

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

March 15, 2016

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:00 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

Acting Director Lanza 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. Holt seconded these:

See Page 3/15/16-1A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an appointment to the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (E. Newton).

See Page 3/15/16-1B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss Room changes/Department reorganization.

See Page 3/15/16-1C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss Emergency Services organization.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m., recessed at 5:29 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deputy Freeholder Director, John Lanza opened the meeting to the public.

Freeholder Walton recused himself at 5:31 p.m.

John Anderson, Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) representatives, informed the Board that the West Flemington substation will receive site maintenance in April which will include enhanced vegetation management. He will be meeting with the various municipalities (Flemington Borough, Raritan Township and parts of Delaware Township and Franklin Township) on this matter.

Freeholder Walton returned to the podium at 5:33 p.m.

Barbara Suchau, Raritan Township resident questioned the negative effects of logging in the area, particularly on the wildlife. She referenced a New York Times articles that discussed attacking open space and its effects on the species.

FINANCE

Janet Previte, County CFO, came before the Board.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 3/15/16-1D **EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS**

RESOLVED, Approving emergency appropriations for the County

Ms. Previte explained to the Board that this is not associated with the temporary budget, which was adopted at the end of January; state statute requires that not be more than 26.25% of the previous year's budget. This resolution provides movement to the next statute in that series which provides for temporary emergency appropriation bills.

Mr. Walton inquired about dates to hold Budget Hearings.

Ms. Previte advised the committee has been meeting on a weekly basis for the past month, with the exception of this week.

Mr. Holt added that Capital will be moved to the complete Freeholder Board once it is complete, as is the case for operating and salaries.

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

FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE

Deputy Freeholder Director, John Lanza opened the meeting to the public on the County's Open Space/Farmland Preservation/Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan.

Bill Millette, County Planner came before the Board to provide an update on the County's Trust Fund Plan. The existing plan as adopted, was written in 2000 after the first ballot question was passed. Since that time, there were two additional ballot questions adopted by the voters and those added two major additions which need to be addressed in the County's plan: (the addition of the County's historic grant program in 2007 and the stewardship provision adopted in 2009. The existing plan had no mention of the historic preservation grant program because it did not exist when the plan was originally written, so the plan was updated to include that, and an Open Space and Recreation Development and Maintenance Plan as an element of the overall Trust Fund Plan. The statute requires that certain standards are followed and where to maintain County Open Space. The majority of the goals and recommendations of the existing plan have been completed. It was recommended to create an Open Space Advisory Committee and the creation of grant programs which have been enormously successful.

Mr. Millette stated since this process began, four different drafts have been published, that were made available to the public to comment on. The plan has been revised based on those comments to today's current draft that is before the Board.

Julia Allen, Readington Township resident, thanked the Board and the Planning Department for being patient and receptive to the public's input throughout the process.

Jacqueline Middleton, Hunterdon Land Trust representative, thanked the Board, the Planning Department and all of the organizations that listened to the Land Trust's concerns. She also appreciates those in the public, like Mrs. Allen, who put forth time and effort to comment.

Mr. Walton asked Mr. Millette about the state law that allowed counties, municipalities and taxing entities to create an open space tax. That law gave broad girth to the entities to do what they may with that tax; for instance, in some counties it's used for turf fields, where in Hunterdon County it is primarily used for land and over time the ballot question has expanded that scope to the current language that allows development and maintenance of open space land for recreation conservation purposes. In order for the entity to spend money on those items, they need to be defined in a plan, which is why in the past the County has not been able to spend on stewardship.

Shana Taylor, County Counsel, read from that statute which states: Monies in the County Trust Fund may be used to pay the cost of preparing and adopting plans required by the subsection.

Mr. Walton confirmed with Mr. Millette that this plan is in compliance with that subsection that allows the County pay for stewardship with the tax money.

Mr. Walton stated he is not comfortable with some of the items the County is now allowed to spend on, specifically playgrounds.

Mr. Millette reported that the maintenance of playgrounds has always been allowed under the statute and was in the ballot question.

There being no further comments from the public, Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 3/15/16-2A COUNTY ORDINANCE 2016-01

ADOPTION, County Ordinance 2016-01, approving an update to the comprehensive County's Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 3/15/16-2B PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing John P. Davenport III upon his retirement for years of service to the County of Hunterdon as the County Purchasing Agent.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 3/15/16-3A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing April 2016 as Autism Awareness Month in Hunterdon County.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

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

Roads

- County Route 513, High Bridge Borough, construction began March 7, 2016, drainage Improvements and curbing are currently being done.
- County Route 579, Pittstown to County Route 614, Union and Alexandria Townships, resurfacing, realignment and drainage Improvements, construction to begin March 21, 2016.

Bridges

- Bridges K-110 and K-111, County Route 519, Kingwood Township, the concrete culvert (K-111) was set in place, all concrete work is completed, back filling has begun. The Truss for (K-110) is assembled, installation of floor pans currently being done.
- Culvert R-58, Pulaski Road, Readington Township, final plans have been reviewed, minor revisions will be necessary.

