

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

February 16, 2016

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

Director Lagay 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 05, 2016, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News, TAPinto (online) and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded these:

See Page 02/16/16-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an appointment to the Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services Advisory Board.

See Page 02/16/16-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a reappointment to the Library Commission.

See Page 02/16/16-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an appointment to the Planning Board.

See Page 02/16/16-1D

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 02/16/16-1E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an open Engineering position in the Division of Engineering, in the Public Works Department.

See Page 02/16/16-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a right of way taking on County Route 519, in Holland Township.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:06 p.m., recessed at 4:43 p.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Lagay opened the meeting to the public.

Claims

Barbara Sachau, resident of Raritan Township, questioned several items on the Claims Register and believes there should be more documentation on those items available. She questioned why the County is paying for college credits.

County Counsel, Shana L. Taylor verified those educational reimbursements are outlined in the employees' contracts.

Mr. Walton noted that investing in employees appropriately is wise as those employees bring that education back to their jobs and that is a good practice for any employer.

Mr. Walton recused himself from the podium at 5:39 p.m.

JCP&L Update

John Anderson, Jersey Central Power and Light representative, updated the Board on JCP&L's changes in vegetation management practices in 2016, which is now on a four year cycle. JCP&L is proactively meeting with municipalities on this issue.

Mr. Walton returned to the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

AMERICAN RED CROSS PROCLAMATION

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 2/16/16-2A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Designating March, 2016, as American Red Cross Month in Hunterdon.

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

HORTICUTLURE THERAPY

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 2/16/16-2B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Designating the third week of March, 2016, as Horticulture Therapy Week.

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

Director Lagay stated that Horticultural therapy is the time-proven practice of using therapeutic benefits of working in a peaceful and non-threatening garden environment indoors or outdoors. She read the proclamation for those present.

Laura DePrado accepted the proclamation and thanked the Board for their support in recognizing Horticulture Therapy.

PURCHASING

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 2/16/16-2C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Requisition #R6-00748, using State Contract #A-89850, with Dell, for software licenses, for the Division of Information Technology, in the amount of \$97,097.57.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 2/16/16-2D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the extension of County Bid #2014-16, for an Advertising Firm to provide exterior advertising on the LINK vehicles for the County's Transportation System, with HFT Management, Inc., d/b/a Gateway Outdoor Advertising, in an amount to be paid to the County of Sixty Three (63%) of the gross advertising revenue generated from the placement of advertising on the Hunterdon County Transportation Fleet.

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

FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 2/16/16-2E

COUNTY ORDINANCE #2016-01

INTRODUCTION, County Ordinance 2016-01, update to the comprehensive County's Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan, public hearing to be March 15, 2016.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 2/16/16-2F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving, upon the recommendation of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee, the East Amwell Township application for the Cooperative Assistance Open Space Grant Program, for the Higgins property, Block 35, Lots 10, 12 and 60, estimated 152 acres, in an amount not to exceed \$440,000.

Mr. King questioned the purchase price of the property and amount per acre.

William Millette of the Planning Division responded the total cost for the Higgins property was \$2.2 million which is roughly \$18,000 per acre.

Mr. Walton questioned how the price was determined for this property.

Mr. Millette explained it was based on an appraisal of a similar sized property in Somerset County. An appraisal has not yet been done on this property but the cost is based using the grant application on the appraisal for property in Somerset County. He confirmed the County would pay the certified market value for this piece.

Mr. Lanza noted the "not to exceed" amount in the resolution and stated that the County would not put forth more than that amount.

Mr. Walton stated the problem with the Open Space properties is that no one is buying them except for government entities.

Mr. King questioned if this property was under threat of development.

Mr. Millette confirmed the property is available for development but he is unsure if the municipality was concerned that it would be developed. It could be developed for fifteen lots.

Mr. Lanza questioned if this property was surrounded by other preserved properties.

Mr. Millette stated the property is adjacent to another 200 acre piece which then extends into Somerset County which has another five hundred acres. The total scheme is approximately one thousand preserved acres.

Mr. Millette confirmed for Mr. King that East Amwell Township is a co-driver for the property with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation orchestrated the purchase of the Somerset County piece.

Mr. Millette confirmed for Mr. Walton that the funding partners would be the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the State through Green Acres, and the County. There was a private donation of a million dollars from an anonymous donor as well.

Mr. Millette confirmed for Mr. King that there is an option agreement on the property and at this stage in the process where there could be a commitment.

Mr. Walton questioned when and in what form this would come back before the Freeholder Board.

Mr. Millette explained if this were approved tonight, it would not come back before the Board.

Mr. Walton asked Mr. Millette if it was possible to bring this project back to the Board to provide an update on the result of this purchase. He would also like to have a quarterly report on any and all projects.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Mathews, Director of Public Works, updated the Board on various County road and bridge projects:

Roads:

- County Route 513, High Bridge Borough, construction to begin in March.
- County Route 579, Pittstown to County Route 614, Union and Alexandria Townships, Realignment and Drainage Improvements, project construction to begin this spring.

