

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

April 03, 2018

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened at 4:30 p.m. in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

PRESENT: MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. VAN DOREN, MR. KING

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Director Holt 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 02, 2018, 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. Lanza moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded these:

See Page 04/03/18-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss backfills in the Social Services Department.

See Page 04/03/18-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to receive an update on the Planning Director interview process.

See Page 04/03/18-1C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the potential acquisition of the Delaney property.

See Page 04/03/18-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the potential acquisition of the South Branch (Brokaw) properties.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:32 p.m., recessed at 4:55 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. VAN DOREN, MR. KING

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

FREEHOLDERS REPORTS

Director Matthew Holt invited the Board to provide reports and comments.

Shade Tree Commission, Arbor Day

Freeholder Shaun C. Van Doren reported that the Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission has received accreditation status for 2018. Hunterdon is one of only five counties in the state to have obtained the status; as a result of this accreditation the County receives many benefits, including the maximum liability protection from hazardous trees situations, tree related educational opportunities, and training. The status also gives the County the ability to apply for a Community Stewardship Incentive program grant to assist in completing the Shade Tree Commissions' five-year community bar street plan. Mr. Van Doren thanked the members of the Shade Tree Commission. Additionally, Mr. Van Doren noted the Shade Tree Commission will hold its annual Arbor Day event at 9:15 a.m. on April 27, 2018 at the Valley View School in Califon.

Jail Operation, Public Safety update

Freeholder John E. Lanza reported on information provided by Sheriff Brown with respect to public safety and the jail operation. In 2015, under the direction of then-Freeholder Director John King, the County closed the jail operations and entered into an agreement with Somerset County to house Hunterdon County inmates. At the time, the jail was not even half way populated with an average number of 85 inmates. Through the direction of Sheriff Brown and staff, the Hunterdon County inmate population decreased to 63 and is now it is down to 55; had the jail remained open, the County would have been compelled to spend millions of dollars on renovations to keep the building up to code while housing a dwindling number of inmates. It would be roughly one third full today. The County has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars per year by entering into the program with Somerset County, administered by Sheriff Brown. Mr. Lanza reported the jail will be used as an AlcoTest facility that can be utilized by municipalities in Hunterdon County as a Shared Service. Mr. Lanza thanked the Public Safety team.

Mr. Fix-It Appliance Day, Senior Services

Freeholder Suzanne Lagay reported the Division of Senior Services has scheduled its Mr. Fix-It Appliance Day on Thursday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Any interested Hunterdon County senior may bring their small appliances to the center and a volunteer will repair it, if possible. The senior is responsible for the cost of the materials and the labor is free. No appointment is needed. Some of the items that are eligible for repair are: Lamps that need rewiring or a new socket, because the 2 or 3 way doesn't work anymore, vacuum cleaners, toasters, toaster ovens, radio's, electric tea kettles, repairing screens or totally rescreening a window frame.

Penn East pipeline

Freeholder Lagay provided an update on the County's opposition in court to PennEast's attempt to use eminent domain to take County preserved farmlands, for the siting of their pipeline.

On March 22, Tim Duggan, an Attorney representing the County, filed in Federal court the Answer and Opposition papers to fight Penn East's Condemnation Complaints on seventeen properties where the County holds either farmland easements or road right of way easements.

Oral arguments on those filings before the Court are scheduled for April 5th. Mr. Duggan made an additional filing for the balance of the County's easement properties on March 30th.

In the filing of opposition, Mr. Duggan puts forth a strong argument that PennEast does not hold a final FERC Certificate; upon receipt of that certificate, FERC could ask the Court to determine that it possesses a right to condemn. The final certificate has not been issued due to the fact that PennEast does not have the necessary New Jersey DEP's permit approvals.

Ms. Lagay stated that the Freeholder Board hopes the Court views the argument favorably.

