

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

April 07, 2015

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:00 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

ABSENT: MR. WALTON.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director King 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 06, 2015, 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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 04/07/15-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to receive an update regarding AFSCME negotiations.

See Page 04/07/15-1B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to receive an update regarding personnel issues in Finance.

See Page 04/07/15-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a Rice Notice for Finance.

See Page 04/07/15-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a part time position in Divisions of Public Health Services and Emergency Management Division.

See Page 04/07/15-1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the legality concerning unclassified employees fringe benefits.

See Page 04/07/15-1F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss contracting out of correctional facility services.

See Page 04/07/15-1G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss Requests for Proposals for Legal Services (Labor and Bond Counsel).

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

(ABSENT) MR. WALTON.

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Director King asked for a moment of silence to honor those who place themselves in harm's way for our protection.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director King opened the meeting to the public.

Black River and Western Railroad Anniversary

Scott Kwaitkowski, President, Black River and Railroad Trust, came before the Board to invite the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders to the 50th Anniversary of the Black River and Western Railroad on Saturday, May 16, 2015, at 1:00 p.m.

County Bridge E-174, East Amwell Township

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident came before the Board concerning County Bridge E-174 on County Route 602, in East Amwell Township. Ms. Gavigan recognized that four of the current members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders were not present when the Freeholders held a special meeting on Wertsville Road regarding the E-174 Bridge. The bridge deck is now in and the underground detention basin, all items that will retain the rural character of the area are in place. This is an example of the County, the private sector and the public working together with the municipality for a desired purpose.

PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-2A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention month in the County.

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

Director King presented a certificate proclamation to Deb Cummings, president of CASA Shaw.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Plans and finances for 2015 for RVCC

Michael McDonough, President and John Trojan, Vice President of Raritan Valley Community College came before the Board to discuss the budget for 2015 for RVCC.

Mr. McDonough recognized and thanked the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders' support for Raritan Valley Community College. Without this partnership RVCC would not be able to serve over 6,000 residents from Hunterdon and Somerset Counties.

Mr. McDonough stated the Board has already been sent what the budget request is for RVCC and he's here tonight to discuss the vision for RVCC in moving forward and how to respond to the needs of Hunterdon's residents.

Mr. McDonough reported the vision for the college consists of four areas of strategy:

- Teaching (getting students to obtain their certificates in completing school and graduating); and
- (2) a responsive workplace program (community colleges are ideally suited to be engines of economic development in their communities – this is about partnerships with business and industry). RVCC will break ground in June on a Workforce Center building and the desire is for it to be a viable economic engine for Somerset and Hunterdon; and
- (3) to have an active accountable institution – RVCC has to develop ways to manage its costs; and in the face of decline federal and state funds to find ways not to increase tuition; and
- (4) to develop a better strategic enrollment model; the yield on high school students in both counties when compared to other community colleges is low. Also to be considered is how to serve the adult population and how to serve veterans.

Mr. McDonough stated RVCC today serves roughly 2,000 Hunterdon County residents and of that number 1,700 travel to the Branchburg Campus and take courses in Certificate or Degree programs; the remaining 300 residents are served by other outlets. There are 4 major programs offered at Hunterdon County Polytech where RVCC partners with Polytech to offer the programs of Education; Health; Culinary and Law and Criminal Justice. The students who graduate in those programs have options when they graduate Polytech – they can either enter a career or they can transition to a credit program at RVCC.

Mr. McDonough reported RVCC has dual enrollment programs at all Hunterdon County High Schools serving the population in excess of 175 students. This allows a high school student to take a course at the high school for college credit; meaning they will receive a transcript from RVCC to jumpstart their college careers.

Mr. McDonough advised today you cannot obtain a college degree in four years; on average it takes six years and to obtain an Associate Degree it takes three years.

Mr. McDonough stated RVCC is also at the Hunterdon Medical Center (HMC) because over 100 of RVCC's nursing student complete their clinical education at HMC.

Mr. McDonough advised in the future, RVCC has to do better with sustainability, intentionality, about partnership and about data. RVCC is looking to add programs at Polytech including Veterinary Tech to begin the Fall of 2015. Also being looked into is Fitness and Exercise Science; RVCC has an articulation agreement with East Stroudsburg College if students complete their associates with RVCC they are automatically juniors in East Stroudsburg. Being looked into is a new Health Pathway and this is being discussed with HMC as well, to provide students with a teaser course of what careers are available in allied health, it isn't just nursing anymore; it now includes home health care aide, health information technology, medical assisting; patient advocacy, and translation because of the number of patients who don't have English as a foreign language. Mr. McDonough reported RVCC is looking at beginning a health academy at HMC.

