

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

May 20, 2014

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened in Open Session at 4:32 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.

Director Holt recognized Christian Beard, student at Califon Borough Public School, who is a First Place recipient of the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Mini-Historian Award. He is here early as he cannot attend the ceremony at the Historic Court House later tonight as he is in a concert at his school.

Director Holt asked Christian to open the meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Holt and Christian Beard 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 08, 2014, to the Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News, Express Times and the Hunterdon County News (online), newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded these:

See Page 05/20/14-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a Rice Notice issued regarding the Finance Office.

See Page 05/20/14-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the Administrator's position where a Rice Notice was issued.

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

Director Holt presented Christian with his award and congratulated him.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:34 p.m., recessed at 5:15 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.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, questioned the Board on how the County's budget was progressing.

Director Holt stated the County's budget will be flat, the levy will be flat. The Board is currently reviewing the budget, line by line to make sure it is CAP compliant. The introduction of the budget will be scheduled shortly.

POLYTECH

Dr. Kim Metz, Polytech Superintendent, advised she is expecting two students, who are running late. She introduced Dr. Mary Eyles who teaches the adults and the nursing students. The nursing students receive 12 college credits from Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) and these are dual credits. Dr. Metz provided the Board with a resolution between the presidents of County Community Colleges and the Superintendents of the CTE (Career Technical Education) schools in New Jersey, to develop a committee to share best practices and try to encourage community colleges to work together for new ventures and new partnerships. Dr. Metz advised she hopes to be on this committee.

Dr. Mary Eyles advised the Clinical Assistant program was created in 2008 with the first class starting in January 2009; since then 20 courses have been run and Polytech has graduated between 130 to 150 students. It is mandatory that the students take two exams upon completion of the course; they take a clinical skills exam which they must pass before they can take the written state exam; then they can become certified. Clinical training is done at the Hunterdon Care Center.

Nursing students, Ally Haskell and Logann Troy came into the meeting. Both are seniors at Hunterdon Central Regional High School and will be attending Raritan Valley Community College to get their associates degree before going onto a 4 year school to obtain their bachelor's degree.

Director Holt thanked Dr. Metz, Dr. Eyles, Ms. Haskell and Ms. Troy for coming before the Board today.

CENTRAL PRINTING, MAIL and INFORMATION SERVICES

Robert Thurgarland, Director of Central Printing, Mail and Information Services came before the Board to provide a presentation to upgrade the County/Public Wireless/Wi-Fi Capital project.

Director Holt stated as part of the ongoing improvements of the County, technology is on the list. Within the budget in the County, is a multitude of ways to improve technology to ensure accuracy and to also contain and control growth in the departments, so they are more effective. Part of this will be the wireless needs in the County.

Mr. Thurgarland there are currently a few wireless access points in the County. The County is limited in its coverage. This project is scalable and can be prioritized by location. The objective is to improve the infrastructure, mobility, laptops, tables and smart phone access; plus provide vendor and guest access.

Mr. Thurgarland advised this project would allow the County to increase coverage at various critical points during times when the County has a need to open up shelters during storms/emergencies.

Mr. Thurgarland explained in order to increase wireless in the County, equipment would have to be upgraded; including the main controller which allows for a centralized access points currently, the access points would have to be adjusted individually. The Main Street County Complex has 3 wireless access points but there are still dead areas and that is because it is older, wireless access; the new equipment being proposed would provide greater band access.

Mr. King questioned if this project would be done in stages over several years or all at once.

Mr. Thurgarland recommended this be a 2 year phase in approach which would be prioritized with the Board on the locations.

Director Holt stated prioritization would not be done through the Board but from the Management Team who would make recommendations to Information Technology on how to phase this in, so areas are chosen that need the greatest demand initially.

Director Holt stated he is not an expert in any of this but he does know the County needs to move forward in this direction. The County needs to move towards the direction of technology overall but the County's staff needs to figure out where this goes.

Mr. Thurgarland confirmed for Mr. King that there is some funding in place for this implementation in the 2014 budget.

Director Holt stated that George Wagner, Interim County Administrator, shall be advised that as part of the County's Management Team meetings, this topic should become a priority topics so once the budget is adopted a draft scheduled can be drawn up of prioritization for access.