Earth Day celebration and Book Sale at County Fairgrounds

Freeholder John King reported on the annual Earth Day celebration at Echo Hill Park, organized by the Parks and Recreation Division. Mr. King reported on the Book Sale taking place at the South County Fairgrounds on April 28th through the 30th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Killed in Action Flag Ceremony

Mr. King reported on the Killed in Action flag raising ceremony that the Freeholder Board will hold in front of the Historic Courthouse on Monday, April 16th at 3 p.m. The date is symbolic, as it is known as "Patriots Day" in modern time, and signifies the battles of Lexington and Concord; the first battles of the American Revolution in April of 1775. Mr. King invited all residents to attend the ceremony, as patriotism runs deep in Hunterdon County, and these soldiers deserve proper recognition. Additionally, the County will provide a KIA flag to every municipality in Hunterdon County at no cost. This information was circulated to the municipal clerks of each municipality.

Board of Public Utilities Hearings on JCP&L Storm Response

Director Holt reported on public hearings to be held by the New Jersey State Board of Public Utilities, with Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L), in response to the widespread and prolonged power outages that occurred during the nor'easters last month.

Director Holt advised there will be a hearing in Sussex County on April 5th and a hearing in Morris County on April 12th. The hearing for Hunterdon County has not yet been set, but Director Holt assured the public that the information would be provided as soon as it is received.

County Tax Rate

Director Holt reported on property taxes in Hunterdon County. Tony Porto, Administrator of the County Tax Board, provided an analysis of county tax rates around the state; stating property taxes are comprised of many different costs associated with public services: school districts, fire districts, municipal tax, Open Space tax, Library tax, and the County tax rate. The Board of Chosen Freeholders is only responsible for the County tax rate portion of property taxes. The tax rate is .39 cents and it has not increased in the past four years. It is the fifth lowest in the state and bears repeating that Hunterdon County's tax rate is lower than sixteen other counties around the State of New Jersey.

In addition, to those financials and according to New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) analysis of every county, the Hunterdon County budget is the second lowest in the state, second only to Salem County.

Heron Glen Golf Course revenues

Director Holt reported on Heron Glen golf course; advising the County's CFO, Janet R. Previte, informed him the golf course brought in more revenues than it cost to manage and operate the clubhouse. Those costs are listed in the public claims register, but the revenue is not. It is important to note, the revenue that this asset brings in, as the course was approved by the public many years ago by referendum; and it is a revenue producer for the County and that revenue contributes to the County tax rate being low.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Director Holt relayed a story from many years ago, when he attempted to work on the mechanics of his father's motorcycle; the motorcycle caught fire and the first thing that he did was to tell his wife to call 9-1-1. Director Holt stated that we are reliant on the fact that these emergency telecommunicators are available at every hour of the day and night to get the information to the correct emergency responding group.

Director Holt noted that within minutes of his emergency call, there were firefighters and police on the scene and the appropriate investigations were done on the spot. The point of his story is that

these telecommunicators are the people who make that happen. Their efforts should never go unrecognized, and the week of April 8 -14th is the opportunity to do so. On behalf of the 126,000 people in the County, Director Holt thanked them for their service.

Freeholder Lagay echoed those comments and stated that it is always amazing to her when she visits the Emergency Management/Communications Center and the level of capacity these individuals have and the amount of technology at their disposal.

Freeholder King added that much more could be done for the Shared Services and the Emergency Telecommunicators if the state would allow the 9-1-1 fees that are collected for those centers to be allocated to the respective counties to improve upon their own communications centers.

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 04/03/18-3A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Declaring April 8th -14th, 2018 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week, in Hunterdon County.

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

Freeholder Lagay noted that at the previous Freeholder meeting she brought Frank Veneziale up to the front to discuss his involvement with the delivery of a baby in Alexandria Township. Ms. Lagay invited Frank to come up and give his recount of the situation. The situation quickly escalated from the mother being in active labor to the baby being born in the residence, as he coached the father and a neighbor through the birthing process.

The Freeholder Board presented Mr. Veneziale with a certificate and a proclamation.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 04/03/18-3B

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Frank Veneziale, Public Safety Telecommunicator in the Communications Division, for his exemplary performance in providing assistance with the birth of a baby in Alexandria Township.

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

James Curry, Director of the Communications Division, thanked the Board for recognizing Frank. Mr. Curry noted the rest of the team, as well and their many accomplishments.

