

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Historic Court House, 71 Main Street

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

September 30, 2014

The special meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 5:00 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

ABSENT: MR. WALTON.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Holt announced: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before February 12, 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."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTIONS

Director Holt introduced the members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, present today; as well as County Counsel, Shana Taylor, Chief of Staff, George F. Wagner, and Clerk of the Board, Denise B. Doolan.

Director Holt went through the history of the County celebrating 300 years since it was incorporated. He asked various questions of the students present from various schools about the County's history.

Director Holt stated around ten years ago, Marcia Karrow, who is a former Freeholder, and four other members on the Board of Chosen Freeholders, realized that the 300th was coming, so they wisely started to set aside funding because the Board of Freeholders wanted to celebrate Hunterdon in the most amazing way possible. Also, in 2011, the County's former Administrator, Cynthia Yard, started planning the 300th Anniversary and the 300th Trio-Centennial Committee was formed with many past Freeholders, staff and volunteers in planning various events to celebrate the 300th of the County.

Director Holt advised in 2012 the Freeholders were given costumes, to dress in for when they went to each of the schools with Mrs. Yard, who also dressed in costume to promote the idea that the 300th was coming. Freeholders King and Walton in 2012, dressed in costume to visit the schools. Freeholder Holt was out of town when these meetings were happening. He give credit to Freeholders King and Walton for they went to 45 different schools to talk about the County's 300th and projects for the students to consider in recognizing the County's vast history. Hunterdon County is a remarkable place to grow up.

Director Holt realizes there are a lot of subjects talked about in school but if you are going to live in Hunterdon County-you never want to forget where you grew up. Director Holt has been in Hunterdon County since 6th grade and has had a chance to spend most of his adult life here, and was able to raise his family here; he could never repay his parents for moving here and giving him this tremendous quality of life. Director Holt is hopeful the students will not forget that Hunterdon County is an amazing place to grow up.

Director Holt stated the Hunterdon County Timeline Challenge is coming to a close; 20 schools participated; 89 teachers participated and at least 1,000 or more students participated. Also here today, joining in the celebration are 6 School Superintendents, 8 Principals, 13 Teachers, Hunterdon County's new Superintendent, Juan Torres, and 50 students.

TIMELINE PROJECTS FROM HUNTERDON COUNTY'S SCHOOLS IN CELEBRATION OF THE COUNTY'S 300TH BIRTHDAY

At this time, Director Holt turned the meeting over to Ms.Karrow, Chairperson of Hunterdon County's Tri-Centennial Committee.

Ms. Karrow congratulated all the schools that participated in the timeline project. While the committee calls itself the Hunterdon 300th or the Hunterdon Tri-Centennial but the actual incorporation name is the Hunterdon County Celebration and Historical Education Committee. Historical education was placed in the name, because it is a not-for-profit that was created to provide historical education to everyone in the County but a major project was targeted for the schools. If it were not for Cindy Yard, who retired last year, to work on the 300th, this would not occur. Mrs. Yard came up with the concept of the timeline and getting this directly into the schools. The history of Hunterdon's background and chaos and the treasured memories, including history that happened in this building, the historic Court House, housed one of the most important trials in the United States at one time, the Lindbergh – Hauptman Trail. There are other historical trails that happened in this courtroom but that was the one that put Hunterdon County and Flemington Borough on the map in 1934.

Ms. Karrow advised when Washington crossed the Delaware River, he crossed into Hunterdon County and when the battle of Trenton happened, it happened in Hunterdon County. The person who discovered gold came from Hunterdon County and there are so many amazing things that have happened in this County; she is so glad the students wanted to explore them and share that with everyone.

Ms. Karrow informed the students that they are all going to be memorialized in 100 years, because a time capsule will be buried in the Court Street Park located behind this building, and it will be opened on March 22, 2114. All the students' names and projects will be placed in the time capsule as well as the teachers' names. Either you or your children or grandchildren will be here and watch the time capsule get dug up and opened and they will find projects you created.

Ms. Karrow stated that Mrs. Yard found two amazing educators, Lenore Cortina and Maura Nunn, who were willing to spend their precious time developing a special core curriculum, and spent countless hours working on it, which was accepted by the School Superintendents and the State of New Jersey.

Dr. Cortina and Ms. Nunn explained when they took on the project it was so the students of Hunterdon County would be able to work on a collaborative research effort. There is so much history in Hunterdon County but it isn't often that the students get to work on a project that brings together all the schools in the County. They also wanted to introduce the students to the rich history of Hunterdon County with each school district looking at their own town and found an influential person, place or event that changed Hunterdon County over the last 300 years. The goal was for the students to think like historians, to think chronologically because you can see how what happened in the past changes what happens in the future. Students were asked to look at primary documents such as artifacts and maps so they can understand that the story of Hunterdon County is not in a text book; it isn't on an internet site; it is in letters, maps, documents, and artifacts that you can find in historical societies, and in museums. Many of the students interviewed Hunterdon County residents to find the "real" Hunterdon County. Historical research is fun and it is like putting pieces of a puzzle together.

Dr. Cortina and Ms. Nunn thanked the students for their hard work, saying the while the teachers guided the students but the students did the work. This timeline would not be possible without the hard work of the students.

Director Holt informed all those present that the Time Line will be placed on the County's website, starting tomorrow.

Director Holt recognized each of the teachers present and allowed them to briefly describe the project from their school.

Ms. Karrow told the students that goody bags have been prepared for them and the teachers will receive for the school, a copy of the timeline.

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to recognize each participating school district in Alexandria Elementary; Bloomsbury School; Califon School; Del-Val High School; East Amwell Elementary; Franklin Township; Frenchtown Elementary; Hampton School; High Bridge School; Holland Township; Kingwood Township; Lambertville Public; Lebanon Borough School; Patrick McGaheeran School; Reading-Fleming School; Three Bridges School; West Amwell Township School and the Whitehouse Elementary School.

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

Director Holt thanked the students for their participation, research and history.

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded a motion accepting the timeline of the County of Hunterdon for its 300 years.

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

Director Holt introduced the County's new Superintendent of Schools, Juan Torres and welcomed him to Hunterdon County.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board