

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

July 19, 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. KING, MR. WALTON.

ABSENT: MR. HOLT. (arrived in Executive Session at 4:40 p.m.)

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. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 07/19/16-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to review negotiations regarding the FOP #29 and FOP #94, in the Sheriff's Office.

See Page 07/19/16-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an incident which occurred at the Route 31 County Complex.

See Page 07/19/16-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss interviews for a Risk Manager for the County.

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

(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:03 p.m., recessed at 5:00 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.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident, questioned the Board regarding the County's golf course and the Controlled Hunting Program.

Joseph Canopy, Raritan Township resident, came before the Board requesting the County open more golf courses as Somerset and Mercer Counties have done. It would bring in even more revenue.

Chuck Henry, resident of Lambertville City, stated he opposes taxpayer dollars being used on a golf course.

FINANCE

Janet R. Previte, Acting Financial Officer, provided a brief statement concerning Bond Ordinance No. 2016-01.

Director Lagay opened the public hearing on Bond Ordinance No. 2016-01.

George Muller, Raritan Township resident and former Freeholder, provided the Board with information when he was a member and how the County put a non-binding referendum on the ballot for the citizens to let the Freeholders know if they were interested in having a County golf course. The citizens were in agreement for a golf course. Mr. Muller stated this is the perfect time for the County to finish the golf course by providing a small economical club house since the County has no debt. The Counties course is open to the public and is family oriented.

Eric Peterson, Franklin Township resident, New Jersey Assemblyman and former Freeholder, addressed the Board stating his opposition to a club house at Heron Glen Golf Course. He does not feel government should compete against private business.

Richard Cotton, builder and golf course owner, asked the Board to pull the golf course club house project out of the bond ordinance. Provided names of other golf courses being sold and suggested the County look into purchasing one of those courses.

Dr. Brendon Coughlin, High Bridge Borough resident stated his support for the Bond Ordinance including a club house for the County's golf course.

Mary H. Melfi, Flemington Borough resident and Hunterdon County Clerk, informed the Board that seated here this evening are three rows of individuals who are supporting a club house for the County's golf course. Also, she would like to see the golf course completed with a facility.

Gordon Horn, East Amwell Township resident, advised he supports building a club house on the County's golf course.

Carol Bodder, Holland Township resident and Director of Parks and Recreation, came before the Board explaining the deteriorating conditions of the trailers currently used for the last 16 years at Heron Glen. Mrs. Bodder also reported on the difficulty in using tents during bad weather at the course for events. She asked the Board to follow through in building a club house.

George Dilts, Flemington Attorney, stated he is in favor of the club house and feels Hunterdon County deserve a club house at Heron Glen.

Earle Steeves, Union Township resident, advised he would support a club house at Heron Glen, stating Hunterdon County residents deserve a moderately price facility.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, expressed concern about competing with private business and asked the Board to take into consideration the taxpaying citizens. Ms. Stewart asked if the funds for the improvements will come from the facility or from the general funds.

Mr. Walton replied that the money comes from the general fund.

Mr. Holt added that the general fund is where the revenue from the golf course is returned, as well.

Mr. King clarified for Ms. Stewart that every expenditure will have a separate hearing. The ability to bond is not equal to the action or requirement to fulfill each item on the Bond Ordinance being presented tonight.

Mr. Holt added the only difference in tonight's Bond Ordinance from other years are the two buildings which reflect a higher amount than in past years. Otherwise, the figures are identical to previous years' Bond Ordinances.

There being no further comments or questions from the public or press, Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to close the public hearing on Bond Ordinance No. 2016-01.

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

Mr. Walton made a motion to table the Ordinance in order to re-examine the necessity of the course and look at alternative options that were suggested by audience.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Walton made a motion to move the Ordinance absent the \$2.5 million dollar appropriation for the golf course clubhouse.

