

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

September 16, 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, 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 Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 09/16/14-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss CWA negotiations.

See Page 09/16/14-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board negotiations.

See Page 09/16/14-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a division head applicant in the Buildings and Maintenance Division.

See Page 09/16/14-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a new County Table of Organization.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"Blue Skies" painting/Justice Center

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m., recessed at 4:30 p.m., reconvened in Closed Session at 5:02 p.m., recessed at 5:29 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:31 p.m.

Director Holt announced that at 4:30 p.m., the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went to the Justice Center to receive a painting "Blue Skies" by Dan Campanelli, which will be presented by the 300th Tricentennial Committee. The painting will be hung in the Justice Center in the Jury Assembly area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

Milford Borough/Redevelopment

Dr. Douglas Hahn, Milford Borough resident, came before the Board representing the Milford Progress Alliance, which is a group of professionals trying to guide the economic redevelopment of Milford. Currently, there is a superfund site (former Riegel Paper Corp.), and when it closed it was the demise of the economy of Milford plus the surrounding areas. Once the site has been cleaned, there will be 240 acres of prime riverfront land and Dr. Hahn feels it would be an excellent opportunity to meet the economic development goals of Hunterdon County; such as jobs for younger people, housing for seniors, expanded health care, and recreational activities on the riverfront. Dr. Hahn explained the reason for him attending tonight's meeting is to alert the Freeholder Board that Milford is a small town with limited resources and asked the Board to lend a helping hand when applicable.

Open Space Funds

Barbara Suchau, resident of Raritan Township, feels that open space funds should be used for open space. She recommends the Readington Municipal Grant Application on tonight's agenda be denied.

Cultural & Heritage Director

Ms. Suchau asked for an explanation for the hiring of a Cultural and Heritage Director, whether it is a replacement and why is there a need for it.

Director Holt advised the amount of funding the County has received from the state for cultural arts and historic, in Hunterdon County, has dropped dramatically over the years. The County has done a great deal of work with the state and there is a definite commitment on behalf of the County to revise arts culture and history in this County is a very viable part of what goes on here. There is a definite interest in reengaging Cultural & Heritage into the historic Court House and moving it forward as a viable Division in the County. Part of accomplishing these goals is to hire someone as an Executive Director to help manage and run the Division. The Board feels this is a great investment in terms of the future of Hunterdon County.

Mr. King noted that Freeholder Lagay has been assisting Cultural and Heritage in writing grants and securing funding for a variety of activities.

National Chamber of Commerce/Immigrants

Ms. Suchau said since the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce is here today, can they address why the National Chamber of Commerce is funding illegal immigrant rights.

Director Holt stated he cannot address this but suggested Ms. Sachau speak with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce about this, but not during the Freeholder meeting.

Director Holt recused himself at 5:37 p.m.

Flemington BID Jazz Festival

Megan Jones Holt, Executive Director, Flemington Business Improvement District (BID) thanked the Freeholders and the County's employees for assisting the BID with the Jazz Festival this past Friday. It is estimated that over 4,000 people attended and everyone did an incredible job in assisting the BID and the Freeholders were very gracious in providing parking and the ability to use the building.

Mrs. Holt stated the Jazz Festival will be a yearly event, which will be held the second week in September.

Director Holt returned to the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

HUNTERDON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chris Phelan, Director of the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce thanked the Freeholder Board; the Hunterdon County Community Day was held in early summer and it was a great success. He thanked the County of Hunterdon, the 300th Tricentennial Committee and the many departments within the County which participated. There were over 90 businesses and organizations which participated and over 20 municipalities were there; thousands of people attended. Mr. Phelan thanked Frank Venezia with the Emergency Services Center and Brayden Fahey with the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator.

FINANCE

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-2A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the Budget for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, in the amount of \$500.

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

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-2B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the Budget for the Body Armor Replacement Program, in the amount of \$10,975.71.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the Budget for the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance, in the amount of \$380,000.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-2D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the Budget for the Veterans Transportation Grant, in the amount of \$15,000.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Requesting Local Government Services to insert an item of revenue in the Budget for the Area Plan Grant, in the amount of \$247,644.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.3874, using State Contract #A-70256, with Dell, for computer equipment, for the Division of Information Technology, in the amount of \$50,753.51.

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

ROADS AND BRIDGES UPDATE

Thomas Mathews, Public Works Director, came before the Board to provide an update of various County roads and bridges.

