

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

March 04, 2014

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened in Open Session at 4:00 p.m., in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings act.

PRESENT: MR. HOLT, MR. KING, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, 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. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 03/04/14-1A RESOLUTION

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

See Page 03/04/14-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the reorganization of the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

See Page 03/04/14-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss contractual negotiations concerning the auditors.

See Page 03/04/14-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss legal issues.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m., recessed at 5:07 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

Director Holt advised a couple of weeks ago there was an editorial in the Hunterdon County Democrat which talked about the County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan. He feels the Democrat was dead on with their editorial comments with regard to the importance of this plan and he took a moment to say "thank you".

Director Holt explained he does need to make some clarification because he was quoted on a couple of different occasions and it is important to acknowledge that the decision to move forward with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was not made by one person; it was five people on this Board who decided to move forward. There is a tremendous amount of work being done on a day to day basis by Freeholders King and Lagay and by the County's Planning Division; along with Hunterdon's great relationship with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), and with Rutgers' who helped fund this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

John Anderson, JCP&L representative, reported at the pony truss bridge in Clinton, there is a tree in severe decline. JCP&L inspected the tree and found it had a guide wire attached to it and that wire has to be removed before anything can be done with the tree. Mr. Anderson will work with Tom Mathews, Public Works Director, to determine what can be done in order to get the tree removed.

Director Holt congratulated Mr. Anderson who was sworn in as a member of the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Board.

UNITED STATES NAVAL SEA CADETS CORP

Mr. King explained the United States Naval Sea Cadets Corp contacted him asking if a space is available for the Sea Cadet program as they were trying to fit into the community and find a home base. He introduced Commander Weatley and Executive Officer Lucas who will explain this further.

Commander Weatley came before the Board with a sampling of cadets currently in the Travis Manion Battalion; there are currently 23 cadets enrolled in the Battalion. Cadets present this evening (from Hunterdon Central Regional High School): Chief Bradley Staudt, Chief Connor Weatley, and Petty Officer Mark Hayton. Also present are: Seaman Victoria Weatley, Seamon Recruit Nicholas Racioppi and Lead Cadet Curtis Wheatley.

Commander Weatley advised he is looking for space to hold training exercises and understands that the cadets would have to give back to the County for the use of any facility.

Mr. King asked the Board to consider moving forward with a Service and Occupancy Agreement allowing the United States Naval Sea Cadets Corp to use the Lechner House located on the Echo Hill Nature Preserve.

After further discussion, Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion directing County Counsel, Shana Taylor to work with Commander Weatley on a Service and Occupancy Agreement for the Board to consider once it has been executed by all parties.

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

LAND USE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Director Holt recused himself at 5:53 p.m.

Flemington BID Request

Frank J. Bell, AIA, Director of the Department of Land Use and Facilities Management came before the Board and introduced Bob Benjamin, Chairman of Marketing for the Flemington BID (Business Improvement District).

Mr. Bell reported the BID is asking to have a display banner placed across the Court House side of Main Street to the Union Hotel area. Mr. Bell has evaluated the proposal and feels this would be acceptable.

Mr. Benjamin advised the Flemington BID is in charge of the many special events that are taking place in Flemington. Flemington is revitalizing itself and bringing people into the community. He is asking permission to install a new banner system that would operate on a pulley for the Borough of Flemington. Century Link would install a telephone pole on each side of Main Street and this banner system would work by a crank that could be used on either side of street to pull the banner up and down.

Deputy Director King confirmed with Mr. Benjamin that the Borough of Flemington is also backing this pulley system for banners.

Mr. Bell confirmed for the Board that the Flemington BID will obtain any approvals and/or permits necessary for this project.

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve placing in the County's right-of-way telephone poles for a banner pulley system.

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

Director Holt returned to the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Director Holt asked Mr. Bell to provide an update on priority items at this time.

Update of County Projects/Land Use & Facilities Management

Mr. Bell provided an update on various county projects to the Board:

- The repair for the Fire School is being worked on this week. Repairs will be made to the building by the Buildings and Maintenance Department.

At Mr. Walton's request, Mr. Bell will provide start dates and expected completion dates for projects.

- Historic trust fund money will be used for the stucco on the historic Court House; which was last painted eleven or twelve years ago.
- The sidewalk repairs to the Library, are in the general sidewalk repairs for the County. Mr. Bell and Mr. Mathews will work on getting sidewalks done this year.