The motion died for a lack of a second.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 07/19/16-

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01

ADOPTION, Bond Ordinance #2016-01, Providing for 2016 Capital Improvements; appropriating \$31,623,200 (including Grants from the Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund, in the aggregate amount of \$2,611,700) and authorizing the issuance of \$27,630,000 Bonds or Notes to finance part of the costs.

Mr. Walton commented that he loves lobster bisque, he loves lobster, but if a waiter brought him a bowl of bisque with a fly in it, he would not eat it. In this analogy the fly in the soup is the clubhouse, and the bisque is the Fire Training School and other projects listed in the Ordinance. Mr. Walton stated he has been against the clubhouse since he took over for former Freeholder Erik Peterson seven years ago. The County is taking business away from private entities and the course does not make money. Money for capital services is poured into the course each year, along with \$80,000 in in-kind services.

Mr. Walton does not believe now is the time to borrow money for unnecessary projects; state aid is on the decline and this causes local governments to rely more on local property taxes. He acknowledged that the trailers at Heron Glen are in terrible shape and need to be replaced but feels there are other options besides building a new structure. He suggested the County lease or sell the course or the County could make Kemper put up a private facility; the County could turn the course into farmland or a park and build a smaller facility. Mr. Walton feels golf is on the decline and referred to Kemper's annual report.

Mr. Lanza will be voting in favor of this ordinance to fulfill his campaign promise of changing the way Hunterdon County looks at things and how it operates. The burn building is a disgrace and unworthy of public access; as are the trailers on the golf course. This Board is taking care of these issues and is doing them right; especially now when interest rates are low.

Mr. Lanza advised that the Board is spending less money in the budget today than in 2007.

Mr. King commented on his efforts the previous year to gather owners of local golf courses and have discussions on how to accomplish the County's goals in conjunction with what the private courses are trying to accomplish. The difference in the County's and the private business models, is that the County's has daily play and the private courses are memberships.

Mr. King invited Mr. Cotton to meet with him in order to share his ideas.

Mr. King thanked those present for coming out this evening and for participating in the public hearing.

Mr. Holt added that no new activities will take place on the golf course that does not take place currently. When he joined the Board in 2007, the budget was close to \$100 million and now it is \$88 million. In the same timeframe, \$36 million in debt was paid down; surplus was reduced and is now on a rebuild. Debt has been eliminated in the past two years since November 2014, when he personally had the opportunity to pay the last debt payment in the county.

Mr. Holt echoed Mr. Lanza's sentiment that these projects must be done while interest rates are low, and with a plan that looks ahead to the long-term future rather than short-term.

Mr. Walton stated for the record that in 2014 and 2015, the golf course generated revenue \$520,000 and the County spent well over \$650,000 in Capital Expenditures; that is a loss.

Mr. Walton thanked former Freeholder Eric Peterson and the other members of the Board who set the County on the course to cut spending.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders recessed at 6:36 p.m. and reconvened in Open at 6:40 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Economic Development Director, Mark Saluk, reported on his first ninety days in the role. The first three months were familiarizing himself with the businesses and demographics of the County. He has spent extensive time in thirteen municipalities, thirty individual business visits, and thirty visits with other organizations, either regional or state. He is working with eight companies on job creation possibilities and working with four or five communities on specific actions that could have an economic impact.

Mr. Walton questioned the Chamber of Commerce's business retention and recruitment effort and public-private partnership with the County and if it was still happening.

Mr. Saluk stated his goal is to complete business visits in near future but does not feel he can comment on the Chamber's efforts.

Mr. Walton left the meeting at 6:50 p.m. due to a previous commitment.

PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Mathews, Director of Public Works, reported on various road and bridge projects, as well as projects potentially affected by the Governor's Transportation Fund shutdown.

Roads:

- County Route 579, Pittstown to County Route 614, Union and Alexandria Townships, Project is substantially complete
- Resurfacing & Surface Treatment of Various Roads, project is currently out to bid. The resurfacing portion of the project to be completed this fall, surface treatment portion during the summer of 2017.