Bridges:

- Bridge FU-5, County Route 513, Franklin and Union Townships, construction to begin in July and a detour will be posted.
- Bridges K-110 and K-111, County Route 519, Kingwood Township, the concrete culvert (K-111) is scheduled for delivery on February 25, 2016 weather permitting with the truss (K-110) being assembled, and floor pans being installed at this time.
- Culvert R-58, Pulaski Road, Readington Township, final plans submitted for review on February 16, 2016.

In-House Projects:

Mr. Mathews updated the Board on the current use of the Brine application on County roads.

Mr. Mathews informed the Board that a request has been received from the Hunterdon Land Trust to install a sign, in the County's Right of Way, along County Route 519, in Kingwood Township. While the County does not allow signs to be placed in its' right of way, this sign would be located behind the guiderail and would not interfere with mowing or snow removal.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion, upon the recommendation from the Public Works Director, to allow the Hunterdon Land Trust to install a sign, in the County's Right of Way, along County Route 519, in Kingwood.

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

Mr. Mathews reported on a request for a road opening on County Route 613, for a one (1) day opening, to complete the installation of gas service. This request was denied by the County as the road was repaved in 2014.

The Board discussed how to limit the disturbance of the roadway to complete the installation of gas service. Mr. Walton requested the Public Works department do its best to ensure the utility service disturbs the road as little as possible and to consider an alternative to trenching such as horizontal borings. Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approving for this request.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Lagay 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: Resolution #3 and Check #'s 152-682, 152-605, 152-619 and 152-624.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated February 16, 2016.

See Page 02/16/16-4A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve checks #152-682 and #152-605 in accordance with the Claims Register dated February 16, 2016.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this a motion to approve checks #152-619 and #152-624 in accordance with the Claims Register dated February 16, 2016.

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

Mr. Walton reported he is voting no on these items of a camera and a projection screen as he believes these items could have been purchased at a more conservative price or a simpler, less expensive model. He expressed concerned about a loss of a culture of thrift in the County.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of February 02, 2016.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 2/16/16-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Marc Saluk appointed unclassified, full time Economic Development Director, Department of Planning, Economic Development and Land Use.

Mr. Walton advised he is voting no on hiring an Economic Development Director and would like to articulate his beliefs about the proper scope of government and the effectiveness of the position. In Hunterdon County, the government plows snow, fixes roads and bridges, secures the public's health and safety by dispatching fire, police, EMS, keeping the accused in jail, inspecting restaurants and stores, and prosecuting criminals. The County also, distributes aid to the needy based on strict rules outlined by the state and federal government. Finally, the County maintains parks and open space. Everyone is aware of the issues of Hunterdon's local economy. Mr. Walton stated with the recession of 2008, the subsequent decline in the ratable base, the changing landscape and corporate facilities, millennials delaying starting families and purchasing homes, the aging baby-boomers, high property taxes, Hunterdon's problems are many.

Mr. Walton advised in 2013, the County began the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy which he voted for on many occasions. The presumption was there was a faltering economy and the County needed to have a strategy. He does not feel there is a need for more control and planning. Government, county or otherwise, should not be inserting itself further into these issues it should be getting out of the way. The CEDS promises "to become a roadmap for the County's future and ensures coordination and consistency with original priorities established by land use plans." There is one problem with that promise – County government lacks any authority to enact any policy that would bring about any of those. Each of the twenty-six municipalities control their own zoning, permitting process and master plans. State government is responsible for reliance on property tax for rural schools and liquor licenses. The nation's culture is driving millennials behaviors towards child-bearing and home-buying. The global economy motivates corporate decisions.

The choice before the Board is to put the role in the middle of County government and Mr. Walton fears this may be a fatal flaw in this post; instead of allowing economics to impact a project, politics may instead. Or a project facing political headwinds may get abandoned because the economic development director answers to elected officials and not free market mechanics. This will encourage developers and businesses not to make the most economically viable project but

the most politically appealing project. President Reagan once commented, "Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth." In a public/private partnership, if the project is not working, the businesses will fix it or stop it. In government, if something doesn't work, it simply gets bigger and more expensive. The best model is Morris County, there they have an economic development corporation that is funded by County government and private businesses with a split of 60/40. The economic director does not answer to the Freeholders but the corporation's board of directors. Their economics, not politics, drives the economic development directors work. This is the advice given to the County by the candidate.

Mr. Walton added that the salary of \$105,000 is contrary to how the County has paid staff for years. There are many critical and essential County government positions that get paid far less than this. Mr. Walton also feels the Open Space Tax revenue is slated to pay for ten percent of the proposed salary.

Mr. Walton voted for the CEDS and there is much to like about the plan – it calls out towns whose zoning rules and planning boards and mentions several road projects that facilitate the movement of goods and people. Certainly the Freeholders should take an active and leadership role in championing development decreasing regulatory burdens, increasing tourism, and improving infrastructure where necessary but expanding governments' size and scope is not the answer.

