

# HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

**October 04, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 5:30 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

**ABSENT: MR. HOLT.**

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 September 29, 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."

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Lagay opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sauchau, Raritan Township resident, stated she was responding to Freeholder Lanza's comments made at the previous meeting about the pay raises for the County employees.

Mr. Lanza clarified that his public comments were in response to the Sheriff's contract that was approved at the prior meeting. Never once did he state the taxpayer's were stingy; to the contrary, he believes the taxpayers are overtaxed. Mr. Lanza confirmed what he said was that prior Freeholder Boards were stingy in their negotiations regarding Sheriff's Officers over the course of thirty years. Hunterdon County has the lowest paid Sheriff's Officers in the state and the contract approved at the last meeting makes tied with the lowest paid officers in the state. The County is losing a substantial amount of money in overtime pay due to training officers who leave to take positions in other counties at a higher rate of pay.

Michael Harris, Flemington Borough resident, asked the Freeholder Board to sign an oath which he presented to the Board Clerk.

Stan Prader, Jersey Central Power and Light representative, reported that JCP&L will be having their power system institute and line school orientation on November 3, 2016 at Brookville Community College and again, on November 10, 2016, JCP&L will be at Raritan Valley Community College.

Lois Stewart, Flemington Borough resident, brought to the Board's attention the exceptional experience she had at the County Library, with a librarian named Jane.

## **FINANCE**

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-1A**

## **RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the cancellation of various Capital Ordinances.

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

## **HEALTH DIVISION**

Tadhg Rainey, Division Head for Health Services came before the Board to provide a Black Fly update.

Mr. Rainey reported Black Flies have been a significant pest since the early 1990s and black fly control along the Delaware River has been in place since that time as well. In the past, there was a cost share between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); there is currently no cost share available. Pennsylvania picks up the costs associated with their program only. A solution to the problem would be a new cost share similar to the original program, with the Pennsylvania model covering 75% of the cost and participating counties covering the other 25%. Irrespective of the arrangement, a stable source of funding would need to be identified and the State of New Jersey currently does not offer any funding.

Mr. King directed Mr. Rainey to speak with his counterparts in the other Delaware River coast counties and work on a means to an make appeal to the state.

**PURCHASING**

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-2A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #R6-05967, using State Contract No(s). A89938 and A81332, with Day Chevrolet, for a Specialty Vehicle, for the Sheriff's Office, in the amount of \$48,710.61.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-2B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving Requisition #R6-05943, using State Contract #A-81123, with Tele-Measurements, Inc., for a Courthouse Conferencing System, for the Sheriff's Office, in the amount of \$160,577.90.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-2C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Professional Services agreement for Engineering Design Services, for the Reconstruction of County Bridge Q-48, with Malick & Scherer, P.C., in an amount not to exceed \$144,722.00.

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

**PROJECT UPDATE**

Frank J. Bell, AIA, County Project Administrator, came before the Board to provide an update on various County facilities and projects:

- Emergency Services Training Center, Facilities Committee evaluating Consultants fees and services. Currently reviewing modular burn building options and training props with vendor.
- Rt. 31 HVAC System for Buildings 2 & 3, Facilities Committee reviewing options.
- Historic Courthouse Renovations, Consultants scope and pricing will be evaluated by Facilities Committee on October 17, 2016
- Generators – Rt. 12 Bldg 1, Rt. 12 Library, Mt. Airy & Everittstown Garages, Shop drawings are being reviewed by the consulting engineer, the propane and natural gas companies have been contacted for preparation of connections to generators.
- Everittstown Garage Salt Building Renovations and Addition, Mr. Bell recommends rebidding the project
- Parks and Recreation – Heron Glen New Building, Approval for bidding will be on the October 18, 2016 agenda. Completion of documents will be on October 17, 2016.

Freeholder Walton reiterated his wishes to spend less money on a smaller structure.

- Justice Center - Criminal Justice Reform Renovations, Bidding to begin next week.

Mr. Walton questioned the scope of the Justice Center project and costs.

Mr. Bell advised several additions are necessary to meet the requirements of the Criminal Justice Reform Act.

Mr. King reported on the New Jersey Association of County's (NJAC) announcement to the Council on Unfunded Mandates, which is responsible for appeals, that NJAC will file a complaint within the next month. Several counties are already pursuing lawsuits against the State on the issue of unfunded mandates for the requirements of the bill.

- Justice Center Renovations, Reviewing options for roof, cast stone and EIFS

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-2C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving an amendment to the professional services agreement with Malick & Scherer, for Phase II of the Multi-Use Path across Prescott Brook, in Clinton Township, in the amount of \$18,000.

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

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE**

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-3A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Municipal Open Space Program grant application with Milford Borough, at the recommendation of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, for A&L Oil property acquisition, Block 5, Lot 1, in the amount of \$9,000.00.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-3B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Cooperative Assistance Open Space Grant application with Delaware Township, at the recommendation of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, for the Millner property, Block 3, Lots 19, 19.01-19.04, (Delaware Township) and Block 50, Lot 5 (Franklin Township), in the amount of \$534,225.00.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-3C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a Cooperative Assistance Open Space Grant application with the Tewksbury Land Trust, at the recommendation of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, for the Pye property, Block 28, Lot 9.07 and part of Block 28, Lot 9.01, in Tewksbury Township, in the amount of \$124,500.00.

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

**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."

Item held at this time – Check #155-108.

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated October 04, 2016, with the exception of Check #155-108.

