of \$33,768 in Transportation Block Grant Funds, for the period of July 01, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

See Page 06/03/14-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application for grant funds with the New Jersey Department of Health, for Senior Farmers' Nutrition Program, in the amount of \$500.

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

FOR DISCUSSION

Addition Space Utilization for Polytech

Director Holt recognized Dr. Kim Metz, Hunterdon County Polytech Superintendent.

Dr. Metz asked the Board's approval for additional space at the Bartles' Campus. When the Freeholders' agreed to purchase the Central Campus from Hunterdon Central Regional High School in 2005, included in the agreement was a statement "Polytech agrees it will not exercise any options to purchase additional property or to lease additional space without the approval of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders".

Dr. Metz is asking for Freeholders approval to allow the Hunterdon County Polytech Board of Education to exercise their option to lease additional space. The 5,575 square feet of additional space is needed due to an over enrollment in first year Cosmetology program. By adding this space, the additional 20 students can be added to increase the enrollment in the student and adult programs; as well as provide an all-purpose room for the programs currently at the Bartles' Campus.

Dr. Metz said the Freeholders and some of the public have been critical in the past few years of Polytech's enrollment; so changes have been made in Polytech's marketing strategies including spending time and money to recruit students. In the next school year, Polytech is expecting over 500 students and if they all attend, it will be Polytech's highest enrollment in its 19 year history. Polytech is searching for ways to accommodate its growth and additional space would be the solution.

Dr. Metz stated that the new dance program has nothing to do with this expansion of Polytech. Freeholder King has been a critic in offering this new program; however Polytech is reacting to a specific request from the guidance counselors at Hunterdon Central Regional High School to start advanced programs. New programs are typically, always funded by federal grant funds and grant funds will be used to support this new program for the first two years, which will be partnered and facilitated with Health Quest.

Dr. Metz again asked the Board to allow the Hunterdon County Polytech Board of Education to exercise their option to lease an additional 5,575 square feet of space at the Bartles' Campus.

Mr. Lanza appreciates all the information and although Polytech isn't here to make money, it is here to serve a need; it is helpful when shown funding is being brought in while serving more students. Mr. Lanza stated he will support this, however he would like to see something that will be more formal looking and potentially more permanent, so leases aren't being extended and leases aren't getting bigger. Mr. Lanza feels a facility should be considered.

Dr. Metz advised Polytech is in the currently in the planning process and Polytech is asking for direction. She is glad this Freeholder Board is willing to listen. She thanked Freeholder Lanza for his support.

Mr. King confirmed this is a three year agreement that coincides with the current three year agreement; so this additional space will not be off terms. Also, this agreement has opt out options after years 2.

Dr. Metz advised Cosmetology students are with Polytech for a three year program. Next year Polytech will have a bigger issue because there are already 40 intro students in the works. Programs are going to have to be capped earlier in the application process. Polytech's recruitment efforts are working but only so many students can be accommodated.

Ms. Lagay questioned the process of the strategic plan in terms of all the interim steps that are taken without an adoption of the strategic plan. It sounds that closing of programs to allow another program, is very tactical/reactionary as opposed to planning on careers for the students and for a goal for Polytech as an institution. This sounds urgent and that it needs approval but behind that there has to be an assurance of not just doing tactical and reactive kinds of measures in terms of programs.

Ms. Lagay advised it is one thing to recruit and have a lot of interest but are those programs fully enrolled; are they fully and consistent with the strategic goals and with the needs of the County and the future workforce.

Mr. Walton said 4 years ago he thought this was a good idea and Polytech is now asking for another request to take care of a small problem and he doesn't feel anything should be done, until there is a thought through entire package. The Freeholders are working on a forward looking economic development strategy for the whole County. Mr. Walton does not feel that hair dressing is the future employment needs of Hunterdon County. The future of the County isn't known because Polytech hasn't done the work to let the Board know what the future needs are.