Federally Funded Projects

- County Route 519 (Warren Glen Hill) Holland Township, there was a meeting held with Holland Township's officials to work out detour concerns and Right-of-Way negotiations have begun.
- County Route 513, Exit 15-Interstate 78, Franklin, Union and Clinton Townships. The Right-of-Way acquisition process has begun and a public information meeting to be scheduled in near future.

CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Freeholder Director Lanza 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 #152-924 and #152-996.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to approve claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated March 15, 2016, absent checks #152-924 and #152-996.

See Page 03/15/16-3B

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to approve checks #152-924 and #152-996 in accordance with the Claims Register dated March 15, 2016.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of February 16, 2016.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. King seconded these:

See Page 3/15/16-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Richard Dalrymple as an alternate member to the Planning Board.

See Page 3/15/16-3D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the reappointment of Rosa Yoo as a member to the Shade Tree Commission.

See Page 3/15/16-3E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of William Bowlby as a member to the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee.

See Page 3/15/16-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Plans and Specifications for the Reconstruction of County Route 637, Readington Township.

See Page 3/15/16-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the solicitation of bids for County Bid #2016-01, for the Operation of the Hunterdon County Transportation System (LINK).

See Page 3/15/16-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the solicitation of bids for County Bid #2016-02, for Automated Data Processing Services for the Board of Taxation.

See Page 3/15/16-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Discharge of Mortgage for Bernard and Lynda Lettieri.

See Page 3/15/16-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving State Change Order #2, County Bid #2015-13, for the Replacement of County Bridge C-26, with Kalogridis Contracting, decrease of \$50,901.95

See Page 3/15/16-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for County Bid #2015-13, for the Replacement of County Bridge C-26, to Kalogridis Contracting, LLC, in the amount of \$58,375.11.

See Page 3/15/16-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, County Bid #2015-21 for Resurfacing and Drainage Improvements to County Road 512, with Tilcon New York, decrease of \$107,063.

See Page 3/15/16-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for County Bid #2014-14, for the Reconstruction of County Bridge E-174, on County Route 602, to Konkus Corporation, in the amount of \$59,945.58.

See Page 3/15/16-4I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Inter-County Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between Participating Units, to provide additional protection against loss, damage or destruction by fire, catastrophe, civil unrest, major emergency or other extraordinary devastation damage or destruction to person and property, in those situations when outside aid and assistance is needed.

See Page 3/15/16-4J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the amended ByLaws of the Hunterdon County Planning Board.

See Page 3/15/16-4K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the renewal of a lease agreement with the Hunterdon Football Club (soccer), for certain portions of land at the Deer Path Park, for a three year period, through March 2019.

See Page 3/15/16-4L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Warren concerning the application and management of the FY2015 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FEMA) grant.

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

GRANTS

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 3/15/16-4M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an application with NJ Transit for the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, (JARC), to transport eligible individuals to employment opportunities, in the amount of \$124,000 (state funds) and a County match of \$124,000.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 3/15/16-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the renewal of a grant application with the State Department of Human Services, for the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), in the amount of \$24,000 (State funds).

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 3/15/16-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a subcontract with the New Jersey Institute of Technology and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, for the FY2016 Subregional Transportation Program, in the amount of \$88,762.50 (County Match - \$17,752.50).

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from Dan Brannen representing the Gran Fondo NJ, asking to again use the North Branch Library parking area and lawn, as a "rest and refreshment" area for the 6th Annual Gran Fondo NJ, to be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016, from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve this request provided the event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

A letter was received from the Whitehouse #1 Fire Company, requesting permission to hold a Coin Toss on Friday, June 03, 2016 and Saturday, June 04, 2016, at the Rockaway Church, the Lady of Lourdes Church, the Railway Station and the Post Office. Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion to approve this request provided the event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Deputy Freeholder Director Lanza asked the Board for any updates.

High Bridge Borough Elementary School

Mr. Walton reported every year he has the privilege of going to the High Bridge Elementary School's 4th grade to talk about County government. The students then come to the County Seat in Flemington Borough for a tour of the buildings with Sheriff Brown and County Clerk Melfi, and they write letters of thanks. Mr. Walton read a few of the students' letters of appreciation.

County Budget

Mr. Holt reported the County is working on the 2016. He looks forward to active full Board participation shortly.

Freeholder Director

Deputy Freeholder Director Lanza noted the absence of Director Lagay and reports are she is doing great and will make a full recovery. She is expected at the next meeting.

Deputy Freeholder Director Lanza thanked all present for their patience today.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Deputy Freeholder Director Lanza opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments from the public or press.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Deputy Freeholder Director Lanza closed the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board

Transcribed by:

Dana Gootman
Deputy Clerk of the Board