Director Holt noted the many accomplishments of and the service of Terry Newhard, who recently retired from NORWESCAP after over 38 years at the organization.

Alycia Lerman, a Board Member of NORWESCAP, spoke of the low-income clients that the organization serves and the work that Terry did over 38 years. Terry served with dignity and treats the clients in the same way. He grew the agency into a \$35 million dollar agency. Ms. Lerman noted that Terry has such a heart for the people NORWESCAP serves, and thanked the Board for the proclamation. Terry received the proclamation at his retirement dinner last month.

Mr. Van Doren moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 04/03/18-3C

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Terry Newhard on his retirement from NORWESCAP.

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

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 04/03/18-3D

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Christopher Sernas, Boy Scout Troop 199, on attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 04/03/18-3E

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Zachary Nemeth, Boy Scout Troop 200, on attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 04/03/18-3F

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Ryan Kennedy, Boy Scout Troop 1969, on attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

See Page 04/03/18-3G

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing William Wallace, Boy Scout Troop 1969, on attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing Zachary Brembt, Boy Scout Troop 1969, on attaining the designation of Eagle Scout.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Holt opened the meeting for public comment.

Frances Gavigan, East Amwell Township resident, thanked the Board for their work on keeping the county tax rate low. Ms. Gavigan also thanked them for their support of the grants on the agenda for approval this evening, particularly the Clawson House and the Wertsville Industries. The work that will be done to these properties will make these open space projects accessible to more people and it is helpful to the horse farm communities. These grants make Hunterdon County more attractive as a place to visit and help those who have a hard time making a living. All of these preserved acres translate to less school taxes, as well.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident, noted various membership fees on the Claims Register, including NJ4A, NJMed Coordination, and NJANJ.

Ms. Sachau commented on the open space resolutions that are on the agenda this evening, saying wildlife should have peace in the preserved open space.

Ms. Sachau said the third resolution under the Consent agenda is a public donor agreement with HCBMX. She asked what this agreement entails.

Director Holt replied this is a piece of property on the Route 12 complex and BMX leases a portion of the property from the County.

FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Freeholder King thanked the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee or their sound judgment and recommendations with respect to properties the County preserves and purchases, as well as the property owners who agree to have their properties preserved instead of developed. Mr. King also thanked the staff of the Planning Department, particularly William Millette, for the hard work on these complex projects that require a high level of attention to detail.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a municipal grant, as recommended by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with Readington Township, for the Loughlin property acquisition, in an amount not to exceed \$37,800.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a municipal grant, as recommended by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with Tewksbury Township, for the Livingston/Berry Farmland easement acquisition, in an amount not to exceed \$233,120.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a municipal grant, as recommended by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with High Bridge Borough, for payment of debt service related to the Lake Solitude property acquisition, in an amount not to exceed \$10,782.15.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a municipal grant, as recommended by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with East Amwell Township, for payment of debt service related to the Clawson Park property, in an amount not to exceed \$43,998.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Cooperative Open Space grant, as recommended by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with Kingwood Township for the Pine Brook Farm property, Block 28, Lot 18, estimated 58 acres, in an amount not to exceed \$281,300.

See Page 04/03/18-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Cooperative Open Space grant, as recommended by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with Readington Township for the Loughlin property, Block 63, Lot 52, estimated 14 acres, in an amount not to exceed \$25,200.

See Page 04/03/18-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Cooperative Open Space grant, as recommended by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council, with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, for the Wertsville Industries property, Block 35, Lots 3 and 65, estimated 111 acres, in East Amwell Township, in an amount not to exceed \$825,000.

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

PURCHASING

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 04/03/18-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the award of County RFP #0096-2017, for a professional consulting services, using RFP #0096-2017, to assist in the preparation of indirect cost allocation plans and indirect cost rates, for the County of Hunterdon, to Maximus Consulting Services, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$19,000.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kevin P. Davis, County Administrator, reported that the Raritan Valley Community College Board of Trustees Search Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 11th at 4 p.m. in the Freeholder Meeting room. The meeting has been noticed in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. There will be an opportunity for public comment and then a closed executive session.