Director Holt advised for those present that the Board is also engaging technology in the Finance Office, Human Resources Department and the Purchasing Office. Technology will also be used in the Health Division to move it from a paper base system to a tablet base system on restaurant inspections and other various inspections. This will allow the County to double the number of inspections per inspector per year.

Director Holt noted that in the past 25 years in the Farmland Preservation Program, the County has gone from 10 farms to over 300 farms and those farms have to be inspected once a year. That is currently a paper base system. The County is taking a step in the right direction and technology will provide a long term return.

PURCHASING

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 05/20/14-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #CountyClerk.1609, using NJSA 40A:11-5(1)L, with Sky Printing, for ballots, for the County Clerk's Office, in the amount of \$72,100.

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

FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 05/20/14-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal application for Open Space Funds, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Committee, to Union Twp., for the Milligan Farms, Block 22, Lot 20, approximately 84 acres, amount of \$25,663.62.

See Page 05/20/14-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing final approval for the development easement for the Amwell Chase Farm, in West Amwell Township, Block 5, Lots 24 and 24.01, estimated 205 acres, (SADC-\$1,073,340; County-\$357,780, Township-\$357,780), total amount of \$1,788,900.

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

ROADS and BRIDGES UPDATE

Tom Mathews, Director, Public Works Department, provided the Board with an update on various County roads and bridges.

- County Route 519, in Milford Borough is a federally funded project; paving was completed today.
- County Route 614 is also a federally funded project with two phases; one is an intersection improvement at 579 and 614, known as the Hickory; that paving was also completed today. The second phase is improvements to the curb closer to Route 78 and that will start next week.
- County Route 651, plans and specifications and engineers estimate has been submitted to the State on April 04, 2014 and additions had to be made, so the plans and specifications were resubmitted to the State today.
- County Bridge K-110/Ko-111, a proposal was received from the low bidder to do the permitting and design of the reconstruction of these two structures.
- County Bridge T-36-S on Black River Road, in Tewksbury Township, the bridge detour signs will be installed on June 12, 2014; the bridge will be closed on June 16, 2014; and it is scheduled to be reopened in November 02, 2014.

See Page 05/20/14-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving longevity payments for employees covered under the AFSCME Memorandum of Agreement, for 2011 through 2013.

See Page 05/20/14-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of a temporary Chief Financial Officer, Janet Previte.

See Page 05/20/14-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the specifications for the 2014 Resurfacing and Surface Treatment of County Routs 518, 579A, 579B, 605, 613, 617 and 619, in various townships and authorizing the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.

See Page 05/20/14-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving specifications for Painting of Bridges D-325, U-20, L-30, W-18, R-170 and T-65, in various municipalities and authorizing the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.

See Page 05/20/14-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Hunterdon County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

See Page 05/20/14-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a settlement agreement with James Nammoura.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated May 20, 2014, minus Check #145576.

See Page 05/20/14-5G

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve Check #145576.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 05/20/14-5H

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring May, 2014 as Older Americans Month in Hunterdon County.

See Page 05/20/14-5I

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Colin Henderson for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/20/14-5J

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Matthew Nanna for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/20/14-5K

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Robert Anthony Axelsen for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/20/14-6A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Ryan Lawrence Koenig for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 05/20/14-6B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Evan R. Vaccarella for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Union Fire Company, requesting permission to hold a Coin Toss on Saturday, May 31, 2014 and Sunday June 1, 2014; Saturday, July 12, 2014 and Sunday, July 13, 2014, at the intersection of Kingwood Avenue and Race Street, in Frenchtown Borough. Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

A request was received from Leftfield Pictures, Kevin Maguire, Associate Producer, asking permission to shoot footage of the interior and exterior of the historic Court House, for their "Hunt for History". Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Lagay seconded a motion granting approval provided a location agreement be drawn between the parties and reviewed and approved by County Counsel.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mr. King reported it has come to his attention that the Board for Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) is now has 9 members from Somerset County and Hunterdon only has 3. He has asked the County's 3 very articulate members to do their best in representing Hunterdon County.