Freeholder Holt disagrees and said the information stated is not near accurate, explaining he has worked on this plan for a number of years. As one of the two people on this Board who is going town to town talking to the municipalities directly about the County's role and CEDS, and reminding communities that it is ultimately and completely in their jurisdiction.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 2/1616-5A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Christine Johnston appointed permanent, full time Keyboarding Clerk 2, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 2/16/16-5B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Nick Tsentas appointed full time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee, Division of Emergency Services, Department of Public Safety and Health Services.

See Page 2/16/16-5C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Karen Rios Garcia appointed full time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee, Division of Emergency Services, Department of Public Safety and Health Services.

See Page 2/16/16-5D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Caitlin Howley appointed full time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee, Division of Emergency Services, Department of Public Safety and Health Services.

See Page 2/16/16-5E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Janis Clark appointed full time Public Health Nurse, Health Services Division, Department of Public Safety and Health Services.

See Page 2/16/16-5F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a salary adjustment for Daniel Zmuda, Paul Bolanowski and Paul Fandel, Senior Mechanics, Division of Vehicle Services. (completed training).

See Page 2/16/16-5G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the revision of the CWA Non-Supervisory longevity payments for 2016.

See Page 2/16/16-5H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the revision of the CWA Supervisory longevity payments for 2016.

See Page 2/16/16-5I RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the revision of the CWA Supervisory longevity payments for 2015.

See Page 2/16/16-5J RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Carol Cronheim to the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

See Page 2/16/16-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement with PM Consultants, LLC, for accounting services for the Finance Department, in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.

See Page 2/16/16-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Section 5311 Transfer of Title Agreement for vehicle #18-120, Ford E450 Supreme, which is leased from NJ Transit.

See Page 2/16/16-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a transportation service agreement with The ARC of Hunterdon County, to transport 85 ARC consumers, for 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

See Page 2/16/16-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Area Plan Grant contract for provider services through Hunterdon Helpline, Inc., in the amount of \$15,775.

See Page 2/16/16-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Area Plan Grant contract for provider services through Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon, Inc., in the amount of \$219,659.

See Page 2/16/16-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement through the Local Art Program grant with the Hunterdon County Division of Senior, Disabilities and Veterans' Services, award in the amount of \$2,000.

See Page 2/16/16-6G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract modification with Strunk Albert Engineering, for construction documents for a revised scope of work, for the HVAC work for the Route 31 County Complex - Buildings 2 and 3, in the amount of \$13,000.

See Page 2/16/16-6H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the transfer of the Adult Protective Services Unit to the Division of Social Services from Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services, Human Services Department.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the High Bridge Fire Department, asking request to hold a coin toss on Saturday, April 09, 2016 and Saturday, November 26, 2016, from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., on County Route 513 between Grayrock Road and Arch Street, in High Bridge. Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting approval provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

A letter was received from the High Bridge Fire Department, requesting a letter of support for 17 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus with Air Masks and spare Bottles, for a grant through the US DHS/FEMA/Grants Program. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission.

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

Correspondence was received from Nicole Maniez, requesting permission to use the historic Court House Steps on Saturday, March 05, 2016, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., to raise awareness and help end violence against women. This is part of the One Billion Rising international movement. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting approval provided this event is coordinated through the County's Cultural and Heritage Commission.

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

A request was received from Girls on the Run, asking to again use the Main Street Complex parking area during their Spring 5K race, on Saturday, June 04, 2016, during the morning hours. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mr. Walton questioned the decision to move the Legal Office from the third floor to the first floor. He is not opposed to the decision but does not remember the Board discussing the change.

Mr. King questioned if the change required a vote of the Board.

Director Lagay does not believe that it does.

Mr. Walton noted the last time a division was moved was in August 2011 and the County's Administrator came before the Board and discussed the move. The Board discussed it and it was put to a vote which was approved.

Mr. Walton expressed concern that the Board is not discussing the usual types of matters and deliberations that used to take place. He would also like more frequent updates from the Chief of Staff.

Mr. Walton requested updates at the next meeting on the Director of Communications and the recent office space movements.

Director Lagay noted the Board is working closely with its executive team and allowing them the authority to make strong decisions. Decisions about space and strategic placement of departments will be made within the next year and that decision will come before the full Board.

Mr. Holt provided an update on the CEDS plan stating information sessions were hosted in Holland and Kingwood Townships last week. There are several other sessions scheduled out through June.

Director Lagay advised the private partners of the CEDS plan are doing a great job.

Mr. Walton clarified his previous comments about supporting a public/private partnership and added that he would never support an Authority with bonding power.

Mr. King informed the Board that he was present today at Governor Christie's budget address and touched on the items that concern the County. There was discussion on local aid, estate tax, the pension issue and the State Commission's recommendation to move the cost for health benefits into the school systems which may have an overall positive effect for the state but it will have a dramatic effect on local property taxes.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Lagay opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident commented on the salary for the Economic Director and on a check to the management vendor running the golf course.

There being no further business before the Board, Director Lagay adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan, CLERK

Transcribed by:

Dana Gootman, Deputy Clerk