Mr. Walton questioned the need for a dance program when there are numerous private dance programs in the County where a student can attend classes in Hunterdon County. Why take those tax dollars and provide a public dance program because guidance counselors want this. There is no demonstrated need for dance; there are no employers coming to the Freeholders saying they don't have enough performing artist. He sees no justification for this.

Mr. Walton explained he is disappointed and frustrated. He hears things are moving in the right direction. He will be voting no on leasing additional space. More space should not be given for a job not done well enough.

Director Holt advised expressed to Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) this year by a couple of members of the Board was a clear desire to see RVCC have a greater presence and impact in Hunterdon County. Expressed to RVCC was a clear statement which said that while in the past there has been a slightly different feeling with regard to community colleges impact on Hunterdon, in fact the County of Hunterdon funds a fair percentage of RVCC, and there is a need to ensure that the county college system is the mechanism that connects directly to Hunterdon County's Vo-Tech (Polytech) system that over a ten or fifteen year window of time, will be the guidance and the series of paths that will help students move into those directions. The college system should be looking out five to ten years to see what will be required by the employment sector and where the jobs are and how to create a path that goes from college vo-tech High School to those jobs.

Director Holt stated that Polytech is a partnership with the County; Polytech is Hunterdon County's Vocational Educational School, and it is imperative that the County ensures a direction is followed but a decision has to be made on what this will look like in two years, not five years. Polytech and the County needs to ensure vocational education creates the best paths possible for the students. The curriculum paths need to be designed to help guide students achieve the best success in moving forward. Director Holt sees the connection between Polytech and RVCC.

Director Holt feels that success is no longer measured by how many students go to college but how many students are employed, do not have debt and can make a living for the rest of their lives. That is the metric that should be established in Hunterdon County and Polytech and RVCC will help in achieving this goal.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion approving additional space be obtained for the Hunterdon County Vocational Education School District, known as Polytech, (in the Bartlies Corner Building).

Mr. Walton asked Dr. Metz to come back before the Board with a comprehensive plan to build a new building, he would vote for that. It has to be comprehensive and not piece meal.

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

Mr. Walton left the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Human Services/Leave of Absence Request

Catherine Kopec, Human Services Director and Jennifer Shore, Human Services Administrator, came before the Board. Ms. Kopec explained an employee in Human Services has requested a medical leave of absence without pay; this employee has exhausted all eligible benefit time and is not qualified for any other covered leave, such as Family Medical Leave. Respectfully the Department Head does not support this leave; this position is critical to the service delivery of the department and cannot operate with a long vacancy.

Director Holt stated for those present, that while the department head may take a position on such a request, it is ultimately the Board of Chosen Freeholders that determines yes or not on the decision of the department heads, which brought this to the Board.

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to uphold the decision of the Human Services Administrator is denying this leave of absence.

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

Mr. Walton returned to the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Hot Air Balloon activities at South County Park

Director Holt reported a request has been received by the Chamber of Commerce to have Hot Air Balloon activities at the South County Park during the upcoming Hunterdon County Community on June 21, 2014. The Chamber would like to have a licensed contractor at the South County Park and part of the process is for the property owner to allow permission for this to take place. Director Holt stated the liability and permission for this activity has been granted by the municipality.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve a request from the Chamber of Commerce to allow Hot Air Balloon activities at the South County Park, during Citizens Day.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Flemington Rotary, asking permission to place two port-a-johns at the Main Street County Complex parking lot, during the Sixth Annual Bark in the Park Dog Walk, to be held on June 08, 2014. Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Division of Buildings and Maintenance, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

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

A letter was received from the Hunterdon Harmonizers, requesting permission to use the historic Court House steps and restroom facilities, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., during the 30th Annual Craft Fair, on September 20 and 21, 2014. Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Division of Buildings and Maintenance, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

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

Correspondence was received from the Flemington Historic Preservation Commission, requesting the County waive the facility charges for the historic Court House, on October 24, 2014, during the historic House Tour; also requesting that tickets can be sold on the day of the Tour on County property. Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to waive the facility charges for the historic Court House on October 24, 2014, for the Flemington Historic Preservation Commission.

