

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

May 19, 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. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 05/19/15-1A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an agreement for finance consulting services.

See Page 05/19/15-1B RESOLUTION

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

See Page 05/19/15-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a payroll vacancy in the Finance Office.

See Page 05/19/15-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the possible acquisition of land in Holland Township, Union Township and East Amwell Township.

See Page 05/19/15-1E RESOLUTION

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

See Page 05/19/15-1F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss two grievances in the Human Services Department.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:03 p.m., recessed at 5:05 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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director King opened the meeting to public comment

Barbara Suchau, a resident of Raritan Township questioned the Board regarding an item under the Consent Agenda for Longevity.

County Counsel, Shana Taylor, explained the reasons for employees to receive longevity and the difference between longevity and supervisory longevity.

FINANCE

Mr. Holt moved this, and Ms. Lagay seconded

See Page 05/19/15-1G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the Budget to be read by Title Only.

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

PUBLIC HEARTING – COUNTY BUDGET

Director King opened the public hearing on the 2015 County Budget.

There being no comments or questions from the press or public, Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Director King informed those present that the County's budget is down in 2015; it reflects a flat tax rate; and also the fact that the County has no debt at this time.

Director King recognized Janet R. Previte, Acting County Finance Officer for her hard work in getting this budget put together. He referenced how property taxes are allocated, as well as a chart indicating the County's budget over the past ten years which illustrates the exceptional fiscal management of this Board and previous Freeholder Boards.

The Board agreed.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve the 2015 County Budget.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/19/15–2A RESOLUTION – Budget Amendment

RESOLVED, Authorizing an amendment to the 2015 County Budget.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 05/19/15-1C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the amount to be raised by taxation for the County's Open Space Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 05/19/15-1D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the amount to be raised by taxation for support of the Operating Budget for the County Library.

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

Mrs. Previte confirmed for the Board that the 2015 budget remains flat, with a responsible budget that stays conservative, for the third year in a row. This budget will realize additional revenues without raising the tax rate.

Director King agreed this is a responsible budget and it will contribute to the overall health of Hunterdon County. He again thanked Ms. Previte for her work on the budget.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE

Ms. Lagay moved Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 5/19/15–1E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Contract for Sale of Development Easement from John and Miriam Jacobson, for Block 51, Lot 1, in Alexandria Township, estimated 30 acres, (SADC - \$207,000; County - \$69,000; Township - \$69,000), total amount \$345,000.

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

ROADS AND BRIDGES UPDATE/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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

- County Bridges K-110 and 111, in Kingwood Township, permit has been received from NJDEP for construction; bids to be advertised on June 04, 2015; with construction starting sometime in August.

Mr. Mathews confirmed for Director King the K-110/K-111 construction time is a 140 day turnaround, so the project should be completed by the beginning of December unless the weather does not cooperate. Construction projects for November 15 through March 15, are considered "winter" and not included in the contract time. Construction companies are entitled to say they are done for the year on November 15 and will continue the project in March of the next year.

The Board discussed the amount of time needed for construction to complete this project. Mr. Mathews advised if the project has to stop due to winterize the project, the bridge will be paved as soon as the asphalt plants open in the Spring.

Director King reported that the Kingwood Township Mayor has the understanding that the bridge won't be completed until September 2016.

Mr. Mathews reported September 2016 was the original projected finish date but he doesn't anticipate the project taking that long.

Mr. Mathews questioned if the Board would be interned in an incentive program for construction companies. While this has not been common practice for Hunterdon in the past, it may be useful for this project.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders discussed an incentive for the contractor on the project for County Bridges K-110/K-111, in Kingwood Township, similar to what Somerset County currently uses, in order to get the project done in a timely fashion.

Mr. Walton moved to approve an incentive plan at \$1,000 per day, at a not to exceed amount of \$25,000.

Mr. Holt confirmed with Mr. Mathews that the estimated cost for the replacement of K-110/K-111 is \$2.7 million and he expressed concern that a cap of \$25,000 would not be enough of an incentive.

Mr. Lanza questioned Mr. Mathews if the incentive would have any effect on the safety or product quality of the bridge. Mr. Mathews advised that should not be a concern since construction inspectors are on site to constantly.

Mr. Holt suggested the incentive not to exceed amount be higher; such as \$1,000 a day with a set cap of \$35,000.

Director King asked for a second to Mr. Walton's motion; being none, the motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion approving \$1,000 a day incentive, not to exceed \$35,000, for the reconstruction of County Bridges K-110/K-111, in Kingwood Township.

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

- County Bridge E-174, in East Amwell Township is substantially complete and should be opened by Friday, May 22nd. Punch list items still have to be completed.
- Construction of County Route 513, from Frenchtown to Everettstown, drainage work is being worked on, as well as the realignment at Gohlmeyer Road. The Y intersection is being turned into a T intersection.
- In-House Projects: County Colvert L-69 on Newport Road, is a major reconstruction with a stone arch and a headwall. It is anticipated paving will take place this week and it will then be reopened. The County's crew did a nice masonry job.
- County Bridge Q-101, on Cherryville-Stanton Road has a masonry headwall that's collapsed from the winter; this project is anticipated to start around June 8, 2015, and the roadway will be closed for 8-10 weeks with a posted detour.