Mr. McDonough advised RVCC is looking to have a physical presence in Hunterdon and he has looked at properties in Flemington.

Mr. McDonough advised RVCC is thinking about having a small business development office in Flemington and attaching to that an entrepreneurial or business incubator center. This is a conversation to be had with the Chamber of Commerce of Hunterdon County. Mr. McDonough feels this is a distinct possibility. This would also engage RVCC in working with the other groups in Hunterdon that are trying to work on economic development.

Mr. McDonough reported on an opportunity for a youth re-engagement center; there are federal programs which RVCC would write the grant for, to bring back those students who timed out of the High School System without any type of credential. RVCC wants to remediate the GED program for high school equivalency for these individuals where they can be ladder into a workforce or certificate program or into college readiness. RVCC is also planning a program with the ARC of Hunterdon County because students who time out or students with intellectual disability there will be a three year college transition program for them and the ARC would be a partner, and it would take place at the Achievement Center at RVCC.

Mr. McDonough advised RVCC is sensitive to the fact that Hunterdon is its half partner and if the college has in the past not paid enough attention to that, he apologizes for that. RVCC is very sensitive to the fact that some RVCC people do resident in Hunterdon and want to meet the needs of these residents.

Director King stated the opportunity to have Mr. McDonough to come before the Board to discuss the plans for RVCC and what the college is doing from the perspective of Hunterdon County is refreshing and enlightening. He appreciates the work Mr. McDonough has done.

Director King confirmed while RVCC has around 2,000 students from Hunterdon, there is about 8,300 students at RVCC; 30% of the RVCC students are from Hunterdon County.

Mr. McDonough stated that RVCC receives from high school graduates from Hunterdon than from Somerset by 4%.

Director King confirmed with Mr. McDonough that the opportunities with Polytech are long term and not short term. Mr. McDonough stated the programs have to be long term for sustainability and intentionality. The JCP&L program is a phenomenal example of what can be done when partnerships take place with business and industry.

Director King stated that Polytech is interested in Veterinarian Services and they could use pass those individuals to a college with a curriculum that is consistent across the board. The history that Hunterdon County has with agriculture and animals lends itself to this program.

Mr. McDonough feels there is an enormous opportunity for Farm to Table programs in Hunterdon County; for a Fine Arts programs and there is grant money available for revitalizing downtown areas with artists.

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. McDonough and Mr. Trojan for coming this evening to provide this presentation to the Board. He stressed being able to tie together any manufacturing or business that could be brought into Hunterdon County and put it together with a geographic placement with an educational stream, will allow students to come out of school to be employed and it will keep people here in the County.

Ms. Lagay thanked Mr. McDonough for listening during their meeting last week and the plans presented this evening reflect that Hunterdon has been heard. Also, thank you for your accessibility because there has been more exchange with RVCC and it shows that RVCC is eager to work with Hunterdon.

Mr. Lanza agrees with everything that has been said. He thanked Mr. McDonough and Mr. Trojan for coming this evening and for inviting Hunterdon County into his office when he became RVCC President. Mr. Lanza stated that Mr. McDonough has been very responsive and receptive to the concerns that Hunterdon County has had.

Director King advised Mr. McDonough and Mr. Trojan that RVCC has Hunterdon's support and this Board looks forward to having a close relationship with them and RVCC. He thanked them for taking the time to come this evening.

FINANCE

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the establishment of a CAP Bank.

Janet Previte, Acting County Finance Officer, informed the Board that the resolution establishing a CAP Bank is recognized by the Division of Local Government Services as a Best Practice and it is done each year; it preserves the County's ability to be flexible when the County does not spend up to the full cost of living adjustment. The cost of living adjustment for 2015 is 1.5%. The County is permitted through the CAP Bank to increase to 3.5% and reserve/bank that for the two following years. Mrs. Previte stated it is not anticipated there will be an increase in the County's budget for 2015.

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

FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the acquisition of a development easement from John and Miriam Jacobson, on Block 15, Lot 1, Alexandria Township, estimated 33 acres, (SADC - \$227,700; County - \$75,900; Township - \$75,900), total amount of \$379,500.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Deed of Easement and Grant Agreement, from Aram R. Papazian, for Block 5, Lot 27.01, in Alexandria Township, consisting of 44.051 acres, (SADC-\$245,804.58; County-\$81,934.86; Township-\$81,934.86), total amount of \$409,674.30.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 04/07/15-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.3989, using State Contract #A-87720, with Eplus Technology, for software and hardware for Information Services, in the amount of \$64,477.40. (Homeland Security Grant Funds (FY2014).