Mr. Bell answered various questions for the Board regarding sidewalks throughout the County.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services presentation and introduction to the County's Health Officer

Director Holt explained to those present that the Freeholder Board has seen a presentation by the Division of Health Services on the number of new initiatives they are working on and the changes that have taken place over the past few years, since the County has changed how Health is being managed. Health Services has been moved directly under Public Safety and Taghgh Rainey has become heavily involved.

Mr. Rainey introduced Karen DeMarco, the County's new Health Officer. Ms. DeMarco has been with the County for two years; and is a communicable disease specialist.

Ms. DeMarco advised she has fifteen years of public health experience and has served with the Monmouth County Health Department for much of that time. Her passions are epidemiology, communicable disease and emergency preparedness. Ms. DeMarco is happy to continue her role with the Hunterdon County Health Services Division and to serve the residents of Hunterdon.

Mr. Rainey reported that he and Ms. DeMarco have had a chance to review the County's health program and there is a lack of consistency on the charges for some of the services. He and Ms. DeMarco will start to standardize the programs.

Ms. DeMarco and Mr. Rainey answered numerous questions for the Board.

Animal Control

Mr. Rainey informed the Board that his Division has reached out to all municipalities to see what their interests are concerning animal control and what they have paid in the past. The municipalities have been frustrated in the past about their Animal Control Officer services. A problem is the municipalities sign a contract for \$12,000 for services and after all the add-ons the cost is closer to \$25,000.

Mr. Rainey advised there are possibilities being looked into: (1) the County can hire a staff Animal Control Officer; have a kennel; and it will cost a lot of money and it will take a long time before the County makes that money back; and (2) the County could put a Request for Quotes out to see what it would cost to hire a vendor. Mr. Rainey explained the County would be taking on all the liability and if this is quoted out, and a bad Animal Control Officer is contracted with, the County would have to manage it. Also, the County would still have the same issues of add-ons that the municipalities had, so an RFP would have to be put out that is all conclusive but that could deter vendors from accepting that type of work.

Mr. Walton feels the County take this on and it should be a shared service with the municipalities. While the County may not save or make money but it could be made easier to administer. The County has professionals who can review vendors and contracts. Mr. Walton feels the County should move forward to offer this service to municipalities and it could be an extension of the shared services for health programs.

Mr. Rainey would like to see the municipal contracts for Animal Control Officers/Services so that the County could develop a Scope of Services. The County may also want to consider having a contract with more than one vendor.

FINANCE

Lou Garbaccio, Treasurer came before the Board concerning the 2012 County Audit.

Director Holt explained the action being sought from the Freeholder Board this evening is only to acknowledge receipt of the audit; then it will be published; and the Board will review the audit and a document will be produced that address any issues raised in the audit and how to correct those issues.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to acknowledge receipt of the County Audit for 2012.

Mr. Garbaccio stated the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services would like the Freeholders to review the comments and recommendations section of the 2012 Audit for the County.

Mr. Garbaccio stated his office has started to prepare the Correction Action Plan for the County in connection with the audit.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 03/04/14-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the agreement with Keller and Kirkpatrick Consulting Engineers (County Quote #0111-2007), for additional services in connection with the reconstruction of Inter-County Bridge T-36-S and approach roadway, in Lamington and Bedminster Townships, increase of \$8,000.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 03/04/14-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the agreement with Maser Consulting Inc., (County Quote #0034-2013), for additional services in connection with the installation of a sewer grinder and associated work, for the Corrections Division of the Department of Public Safety and Health Services, increase of \$600.

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

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."

Item #2 and check #'s 17134 and 144688 were held at this time.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to pay claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated March 04, 2014, minus check #'s 17134 and 144688.

See Page 03/04/14-4A **CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded these:

See Page 03/04/14-4B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Kenneth Borngesser appointed full time, unclassified Confidential Aide, Department of Finance.

See Page 03/04/14-4C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a 2014 salary increase in accordance with the contract with Lodge #94, Sheriff's Superior Officers.

See Page 03/04/14-4D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Robert Hanley appointed part time, as needed Fire School Instructor (Level 2), in the Emergency Services Division of the Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 03/04/14-4E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving an Adopt-A-Trail program and a Safety and Maintenance Manual for the program, as recommended by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

See Page 03/04/14-4F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving, upon the recommendation of the Cultural and Heritage Commission and the County's 300th Committee, the Special Project Grants for 2014, in the amount of \$22,500.