Mr. King stated the financial picture for RVCC looks very positive and their expenditures are relatively stable.

Ms. Lagay advised the County has already adopted a proclamation for Older Americans Month and she wanted to remind everyone that Hunterdon County is the healthiest County.

Ms. Lagay reported that on June 21, 2014, the County in conjunction with the 300th Anniversary is the first annual Hunterdon County Community Day. This will involve all Hunterdon's municipalities as well as the service organizations. The event will take place at the South County Park.

Director Holt reminded everyone this is Memorial Day weekend, and asked everyone to remember this has a purpose so thank a veteran for what they have done for this country to keep up free.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

John Anderson, JCP&L representative, introduced Stan Prader who is Mr. Anderson's counterpart in Hunterdon County. Mr. Prader represents 9 municipalities in the County.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident, asked the Board if the County's Comprehensive Preservation Plan will be updated, it was last updated in 2008. While this is on the County's website, it can't be downloaded.

Director Holt advised that this Board agreed, earlier in the year, that post budget, the Freeholders will review the Open Space policies and its direction. Freeholder Lanza will be spear heading the review of the Open Space/Farmland policies after the budget is adopted. Director Holt confirmed this will occur in 2014.

Ms. Gavigan asked if the Board could make the plan downloadable from the website.

The Board directed Denise Doolan, Clerk of the Board to assist Ms. Gavigan in getting a copy of the Comprehensive Preservation Plan.

Ms. Lagay stated the Parks Advisory Board and the Open Space Advisory Committee will be merged and this is part of looking at the bylaws and mission statement. This is under review currently.

Terry Wright, reporter, for the Hunterdon County Democrat asked if Mr. Florio's report regarding the Finance Office has been released yet.

Director Holt stated the report arrived today and will be placed on the County's website.

Mr. Wright asked when the County will be appointing a new Chief Financial Officer.

Director Holt reported the new Chief Financial Officer will start with the County on July 08, 2014.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 6:15 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:40 p.m. in the Historic Court House.

CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION

Stephanie Stevens, Chairperson, of the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission came before the Board to make a presentation of Mini-Historian awards.

Director Holt advised those present that Christian Beard came in earlier to receive his award.

Director Holt introduced Stephanie Stevens, Cultural and Heritage Chairperson; the Board of Chosen Freeholders individually, County Counsel, Shana Taylor and Denise Doolan, Clerk of the Board.

Director Holt noted that Mrs. Doolan has been with the County for 38 years and has served as Clerk of the Board for the past 22 years.

Director Holt noted that Mrs. Stevens has been Chairperson of the Cultural and Heritage Commission since its inception. Mrs. Stevens has a tremendous background on the history of the County.

Mrs. Stevens introduced Laura Jones who is a member of the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission and will be assisting in the presentation today.

Mrs. Stevens explained to those present what a Freeholder is and does and that Hunterdon County was founded in 1714. Hunterdon County is celebrating its 300th Anniversary this year. 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.

Mrs. Stevens explained that retired teachers reviewed all the submissions and thanked them for taking the time.

2014 Most Historic Place in my Town Essay Contest Winners:

Honorable Mentions:

Donnie Ahlbrandt, High Bridge Elementary School; Elisa Booth, Christopher Saam and Eliza Truempy, Valley View School; Conor Nicol and Alex Travaglione, Tewksbury Elementary School.

Second Place Winners:

Ryan Forbes, Franklin Township School; John Hanlon, Lebanon Township School; and Thomas Freda, Tewksbury Elementary School.

First Place Winners:

Christian Beard, Califon Public School; Abby Davidson, East Amwell Township School; Liah Forbes, Franklin Township School; Shawn Em, Frenchtown Elementary School; Elisna Terblanche, High Bridge Elementary School; James Clawson, Lebanon Township School; Sophia Grausso, Whitehouse School/Readington Township; Sean Milian, Tewksbury Elementary School.

2nd Prize Winner

Elisna Terblanche, High Bridge Elementary School.

Grant Prize – Hunterdon County's 2014 Hunterdon County Mini-Historian

Sean Milian, Tewksbury Elementary School.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders posed for pictures with the students.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board