See Page 04/07/15-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #IT.3991, using State Contract #A-87720, with Eplus Technology, for software and hardware for Information Services, in the amount of \$52,241.75.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2015-01, to furnish and deliver Long Life Traffic Stripe Epoxy, to Epoplex Division of Stoncor Group, Inc., in the amount of \$70,687.50.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the rejection of a bid for County Bid #2015-02, for the Replacement of Curb, sidewalk and Terrace Improvements to various County Buildings, from Kaltech Engineer NJ, Inc., as it did not meet bid document requirements.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2015-02, for the Replacement of Curb, Sidewalk and Terrace Improvements to various County Buildings, to CMS Construction, in an amount not to exceed \$157,748.37.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2015-05, to furnish, deliver and install Open Faced Steel Shelving and accessories, at the Warehouse/Records Retention Center, to Storage Systems USA, in an amount not to exceed \$111,727.

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

PROJECT UPDATE

Frank J. Bell, AIA, County Project Administrator came before the Board to provide an update on various County projects.

- Emergency Services Training Center (new), a revised program has been received from the consultants and it has been forwarded to the Executive Committee for their review.

- Route 31 County Complex, HVAC for Buildings 2 and 3, a committee will be held to discuss how to handle this program.
- South County Park Drainage and Septic System, this project will be bid shortly.
- Records Retention Center, this project was bid and the award took place this evening.
- Sidewalk Repair
- Traffic Maintenance, bids will be received on April 16, 2015 for this project.
- Echo Hill Park – Prescott Bridge, DEP will extend the permit through June 30, 2016 for this project as long as the County starts the project and a pedestrian bridge will be placed over the Prescott Brook and that will be half the cost of a vehicle bridge. The documents have to be revised regarding the bridge and submitted to DEP for approval.
- Everittstown Garage Salt Building, a quote is being obtained from a contractor in order to get an idea of what the budget could be for the project. Being discussed is replacing the connections at the trusses and the push walls. A quote will also be obtain to see the costs to extend the building.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director King 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 #'s 17558, 149018, 149014 and 149214 were held at this time.

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 07, 2015, minus check #'s 17558, 149018, 149014 and 149214.

See Page 04/07/15-5A CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of March 03, 2015.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve Check #'s 17568, 149018 and 149014 in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 07, 2015.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve Check #149214 in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 07, 2015.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 04/07/15-5B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Elizabeth Rzasas transferred to the Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 04/07/15-5C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Rose Ann Freund transferred to the County Superintendent of School's Office.

See Page 04/07/15-5D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Julia Grecco transferred to the Communications Division, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 04/07/15-5E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, John Langley appointed temporary, as needed Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 04/07/15-5F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Adrian Prokofiew transferred to the Division of Vehicle Services, Administrative Services Department.

See Page 04/07/15-5G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Teresa Coppola transferred to the Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 04/07/15-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Linda Rifino transferred to the Division of Emergency Services, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 04/07/15-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity for security guards covered under the C.WA. Non-Supervisory Contract.

See Page 04/07/15-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, for County Bid #2014-14, for the Reconstruction of County Bridge E-174, on Route 602, over a Tributary of the Back Brook, in East Amwell Township, with Konkus Corporation, increase of \$9,513.40.

See Page 04/07/15-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement to Clean Up Abandoned Scrap Tires, with Christopher Van Burk, in Alexandria Township.

See Page 04/07/15-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a bridge easement on Block 57, Lot 11.03, with Earl C. Tapper, Jr., for the Reconstruction of County Route 637/620 to Harland School Road, in Branchburg Township (Somerset) and Readington Township (Hunterdon), in the amount of \$990.

See Page 04/07/15-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Federal Change Order #3, Local Aid Federal Project #STP-C00S(351), for the Rehabilitation of County Bridge D-300, on Rosemont-Raven Rock Road, in Delaware Township, increase of \$34,847.

See Page 04/07/15-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract with the Hunterdon Medical Center-Hunterdon Behavioral Health, through the RFP #0055-2014, for Family Crisis Intervention, to provide continuous 24 hour on-call service for immediate intervention and stabilization for youth, in the amount of \$70,000.

See Page 04/07/15-6H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Gary Hazard to the Board of Trustees for Raritan Valley Community College.