- Surface Treatment/Resurfacing program continues with County Route 605, 617 and 629 being completed; County Route 613 will be completed on Thursday, September 18, 2014; County Route 579 between Route 12 and Route 523 is being worked on; a small stretch of Route 579 in Ringoes, south of 179 has to be done and County Route 518, east of Route 31 to Mercer County will be done.
- County Bridge K-110/K-111, is the structure that collapsed; rough preliminary plans have been received and reviewed them; comments have been sent back to the consultant for revisions.
- InterCounty Bridge T-36-S, is under construction in Tewksbury Township, on Black River Road; the repairs and construction to the new abutments has been completed; the beams are being delivered on Friday.
- County Culvert Q-151 on Oak Grove Road, is an in-house project; the road was closed on September 11, 2014 and was reopened a week ago; three weeks ahead of schedule.
- County Bridge T-132, is a stone arch bridge on Mountain Road, in Tewksbury Township; both the upstream and downstream stone masonry walls are being rebuilt; the bridge was closed on September 8th and the bridge is running ahead of schedule.
- County Bridge D-300, is a Local Lead Project, NJTPA, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on October 17th at 4 pm.

To discuss the future ownership of the Church Street Bridge on County Route 579, over the Lehigh Valley Rail Road.

Mr. Mathews reported on the Orphan Bridge (Local Lead Project, NJTPA), on County Route 579, south of Bloomsbury on the Bethlehem Township border, has been a funded project for the past 12 to 13 years. The ownership was never discussed; it is currently an orphaned bridge with NJDOT maintaining the bridge structurally and the County maintains the roadway surface (snow and asphalt). DOT has sent a letter of request since the bridge carries County Route 579, that the County takeover the new structure when it is built.

Mr. Mathews asked for direction from the Board, whether the County is interested in adding the new structure into the County's bridge system. The option is to add it into the County's system or the Board can deny the request by DOT and the County could fight it but it might stall funding or funding could be lost. The County could also drop the project and have the state continue to maintain the bridge.

Mr. Mathews advised that years ago the orphaned bridges was a narrow two lane bridge and the state installed guardrail on both sides, making it a one lane blind bridge. The County then put up a temporary signal because of the limited site distance. The bridge is structurally sound.

Ms. Lagay asked for Mr. Mathews recommendation for the orphaned bridges.

Mr. Mathews feels it would be in the best interest for the County to take over the new bridge but this would set a precedent. The bridge does carry a County road.

Director Holt confirmed that the bridge would not be accepted by the County until it has been completely rebuilt. The County would be hesitant to adopt an orphaned bridge that has not been completely rebuilt.

After further discussion, Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to adopt the Orphan Bridge once it has been rebuilt and it would be rebuilt with federal funding.

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

To discuss a resolution from Alexandria Township requesting the County to take over Hog Hollow Road.

Mr. Mathews reported that the County has received a resolution from Alexandria Township asking the County to take over Hog Hollow Road which is located between County Route 519 and County Route 513.

Mr. Mathews does not feel there is any rational nexus for the County to take over the road. He is not sure the residents of Hog Hollow are for the County taking over the road, if they were aware what would happen if the County did take over the road. The County would have to make the road as safe and efficient as possible and it would have to be brought up to County standards, immediately. Hog Hollow Road is a typical country road with a single line down it.

Mr. Walton suggested Mr. Mathews write to Alexandria's Mayor, on behalf of the Freeholder Board, and inform him what would happen if the County were to take over Hog Hollow Road; the speed limit would become 45 mph; there would be truck traffic (unlimited); property would have to be taken from both sides of the road to make it compliant with County standards; the road would be double striped down the middle and white striped on the ends. Mr. Walton feels the Mayor has to be made aware of the consequences of having the County take over the road and again ask him if Alexandria Township really wants the County to take over the road. He feels the Mayor may not want the County to take over the road, if it has to be brought up to the County's standards.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders agreed with Mr. Walton's recommendation to inform the Mayor of Alexandria of what would have to be done with the road, should the County take it over. This would allow the Mayor and Alexandria Council to think this over once they are made aware of the consequences.

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders tabled a Historic Preservation Grant Application, in the amount of \$60,000, for the Township of Lebanon Museum, Block 71, Lot 3, to add a restroom facility onto the Museum, until the next meeting in order to get a Legal Opinion from County Counsel, Shana Taylor.

Sue Dziamara, Planning Director reported on a Municipal Grant Application, for Lebanon Borough, in the amount of \$42,400, to fund Phase II renovations to 96 Main Street, a municipally owned historic building.

After a brief discussion, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders tabled this matter until the next meeting, in order to get a legal opinion from County Counsel Taylor.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders tabled a Municipal Grant Application, for Open Space Funds, for Readington Township, in the amount of \$17,432.12, for recreation equipment, in order to get a legal opinion from County Counsel Taylor.