Bridges:

- Culvert FU-5, County Route 513 Pittstown-Clinton Road, Franklin and Union Townships, road closure and construction began July 5, 2016; detour has been posted; additional signs and barricades were added. Anticipated re-opening the road by Labor Day. The precast footings and culvert have been set in place.
- K-93, Horseshoe Bend Road, Kingwood Township, the upstream concrete and stone work is anticipated to be completed within the next 7 to 10 days.
- K-138, Union Road, Kingwood Township, Road closure and construction to begin June 28, 2016 for approximately 12 weeks; the North abutment wall is complete; North approach slab is being poured today.

Transportation Trust Fund Shutdown Figures for Hunterdon County:

- Projects Completed but balance due
 - Replacement of Bridge E-174, \$253,030.00.
 - Replacement of Bridges K-110 & K-111, \$1,300,000.00.
 - Resurfacing of County Route 579, \$1,981,300.00

- o Replacement of Bridge C-26, \$1,000,000.00.
- o Resurfacing of County Route 513, \$1,981,300.00.

Total amount for the projects is \$6,515,630.00.

Projects Stopped by ordered shutdown:

- County Route 519 Warren Glen Hill Improvements, Design (\$69,834.00), Right-of-Way(\$1,220,260.00) and Construction(\$8,300,000.00); totaling \$9,590,094.00.
- Replacement of County Route 579 Railroad Bridge, Design (\$5,330.00) and Construction (\$5,000,000.00); totaling \$5,005,333.00.
- Resurfacing of County Route 523, Construction - \$1,981,300.00.
- Exit 15, I-78, Right-of-Way (\$125,363.00) and Construction (\$4,700,000.00); totaling \$4,825,363.00.
- Scour Countermeasures, Construction - \$1,000,000.00.
- Replacement of Bridge L-25-W, Construction - \$1,000,000.00.
- Replacement of Bridge L-6, Construction - \$1,000,000.00.

Total amount for the projects is \$24,402,000.00.

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."

Check #18163 was held at this time.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated July 19, 2016, minus Check #18163.

See Page 07/19/16-4A

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve Check #18163, in accordance with the Claims Register dated July 19, 2016, minus Check #18163.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of June 07, 2016, the special session minutes of June 9, 2016 and the executive session minutes for January 19, 2016, February 2 and 16, 2016, March 1 and 15, 2016, April 5 and 29, 2016, May 2, 3 and 17, 2016 and June 7, 9 and 21, 2016.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 7/19/16-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Nancy Hall appointed provisional, full time Buyer, Division of Purchasing, Finance Department.

See Page 7/19/16-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Tyler Case appointed a full time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee, Communications' Division, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 7/19/16-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Andrea Schell appointed full time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee, Communications' Division, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 7/19/16-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Emily Stiff appointed full time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee, Communications' Division, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 7/19/16-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Edward Terhune appointed full time Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee, Communications' Division, Public Safety and Health Services Department.

See Page 7/19/16-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Brett Dufford appointed as a temporary, seasonal Laborer, Buildings and Maintenance Division, Administrative Services Department.

See Page 7/19/16-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Richard Jefferson appointed as a temporary, seasonal Laborer, Buildings and Maintenance Division, Administrative Services Department.

See Page 7/19/16-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Robert MacDonald appointed as a temporary, seasonal Laborer, Public Works Department.

See Page 7/19/16-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Gregory Martoccio, Confidential Aide, Buildings and Maintenance Division, Administrative Services Department, salary adjustment.

See Page 7/19/16-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Christine Hellyer appointed unclassified, full time Social Services Division Head, Human Services Department.

See Page 7/19/16-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Ross Traphagen appointed when and as needed, Intern, County Counsel's Office.

See Page 7/19/16-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Dennis Renna appointed as a per diem Pilates Instructor, in the Senior Services Division, Human Services Department.

See Page 7/19/16-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Diane DiVito appointed part time, Library Assistant, Library.