Administrator Davis noted the Prosecutor's Office is holding two town halls on the opioid epidemic with the first being held in Readington Township, at the Municipal Court on April 18th, and the other will be held at Delaware Valley High School on April 12th.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Holt 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."

Mr. King moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated April 03, 2018.

See Page 04/03/18-5D

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded a motion to approve the regular and executive session minutes of March 20, 2018.

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded these:

See Page 04/03/18-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Carol T. Schottman appointed permanent, full time Senior County Park Ranger, in the Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning, Economic Development and Land Use (passed Civil Service test).

See Page 04/03/18-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Denise Childers appointed permanent, full time Supervising Program Development Specialist, Community Services, Department of Human Services (passed Civil Service test).

See Page 04/03/18-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Susan Nekola appointed as the Division Head of Social Work Services, Department of Human Services of the County of Hunterdon.

See Page 04/03/18-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Ryan Ziemba appointed permanent, full time Supervisor, Traffic Maintenance, Department of Public Works (passed Civil Service test).

See Page 04/03/18-6A RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Joseph Altvater appointed full-time Laborer, Division of Roads, Department of Public Works.

See Page 04/03/18-6B RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Mary Evers appointed provisional, part time Keyboarding Clerk 2, Economic Development Division, Department of Planning, Economic Development and Land Use.

See Page 04/03/18-6C RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Wallace Sloyer, Equipment Operator, Department of Public Works, salary increase (obtained CDL Cert).

See Page 04/03/18-6D RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Catherine Kopec appointed Clerk to a Constitutional Officer, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Department.

See Page 04/03/18-6E RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Public Purpose Lease Agreement with HCBMX, Inc., for use of certain portions of the Route 12 County Complex, for a five-year period.

See Page 04/03/18-6F RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Paul Aquino to the Mental Health Board.

See Page 04/03/18-6G RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Solid Waste Advisory Council.

See Page 04/03/18-6H RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the use of WiFi in the Historic Courthouse, subject to the establishment of the policy.

See Page 04/03/18-6I RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the "Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Certifications and Assurances" for the Federal Transit Administration Assistance Program, for the County's Transportation System.

See Page 04/03/18-6J RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an agreement with Somerset County for 2018, to provide Juvenile Home Detention Services, at the per diem rate of \$88 per client; and Intensive Case Management, at the per diem rate of \$50 per client.

See Page 04/03/18-6K RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the solicitation of bids to Furnish and Deliver Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel, for the various Garages; and authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.

See Page 04/03/18-6L RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving contract modification #2, to Bid 2013-07, for the operation of the Hunterdon County Solid Waste Transfer Station, for an additional six months through December 13, 2018.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Van Doren moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 04/03/18-6M RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a revised resolution for the 2017 Recycling Enhancement Act Tax Fund Grant, in the amount of \$143,320.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Pattenburg Volunteer Fire Department, requesting permission to hold three (3) Coin Tosses on Saturday, June 02, 2018, August 18, 2018 and November 03, 2018, at the intersection on County Route 614 and Baptist Church Road, and the intersection of County Route 625 and Frontage Road, in Union Township. Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Department of Public Works.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Holt again opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Sachau questioned when audio recordings of Freeholder meetings will be put online.

Ms. Sachau saw on the Claims Register a payment to Winthrop for deer removal and asked why the County is paying for removals in townships that also have contracts with the same person. Ms. Sachau is concerned these removals are not being handled correctly and that there is a possible skew of the reports on those removals. Sometimes many calls are made for the same deer carcass, and there is a charge for each call on the same carcass.

Ms. Gavigan advised there are many who take it upon themselves to drag the Deer to the side of the road in the event of an accident. There are many deer being killed in the roadways in Hunterdon, which speaks to the deer population explosion. She has had twenty five to thirty deer in her pasture which is just under nine acres. Her Asian pear crop did grow last year due to the deer feeding off of those trees. The deer overpopulation needs to be addressed.

Ms. Sachau countered that there is not a population explosion, that the opposite is true. The state agency attested to those numbers compared to ten years ago. There is not enough land for these deer to live on due to overdevelopment. Farmers should have dogs and llamas to control deer on their properties.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana A. Gootman, Deputy Clerk