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."

Held at this time #14 and 15, as well as Check #17343.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated September 16, 2014, minus Check #17343.

See Page 09/16/14-4A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 09/16/14-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Carrie Fellows appointed unclassified, full time Cultural and Heritage Executive Director, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 09/16/14-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Margaret Conroy appointed full time, Keyboarding Clerk 3, Parks and Recreation Division, Land Use and Facilities Management Department.

See Page 09/16/14-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Leslie Bailey appointed full time, Assistant Engineer, Engineering Division of the Public Works Department.

See Page 09/16/14-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Nicole Faust appointed full time, Keyboarding Clerk 3, County Clerk's Office.

See Page 09/16/14-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Christine Balena appointed full time, Keyboarding Clerk 3, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 09/16/14-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Donna LaRocca appointed full time, Principal Clerk Transcriber, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 09/16/14-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Albert Bonilla appointed full time, Sheriff's Officer, Sheriff's Office.

See Page 09/16/14-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Brock Rodenbough appointed full time, Laborer, Roads and Bridges Division, of the Public Works Department.

See Page 09/16/14-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a revised resolution naming individuals to the Hunterdon County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS).

See Page 09/16/14-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Discharge of Mortgage for Kenneth and Gail Hoover.

See Page 09/16/14-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Inter-County Agreement with Somerset County, for the Reconstruction of County Route 637 (Readington Road, Somerset County, County Line Road, Hunterdon County), in Branchburg Township and Readington Township.

See Page 09/16/14-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Employment Agreement with Anthony M. Robbins, Sheriff's Officer.

See Page 09/16/14-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Employment Agreement with Alberto Bonilla Jr., Sheriff's Officer.

See Page 09/16/14-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Employment Agreement with James A. Nammoura, Sheriff's Officer.

See Page 09/16/14-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a federal change order, for County Bid #2013-21, for the Resurfacing and Rumble Strip Installation on County Route 519, in Holland Twp. and Milford Borough, with Top Line Construction, decrease of \$31,808.84.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve Check #17343, as listed on the Claims Register dated September 16, 2014.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded these:

See Page 09/16/14-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the solicitation of bids for Golf Course Equipment.

See Page 09/16/14-5L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the solicitation of bids for a Golf Cart Lease.

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

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION

Freeholder Lagay advised those present that this evening, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders is recognizing Stephanie Stevens, who has been working with the Cultural and Heritage Commission since 1979 and has been the Chairperson since 1986. After 35 years of service in that role, Ms. Stevens has elected to step down as Chair of the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission at the end of 2014. Ms. Stevens service has been invaluable. The County would like Ms. Stevens to be able to continue providing the residents with her historic knowledge and are recognizing her as honorary Historian of the County of Hunterdon.

Director Holt agreed, stating not only is Stephanie Stevens a wealth of knowledge but she has contributed to the County for 35 years and there is very little in this County that she does not know. Ms. Stevens also works with the school systems to develop programming.

Director Holt noted that this proclamation will be presented to Stephanie Stevens at a Planning Awards and Cultural and Heritage Dinner, on September 29, 2014.

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-6A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Honoring Stephanie Stevens for her service on the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

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

GRANTS

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Federal Aid Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Replacement of County Bridge E-174 and approaches of Wertsville Road (County Route 602) over a Tributary of the Back Brook, in East Amwell Township.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Operating Assistance Agreement with New Jersey Transit, Section 5311, in the amount of \$294,893 (NJ Transit - \$147,447 and a County Match - \$147,446), for operating the Hunterdon County Consolidated Transportation System.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Agreement with New Jersey Transit, in the amount of \$180,000 (Federal Funds - \$90,000 and a County Match of \$90,000).

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing an extension of the 2009 Recycling Enhancement Grant, through March 31, 2016, with no change in the grant amount.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing an extension of the 2010 Recycling Enhancement Grant, through March 31, 2016 and authorizing a transfer of \$9.00 to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection budget.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the transfer of funds from the 2011 Recycling Enhancement Grant, in the amount of \$163.90 and \$89.00 remaining in voicemail services to the Salary and Wages budget.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-6H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing an extension of the 2012 Recycling Enhancement Grant, through September 30, 2015, with no change in the grant amount.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/16/14-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant with the New Jersey Historical Commission, in the amount of \$6,000, towards a countywide educational project to involve all schools in Hunterdon County, both public and private, in the history of Hunterdon County, from the earliest settlements in the 1700's to present, as part of Hunterdon County's 300th Anniversary.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from Jane Verloop, asking that a memorial bench be installed on the Columbia Trail. Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Division of Parks and Recreation.