See Page 03/04/14-4G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Authorizing final payment for County Bid #2012-17, for the reconstruction of Inter-County Bridge E-140-M on County Route 518, over the Stony Brook, in the Townships of East Amwell and Hopewell, with Interstate Contracting & Excavating, LLC., in the amount of \$27,807.73.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to pay check #17134 as listed on the March 04, 2014 Claims Register.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to pay check #144688 as listed on the March 04, 2014 Claims Register.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of December 03, 2013 and December 17, 2013.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded these:

See Page 03/04/14-4H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a Section 5310 grant application with NJ Transit for two (2) Minibus vehicles designed to carry up to sixteen (16) ambulatory and/or two (2) forward facing mobility devices and one modified Van designed to carry up to four (4) ambulatory and/or two (2) wheelchairs. (Federal Transit contributes 80%; the State; NJ Transit contributes the required 20% match).

See Page 03/04/14-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application with NJ DOT for the Resurfacing, Reconstruction and Storm Water improvements project for County Route 513, in Alexandria Township and Frenchtown Borough.

See Page 03/04/14-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application with NJDOT for the Remediation of various Scour Critical Hunterdon County Bridges, in various Municipalities.

See Page 03/04/14-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a CEHA grant application with the State Department of Environmental Protection, for the purpose of supporting public non-community well salaries, in the amount of \$26,000.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 03/04/14-5D

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Charles Rebeck for having served on the Hunterdon County Human Services Advisory Committee.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 03/04/14-5E

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing March as Brain Injury Month in the County of Hunterdon.

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

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 03/04/14-5F

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring March 2014 as American Red Cross month in the County of Hunterdon.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Lucy Bush, again requesting permission to use the historic Court House steps on Thursday, May 01, 2014, for the 63th Annual National Day of Prayer, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Division of Buildings and Maintenance of the Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

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

Correspondence was received from the East Amwell Historical Society, requesting permission to use County roads, during the 5K/1 Mile Walk, on Saturday, May 10, 2014, at 7:30 a.m. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Department of Public Works.

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

A request was received from Team Somerset, asking permission to use County roads in Readington Township to conduct individual time trials for a bicycle event, on Saturday, May 03, 2014, starting at 7:30 a.m. until around 9:30 a.m. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Department of Public Works.

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

A letter was received from the Kingwood Township Volunteer Fire Company, requesting permission to hold a Coin Toss, on Saturday, April 26, 2014 and on Sunday, April 27, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the intersection of County Route 519 and State Route 12. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Department of Public Works.

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

The High Bridge Fire Department is requesting permission to hold a Coin Toss on Saturday, April 05, 2014 (April 12, 2014 Rain Date), and on Saturday, November 29, 2014, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., on County Route 513 between Grayrock Road and Arch Street. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Department of Public Works.

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

A letter was received from the Whitehouse Rescue Squad, asking permission to hold a Coin Toss on Friday, April 04, 2014 and Saturday, April 05, 2014 (Rain dates: April 11 & 12, 2014), and on Friday, September 05, 2014 and Saturday, September 06, 2014 (Rain dates: September 12 & 13, 2014). Time on Friday would be 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Department of Public Works.

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

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Hunterdon County, is requesting permission to use the North County Library parking area during a parade on Sunday, March 16, 2014, from approximately 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., in order to off-load and re-load participants in the parade. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Department of Public Works.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

There were no reports or comments, at this time, from the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident, questioned who will be in charge of animal control for the County.

Mr. Walton explained that the Division of Health is looking at several scenarios; one of which would be to hire an outside vendor(s) who will act as the Animal Control Officer. Those vendor(s) have not yet been solicited, yet alone, have quotes been submitted. The County does not know who the vendor will be but stated that the Animal Control Officer will be a public contractor.

Ms. Suchau informed the Board that she feels there are safety issues regarding banners being hung across a street. Also, this is not aesthetic.

Ms. Suchau understands there is a budget session tomorrow regarding the budget and salaries and asked if the County has any maximum salaries for jobs. Is there a reason that can't be done.

Director Holt advised in his opening comments, he referenced an editorial in the Hunterdon County Democrat, and in that reference there is a line that says in the County of Hunterdon, we must put as much energy and focus on the economy and economic development as is given land preservation. It is clearly the balance between those items that will make this County remain and grow and become an even better place to live. Your comments are not falling on deaf ears.

Lou Reiner, Raritan Township resident, commended the members of the Freeholder Board for the work they do and asked the Board to consider the fact that the ratable base has been slipping for the past eight years. When preserving open space and making decisions on what properties to grant funds for, he asked the Board to exercise prudence.

Tree Recovery

Director Holt advised the Freeholders have just received a copy of the 2013 Department of Public Works, Bridges and Engineering summary. This department takes care of snow and ice removal, keeping the roads and bridges in great condition, this includes tree recovery.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to approve the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign.

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board