

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

71 Main Street, Freeholder's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

January 16, 2018

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders convened in Open Session 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

ABSENT: MR. KING (came into the meeting at 5:53 p.m.).

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 SESSIONS

Mr. Van Doren moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

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RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss appointments to various boards, councils and committees.

See Page 1/16/18 RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss Park Naturalists positions.

See Page 1/16/18 RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the Prosecutors Office promotion and new hire.

See Page 1/16/18 RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to receive and update on the Finance Assistant position.

See Page 1/16/18 RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss Public Works backfills.

See Page 1/16/18 RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss potential litigation of OPRA requests.

See Page 1/16/18 RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the GP-21 permit for the drag strip property.

See Page 1/16/18 RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to receive an update on the CWA Contract.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:31 p.m., recessed at 5:21 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: MR. KING (came into the meeting at 5:53 p.m.).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

Terese White of Gladstone, addressed the Board regarding the Bee Keeping Rules. Ms. White is speaking in support of the new Bee Keeping regulations that are receiving negative media feedback and wishes for the Board to have all of the correct facts before voting on a resolution in opposition. Every municipality will have some say in the regulations as they apply to their town.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident, noted two items on the Claims Register paid regarding the Heron Glen Golf Course; one is for the facility and the other is for the management of the course. Ms. Sachau feels those who use the course, should pay for the course.

Judy Gleason, Lambertville City resident, opposes the proposed regulations for beekeeping. She noticed the public comment period closes soon and there is very little detail in the proposed resolution from the Freeholder Board. Ms. Gleason requests the Board not oppose or support this before the public comment closes as more changes may be made to the regulations after this period ends and a new public comment will commence after that. Ms. Gleason asked the Board to wait before submitting an official position.

PURCHASING

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

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Professional Services Agreement, for Fee Accounting Services for the Department of Human Services - Housing Services Division, with David Ciarrocca C.P.A., LLC, in the amount of \$14,400.00.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Professional Services Agreement, for a Housing Auditor for the Department of Human Services - Housing Services Division, with Suplee, Clooney & Company, in the amount of \$9,180.00.

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

Mr. Van Doren moved and Ms. Lagay seconded this:

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Professional Services Agreement, for Auditing and Accounting Services for the 2018 County Audit and budget preparation assistance, with Wiss & Company LLC, in the amount of \$76,200.00.

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

Director Holt noted for the record that in 2017 the County's Chief Financial Officer, Janet Previte presented an audit with almost no corrective action; which is not something that has happened during his tenure until last year. Director Holt commended Mrs. Previte and the Finance Department for their incredible work.

FOR DISCUSSION

County Administrator, Kevin Davis stated he would hold his report until after the public has had a chance to make their comments on the State Beekeeping regulations.

Director Holt opened the meeting to additional public comment, due to the large representation of beekeepers.

Mr. King came into the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Kevin Engel, East Amwell township resident, opposes the proposed regulations and is joined by many members of the Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association. These new rules will result in greater bureaucracy. There are two primary points: it does not encourage or enable beekeeping in New Jersey and creates a large burden for municipalities in terms of administration. Towns lack the expertise to carry out proper beekeeping health enforcement. The draft proposal is far removed from routine beekeeping practices; so much so that if adopted, all beekeepers will be noncompliant from day one of implementation. The rules are also riddled with inaccurate information about bees. The biggest issue for the beekeepers is hive limitation; the average hobby beekeeper will be limited to 2 each. For properties under a quarter acre, hives are not allowed. Waivers are required in both scenarios. The ability to grow and foster the bee population in New Jersey will be hindered by these rules; they are more strict than beekeeping standards in New York City.

Robert Simonofsky, Clinton Township, stated that beekeepers are under assault by the state of New Jersey which will severely restrict the ability to keep bees inside the state. Mr. Simonofsky is into blue bird restoration and therefore pollination is his main goal. There are not as many natural bees due to colony collapse disorder, among other issues. Beekeepers are responsible for much of the bee population and therefore the pollination.

Terese White of Gladstone, spoke again on the origins of the proposed new regulations and her support for the new rules. She was affected by a neighboring property that housed beehives and it was detrimental to her family's quality of life. Ms. White noted that the new rules do not affect commercial beekeeping or those who had hives prior to July 31, 2015.