County Route 513/Exit 15/Interstate 78, in Clinton, Franklin and Union Townships

Mr. Mathews reported to the Board on County Exit 15, on Interstate 78, near County Route 513, in Clinton, Franklin and Union Townships. The next step in this project is right of way authorization and the project has been hung up on this issue. Mr. Mathews explained there are two driveways near each other, one for the Wal-Mart Plaza and one for Cracker Barrel Restaurant and the Hotel. With the design of the project, those two driveways will be made into one; for the first 300' – it is part of the signal design. The signal will feed the onramp for Route 78 Eastbound. The County has been informed that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) has stated they will maintain and own the signal since it is the NJDOT onramp but NJDOT doesn't want to own or maintain the approximately 300' of the eastern leg of the signal saying it's a driveway and NJDOT doesn't want to own a driveway. The County has argued that this is actually part of the signal design and NJDOT owns everything in the area and should own that also. The County has gone to National Realty who owns the property, as the County was looking for an access easement from National Realty since the County cannot use federal dollars to purchase the right of way and give it to National Realty; it has to remain a public right of way. National Realty has no interest in giving their neighbors (hotel and restaurant) an access easement through them. The County has also approached Franklin Township asking since they own a little of Frontage Road and the property in the back for its COAH units, if they would be interested in owning the 300' of driveway and they said no.

Mr. Mathews recommends keeping the project moving and asked if the Board would considering adding this 280' to the County's road system to extend County Route 513.

Director King confirmed with Mr. Mathews this is an improvement on an intersection that is lethal and backs up causing numerous problems for people in that area trying to get onto Route 78.

Mr. Walton recommended someone from the Freeholder Board should meet with NJDOT on this matter to convince them that the state should own this area or at least to partner in this.

Mr. Mathews informed the Board that he believes this part of the road, is actually part of the signal design and should be NJDOT's but they will not accept this.

Director King confirmed the timeframe for the project is ending, and there is \$1.6 million in federal funding already spent for the project. Mr. Mathews stated the project has been going on for 10 years and if the County doesn't get the right of way authorized in the near future, the funding will be withdrawn.

Mr. Lanza understands and agrees with Mr. Walton's point but he doesn't want to gamble with \$1.6 million worth of federal money that the County has already spent. If the County abandon's this project that money will have to be refunded to the federal government.

Mr. Mathews reported to the Board that the County will not have to plow this section of road as National Realty has agreed to plow the area. The County's expense and responsibility would be to maintain it by resurfacing in the future. He confirmed that the right of way would be purchased with County money but it would be reimbursed with federal dollars. Since this is a driveway, it may need to be resurfaced in 20 years.

After further discussion, the Board agreed action needs to be taken but directed Mr. Mathews to still hold a discussion with NJDOT on this.

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion approving Mr. Mathews to acquire the right of way for the property and inform NJDOT that this should be owned by them.

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

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."

Items Held: Check #'s 49591, 149585, 17611, 17625, 17610 and 17624.

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated May 19, 2015, with the exception of Check #'s: 149591, 149585, 17611, 17625, 17610 and 17624.

See Page 5/19/15-4A CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Walton seconded motion to approve the regular session minutes of March 17, 2015 and April 07, 2015.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Walton seconded these:

See Page 5/19/15-4B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Alexander Ubry appointed temporary, seasonal Laborer, Division of Roads and Bridges, Department of Public Works.

See Page 5/19/15-4C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Daniel Barone appointed temporary, seasonal Laborer, Building and Maintenance Division, Department of Administrative Services.

See Page 5/19/15-4D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Terence Carroll appointed temporary, seasonal Laborer, Buildings and Maintenance Division, Department of Administrative Services.

See Page 5/19/15-4E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Madeline Yannuzzi appointed temporary, seasonal Summer Camp Assistant, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 5/19/15-4F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Sierra Brooks appointed temporary, seasonal Summer Recreation Leader, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Land Use and Facilities Management.

See Page 5/19/15-4G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Andrew Camp appointed part-time, unclassified Confidential Assistant, Health Services Division, Department of Public Safety and Health Services.

See Page 5/19/15-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing hours for Joann Blayle, Library Assistant, County Library.

See Page 5/19/15-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity Payments for CWA Supervisory according to the bargaining agreement.

See Page 5/19/15-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a bridge easement and temporary construction easement with Eltom Manor, LLC, in connection with the reconstruction of Route 637/620 in the amount of \$5,720.

See Page 5/19/15-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a bridge easement with Ilias Dorziotis and Areti Manola in connection with the reconstruction of Route 637/620 in the amount of \$940.

See Page 5/19/15-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving speed limits along County Route 602 (Ringo-Wertsville Road) in East Amwell Township.

See Page 5/19/15-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving speed limits along Frenchtown Road (County Route 619) Water Street and Milford-Warren Glen Road in Alexandria and Holland Townships and Milford Borough.

See Page 5/19/15-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the selling of surplus vehicles, Truck #35, Truck #72, Truck #20, and Truck #79, to the Township of Hopewell in the amount of \$60,000.

