

# HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

**August 18, 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. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. KING, MR. LANZA**  
**ABSENT: MR. WALTON**

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, the HCNews and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded these:

**See Page 8/18/15-1A** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a litigation update regarding Falat/Trout.

**See Page 8/18/15-1B** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a Jail Review update.

**See Page 8/18/15-1C** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss information regarding legal guidance for bond ordinances and their adoption.

**See Page 8/18/15-1D** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a potential contract amendment with Clark, Caton, & Hintz with regard to the Emergency Services Training Center/Fire School.

**See Page 8/18/15-1E** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss new positions in the Health Department.

**See Page 8/18/15-1F** **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Executive Session to discuss a Confidential Assistant position for Transportation Services in the Human Services Department.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m., Recessed at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director King opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sauchau, Raritan Township resident, questioned an item on the Claims Register for bunkers at the County's Golf Course.

Ms. Sauchau also questioned a resolution under the consent agenda for Sheriff's Officer Michael Buchholz, for an employment agreement. She feels the taxpayers deserve to know the salary range of the individual, and it should be placed in the resolution.

Floyd Evans, resident of Alexandria Township, stated he sent an email to the Board regarding deicing snow vehicles and is asking if the County could offer this as a shared service to municipalities. Two of the last five winters have made it challenging to the local Departments of Public Works to keep their vehicles cleaned. The periods of frequent heavy snows along with the requirements to keep roads plowed and safe have been a real test for all entities. The Road Department has served Alexandria Township well but the trucks are old and expensive and a major problem with their maintenance is the damage caused by rusting and corrosion from exposure from the snow and ice control materials, specifically the salt.

Mr. Evans advised the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection allows for an outer surface wash with cold water unless you have a very expensive and environmentally appropriate truck washing system. Vehicles need to be washed regularly during the winter season with hot water and detergent applied under pressure, especially to the underside of equipment. He believes the County Road Department has such a wash system at the Route 12 County complex.

Mr. Evans commented that Hunterdon County has been very successful with shared services and requested that the Freeholder Board do a feasibility study with the idea that the County would purchase a sophisticated large vehicle quick wash system and for a fee each municipality could schedule their vehicles to go through the vehicle wash.

Director King advised Mr. Evans that the County does not have the sophistication or the capacity that Mr. Evans is describing. Since Tom Mathews, Director of Public Works is here this evening, he is asking him to take a closer look at this and determine whether or not there is a broader or more suitable solution to the overall problem. Mr. Mathews' had earlier informed Director King that Ocean County has exactly what Mr. Evans just described. He noted that in Tewksbury Township a private organization comes in and takes care of Tewksbury's snow vehicles.

Director King explained to Mr. Evans that the County will take the information he supplied and provide it to Mr. Mathews, who will research this to determine if the County might be able to secure that type of an agreement on a shared services basis.

Mr. Evans thanked the Board for their consideration and put on the record that snow vehicles do not have to be washed the day after a snow, however, it would be ideal to wash them as soon as possible; noting it is better that they are washed two or three days later, than not washed at all.

**PROCLAMATION/RECOGNITION**

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 8/18/15-2A**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing Peter W. Schoderbek for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

Director King presented Scout Peter Schoderbek with a Proclamation Certificate recognizing his hard work and dedication in attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

Peter explained to the Board his how his Native Bee Nest Boxes work and showed a sample of same. The Native Bee Nest Boxes have been placed in three different locations within Readington Township (the Dobozyński Farm, the Cole Road Greenway and the Cushetunk Nature Preserve). The boxes have five inch holes with paper tubes in them which allow mason bees, which are native to Hunterdon County, to fill the holes with mud and leaves allowing them to nest their larvae which hatch after approximately one year. Peter also hung signs with the boxes which described their use and he created pamphlets for the municipality to display. Peter's Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held in September 2015.

