

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

71 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Freeholders' Meeting Room

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

September 01, 2015

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:30 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: MR. KING, MS. LAGAY, MR. HOLT, MR. LANZA, 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 August 28, 2015, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News, 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 Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 09/01/15-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a personnel CWA proposal with regards to contractual minimums.

See Page 09/01/15-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a pending vacancy in Human Resources.

See Page 09/01/15-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a Civil Service appeal settlement proposal submitted by the CWA.

See Page 09/01/15-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss contractual obligations and plans for the Fire Training Center.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:32 p.m., recessed at 5:24 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director King opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Suchau, resident of Raritan Township, commented that the limitation of two minutes for public comment does not seem to be what everyone is allowed to speak and feels that at the last meeting, someone spoke for more than two minutes.

Ms. Suchau questioned the resolution for a Historic Preservation Grant, with the Hunterdon Land Trust for \$28,000; stating it is her understanding this is a non-profit organization and non-profits have the advantage of not paying taxes, and that a non-profit is established to give back to the community, not to become a burden on taxpayers and recommended the Board look more carefully at non-profits.

Ms. Suchau commented on a resolution for hunting in Holland Township; she does not understand why hunters are allowed to kill all of the wildlife; stating wildlife should be respected.

Ms. Suchau advised she did not like the comment she received when she previously complained about hunting as she was told it has been done for sixty years. We live in 2015 and we do not do the same thing in 2015 that was done sixty years ago.

FINANCE

Bond Ordinance #2015-01

Director King informed those present that through a significant amount of forensic work and in trying to interpret past accounting practices, the County now has a clearer understanding of the Heron Glen golf course.

Director King provided a brief history of the golf course explaining that in the 1990's there were two referendums done in order to receive voter feedback. The first was the purchase of the Kuster Farm for a total of \$2.6 million dollars, which was acquired with Green Acres funding.

Director King continued by stating \$450,000 spent on design and engineering costs associated with the creation of the gold course. \$6.72 million dollars was authorized by referendum for construction and an additional \$250,000 for additional construction with \$842,000 paid through the County's budget; and his understanding is that the money was either out of surplus and/or capital improvement. That totals \$11 million dollars that Director King noted that all of the bonding is completely paid off. Director King confirmed there is no debt remaining associated with that project.

Janet Previte, Chief Financial Officer for the County. Previte confirmed that was a correct statement.

Director King advised since that time, the golf course has been accruing money in an account an account that has been highly restricted. There is currently \$4.439 million in cash in the County's coffers in association with revenues from fees paid to golf on the County's course. They are not tax dollars; it is revenue from the golf course.

Director King reported there is \$4.439 million dollars in the bank that the County has not utilized. Historically, from an accounting standpoint, it would only be right to look at whether or not Capital Investment funds had been spent for the location. The County has looked into that by reviewing the history of the golf course since 2002 to December 31, 2014; and the County has spent \$1.268 million in total capital. Director King stated from an internal standpoint, it should be taken into consideration, whether there is a burden on the Administration to support for the golf course and is the County providing in-kind services?

Director King referred to the Pino reports which describe how the County charges for services and it had been agreed to earlier by previous Freeholder Boards that approximately \$80,000 per year was the burden of the golf course to the County. Overtime that \$80,000 accrued to \$1,040,000 dollars. The County now has \$4.439 million in an account for the golf course. The net rate of return for the golf course is, considering internal costs associated with the capital expenditures and the in-kind fees, around \$2,130,922.

Director King asked Mrs. Previte to verify a few items such as if the money is secure and if it passes the audits.

Ms. Previte verified for Director King that the answer to both questions was yes, and that the account has a long history of intense restrictions. Kemper Sports, the County's golf course management company which operates the golf course, only has access to that account in order to make deposits and those deposits to the County are made on a daily and weekly basis. Kemper does not have any access to that account otherwise. Mrs. Previte reported only the County Finance Office can access this fund for disbursement. So there is one source of funds going in and one means of getting those funds out of that account. The account itself is isolated to the golf course.