**See Page 10/4/16-3D**

**CLAIMS REGISTER**

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded a motion to approve the executive minutes of September 20, 2016.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion to approve Check #155-108 in accordance with the Claims Register dated October 04, 2016.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded these:

**See Page 10/4/16-3E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Chelsea Williams appointed full-time, Library Assistant, County Library.

**See Page 10/4/16-3F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Kenneth Bogen appointed provisional, full-time Supervising Planner, Division of Land Use and Planning Division, Department of Planning, Economic Development and Land Use.

**See Page 10/4/16-3G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Kevin Barile appointed provisional, full-time Road Repairer 2, Division of Roads and Bridges, Department of Public Works.

**See Page 10/4/16-4A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, William J. Millette appointed provisional, full-time Principal Planner, Division of Land Use and Planning, Department of Planning, Economic Development and Land Use.

**See Page 10/4/16-4B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Steve Betancourt appointed provisional, full-time Road Repairer 2, Division of Roads and Bridges, Public Works.

**See Page 10/4/16-4C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving salary adjustments for the Sheriff's Office employees, according to the agreement with FOP 94.

**See Page 10/4/16-4D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the appointment of Thomas Mathews to the Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission.

**See Page 10/4/16-4E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the appointment of Emily Flesher to the Mental Health Board.

**See Page 10/4/16-4F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a No-Stopping or Standing Zone on County Route 523 (River Road), in Raritan Township.

**See Page 10/4/16-4G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a final payment, for County Bid #2015-26, for Site Improvements at County Communications and Emergency Services on County Route 617 (Cherryville Road), to CMS Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$18,036.03.

**See Page 10/4/16-4H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a sidebar agreement with the CWA Local 1036 for the Communication Division.

**See Page 10/4/16-4I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Supporting the approval of Assembly Bill A-1834/S-178, requiring the Department of Health to license at least one angioplasty facility in each county.

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

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-4J**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing October 06, 2016 as "Knock-Out Opiate Abuse Day" in the County.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded this:

**See Page 10/4/16-4K**

**PROCLAMATION**

**RESOLVED**, Recognizing the patriotic service and dedication efforts of Hunterdon's Fire and Emergency Services personnel and asking that American Flags be lowered on all buildings to half-staff on October 09, 2016.

Mr. Walton reported on the annual Firefighter Convention in Wildwood, New Jersey stating there is a memorial service in which family members of fallen firefighters are flown in to be honored. They are greeted by family members of previously fallen firefighters. He thanked the Board for recognizing the efforts of the firefighter community.

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A Letter was received from the Flemington Community Partnership, requesting permission to hold Courthouse Jail Tours, in the Historic County Court House, on Sunday, October 30, 2016, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., and on Monday, October 31, 2016, from dusk to 9:00 p.m. They are also asking permission to have a voluntary donation jar with candy at the front entrance. The Sheriff has been asked to give tours of the jail. Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion granting permission provided the event is coordinated through the Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

A request was received from the Friends of Historic Flemington, asking to use the historic Court House steps from 9:00 a.m. until noon, on Saturday, October 22, 2016, for the purpose of holding a gathering for the preservation of Main Street. They are also requesting to use electric outlet. Flemington Borough has given the group a permit. Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

## **FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Mr. King reported on 150% increase in the gas tax, which is coming up for a vote shortly. For the record, he is very much opposed to this tax.

Mr. Lanza offered his apology to Mr. Harris for the tone of his response during the public comment section.

Mr. Lanza echoed Mr. King's comments on the gas tax saying it is punishing to Hunterdon County as there are only a handful of walkable communities and very few rail options.

Mr. Walton echoed the comments of his colleagues and voiced his opposition to the gas tax stating it is awful for commuters and for those driving between the hours of nine and five, such as truck drivers, salespeople, etc. It is a hidden tax on every person in the State of New Jersey and because of this the price of services will go up. Legislators are already discussing how to spend this new source of revenue. Mr. Walton feels Trenton must learn how to live within its means. New Jersey pays more per road than any other state.

Mr. Walton asked that a discussion take place at the next meeting to have Freeholder Meeting recordings uploaded to the County website for public consumption.

Mr. Walton asked for a discussion on painting a blue line down one of the County roads in solidarity with law enforcement within the County as well as across the state.

Mr. King suggested getting a quote on the cost to paint a blue line down a County road, or portion of a County road, as the County no longer has a line-painting truck. In addition, he would like to be sure there the County does not violation any of the state transportation requirements.

Mr. Walton reported the Pittsburgh Pirates are in a transition year and there are one hundred and eighty-one days until Opening Day.

Director Lagay joined her colleagues in their opposition to the gas tax. She reminded the public that the next Freeholder Meeting on October 18, 2016, is being held in Kingwood Township at their municipal building.

Director Lagay wished a Happy New Year to those in the Jewish community.

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Director Lagay opened the meeting to the public.

Ms. Stewart thanked the Board for opposing the gas tax and asked what can be done to stop the tax.

Mr. Walton instructed Ms. Stewart to call the minority leaders in the Senate and the Assembly and demand they not vote for the measure, as well as encourage the Republican caucus to oppose it as well. He feels there are Democrats who are not going to support the tax because they do not want to give up the estate tax, but there are Republicans who are supporting the measure which cancels those no votes out.

Mr. King added that legislators from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Districts in Hunterdon County are opposed to the tax, so there is no need to contact them.

Ms. Stewart asked Mr. Walton to revisit his comments on the Heron Glen structure, as she is concerned about the competition with the private sector golf courses in the area.

Mr. Walton advised he suggested two meetings ago, that the County build a permanent commercial building similar in size and scope for approximately \$500,000 to \$700,000.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Lagay adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan, CLERK

Transcribed by:

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Dana A. Gootman, Deputy Clerk