Ms Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

**See Page 8/18/15-2B**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing Ryan Unkert for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

Ms. Lagay reported that Ryan's Eagle Court of Honor was held last Saturday, August 08, 2015, at the Hunterdon County Emergency Services Center. Approximately sixty-five to seventy people were in attendance; along with bagpipers, and representatives of the New Jersey State Police.

Ms. Lagay advised Ryan's Eagle project was the creation of a 6' black obelisk which had the names of emergency responders that were killed in the line of duty while serving in Hunterdon County or lived in Hunterdon County at the time of their death. The ceremony was beautiful. Ms. Lagay encouraged everyone to go to the Emergency Services site to see Ryan's project.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

**See Page 8/18/15-3C**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing Lorraine Galbraith for her participation in three hundred sessions of Horticultural Therapy.

Director King attended a ceremony this past week, which was attended by many dignitaries, including Congressman Lance and was hosted by the Melick's at their Oldwick Orchard. It is interesting that the use of horticultural therapy has given meaning back to this woman's life, after being faced with a number of situations where she just did not have the will to live. It was a joy to attend the ceremony.

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

**FINANCE**

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 8/18/15-3A**

**BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2015-01**

**INTRODUCTION**,COUNTY OF HUNTERDON BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 15-01, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2015 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$22,029,400 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING \$13,965,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COSTS THEREOF.

Mr. Lanza asked Janet R. Previte, County Finance Officer, to clarify if the County was spending any money today with this ordinance.

Mrs. Previte informed the Board that the County was not spending money.

Mr. Lanza advised that essentially the Freeholders authorizing a line of credit that they have no intention of using right now; it is simply being done to make funds available for capital projects, and that all projects still need to come back to the Board to be authorized.

Ms. Previte confirmed that was an accurate assessment of the situation, and that the ordinance is only a vehicle for appropriating money for projects, should the Board decide to do so at a later date.

Mr. Holt reported that in the past the Board used to do this by adopting several ordinances. Since the County has implemented new technology, the Edmunds System, one of the elements is a vastly improved ability to track every single project to the penny and to its progress. This allows the Board to streamline the process into one easy to track ordinance. Mr. Holt stated as Director King likes to say, "this is a non-event and it continues to be a non-event."

Director King explained to those present that this is a non-event because it is replacing the two hundred and fifty pages of printouts associated with the adoption of Ordinances down to something that is workable and manageable for the Finance Department and the County's auditors.

Mr. Holt confirmed with Mrs. Previte that a single ordinance will allow the County to better track items and projects; than it has been able to in the past.

Ms. Previte stated the reporting features in Edmunds are huge improvements to the Finance Department.

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

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE**

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 8/18/15-3B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the acquisition of a Development Easement from Amwell Chase, Inc., on Block 5, Lot 24 and 24.01, Township of West Amwell, estimated 183.152 acres, (SADC - \$961,548; County - \$315,937; Township - \$315,937), total amount of \$1,593,422.40.

Mr. Lanza advised he hates preserving property that fronts on a state or federal highway. He asked Sue Dziamara, Planning Services Director for an explanation as to why this particular project was not denied, as the application is zoned commercial or industrial and is along a major highway corridor; stating that Route 179 is state highway.

Ms. Dziamara explained this piece of property was partially zoned commercial and industrial but the Township was determined to maintain the commercial piece of property and its access to Route 179. West Amwell Township is part of the reason the application took so long to get to the final stages of approval because of the back and forth and the contract purchaser was a landscaping business that was to be put on the property.

Mr. Lanza confirmed with Ms. Dziamara that the property still is zoned for commercial use and most of the property has highway frontage to Route 202. He does not feel this is a great place for commercial development.

Mr. Lanza noted that after the roll call, it should be known that one vote will always be in question when it comes to preserving open space applications.

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

**PURCHASING**

Mr. Lanza moved, and Mr. Holt seconded this:

**See Page 8/18/15-4A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2015-22, for the Painting of Various Bridges, with Pro-Spec Painting Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$206,800.00.

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

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Tom Mathews, Public Works Director came before the Board to provide an update on various road and bridge projects.