Ms. Previte has spoken to the auditors specifically about the golf course because it is a remote operation and the auditors have done intensive transaction testing; more extensive than they normally would have done if they were doing petty cash or anything the County does in-house. This passes muster with the auditors and Ms. Previte believes that says quite a bit about Kemper's handling that operation. The way the account has been set up, it provides a unique opportunity for the County to look at the sustainability of the golf course without combing through other funds. There are no other monies deposited in that account and the County does not write checks out of it for any other purpose. As of December 31, 2014, the balance in the account was \$4.4 million.

Director King thanked Ms. Previte.

Director King asked if the Board had any comments or questions on the Heron Glen golf course.

Freeholder Walton questioned is the mentioned amount was part of the County's full surplus. When the County says it has \$12 million dollars in the bank, is part of that the \$4 million dollars.

Ms. Previte confirmed it is saying that it is part of current fund balance.

Freeholder Walton questioned what source of revenue was used to pay off the \$6.7 million dollar construction debt for the golf course when it was built.

Ms. Previte stated that she did not know the answer to that at this time.

Director King advised the County would have put a referendum before the taxpayers to build the golf course.

Freeholder Walton feels that was the mechanics by which it was approved but he is asking about revenue to pay off that debt. He feels the County borrowed \$6.7 million dollars through a bank, and the County gave that money back, plus interest. He is asking where the revenue the County used to pay back that debt came from.

Director King said a referendum could not have been created without the funding source; it would come from general tax dollars.

Freeholder Walton stated the answer is tax dollars; tax dollars was use for construction debt and was paid back. He asked for clarification that the tax levy that the County collected from the residents was used to pay off the \$6.72 million in debt, not revenue from the golf course.

Director King stated to think logically, that money would have to have come from tax dollars because that is what the voters voted on; otherwise, it would not have gone to a vote.

Director King understands where Freeholder Walton is going with this questioning and he does not disagree with his thoughts on it, but the voters did two things - they voted to preserve the property for \$2.6 million dollars, which is essentially an Open Space acquisition, but the \$6.72 that Freeholder Walton is referring to - that amount of money was built into a referendum that was passed by the public and it would have had to be cited in the referendum that that money was being paid off by general tax funds.

Freeholder Walton stated his question is whether the taxpayers of Hunterdon County put more money into the golf course than they have gotten out of it.

Director King said that he believe Freeholder Walton is answering his own question.

Freeholder Walton stated he is on record as not liking the golf course and disagreeing with it in principle and does not feel this is something government should do. He feels he's a loaner on this issue but stated it is still a worthwhile question to know whether or not the golf course has generated more money than the taxpayers have put into it.

Ms. Previte reported that she would have to dissect the original \$11 million dollar figure in order to answer Freeholder Walton questions.

Freeholder Holt explained to those present that long before any of the current Freeholders were on the Board, the golf course was put out to referendum to the taxpayers. It was funded partially through open space dollars and the construction was funded through a bond that was created and paid off through the method that is used to pay off every bond. The report tonight is simply a statement in terms of where the Golf Course is; what is sitting in the capital account; what the County receives from the Golf Course and to determine if the County is accounting properly for overall costs?.

Freeholder Holt stated the County paid off the golf course debt in eight years and if it were a business, it would have taken twenty. The fact is the golf course is paid off at this moment and it can be projected for the next twenty years what will be seen in a revenue stream. In theory, Heron Glen is creating a positive cash flow.

Mr. Holt feels that today's report by Director King is not about a discussion of whether the County should or should not have created the golf course, because none of the current Freeholders had anything to do with that; it is about two things – (1) The County generating money; and (2) the County is taking care of an asset.

Freeholder Walton did not disagree with that, except that he would like an answer as to when the County will get a return on its investment in the golf course. What year would that happen and if there is some reason that question cannot be answered.

Director King asked why is there a necessity to establish an ROI on the golf course if it was not built under the premise that the golf course would be a cash positive asset to pay itself off.

Freeholder Walton reiterated Mr. Holt's point that none of the current Freeholders were on the Board when the referendum was introduced and passed, so this Board cannot speak to what the motivations were and if it was to return a profit for certain. He further questioned when the golf course with show a returned investment.

Director King said there is no objective that the golf course was created to show an ROI built on its original referendum.

