

# HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Hampton Municipal Building, 1 Wells Avenue

Hampton, New Jersey 08827

**September 02, 2014**

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened in Open Session at 4:30 p.m., in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings act.

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

**ABSENT: MR. LANZA.**

## **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 August 25, 2014, to the Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News, the Express Times, and HC News (online) newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

**See Page 09/02/14-1A RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a Mental Health appointment.

**See Page 09/02/14-1B RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a Human Services Advisory Council appointment.

**See Page 09/02/14-1C RESOLUTION**

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

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:31 p.m., recessed at 5:21 p.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

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

**ABSENT: MR. LANZA.**

Director Holt stated it is a pleasure this evening to be in the Borough of Hampton. The last time the Board of Chosen Freeholders went on the Board was in summer of 2007 and he was on the Board at that time. He is hoping the Board will be able to meet in as many municipalities, as will have the Freeholders. If you are expecting a lot of excitement, it doesn't happen in Freeholder meetings. The Freeholders are very happy to be here this evening.

Director Holt thanked the County's staff, Hampton's government body, and certainly the Hampton Fire Department for opening their building and allowing the Freeholders to meet here. It is so great to start this tour of municipalities and he hopes it will be going on for some time.

Director Holt introduced the members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and those members of the County's staff that are present today.

Also introduced is former Hampton Borough Mayor Ed Bummer, former Councilwoman Maryanne Carpenter, Robert Sheridan of the Hampton Environmental Committee, Tom Carpenter the Borough Historian, and former EMS Chief Lynn Nelson.

Director Holt explained the Board convened today at 4:30 p.m. for Executive Session, the Board typically has a closed session before the open session. There are certain categories of topics the Board is allow to discuss in closed session but closed session does not allow the Board to take any action but it is a time to discussion issues as a whole. Any action the Freeholders do take must be done in public forums.

Director Holt announced that in the Freeholder Meetings there are two areas allowed for public comment, should anyone wish to comment publically on anything. At the beginning of the meeting the public will be given two minutes to address the Board and if anyone wishes to talk longer, they will be given the opportunity at the end of the meeting.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

Pamela Bailey, Hampton Borough resident asked the Board about the recent home invasion in the Borough, yesterday.

Mr. Walton reported the County Prosecutor is working on this and he feels the Borough residents can sleep well. It appears this was a random act.

Bob Sheridan, Hampton Environmental, stated that years ago the County Health Department assisted with wastewater management, by certifying the pumpers and they also tried to maintain a three year pumping for each septic tank. He asked how the Health Division is performing on this matter.

Director Holt does not have that information today but stated that George Wagner, Chief of Staff-Director of Public Safety and Health Services will check on this matter.

**UNITED WAY OF HUNTERDON - Proclamation**

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-2A**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Declaring September 08, 2014 through September 14, 2014, as Diaper Need Awareness Week in Hunterdon.

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

Director Holt presented the proclamation to Bonnie Duncan, President of United Way, who explained the various needs for donated diapers throughout the County.

**PURCHASING**

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-2B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40037065, using State Contract #A83560, with Beyer Ford, for a 2015 Ford Mason Dump Truck with plow and tow package, for Public Works, in the amount of \$37,099.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-2C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40037066, using State Contract #A83560, with Beyer Ford, for a 2015 Ford Mason Dump Truck with plow and tow package, for Public Works, in the amount of \$37,099.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-2D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #40037069, using State Contract #A82926, with Day Chevrolet, for a Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 Patrol, for the Division of Emergency Services, in the amount of \$36,344.07.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-2E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #IT.3871, using State Contract #A77560, with Software House International (SHI), for software, for the Division of Information Technology, in the amount of \$37,707.39.

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

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-2F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #PROS.793928, using State Contract #A82926, with Day Chevrolet, for a Chevrolet Tahoe, for the Prosecutor's Office, in the amount of \$48,293.94. (FESA Account).

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-3A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing an extension to County Bid #2013-19, for a Hunting License Agreement, on Block 6, Lots 44, 49 and 49.02, in Holland Twp., County to receive \$5,387.87.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-3B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing a modification to the professional services agreement with Malick and Scherer, PC, for engineering design services, for safety and mobility improvements to the Intersection of County Route 600 (Wescott Drive) and County Route 612 (Sand Hill Road), in Raritan Township, increase of \$8,690.

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

**LAND USE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Frank J. Bell, Director, Land Use and Facilities Management, came before the Board to provide an update on various County facilities and projects.