- Resurfacing and Surface Treatment of Various County Roads: construction has been completed on County Route 579 in Pittstown; work is being done on County Route 602 in East Amwell.
- County Route 512 from County Route 513 to the Tewksbury Line: construction is to begin after the completion of the deck replacement for J-1 is milled and replaced with some drainage improvements.
- County Route 513: plans to mill and resurface are anticipated to begin in the fall.
- County Route 579: from Pittstown to County Route 614 in Alexandria & Union Townships is scheduled for resurfacing, a minor realignment and drainage improvements, anticipated to being in the Fall.
- County Bridge C-26, on Cratetown Road, in Clinton Township: the entire bridge will be replaced, funded with NJDOT Local Bridge Future Needs program. The bridge will be closed on August 17, 2015 and a detour has been posted.
- Bridge J-1, on County Route 512, in Califon Borough: will have a full deck replacement, the deck has been removed and steel stringers are under repair. The bridge was closed on August 12, 2015, but the sidewalks remain open.
- Culvert Q-101, on Cherryville –Stanton Road, in Raritan Township: paving and guiderail will be completed this week, and the anticipated road opening is August 21.
- Culverts L-86 and L-87, on County Route 645, in Lebanon Township: an anticipated road closure on or about August 24, 2015 for approximately 3-4 weeks for culvert repairs and replacement.
- County Route 600/612 Intersection in Raritan Township (HMC); the box culvert has been completed; the base course of the pavement has been placed and the County is waiting on the final utility relocation to be completed before the top course of pavement and guiderail can be installation.

**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."

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated August 18, 2015.

**See Page 8/18/15-4A**

**CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of August 4, 2015.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

**See Page 8/18/15-4C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Jared Biondi appointed full-time Library Driver, Library Headquarters.

**See Page 8/18/15-4D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, David Weighart appointed full-time GIS Specialist III, Information Services Division, Administrative Services Department.

**See Page 8/18/15-4E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Timothy Rehl appointed full-time Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Department of Public Works.

See Page 8/18/15-5A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the salary for Gelaine (Sue) Dziamara, covered under the collective bargaining agreement between AFSCME and the County of Hunterdon for 2015.

See Page 8/18/15-5B

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the salaries for employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between FOP Lodge #94. Sheriff's Officers Association and the County of Hunterdon.

See Page 8/18/15-5C

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an Employment and Reimbursement Agreement with Michael J. Buchholz, Sheriff's Officer.

See Page 8/18/15-5D

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Change Order #1, FINAL, for County Bid #2013-06, for the Reconstruction of County Bridge U-1, on Race Street over Grandin Stream, in Union Township, to Reivax Contracting Corp., increase of \$19,982.69.

See Page 8/18/15-5E

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the final payment for County Bid #2013-08, for the Reconstruction of County Culvert U-18, on Race Street over Grandin Stream, in Union Township, to Reivax Contracting Corp., in the amount of \$7,754.08.

See Page 8/18/15-5F

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving plans and specifications for the Roadway Resurfacing of County Route 513 in the Borough of High Bridge and the Townships of Lebanon and Clinton; and authorizing the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.

See Page 8/18/15-5G

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving plans and specifications for the Roadway Resurfacing and Safety Improvements of County Route 579, in the Townships of Alexandria and Union; and authorizing the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.

See Page 8/18/15-5H

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a property parcel map and designating road areas to be acquired for highway purposes; and authorizing the acquisition of lands and payment for same; and authorizing the early appraisal of lands and title searches, for the Reconstruction of County Route 637.

See Page 8/18/15-5I

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Erin Neukum appointed full time, unclassified, Confidential Assistant, in the Transportation Services Division of the Department of Human Services,

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

**GRANTS**

Mr. Lanza moved, and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 8/18/15-5J

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the renewal of a subgrant award for the Multi-Jurisdictional County Gang, Gun and Jurisdictional Narcotics Task Force Grant, for the period of July 01, 2015 through June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$43,969.00 (federal funds).