Freeholder Walton said that is fine, he does not care if it ever intended to make a profit or not, he would like to know and he thinks the residents should know what that point is when it does make a profit – whether it was ever intended to or not, he believes it is a worthwhile exercise to find out.

Director King said that the golf course makes an operational profit every year of \$400,000.

Freeholder Walton would like the Finance Office to determine at what point the taxpayers have taken more money out of it then they have put into it. He does not feel this is an objectionable question.

After much discussion, Freeholder Walton stated he feels his question is relevant.

Director King likened the golf course to Deer Path Park and Mr. Walton agreed that Deer Path Park is never going to pay for itself.

Mr. Walton does not feel this is the same as the golf course and is seeking an answer to his question.

Freeholder Walton agreed that the figure of \$80,000 a year in the PINO report is fine and stated all the figures Director King has laid out are fine with him.

Director King advised he wanted to clarify that the \$80,000 figure is not PINO number – it was an agreed upon number by the County.

Mr. Walton reported the question he is asking has been asked by many people that have talked with him. It is a very germane question.

Freeholder Lanza confirmed with Ms. Previte that the County is looking at an operational profit of \$200,000 every year from the golf course.

Director King advised that the projected number is closer to \$400,000 or \$350,000.

Freeholder Lanza said whatever that number is for the operational profit, whether it is \$200,000 or \$300,000 or \$400,000, to maintain the current level of funding if that golf course profit went away would the County not have to raise taxes or cut spending in that same amount to maintain the same level of funding and the same level of surplus.

Ms. Previte feels the County would.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders discussed this evening's Bond Ordinance which has \$425,000 for work at the golf course.

Freeholder Walton stated at best, the golf course would break even this year because the County is spending \$425,000 in capital goods and generating \$400,000 in revenue.

Freeholder Lanza noted that what is lost in this discussion is that there is equity in the property, though the County has no intention of selling it.

Freeholder Walton advised he is not arguing these points, he is simply asking a question that he believes can be answered. He then asked Ms. Previte if she could answer the question at some point; not tomorrow, but in the next month.

Freeholder Lanza advised that it is an undisputed fact that this golf course generates a six figure profit every single year and that is thrown into the surplus.

Freeholder Holt said that this conversation has gone on long enough.

After further discussion, Director King, who is also the Finance Liaison, stated he will meet to talk with Mr. Walton to determine what is being asked for.

Director King opened the public hearing for the Bond Ordinance #2015-01.

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

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-4A

BOND ORDINANCE #2015-01

ADOPTION, BOND ORDINANCE 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.

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

NJAC (New Jersey Association of Counties)

Director King recognized John Donnadio, Executive Director of the New Jersey Association of Counties.

Director King and Mr. Donnadio presented the 2015 NJAC Scholarship Awards to Sam Cohen and Kathryn Majorossy both of Hunterdon Central High School.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-4B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Raymond F. Clark, Troop 187, for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Walton left the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-5A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Steven C. Grimes, Troop 186, for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Walton returned to the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the acceptance of an Indemnity Agreement with the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee for insuring adequate title on the acquisition of Block 33, Lot 24, in Kingwood Township.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Deed of Easement from John F. Jacobson and Miriam Jacobson, for Block 15, Lot 1, in Alexandria Township, estimated 29.448 acres, (SADC-\$197,878.20; County-\$65,959.40; Township-\$65,959.40), total amount of \$329,797.00.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Historic Preservation Grant with the Hunterdon Land Trust for the Case Dvoor Farmstead, Block 49, Lot 2, in Raritan Township, in the amount of \$28,000. (painting of garage, horse barn and corn crib; masonry repair; repointing of farmhouse stonework; connecting retaining wall).

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

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

See Page 09/01/15-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Historic Preservation Grant with the Hunterdon County Historical Society for Exterior restoration and painting of the Doric House, Block 23, Lot 2, Flemington Borough, in the amount of \$43,100.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the extension of County Bid #2014-09, for Fine Paper and Envelopes, with Paper Mart, Inc., for a second year, in an amount not to exceed \$83,642.69.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the rejection of bid packages for County Bid 2015-25, for the 2015 Site Improvements to the County Communications and Emergency Services Parking Area, as they came in over estimate.

