

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822

April 04, 2017

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

ABSENT: MR. KING.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

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 03, 2017, 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 SESSIONS

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 4/4/17-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss two appointments to the Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 4/4/17-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an appointment from the Human Services Advisory Council to support the Mental Health Board .

See Page 4/4/17-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss backfills in the Public Works Department.

See Page 4/4/17-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss an appointment to Polytech (Hunterdon County Vocational School District Board).

See Page 4/4/17-1E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to receive an update on CWA Negotiations.

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

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

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

ABSENT: MR. KING.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Prior to public comment, Director Lanza recognized Kevin P. Davis, who will be appointed County Administrator tonight. It has always been the intention of the Board to fill this position, when vacated three years ago. The County, through the leadership and steady hand of its Chief of Staff, George Wagner, was able to overcome many difficulties caused by not having an Administrator. The short term objectives have been met, including training and development of a leadership team; the County is now ready to take the next step of its long term goal by hiring a new County Administrator. Mr. Davis will provide a fresh set of eyes and perspective to the County; and he will benefit from Chief Wagner's institutional knowledge.

Director Lanza thanked Mr. Davis for attending the meeting and he thanked Chief Wagner for his leadership and guidance over the last three years.

Barbara Sachau, resident of Raritan Township, stated on the claims register there are several items regarding conferences and membership fees; at a previous meeting she recommended having Department heads report on what they get out of these various trainings and for them to explain the value of the cost to the taxpayer.

Ms. Sachau requested a follow-up on the questions raised at the previous meeting on the Freeholder's health insurance.

Director Lanza reported the County has released all of the information it has on health benefits. He gave the directive to the staff even before any OPRA requests were received, that information provided was to include current and previous Freeholders, as well as what the policy had been and continues to be. There has been full and fair disclosure of all the information the County had on the subject.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Tracey Heisler, Executive Director of CASA ShaW Child Abuse Prevention, Debbie Cummings, Board President and Alice Condo, current President came before the Board for Child Abuse Prevention awareness. Ms. Heisler informed the Board that Ms. Condo has been walking from the Courthouse in Belvidere to Flemington and Somerville over the past week to raise awareness for child abuse and neglect in the community. CASA ShaW provides volunteer advocates in court for children who have been abused or neglected and living in foster care. With funding from Hunterdon County, CASA is able to provide advocacy for one hundred percent of kids in the foster care system.

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-2A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April 2017 as "Go Blue for CASA and Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness" month.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-2B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April 28, 2017 as the 145th Anniversary Celebration of Arbor Day.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-2C

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Alex D. Jaszyn, Troop 288, for attaining the designation of "Eagle Scout".

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

Mr. Walton moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-2D

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Roger K. Everitt upon his passing.

Director Lanza remarked on Roger Everitt's tremendous contributions to Hunterdon County, particularly the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair as one of the founding fathers. Roger was always involved in the running of the yearly events. Director Lanza extended condolences to the Everitt Family on behalf of Board.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-2E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County Bid #2017-03, for the reconstruction of County Culvert R-58, on Pulaski Road over a Branch of the Chambers Brook, in Readington Township, to Konkus Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$470,962.21.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement, using RFP #0098-2016, for an Architectural/Engineering Consultant for the Emergency Services Training Center, to Spiezle Architectural Group, in an amount not to exceed \$496,575.

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

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Grant, at the recommendation of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with Union Township, for debt service related to the Milligan Farm property acquisition, in an amount not to exceed \$72,807.05.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Grant, at the recommendation of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with Clinton Township, for the Kaufelt property acquisition, Block 82, Lot 3, estimated 84 acres, in Clinton Township, in an amount not to exceed \$262,625.00.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Municipal Grant, at the recommendation of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with Frenchtown Borough for debt service related to the Frenchtown Greenbelt Property acquisition, in an amount not to exceed \$28,848.12.

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

PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to accept the update on various County projects and facilities as written by the County Project Administrator, Frank J. Bell, AIA.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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 at this time: Check #'s: 157112, #185503, #157172.

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 04, 2017, absent Check #'s: 157112, #185503, #157172.

See Page 4/4/17-3D

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the regular and executive session minutes of March 21, 2017.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve Check #'s 18503 and 157172, in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 04, 2017.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion to approve Check #157112, in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 04, 2017.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 4/4/17-4A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Amy Westover appointed full-time, Librarian 1, Library.

See Page 4/4/17-4B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Shalini Rajamani appointed to per-diem Yoga Instructor, Senior Services Division, Department of Human Services.

See Page 4/4/17-4C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Deirdre Cardenas appointed full-time, Public Safety Telecommunicator, Division of Communications, Department of Public Safety and Health Services.

See Page 4/4/17-4D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Toby Coleman provisional, full time Bridge Repairer (with CDL Class A certification), Division of Roads and Bridges, Department of Public Works.

See Page 4/4/17-4E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Debra Reed appointed part-time Seasonal Naturalist, in the Division of Parks and Recreation.

See Page 4/4/17-4F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving a Subordination of Mortgage for Gary and Renee Deemer, to Santander Bank, N.A.