See Page 04/07/15-6I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Janet Previte appointed unclassified, full time Acting Chief Finance Officer, effective April 01, 2015.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-6J

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April 12 to 18, 2015 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week, in Hunterdon.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-6K

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April 2015 as Autism Awareness Month in Hunterdon County.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-6L

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing H. Matthew Curry, J.S.C. for having served on the Hunterdon County Youth Services/ Juvenile Justice Commission.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant with the State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, for veterans' medical transportation, for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$15,000.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 04/07/15-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the renewal of the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), for the period of April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, in the amount of \$28,000; and authorizing its submission through SAGE.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, requesting utilization of County support during the 2nd Annual Hunterdon County Community Day, on Saturday, June 12, 2015, at the South County Park, from 12:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Asking for auxiliary lighting, digital sign board, cones, barricades, portable radios and use of a Sheriff's Officer to assist with traffic direction. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Departments of Parks and Recreation, Land Use and Facilities Management and the Sheriff's Office.

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

A request was received from the Kingwood Township Volunteer Fire Company, asking permission to hold a Coin Toss, on Saturday, June 20, 2015, at the intersection of County Route 519 and State Route 12, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Mr. Walton 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. WALTON, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. KING.

Correspondence was received from the Whitehouse Rescue Squad, requesting permission to hold Coin Tosses, on Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, 2015; and on Friday and Saturday, August 28 and 29, 2015. (Friday from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mr. Walton reported that the County has all but one resolution in from Municipalities wishing to participate in the Animal Control program. Clinton Township is the hold out and their meeting will be on Wednesday of this week. It is time to ask the other 16 municipalities if they want to participate in the Animal Control program in 2016. Mr. Walton explained the process for getting quotes for animal control services through the County's Purchasing Department.

Mr. Walton informed the Board of a 10 year old boy from Dumont who jumped out a window after losing a Chess match in class; this child suffered from depression and exhibited suicidal tendencies which went unaddressed and unnoticed by classmates, teachers, guidance counselors and sadly, his parents. This morning he saw on the news about men talking about depressions and dealing with their depression and trying to destigmatize it. Mr. Walton stated that Bergen County has adopted a resolution making Bergen County a Stigma Free Zone for Mental Health patients and he would recommend that Hunterdon County also adopt this resolution. Everyone needs to listen when someone talks about being depressed and hopeless or having no reason to live. There are many signs of depression and being suicidal. Mr. Walton stated we are our brother's keeper and we need to look out for one another.

Mr. Holt stated he has the pleasure of working with Human Services this year as their liaison. Due to the many committees and council and advisory boards through Human Services, he is now busier than ever.

Mr. Holt reported that he and the Human Services Administrator have agreed that on a monthly basis there should be a report on the activities going on in those individual divisions, at the Route 31 County Complex. Mr. Holt is working on a report for the month of May to define some of the work being done through Human Services.

Mr. Lanza advised he has been working on the Budget Committee with Freeholder Walton; he reported there will be a flat budget again this year; in spite of the fact that the state is continuing to constrict its aide to Hunterdon. Hunterdon County has had to spend extra hundreds of thousands of dollars on salt and the County has had to pick up many additional items and it has been done with the same amount of budget, not increasing the budget. Hunterdon County has

done things smarter and has a top notch Finance Team moving forward with Mrs. Previte as the County's new Chief Finance Officer. Mr. Lanza is looking forward to getting the budget adopted without another spending increase for the County's taxpayers.

Ms. Lagay congratulated Mrs. Previte and thanked her on all her hard work on the County's Budget.

Ms. Lagay reported the Shared Services group gets together regularly looking at all kinds of economy of scale and services, intra-county and outside the County with the municipalities. She feels the Shared Services Committee is coming into its own and that it will make a difference to the way we serve our residents and municipalities.

Director King noted that a majority of the audience during meetings is the County's staff and he thanked everyone for the extra time and support.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director King opened the meeting to the public.

Chris Phelan, Executive Director of the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce thanked the Board for its support for the second annual Community Day.

Director King stated after being on the Board for a short time, it has become very clear that this Freeholder Board is interested in supporting community events.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident advised the New Jersey Department of Transportation has been in the media a lot for its lack of money and funding; and will they raise the tax on gas. She asked if the County is factoring in funds because of decreased funding coming from the state in the area of transportation because many roads were beat up this winter.

Mr. Holt who is a member of the NJTPA (North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority) advised there is a great deal of discussion on both the federal level, map 21 expires shortly in May, and it would not surprise him to see an extension of 3 to 9 months which will keep federal dollars flowing at flat levels. Regarding the Transportation Trust Fund in the State of New Jersey, there was a discussion about a gas tax increase as high as \$0.25; that has died down at this time. There is at this point, the Transportation Trust Fund due to an infusion of capital from the Port Authority remains somewhat solvent through the end of this year.

Questions answered for the press on various matters in this evening's meeting.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders reconvened in Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 7:32 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director King adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board