- Emergency Services Training Center (new), four different firms have reviewed the site for the planned new center. Bids are due to be returned on September 15, 2014. Once the bids have been received the committee assigned to review them will be assembled.
- Emergency Services Training Center (existing), doors have been installed; and a purchase order has been issued for concrete work.
- Route 12 County Complex, Building #1, Fire Alarm System is complete except for some minor punch list items and a final approval is needed from the local building inspector.
- Route 31 County Complex, HVAC, for Buildings #1, 2 and 3; this project will be out to bid on September 25, 2014.
- Sidewalk Repairs, the documents are done and Purchasing is working on getting this out to bid.
- Jail Grinders, a preconstruction meeting was held on August 25, 2014; the completion date is estimated at December 31, 2014.
- Generators have been installation; a meeting is being coordinated with JCP&L to turn off the panel at the Traffic Maintenance Building so the contractor can finish his work.
- Traffic Maintenance Buildings, bids will be taken on this project in another two weeks.
- Echo Hill, Prescott Bridge, an extension has been received on the project, DEP is confirming when the extension will run.
- Arboretum, well replacement bidding is now complete and the project will be awarded at the next meeting.
- WIB, One-Stop, the revised plan has been reviewed with WIB.
- Bridge Repair/Renovation, West Amwell Township, the County is reviewing the engineering and planning phases/services, as to what will be needed to complete the project.

Freeholder Lagay questioned Mr. Bell about the Cultural and Heritage move.

Mr. Bell reported that the painting is complete at this time and All Clean will be shampooing the carpets on the first floor of the historic court house for Cultural and Heritage, prior to moving furniture in. Mr. Bell confirmed for Freeholder Lagay that the furniture needed is currently in the warehouse. Cultural and Heritage will be moving into the offices on the Court Street side of the building. Other areas in the Court House are being used for Exhibits and Vendor areas.

**FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-3A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Municipal Grant for Open Space Trust Funds, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Board, to Bethlehem Township, in the amount of \$9,816.43, for a portion of the soft costs related to the Pfauth/Carman acquisition, Block 43, Lot 21.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-3B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Municipal Grant for Open Space Trust Funds, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Board, to Bethlehem Township, in the amount of \$90,000, for the Jugtown Park Associates, L.P. parcel, Block 92, Lot 3.

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

The Board discussed the Municipal Grant for the allocation of Open Space Trust Funds, at the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Board, to Readington Township, in the amount of \$17,432.12, to purchase recreational equipment.

Mr. Walton confirmed this is for the replacement of swings and slides. He noted the ballot referendum language.

After further discussion, this item was tabled until the September 16, 2014 meeting so the Board can receive a legal opinion and to answer the Board's questions. The Board also directed that Sue Dziarama, Planning Director, take this matter back to the Open Space Advisory Council for further review.

### **FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **County support of school district consolidation.**

Director Holt reported that in the beginning of August, the Board of Freeholders, had a discussion and took a stand on the issue of school consolidation. There has been continued work on behalf of the Board and the Board may this evening, entertain a resolution on this matter.

Deputy Director King provided a copy of resolution and press release regarding school consolidation that will be discussed this evening by the Board.

Mr. King noted that 70% of Hunterdon County's taxes goes towards schools and at least half a dozen municipalities adopted resolutions in 2011 encouraging the consolidation of school districts. The Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce published a letter of similar support on behalf of the business community. South Hunterdon is the County's recent success for consolidation of its three school districts, leaving 27 independent school districts comprised of more than 3,340 employees in 50 buildings; making education the largest employer in the County. Regrettably 20% of the elected school board positions currently are vacant and without candidates governance is not optimal. Taxpayers in Hunterdon County spent more \$391,000,000 in the 2011/2012 school year to educate 22,100plus children in public schools. The average amount spent for each student, whether they were in kindergarten or 12<sup>th</sup> grade was \$17,651 which is equivalent to a college education.

Mr. King advised the broader issue is there being more than 600 school districts in New Jersey prompted Kean University Center for History, Politics and Policy to conduct a poll in 2011, and according to poll of 1,000 likely voters favored a 63% decrease in property taxes if it meant the merger of their own town's schools with neighboring school in neighboring towns, in their home county.