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

PROJECT UPDATE

Frank J. Bell, AIA, County Project Administrator updated the Board on various County projects and facilities.

- Emergency Services Training Center - Mr. Bell will be working with the architect on the project to provide a comparison for analysis for Purchasing.
- North Branch Library – project completed.
- Route 31 County Complex HVAC System for Buildings 2 & 3 – the bids will be received on September 10, 2015.
- South County Park Septic and Drainage System – the bids are due on September 03, 2015.
- Generators – Emergency Management has been working hard to provide information to FEMA. Generators are ready for the Everittstown Garage and the South County Garage. Quotes will be received soon for same. A generator is also planned for the Route 12 County Complex Building #1 and information was submitted for the Library. All paperwork is into FEMA, and the County is awaiting a response.
- Traffic Maintenance Building – the project is complete. Final payment to the contractor will be made.
- Heron Glen Project – the consultants are going to get pricing figures for site work.
- Brine System – a system to pre-treat the roads. The drawings will be done this week and building permits received within a week or two; then in-house can complete trench work. The project is anticipated to be done in October.
- Mt. Airy Garage (South County) – there is a requirement to revise the system for cleaning salt off of the trucks. This is a DEP requirement which was done at the Everittstown Garage about three years ago. Engineers prepared the drawings for the County, so the same has been submitted South County Garage. Mr. Bell recommends moving forward and give the final proposal to Purchasing.

Director King questioned the feasibility of Alexandria Township contracting with the firm that Tewksbury Township is using, to provide washing services to municipalities.

Mr. Mathews said DEP regulates the cleaning of these vehicles and there is a strict 36 hour requirement to remove salt from vehicles. The wash space at all County Garages are full immediately after the storms for the first 36 hours. After that timeframe is up, they are open for municipalities to use but they also have that same 36 hour window.

Director King confirmed with Mr. Mathews that fleet wash was something that could be contracted out. He recommended coordinating with the municipalities so that everyone is on the same page with regards to this as a shared service.

Mr. Mathews said he spoke to Alexandria Township and gave them the information for the fleet wash company, so they could contract the service.

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."

Item Held: Check #150884.

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve claims with exception of check #150884 in accordance with the Claims Register dated September 01, 2015.

See Page 09/01/15-6A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve Check #150884 in accordance with the Claims Register dated September 01, 2015.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of August 18, 2014.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 09/01/15-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of David Bishop as a temporary, as needed Security Guard, Sheriff's Office.

See Page 09/01/15-7A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of John Deley as a provisional, full time Senior MIS Technician, Division of Information Services, Department of Administrative Services.

See Page 09/01/15-7B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving salaries for unclassified/unaffiliated or non-contractual employees in the Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 09/01/15-7C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Lois Baker as a permanent, full time Keyboarding Clerk 1, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 09/01/15-7D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the solicitation of bids for County Bid #2015-25, to furnish and deliver one (1) new and unused Crown RMD6095S Narrow Aisle 36 Volt Double Deep S Class Reach Truck or approved equivalent (forklift for Records Retention Center).

See Page 09/01/15-7E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement with Mark Tinder Appraisals, LLC, for right of way appraisal services, in connection with County Route 519 (Warren Glen Hill Road), in Holland Township, in an amount not to exceed \$14,995.

See Page 09/01/15-7F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement with the Farmers' Sportsman Club for hunting on Block 6, Lots 44, 49 and 49.02, in Holland Township; amount to be received by the County - \$5,399.

See Page 09/01/15-7G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement with the Rev. David Errickson for Chaplain Services at the Jail, in the amount of \$15,600.

See Page 09/01/15-7H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the mandating of Direct Deposit for all County employees, with the option to exempt temporary and seasonal employees.

See Page 09/01/15-7I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing final payment for County Bid #2014-11, for the 2014 Resurfacing and Surface Treatment of various County roads in various municipalities, to Trap Rock Industries, LLC, in the amount of \$46,163.20.

See Page 09/01/15-7J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the reduction of truck traffic in High Bridge Borough at the request of the Borough.