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

A letter was received from the Hopewell Valley Community Bank, requesting to use the historic Court House steps on October 11, 2014, from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., as a judging area, as the Rotary Clubs of Hunterdon County would like to hold a Zombie Parade as a fundraiser to benefit K9 Soldiers Inc. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

Correspondence was received from the Milford Merchants Association, requesting permission to utilize County Route 519 to the traffic light in Milford, on October 26, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., for their annual Halloween Parade. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

A request was received from Anne Hercek, request to use the historic Court House steps on Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., for a rosary rally, for peace of our country. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

Director Holt left the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

A letter was received from the Flemington Business Improvement District, request to install a banner, for their Biannual Cultural Series at the historic Court House. Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

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

Director Holt returned to the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Radio Communications

Mr. Walton stated that Hunterdon County is a little bit safer tonight as the Fire Service began at noon today to utilize a new UHF radio communications. For the many years, the Hunterdon County Fire Fighters had to use low band radios to communicate with each other. Low band is inadequate; it does not penetrate buildings; it does not go far; it is not conducive to the way fires are fought in the 21st Century.

Mr. Walton advised the County has been working on moving from low band to high band radios for the Fire Service for many years. Today the County started dispatching UHF communications for the fire service.

Mr. Walton thanked the County and George Wagner, Director of Public Safety for the work he's done in sharing the burden of communications; he thanked the Hunterdon County Fire Chiefs Association for working with the County on this effort; especially those on the radio committee who deal with this on a regular basis.

Prosecutor's Promotion Ceremony

Mr. Lanza reported that he was able to represent the Freeholder Board at the Prosecutor's Promotion Ceremony last Friday. He thanked Prosecutor, Anthony Kearns for the invitation. Several members of the Prosecutor's staff were promoted; it was well deserved and long overdue. The ceremony was officiated by Judge Rubin.

American Legion

Mr. King stated that correspondence was received today from Bob Louie, Chairman of the Economics and Employment Committee for the American Legion. The American Legion is moving forward to combat homelessness with the County's veterans called "Housing our Heroes" program. It has had tremendous success in the past and prior commanders have raised over

\$500,000 and the challenge is to the municipal leaders, the mayors, to determine if they can get involved and do what they can to minimize the effects of homelessness among the veteran community.

Mr. King provided Terry Wright, reporter for the Hunterdon County Democrat with information on the program for an article.

MIA Recognition

Mr. King advised Congressman Lance sent a proclamation announcing that Friday, September 19, 2014, is the national MIA Honor day, to recognize those who did not have the opportunity to return home or to be buried properly.

NJAC

Mr. King stated the New Jersey Association of Counties, at their yearend summit will be doing the summit on the Transportation Trust Fund. NJAC plans to invite the US Department of Transportation Secretary, Anthony Fox and they believe he will be at the summit. Hunterdon County's Director, J. Matthew Holt, will be on a panel of like minded individuals regarding transportation around the State of New Jersey. Mr. King encouraged his peers to attend this summit.

Director Holt advised the topic, the New Jersey Trust Fund, will run out of money next year; so this is an interesting topic.

C&H position

Ms. Lagay stated the Freeholders did vote on the addition to the County's staff, of Carrie Fellows as the Executive Director of the Cultural and Heritage Commission. She will officially be introduced at the next meeting.

CEDS

Ms. Lagay reported that the County's Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a year into its activities. There have been many groups, citizens, special interest people have talked about the needs and what they feel should be incorporated into the County's Economic Development Strategy. Ms. Lagay feels the document will be produced shortly and then a strategy for implementation will be developed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

County Bridge E-174

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident advised she is pleased to hear that County Bridge E-174 is finally going to be done.

County Employees

Ms. Gavigan informed the Board that she has been around the County's buildings lately, and the tone and tenor of the County's staff at Route 12 and other places has increased. She feels the Freeholders, Mr. Wagner and the various department heads are responsible for that.

Comcast

Ms. Gavigan informed the Board that Comcast came to the East Amwell Township Committee meeting last Thursday, to the municipal building, about a program they have called Internet Essentials where low income families could get cheap internet access; there are subsidies for computers. Ms. Gavigan asked Comcast at that meeting about the low income/fixed income seniors and if there was a program for them and the answer was no.

Ms. Gavigan stated there is a need and it can be a cost effective way of keeping seniors in their homes if there is some way of having internet access or cheap computer subsidies for skyping with family and medical interventions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders returned to Executive Session at 6:39 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:15 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board