The Board of Freeholders recognizes that affordability itself is one of the greatest challenges this County faces and its personal responsibility to manage Hunterdon's portion of the property taxes has been well met for the past six years, if not longer. Hunterdon's municipalities have achieved equal success and he credits the various mayors. The largest portion of the property tax burden is not municipal or county and it remains unaddressed. Efforts to gain efficiency through shared services has had moderate success but the picture remains unchanged regarding school tax.

Mr. King urged the Board of Chosen Freeholders to introduce a resolution calling for schools to take on this challenge and to work with their legislators, Freeholders, municipal officials, elected school board members and the residents as a whole in Hunterdon County, to examine the means to improve upon the efficiency and effectiveness of the education system. Mr. King further urged the Freeholder Board to consider a form of matching funds for districts that wish to complete the requisite formal studies necessary to achieve the education benefits and financial savings to the taxpayers of Hunterdon, to consolidate to regionalization.

Mr. Walton stated Hampton Borough has a school with less than 100 students; he and the current mayor are graduates of that school. He questions if there should be a Hampton School District. Bethlehem Township also has under populated schools and Hampton students could attend Bethlehem's school. There are many efficiencies that could be gained by consolidation of the school districts. Several years ago it was suggested that Hunterdon County have one School District and that might have been too large for people to consider.

Mr. Walton agreed with Mr. King that the Freeholder Board should put money behind this effort, since the taxpayers have been paying for all the schools for a very long time, and it is time a financial incentive is created for schools to move in the direction that South Hunterdon has successfully moved into.

Director Holt stated the Freeholder Board discussed this about a month ago, and suggested that a question be placed on the ballot to ask the public whether or not they would support the work to be done to look into consolidating school districts in Hunterdon County.

Director Holt explained the statute with regard to questions on a ballot is directly related to the fact because this governing body does not have the authority to act upon or to create, should the question come back in a positive form, so the Freeholders cannot place that question on the ballot. The Freeholders have looked at this and the response back from the initial discussion was extremely positive, and it is felt the Freeholders should continue to push this topic but should also address the fact that the County's population growth is not what it was, 10 or 20 years ago. Hunterdon County will not see that growth anymore. The Freeholders now need to look at the County's infrastructure looks like; what the assets are and what the student base is; and how to save money and how to continue to have the education in the County that has served the residents.

Director Holt stated the Board of Chosen Freeholders have spent a number of years reducing the County's budget and all that efforts probably only saved taxpayers around \$100 on taxes.

Director Holt stated roughly \$400 million is spent on education in Hunterdon County and it needs to be reviewed because it is the largest bite out of the property tax bill and it needs to be addressed. The Board supports and will actively participate and assist, plus financially donate in a fashion to drive this forward should the public decide to consolidate school districts.

Mr. King stated the resolution for consideration has been reviewed by County Counsel, Shana Taylor. The resolution states adequately what the County means to accomplish and a copy of the resolution has been sent to the County's Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-5A** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Supporting the consolidation of schools and allocating matching funds to local school boards who complete a formal feasibility study and determine the level of educational benefits and/or financial savings to the taxpayers to be achieved by consolidation.

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

**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 #4657 held at this time.

Item #13 held at this time.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated September 02, 2014, minus Check #4657.

**See Page 09/02/14-5B** **CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to approve Check #4657 as listed on the Claim Register dated September 02, 2014.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

**See Page 09/02/14-5C** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Janet Previte appointed full time, unclassified Division Head, Finance Department.

**See Page 09/02/14-5D** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Julia Grecco appointed full time, confidential assistant, Finance Department.

**See Page 09/02/14-5E** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Michael Pierman appointed full time, Laborer 1, Roads and Bridges Division, Department of Public Works.

**See Page 09/02/14-5F** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Jason Lawrence appointed full time, Laborer 1, Roads and Bridges Division, Department of Public Works.

**See Page 09/02/14-5G** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Maureen Bukowski appointed full time, Keyboarding Clerk 1, Social Services Division, Human Services Department.

**See Page 09/02/14-5H** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Roy Aycock appointed full time, unclassified/ unaffiliated Deputy Chief, Office of the Prosecutor.

See Page 09/02/14-6A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving 2014 salaries for the FOP Unit for County Investigator Lieutenant, Office of the Prosecutor.

See Page 09/02/14-6B

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving 2014 salaries for the FOP Unit for County Investigator Sergeants, Office of the Prosecutor.

See Page 09/02/14-6C

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving 2014 salaries for the FOP Unit for Detective First Class, Office of the Prosecutor.