Tom Watkinson, Raritan Township resident, stated that there are ambiguities in the proposed rules that need clarification. Three years ago, there were changes to the beekeeping laws; Mr.

Watkinson wonders how much could have changed over those three years to constitute additional changes. Mr. Watkinson plans to address Raritan Township's council later in the evening as well.

Director Holt gave a brief history of his family's farming experiences in Hunterdon County and the evolution of the county's agriculture that he has witnessed over the past fifty years. Director Holt noted the resolution states that the Freeholder Board opposes the implementation of the beekeeping regulations and that they be held while stakeholders work out issues for both beekeepers and non-beekeepers, and that the resolution be entered formally into the public comment period. There has to be a balance for all parties involved and the Board opposes the regulations because they are not fully formulated and more attention needs to be paid.

Debbie Denver, Branchburg Township, stated that beekeepers, overwhelming, are conscientious and seek best practices. Ms. Denver spoke on the hive limitations and the belief of the association that beginner beekeepers should have at least two hives to start. Some of the best bees comes from properties that are less than five acres and even less than one acre. A small operation can take the time to raise bees and local queens, instead of purchasing them from out of state.

Kevin Engel, East Amwell Township resident, spoke again on the difficulties these regulations will cause. The waivers alone will create a hardship.

Eric Shear, Kingwood Township, thanked the Board and Administrator Davis for the invitation to come out and discuss the beekeeping regulations.

Martha Rivera, Whitehouse Station, thanked the Board and invited them to future beekeeping meetings.

Director Holt noted that as resident of Clinton Township he is aware of the impact of hives in more suburban areas. The need still exists for a collaborative effort so that the regulations do not hinder the different sects of beekeepers.

Freeholder Van Doren noted that the Farm Bureau targeted three different sets of rules and opposed them. Density restrictions, waiver procedures that give neighbors virtual veto, and education departments which will produce bureaucratic red tape. Freeholder Van Doren is especially concerned with the red tape and is in favor of this resolution.

Freeholder Lanza noted that what jumped out at him is the waiver that would be required for an established beekeeper. In his opinion, that is an onerous requirement and that the option of grandfathering should be available.

Freeholder Lagay asked those in attendance if they believe their voices are being heard by the state. The beekeepers responded that they did not – when they voiced concern over the summer, the regulations came back even more onerous.

Freeholder King believes the regulations are immature. The problems that these regulations are trying to address do not exist in Hunterdon County in the ways that they do in other counties throughout the state. Hunterdon County is an agriculture county and cannot be compared to Bergen, Essex or Passaic. Freeholder King feels the Board is taking the appropriate stance in the resolution.

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

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RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing comment in opposition to proposed new State Beekeeping Regulations.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded this:

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Urging Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey State Legislature to enact legislation that will permanently extend the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards.

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

Director Holt noted that without a cap on arbitration awards there will be a possibility of other detrimental public services affected, such as a delay of infrastructure improvements or even a forced public employee layoff. Director Holt noted that Governor Murphy has never served in elected office and he may not be aware of how vital the arbitration cap is, therefore it is imperative that the Board pass this resolution and send the message to the Governor's office.

Freeholder King noted that this is an opportunity for both parties to come together: this law will speed up the arbitration process and it is a cost control mechanism that has been effective for the State in the past. It is critical that this law be permanently extended.

CONSENT AGENDA

“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. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated January 16, 2018.

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CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the regular session minutes of December 19, 2017 and the Reorganization minutes of January 02, 2018.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Sean DiGrazia appointed provisional, full-time Road Repairer 1 (CDL Class A certification), Division of Roads and Bridges, Department of Public Works.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Will Spencer appointed provisional, full-time Road Repairer 1 (CDL Class A certification), Division of Roads and Bridges, Department of Public Works.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Timothy Althamer appointed Corrections Officer, Sheriff's Office.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Holly Hoff appointed Supervising Advocate Victim-Witness Program, Prosecutor's Office.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Jane Griffith appointed Social Worker, Division of Seniors, Disabilities and Veterans Services, Department of Human Services.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Veronica Tamayo appointed Senior Account Clerk, Division of Seniors, Disabilities and Veterans Services, Department of Human Services.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a salary adjustment for Jason Lawrence, Road Repairer 1, Division of Roads and Bridges, Department of Public Works, for completion of the CDL Class A certification in accordance with the CWA Rank and File contract.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an amendment to Policy #2005-03, Fringe Benefit Policy for Constitutional Officers, Department Heads, unclassified and non-contractual employees.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for Bid #2017-11, for 2017 Resurfacing and Surface Treatment of various County Roads in various Municipalities, with Top Line Construction, in the amount of \$35,385.07.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving final payment for Bid #2016-03, for Resurfacing and Safety Improvements to Route 579, in the Townships of Franklin and Union, to Black Rock Enterprises, LLC, in the amount of \$53,604.40.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the submission of a GP21 Permit to the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the installation of above ground utility lines.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the release of a Performance Bond, for Frontage Improvements on