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from the Lambertville Historical Society, requesting permission to use/hire the County's LINK Bus service for their annual Lambertville Autumn House Tour on Sunday, October 18, 2015, from 10:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., to shuttle visitors between the Lambertville-New Hope Rescue Squad parking area to City Hall on York Street in Lambertville. Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this is coordinated through the County's Department of Human Services.

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

**FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Lebanon Borough/Transportation/Construction Project

Freeholder Holt reported on an issue the Borough of Lebanon is having with the Department of Transportation with regard to a construction project. With the permission of the Board, he plans

to meet with Lebanon Borough next week and see about drafting a letter of support for the Board to send on behalf of the Borough to the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The Board agreed Freeholder Holt should follow through with his recommendation.

#### County Fair/Veterans Recognition Ceremony

Director King announced the County Fair starts tomorrow, August 19, 2015. At 4 p.m. the County will hold its Veterans Recognition Program at the Main Stage in the fairgrounds and he encouraged all to attend, stating this is close to his heart and stated that Hunterdon County honors veterans in the area with a medal. At this time, twenty-three people are to be honored; though not all will be present, but of particular recognition is a WWII veteran who is a Pearl Harbor survivor who will be in attendance. Director King noted there will be light refreshments and soft drinks served after the ceremony.

#### High Bridge Borough Resolution/Hunterdon County Jail

Director King commented on a resolution received from High Bridge Borough regarding the County Jail. He is sure it was meant with the best intentions stating the resolution pointed to the fact that the County has been going through a painstaking evaluation of the jail operations and looking at a variety of solutions. The message from High Bridge is received, Director King cautioned that to affect the idea that the County has not involved enough people in the conversation on a formal basis is a misnomer; it is not accurate and simply not true. The Board has thoroughly engaged the Police Chiefs organization, as well as the Hunterdon County Bar Association, the Sheriff's Office, the Prosecutor's Office, and a variety of other constituencies. The Board has taken everybody's input very seriously, to the point that the solutions being looked at that once crafted will not yield the pure potential savings that the Board believes is available from realigning the operation and making it more efficient for the taxpayers of Hunterdon County.

Director King applauds the fact that High Bridge wants to step up and comment on something that is strictly in the purview of Hunterdon County, but he noted that High Bridge sent a piece of paper without even a phone call from the mayor.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Director King opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sauchau questioned why the County did not engage the public on the matter of closing the jail. She would like the Freeholders to make issues open to the public and feels the public would provide good comments as everyone has a different perspective.

Matt Walker, President of the Corrections' Union, for the Hunterdon County Jail commented that staffing levels at the jail are reaching a critical point; stating they are down 13 officers and 1 sergeant; normally at full staff, there are 31 officers, but today they have 18 officers and 3 sergeants. Mr. Walker advised that overtime is occurring every single day and it is affecting the public when it comes to visits and programs because they are cancelled as a result of low staff.

Director King apologized that the County has put the jail staff in a position where they feel they are compromising any element of safety. The Board needs to do the right thing and they need to do it soon, and they fully intend to do so.

Mr. Walker asked the Board to keep him in the loop with the events. He stated the current concern of the staff is that they will be last ones left on a sinking ship.

Director King does not like to think of it in terms of a Titanic reference, but the message is well received and the Board is not at all indifferent to what is going on at the jail.

Mr. Walker confirmed that Director King will meet to talk with him to update him on what is going on at the jail and its future.

Mr. Walker again reiterated that safety and security are of the utmost importance at the jail.

Corrections Officer, Luis Riveria, informed the Board that he too is concerned about the situation of the jail review. Hunterdon County would not be Hunterdon County without the jail. He has worked at the Jail for twenty-three years and is very proud of that.

Director King advised he short changed the list of people that they have included in the conversations as well, stating that the Correctional Administrator, John Palmeno and AOC are two that he did not list previously. The County is approaching this issue with everyone's best interest in mind and Director King wants to assure the public that this is the case.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director King adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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**Denise B. Doolan, CLERK**

Transcribed by:

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**Dana Gootman, Deputy Clerk**