See Page 5/19/15-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Jill Zabowski to the Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board.

See Page 5/19/15-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the specifications for the replacement of County Bridges K-110 and K-111, on Kingwood Road, (County Route 519), over the Locatong Creek, in Kingwood Township and authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve Check #149591, in accordance with the Claims Register dated May 19, 2015

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve Check #14911, 17625, 17610, and 17624, in accordance with the Claims Register dated May 19, 2015

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

GRANTS

Mr. Walton moved Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 5/19/15-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application for a Federal Aid Agreement with New Jersey DOT for the Replacement of Inter-County Bridge L-25-W (Warren County Bridge #16009) and approach Point Mountain Ridge over the Musconetcong River, in Lebanon Township and Mansfield Township.

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

Mr. Walton moved Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 5/19/15-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a modification to the subcontract award agreement with Somerset County for assistance to needy families, in the additional amount of \$27,870.

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

Ms. Lagay moved Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 5/19/15–6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a renewal contract with New Jersey Human Services for transportation block grant funds, for TANF participants for LINK services, in the amount of \$33,768.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from Cherryville Repeater Association II, asking permission to use a field at the Route 12 County Complex, for the period of June 26 to June 28, 2015, for their Annual Emergency Training Field Day. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works and the Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director King opened the meeting to public.

Library sidewalk and drinking water

Mrs. Sauchau commented on the drinking water at the library being unsafe. She also questioned the workers doing the Library sidewalk; stating there is a need for local workers to get those jobs.

Justin Tibbett's, Director of the Division of Buildings and Maintenance, informed the Board that the ban has been lifted on the water at the Library over the past weekend, but his staff has not been able to remove all of the signs. The water is safe to drink and was safe to drink over the weekend.

JCP&L

John Anderson, JCP&L representative for Hunterdon County, informed the Board that as of Friday, the new Rocktown 230 KB substation is no online carrying load and is serving Hunterdon.

Jail

Matt Walker, Correctional Officer and Union President, commented on the recent newspaper articles on the jail possibly closing. He asked that when a committee is formed to review this matter, that someone from the union be a part of that committee.

Director King said they are doing an operational review of the jail as a whole and that all options are being looked at and that the union will most certainly be a part of those discussions.

Mr. Walton feels that is a reasonable request and certainly someone from the union will be at the table for the discussions.

Mr. Walton stated he has three regrets during his time as a Freeholder; one is when the County laid off its janitorial staff county that he was not able to persuade about a half dozen of those individuals to take other jobs that would allow them to finish their pension/tenure and retire. There were certain rules barring them from being able to do so, that conflicted with union rules but Mr. Walton didn't feel that it was morally right. To that point, Mr. Walton said one of his priorities in the jail situation is to find jobs for people who have been with the County for so many years to find jobs if the time comes.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 6:17 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 6:30 p.m., in the historic Court House.

CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION

2015 Mini-Historian awards

Stephanie Stevens, former Cultural & Heritage Commission Chairperson introduced the Board of Chosen Freeholders to the students and parents present for the awards of Mini-Historian. She explained what a Freeholder is and does, noting that the County of Hunterdon was founded in 1714. Today, Hunterdon County is 301 years old.

Mrs. Stevens thanked the parents present for encouraging their children to learn about Hunterdon County and the teachers for instilling an interest in history in their students.

Mrs. Stevens provided a small history lesson covering the Hunterdon County historic Court House. The first Court House for Hunterdon County was built on this foundation in 1793 but it burned down, and was replaced in 1848.

Director King and Mrs. Stevens presented certificates to the following recognized students:

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Frenchtown Elementary School: Katherine Bach; High Bridge Elementary School: Dylan Bauer; Readington Township (Three Bridges School): Mary Pijanowski; Readington Township (Whitehouse School): Kiera Spring; Tewksbury Elementary School: Gabriella Glaz and Sophia Grausso; and Christian Lechner.

SECOND PLACE

Califon Public School: Jack Ford; East Amwell Township School: Ian Hoats; Frenchtown School: Heidi Haver; High Bridge Elementary School: Samantha Guerriero; Readington Township (Three Bridges School): Courtney Deighan; Tewksbury Elementary School: Carter Gordon.

FIRST PLACE

Califon Borough (Califon Public School): Alix Kibler; East Amwell Township School: Scott Anderson; Frenchtown Elementary School: Ava Musolino; Hampton Borough School: Lucia Paz-Sanchez; High Bridge Elementary School: Miranda Corley; Raritan Township (Francis A. Desmares Elementary School): Eesha Mahendran; Readington Township (Whitehouse School): Joshua McDonald; Tewksbury Elementary School: Faith Hamilton.

2nd Place PRIZE – COUNTY

Tewksbury Elementary School, Faith Hamilton, writing about the Cokesbury Methodist Church.

GRAND PRIZE – "2015 HUNTERDON COUNTY JUNIOR HISTORIAN"

Readington Township (Whitehouse School), Joshua McDonald, writing about From Peaches and Passengers to Books and Commuters.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director King adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Transcribed by,

Dana Gootman
Deputy Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board