See Page 7/19/16-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Amending a resolution for Prosecutor's Sergeants, in accordance with the contractual agreement.

See Page 7/19/16-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Amending a resolution for Prosecutor's Investigators, in accordance with the contractual agreement.

See Page 7/19/16-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Steward Palilonis, Chairperson, Board of Elections, salary adjustment.

See Page 7/19/16-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Marybeth Hurford, Secretary-Member, Board of Elections, salary adjustment.

See Page 7/19/16-5L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Stephanie Pierce, Member, Board of Elections, salary adjustment.

See Page 7/19/16-5M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Marianne Rampulla, Member, Board of Elections, salary adjustment.

See Page 7/19/16-5N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Brooke Renkens to the Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 7/19/16-5O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Jerri Collevchio to the Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 7/19/16-5P

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2016-2017 Controlled Hunting Program.

See Page 7/19/16-5Q

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing final payment for County Bid #2015-19, for the 2015 Resurfacing and Surface Treatment of various County roads, in various municipalities, to Trap Rock Industries, LLC, in the amount of \$39,124.02.

See Page 7/19/16-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the discharge of a mortgage for Arthur and Bernice Reigle.

See Page 7/19/16-6B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a License Agreement with CoStar for the Economic Development Division, to obtain database access to available property and locations, in Hunterdon, at a cost of \$395 per month, for one year.

See Page 7/19/16-6C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the solicitation of bids for Snow and Ice Control Materials, County Bid #2016-014.

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

GRANTS

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 7/19/16-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2016 Special Projects grant awards through Cultural and Heritage Commission, in the amount of \$22,500.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 7/19/16-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Section 5310 grant application with New Jersey Transit to accept three (3) minibus vehicles and two (2) extended minibuses to support the County's LINK Transportation System.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 7/19/16-6F

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Raymond Leo Crisci III, Boy Scout Troop 186, for attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 7/19/16-6G

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing William Harclerode for having served on the County's Parks and Open Space Advisory Council.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Bloomsbury Elementary School, requesting permission to use portions of County Route 579 for their 5th Annual Spooky Spring 5K race, in Bloomsbury Borough, on Saturday, October 29, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

A request was received from the Califon First Aid Squad, Inc., asking to hold a Coin Toss on Saturday, August 13, 2016 and Saturday, September 17, 2016, along Academy Street (County Route 512) and Railroad Avenue, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

Correspondence was received from Hunterdon Prevention Resources and Safe Communities Coalition of Hunterdon/Somerset, request permission to use the historic Court House steps on Wednesday, August 31, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., to commemorate Overdoes Awareness Day. Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Buildings and Maintenance/Main Street County Complex

Director Lagay commended Justin Tibbetts and Greg Martoccio, of Buildings and Grounds, for quickly completing the first phase of the security plan put in place by the Facilities Committee as well as bringing the plan in under budget.

Freeholder Meetings in Municipalities

Director Lagay reminded the audience that the next Freeholder meeting on August 02, 2016 will be held in Frenchtown at Borough Hall.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Lagay opened the meeting to the public.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, questioned the salary adjustments for the Board of Elections employees and why it is done in the middle of the year.

Mr. Holt replied that adjustments cannot be made until the budget is approved and those adjustments are a reflection of that.

Ms. Stewart questioned how many people are currently employed by the County.

Director Lagay replied that there are two numbers vary depending on the full time and part time. Mr. King stated that including part-time employees the County employees number around 590. He explained the numbers of employees has decreased since 2008, in which the number of employees was around 650 people.

Ms. Stewart commented on various county buildings and landscaping on Main Street, the Jail, and a recent meeting of POSAC.

Ms. Stewart questioned the benefit of building the County surplus rather than having to bond for so much.

Mr. Lanza reiterated his belief that bonding with low interest makes more sense financially rather than paying cash and depleting the surplus.

There being no further business before the Board, Director Lagay adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board

Transcribed by:

Dana A. Gootman
Deputy Clerk of the Board