See Page 09/02/14-6D

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, 2014 salaries for unclassified/unaffiliated or non-contractual employees not covered under a bargaining unit in the Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 09/02/14-6E

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the solicitation of bids for Snow and Ice Control Materials.

See Page 09/02/14-6F

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a federal change order for County Bid #2012-28, Federal Project #STP-C00S(334), Modification #3, for the Reconstruction of County Bridge F-45, on Whitebridge Road, in Franklin Township, decrease of \$2,107.58.

See Page 09/02/14-6G

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Account Setup Agreement with LogistiCare Solutions, LLC, for delivery of non-emergency medical transportation services, to be provided by the LINK vendor: First Transit, Inc.

See Page 09/02/14-6H

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the renewal of a state contract with the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, for the County Comprehensive Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Services, for 2015, in the amount of \$247,465 in state funds and a County Match of \$32,841.

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

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/02/14-6I

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the solicitation of bids for Bunker Renovations.

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

**PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION**

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 09/02/14-6I

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Declaring September 2014, as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Hunterdon.

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

**GRANTS**

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/02/14-6J

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the renewal of the Multi-Jurisdictional County Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force SubGrant, for the period of July 01, 2014 through June 30, 2015, in the amount of \$44,551 (federal funds).

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

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

**See Page 09/02/14-7A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the renewal of the Victims of Crime Act grant application, #V-10-13, with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Attorney General, for the period of August 01, 2014 through July 31, 2015, in the amount of \$107,279 (federal funds-\$85,823 and a County Match-\$21,456).

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from the Fairmount Fire Co. No. 1, requesting the approval for a Coin Toss, at the intersection of County Route 512 and 517, in Tewksbury Township, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., on Saturday, September 27, 2014. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

**FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS**

County 4-H Fair/Veterans Recognition Ceremony

Mr. King reported that the County's 4-H was held in August and at that time the County recognized 46 Veterans and handed out medals. He thanked the County's staff for their fine work in putting this together. There was a World War II Pearl Harbor survivor and he was joined by three other World War II Veterans.

Director Holt confirmed the Veterans Ceremony was packed and it's a reminder to all that freedom is not free.

Hampton Borough

Director Holt thanked those present this evening for attending the meeting and noted Hampton Borough is the first meeting being held out of the County's Seat and the Board will be meeting in Lambertville on October 07, 2014. Director Holt thanked Hampton Borough for the use of the facilities.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

School Consolidation

Sandra Hershinko, Hampton Borough resident questioned who has the authority to consolidate the school districts.

Deputy Director King advised that only School Boards can consolidate the school districts, because they are elected officials and are the governing body for their elected districts. There are examples of districts that have consolidated that have gained efficiencies.

Director Holt said we need to consider what is in the best interest of the people and where the population will be in the next 5 to 10 years and what will be in the best interest of the students. He believes there is a way to reduce administrative costs and find ways to improve classrooms with those dollars and still save money.

Director Holt explained the resolution adopted this evening asks that school boards consider putting questions on the ballot in their districts to ask the public if they want to consider consolidation. If this is adopted, there are steps and processes that must be followed and feasibility studies to be looked at to determine what the process would be. The Freeholders are aware there is a cost to do this and the County is willing to share part of the cost if the public feels this should be investigated.

Director Holt noted that South Hunterdon School Districts have consolidated, so the process has been done and schools can learn from them.

Bonnie Duncan asked if administrative costs mean substituting an administration for transportation costs.

Mr. King stated those answers would be developed in a feasibility study which the County is offering to split the cost for.

Mr. Walton advised transportation cost could go up or down, it is an unknown factor and it would be in the study.

Luke Bernick, Bethlehem Township resident, stated he is a school choice student. He attended Bethlehem Township Schools through sixth grade, and since he accelerated in math and Bethlehem Township did not offer a program for him but Clinton Township did, they bus him to North Hunterdon where he is able to take geometry, an advanced class, at a younger age. He skipped 8<sup>th</sup> grade and now attends North Hunterdon High School.

James Cregar, Bethlehem Township Mayor reported he agrees with the Freeholders' resolution and thanked the Board for its action. He recommended people attend the school board meetings and talk with their municipal officials on this. School boards submit their budgets to the municipalities.

Director Holt said the time has come to look at school consolidation and figure out if and where it would make sense for Hunterdon County. The feasibility studies will determine if there is a cost savings and if it will improve education.

Freeholder Lagay noted for those present that currently there are 20% vacant seats on the school boards in the County.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board