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

A request was received from the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, asking the use of the County's auxiliary lighting, digital sign board, cones, barricades and portable radios; along with Sheriff Officer resources during the Hunterdon County Community Day, to be held at the South County Park, on June 21, 2014. Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion granting permission.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Milford Paper Mill/Landfill

Freeholder King reported he visited residents in Milford yesterday for their Citizens to Action group associated with the former paper site; as well as the landfill. It was very informative and it appears that the EPA believes they could be done with that facility within 4 to 5 years, turning it back to an industrial property.

Freeholder Walton/Re-election

Director Holt stated he has served with Freeholder Walton, during his entire time on this Freeholder Board, and he would like it widely known that he is extremely enthusiastic Rob Walton stay on this Board for another term.

Director Holt stated that currently this Freeholder Board is one of the best working Boards that has sat in Hunterdon for a long time and Rob Walton is an integral part of that and he is this Board's conservative conscience at times.

Director Holt assured Freeholder Walton that this Board is 100% behind him and knows that he will be victorious in the November election.

Mr. Lanza expressed similar remarks made by Director Holt, who stole his thunder.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

South County Park

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident and Chair of the East Amwell Agricultural Advisory Committee, noticed the discussion of Hot Air Balloons at the South County Park, which is located in East Amwell Township. She noted that the County administers South County Park. Ms. Gavigan asked that people who want to use the park for hot air balloons includes an education component with their requests. A member of her Committee reported last evening that a hot air balloon landed in his hayfield and gave him a hard time about it. The hot air balloon individual told the owner that since this was a preserved farm, it belongs to the people and the state and that the owner had not rights. Emergency happens but choosing to land on a preserved crop makes life hard.

Director Holt informed Ms. Gavigan that this is only for one event; it's a Community Day to commemorate Hunterdon County's 300th Birthday. The application will be reviewed by East Amwell Township Committee first.

George Wagner/County Administrator

Ms. Gavigan recognized the performance of George Wagner as the Acting County Administrator over this year. There has been a positive response to his performance and his interactions with the County's staff and the public.

Director Holt advised the County has had an interesting couple of years; there have been some dramatic changes at the County; a great deal of the Freeholders' support is its management team which continues to evolve. Things are not being done perfectly but they are being done better than they were before. Again, the Freeholders are supported by a great team of people. Director Holt appreciates the feedback.

Director Holt reported that there were a number of people that swore, when this governing body got put in place, that everything would go to hell in a hand basket and as of this past Wednesday, this Board introduced a budget that was done \$120,000; with a flat tax levy; with spending down and budget down because of department heads that came to the Board with good prioritization. The credit belongs to the County's staff who has done an amazing job.

Budget

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident questioned when the County's budget hearing will take place.

Director Holt advised it will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2014.

Ms. Stewart questioned how much did the financial fiasco cost this County.

Director Holt stated as part of the public record and as part of the audit report, there benefit packages that were misaligned with the County's employees and several hundred thousand dollars was paid out in costs for medical and health insurance to employees who were not entitled to them. This has been rectified and in doing so, the County has moved into the State Health Benefits Plan and that has begun to create a tremendous savings for the County in moving forward.

Director Holt informed Ms. Stewart that he is much happier that 2013 occurred and he's really happy that Mr. Walton was the director at that time; because this County at this point in time, from the staff level and from a financial standing is in better condition than it has been in his tenure here and for a number of years.

Director Holt advised in two weeks he will provide an update on the budget, during the Budget Hearing on June 17, 2014, everyone will hear that this budget is well prepared and it is one of the best budgets put together for the County. This is a budget knows where revenues are coming from and line items that are active; it has priorities in place that are accurate in terms of where the County needs to go forward. Director Holt is not focused on the past but on the future and he feels the future is very bright.

There being no further questions or comments from the press or public, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board