County Route 519, Block 13, Lot 14, in Alexandria Township, in the amount of \$75,000.00, to Helen V. Weeast.

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Inter-County Agreement with Somerset County for the Painting of Bridge T-35-S, on McCann Mill Road over the Lamington River, in Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County; and Bedminster Township, Somerset County. The cost of the project will be shared 50/50 by each County.

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

GRANTS

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Subgrant Award, #FY17-EMPG-EMAA-1000, with the New Jersey State Police, for existing salaries and wages for the Division of Emergency Management, in the amount of \$110,344.71. (Federal Award-\$55,000.00, County Match-\$55,344.71).

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

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

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the Hunterdon County Municipal Alliance Strategic Plan, to access \$181,380.00 in State funds from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, for the grant period beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded this:

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RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a grant contract with the New Jersey Historical Commission, to administer the County History Partnership Program grant, in FY2018, in the amount of \$22,490.00.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 1/16/18

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Subgrant Award, for the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of the Attorney General, in the amount of \$244,555.00 (Federal Funds - \$179,858; County Match -\$64,697).

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. King moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded a request from Raymond Campeau, requesting permission to again use certain Hunterdon County roads, during their 11th Annual JerseyMan Multi-Sport event, to take place at Round Valley Reservoir, on Sunday, May 20, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Roads will be monitored by the police departments of Clinton Township and Readington.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. King seconded a request from Hunterdon Helpline, requesting permission to again use the historic Courthouse steps and access to outdoor electricity, for the 2018 Salsa Night on Saturday, July 21, 2018, from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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

Mr. Van Doren moved and Mr. King seconded a request from Hunterdon County School Nurse Association, requesting permission to again have the fee waived for use of a County meeting room.

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

Mr. Van Doren moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a request from the Hunterdon Watercolor Society, requesting permission to again have the fee waived for use of a County meeting room.

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

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Freeholder King welcomed Director Holt back to the directorship of the Board. Freeholder King reported on the Wardens Association meeting which was sponsored by the Sheriff's Office. Approximately forty wardens and various sheriff personnel from around the state were present. Freeholder King commended Sheriff Brown for organizing the event and his work.

Freeholder King reported on Heron Glen's designation of a Green Tee Facility, Level 3 for environmental achievements: Audubon certified sanctuary, groundwater site, energy-efficient. Heron Glen is only one of three in the entire country to achieve this designation.

Freeholder Lagay also extended congratulations to Kemper Sports and Heron Glen on this environmental achievement.

Freeholder Lanza reported on Sheriff Brown's rapid response to a scam that was circulating in the area in which false phone calls alerted callers that they were in danger of an arrest warrant for failing to answer a jury summons. A fraudulent phone number was given for callers to purchase prepaid debit cards for payments of fines to the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Brown used the reverse 9-1-1 system to alert citizens of the scam. The alert was shared to several social media accounts and emails. The Sheriff's swift response reduced the amount of victims of the scam.

Freeholder Van Doren commended the Public Works Department on its response to the first snowstorm of the year.

Freeholder Van Doren also noted that Mr. Lanza still holds the record of shortest meeting during his time as Director.

Director Holt echoed Freeholder Lanza's commendation of Sheriff Brown's response to the jury summons scam.

Director Holt congratulated newly sworn-in Governor Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver and wished them well on leadership of the state. Director Holt stated that we must all work together and meet the pledge of the new Governor, which is to be the Governor of all nine million New Jersey residents.

Director Holt also congratulated those members of the Legislature within the districts of Hunterdon County that were sworn in last week.

There be no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.