See Page 4/4/17-4G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving Change Order #1, for County Bid #2016-09, for the application of Traffic Stripes on various County Roads, in various municipalities, with Traffic Lines, Inc., decrease of \$102,307.41.

See Page 4/4/17-4H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Kevin Davis appointed full time, County Administrator.

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

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Walton seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-4I **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Janet Previte appointed full time, County Chief Financial Officer.

Director Lanza congratulated Ms. Previte for shedding her "Acting" CFO title in favor of her now official County Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Walton questioned Ms. Previte on procedures followed approximately two years earlier in regards to a request for financial information on the Heron Glen golf course. He questioned the manner in which information was gathered and distributed when he asked for information related to the golf course finances. Mr. Walton stated at the time, Mr. King was Director of the Board and instructed Ms. Previte to deliver the information to him and he would distribute it to the Board. Mr. Walton did not feel that was right. In moving forward, Mrs. Previte will now have the protections of a term of office and other rights that are different from an average employee. He recalled the time when George Melick was Freeholder Director and liaison to the Finance Department, that Mr. Holt was adamant that any freeholder should have the opportunity to ask for financial information from the CFO and be given that information freely. This information is critical for each individual freeholder to assess on their own the merits of what is done by the County. He questioned Ms. Previte if, in hindsight, what is her understanding of that relationship that she has as custodian of records and information being given to freeholders that request it, as well as her protections and responsibilities.

Ms. Previte stated she does not think providing information to the Freeholder Board has anything to do with protections and appointments and statutory requirements. She has an obligation to disclose information and provide information that is requested. Mrs. Previte advised she has an obligation to follow direction and she did so in that instance.

Mr. Walton stated he advocated for her to have this job from the beginning and believes she is excellent at the technical aspect of the position, but it is a concern of his that a Director of a Board can direct a CFO to not provide information directly to a freeholder requesting it.

Ms. Previte understands fully what her obligation is as CFO, and she understood that when she was Acting CFO; and that is to provide information as requested. She believes in transparency. She also believes in following directive and she believes that she does both of these things.

Freeholder Holt commended Mrs. Previte for grabbing the reigns during some difficult times in the County, as far back as 2008. The one goal was to develop strength in the management team to move the County from an era of a very strong administrative position to an era of a management team that has learned to grow and develop and ultimately do what they should do which is manage the County.

Mr. Holt commended Mrs. Previte on an exemplary job and feels that today the County is in a far better position than it was a few years ago.

Ms. Lagay resoundingly agreed with Mr. Holt's comments.

Director Lanza noted that before Ms. Previte took over as Acting CFO, the County was paying benefits for deceased persons. The County has come a long way and he thanked Mrs. Previte for her hard work and dedication.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application for the 2017 County Environmental Health Act grant, with the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection, for the purpose of supporting environmental inspections, enforcement, and education, in the amount of \$278,000, (State funds - \$139,000; County Match -\$139,000).

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Holt seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant application from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, for the renewal of the Local Core Capacity for Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant, in the amount of \$269,673. (no County Match).

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 4/4/17-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Section 5310 Grant Application with New Jersey Transit, to purchase five (5) extended cutaways designed to carry up to sixteen (16) ambulatory passengers and a minimum of two (2) mobility devices to support the County's LINK Transportation System. (Federal Transit contributes 80% and NJ Transit contributes 20%).

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Oldwick Fire Company, asking permission to hold Coin Tosses on Saturday, April 22, 2017 (rain date April 29) and Saturday, October 07, 2017 (rain date October 14), from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the intersection of County Routes 523 and 517. Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Meeting Recordings

Mr. Walton questioned Clerk of the Board, Denise Doolan on the retention schedules of recorded meetings. Mrs. Doolan stated recordings are discarded after eighty days, per the direction of the Division of Records in Trenton.

Mr. Walton asked if the Division of Records requires the disposition or if the County can choose to keep them.

Mrs. Doolan informed Mr. Walton, that she would need to look into that and would report at the next meeting.

Baseball Season

Mr. Walton noted that baseball season has officially begun and the Pittsburgh Pirates are in second place.

County Administrator

Ms. Lagay welcomed the new County Administrator, Kevin Davis and congratulated Janet Previte, the newly appointed CFO.

Director Lanza welcomed Mr. Davis to his new position and reiterated that Mr. Davis will come with a fresh set of eyes and perspective, as well as experience from his time in other municipalities and that Mr. Davis will benefit from Chief Wagner's institutional knowledge

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Lanza opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident asked when the audio recordings will be on the County's website.

Mr. Walton replied that the minutes are on the website but the recordings are not.

Ms. Sachau thinks it is important that each Freeholder be able to have access to financial documents.

Director Lanza invited the new County Administrator, Mr. Davis to say a few words.

Mr. Davis thanked the members of the Board for the confidence they have in him. It is a great honor to be selected for the position and he looks forward to working with all of the great staff to keep moving the County forward.

Tom Mathews, Director of Public Works, announced that he will be unable to attend the meeting on April 18, 2017, and is extending an invitation to the Board to celebrate Arbor Day with a celebration on April 29, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Township Elementary School, where students will assemble for a tree planting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Lanza adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board

Transcribed by:

Dana A. Gootman
Deputy Clerk of the Board