See Page 09/01/15-7K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a "Return to Work" program as directed by the County's Insurance Carrier, Willis.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 09/01/15-7L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the renewal of a Title IV-D Reimbursement Agreement, with the New Jersey Division of Family Development, for the Sheriff's Office, in the amount of \$208,667.

See Page 09/01/15-7M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the submission of the Hunterdon County Comprehensive County Youth Services Plan Update and Funding Application, in the amount of \$283,709 in state fund from the Juvenile Justice Commission; and authorizing the submission of the Plan to the to the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-8A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Alliance Subgrant Agreement with the Central Hunterdon Alliance, represented by Delaware Township, in the amount of \$31,844.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-8B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Alliance Subgrant Agreement with the South Hunterdon Alliance, represented by West Amwell Township, in the amount of \$16,108.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-8C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Alliance Subgrant Agreement with the Voorhees Regional Alliance, represented by Tewksbury Township, in the amount of \$22,852.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 09/01/15-8D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Memorandum of Understanding among the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and the New Jersey Northwest Region Counties (Hunterdon, Somerset, Sussex, Warren) concerning the use of Federal Homeland Security grant funds, in the amount of \$309,344.59.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Police Chiefs

Freeholder Walton thanked Justin Tibbets and his team, as well as Information Technology, for setting up the room on Route 12 County Complex for a meeting with the mayors of Delaware Township, West Amwell Township, and Lambertville City; as well as their officers in charge of those police departments to discuss the police merger. This has been an ongoing discussion for almost a year. The meeting went very well and the police chiefs and officers in charge were very pleased to be involved in the discussion about the proposal. It remains to be seen if they will pursue it, but there are some saving potentials for the towns.

Recording Meeting

Mr. Walton recognized the reporter present from the Hunterdon County Democrat. He noted that as an employee of JCP&L he covers twenty-two towns and nineteen of them videotape their town council meetings to some degree; whether it be livestream or placed on a cable channel; they post meetings so the public can watch. Freeholder Walton would like to see Hunterdon County do that as well.

Suicide Prevention/Recognition

Mr. Walton reported that two weeks ago marked the one year anniversary of Robin Williams committing suicide. Mr. Walton stated he was reading a Newsweek magazine which stated that an amazing thing happened following Robin Williams' suicide; unlike when Marilyn Monroe committed suicide when suicides escalated. The opposite happened in Robin William's case, where there has been an increase in folks calling the National Suicide Hotline and getting help. The increase in people seeking help for suicide prevention has continued even in the preceding year. Next week is Suicide Prevention Week in this country and there is still a long way to go regarding mental health issues, including depression and suicide.

Mr. Walton would like for this Board to proclaim Hunterdon County as a stigma-free zone so that people with these issues could openly express their feelings and talk about these issues. Unfortunately, people with these issues are still belittled, like the pilot who flew his plane into the mountain in Germany with numerous passengers on board. Making jokes about that situation is not in keeping with a stigma-free zone. There is much work to be done in order to take the stigma out of mental health issues. Hopefully folks are getting the help they need and he feels that Robin Williams' death a year ago helped bring this matter to light.

Pittsburg Pirates

Freeholder Walton commented on the Pirates, adding that 29 games over 500 is hard to believe.

Absence

Mr. Walton apologized for missing the last meeting, as he was in Akron on business. He noted this is only the second meeting he missed as a freeholder.

Mr. Walton also apologized for walking out of Wednesday's special meeting, explaining he was late for a meeting with the mayor of Florham Park.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director King opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Suchau of Raritan Township added to her comments regarding non-profits, specifically the Hunterdon Land Trust, as they apply for monies from local communities, county and state entities, so they are "triple-takers" from the taxpayers.

Ms. Suchau sked to receive information regarding the Municipal Alliance Subgrant Agreements through the towns and asked what the taxpayers are paying for.

Director King explained to Ms. Suchau that funding is received by the County and is provided to Municipal Alliance areas (School Districts) for drug prevention/education. It is not the County's money to keep; it is state pass through funds.

There being no further business before the Board, Director King adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise Doolan
Clerk of the Board

Transcribed By:

Dana Gootman
Deputy Clerk of the Board