

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

Flemington, New Jersey 08822

March 06, 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. Van Doren moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 3/6/18-1A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to receive a litigation update.

See Page 3/6/18-1B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a backfill in the Health Services Division.

See Page 3/6/18-1C

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 3/6/18-1D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss the Human Services Restructuring.

See Page 3/6/18-1E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a part-time Economic Development Program Assistant.

See Page 3/6/18-1F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a potential land acquisition in Milford Borough.

See Page 3/6/18-1G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Executive Session to discuss a request to lease County property.

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

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders went into Executive Session at 4:31 p.m., recessed at 5:26 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mr. Van Doren commended the Office of Emergency Management's personnel for their response over the past few days, working without much, if any, sleep. The Department of Public Works also worked through the weekend, putting in over 347 hours of work. There were issues involving down power lines, where road crews needed to wait until Jersey Central Power & Light gave clearance to clear those roadways. As of Monday afternoon, all of the County roads were cleared and opened to the public.

Mr. Van Doren wished that JCP&L had responded quicker in order for crews to respond. The County's Emergency Response Team and Communications Center should be recognized for working tirelessly throughout the weekend and storm to alleviate a very bad situation and for some, continues to be a bad situation around the County.

Mr. Lanza recognized the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), particularly Chief of Staff and Public Safety Director, George F. Wagner and Emergency Management Coordinator, Brayden Fahey for their work.

Mr. Lanza reported on facts provided by Chief Wagner, that between March 3rd and March 4th, during the peak of the storm, there were 91 calls to the County's 9-1-1 Center; 2,512 total calls and 1,600 CAD incidents; compared to a similar timeframe last year, where there were 587 CAD incidents.

Mr. Lanza thanked OEM and noted that the County pulled their weight in response to the storm.

Mr. Lagay thanked the OEM staff as well.

Ms. Lagay reported on a conference call today with JCP&L and other elected officials from all of Hunterdon, along with parts of Warren and Morris, as well as Sussex. These were very upset elected officials on this call and the consensus was that the lessons learned during Hurricane Sandy did not show with JCP&L. Ms. Lagay contrasted that response to that of the County's and commended the Emergency Response and Public Works personnel for being ahead of the game. She was impressed by the aggressive approach of the County and their communications.

Ms. Lagay reported on the Senior Services Division, within the Department of Human Services; saying they have 800 unduplicated registered seniors who are taking classes and utilizing the various services that Senior Services provides. The Department of Human Services has seen a rise in services for veterans and those with disabilities. The Department is conducting surveys in order to gauge what they should be offering. As a result of these surveys, the Department of Human Services has noticed a cultural shift among activities that seniors prefer, with many seniors opting for language classes as opposed to card games. There is a lot of attention being given to the Senior Services of Hunterdon County.

Mr. King echoed his colleague's comments regarding the OEM Division and Public Works Department response to the storm. He could not be more proud.

Mr. King recognized Justin Tibbetts, Director of Buildings and Maintenance; Brayden Fahey, Office of Emergency Management and George Wagner, Chief of Staff and Director of Public Safety. Mr. King also thanked law enforcement as well.

Mr. King thanked Director Holt, along with County Clerk Mary Melfi, for taking the lead on the veterans' tax exemption. It is surprising how few people are aware of this exemption for the veterans.

Mr. King reported another area in which the state has fallen behind is with regards to a flag for those killed in action (KIA). It is required to be flown at County offices. Last year, the legislature enacted P.L. 27, Chapter 188, directing that this flag be displayed during normal business hours at the Statehouse, the principal municipal building in each municipality and the principal county building in each county seat. Mr. King thanked Raymond Rule, the County's Purchasing Agent, for bringing this fact to the attention of the Freeholder Board. Mr. King unveiled the flag for the room to see.

Mr. Van Doren moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion authorizing the County of Hunterdon to fly the Killed in Action (KIA) flag at the principal County building henceforth.

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

Ms. Lagay advised she has three members of her family, two on active duty and one who is a reservist.

Director Holt stated that Mr. King has taken the lead on veterans' issues over the years, and this is another example of those efforts.

Director Holt reported on winter storm Reilly that took place on Friday, March 2, 2018. County employees from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Communications, Public Works, and Buildings and Maintenance worked around the clock to ensure the safety of Hunterdon's citizens, the traveling public and employees of the County.

Director Holt also recognized the municipal emergency response teams, which did an outstanding job as well.

Mr. Holt publicly applauded the Director of Public Safety and Chief of Staff, George Wagner, for reprising the role he demonstrated during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The non-stop command leadership is highly regarded; and in the midst of that, Mr. Wagner provided timely and succinct communications to the entire Freeholder Board throughout the weekend.

Director Holt criticized Jersey Central Power and Light's response to the storms. Fifty percent of JCP&L's consumers were out of power. As of today, one-third of that fifty percent are still without power. A greater response is required; Hunterdon County does not have another option for power services in the area. The communications effort by JCP&L was unprecedented, in the sense that there was little. New Jersey has one of the oldest infrastructures in the country and it is time that the infrastructure is focused on. Director Holt acknowledged that the storm was severe, but in communication and response time, JCP&L failed the County of Hunterdon. As representatives, the Freeholder Board has a responsibility to speak on behalf of the 125,000 residents of Hunterdon County, and this can go on no longer. JCP&L needs to reinforce the infrastructure and provide service to its customers.

Director Holt believes Governor Murphy's response to the storm was delayed and stated he along with Ed Smith, Director of the Warren County Freeholder Board, sent a letter to the Governor's office requesting that New Jersey request federal disaster support, as well as, declare New Jersey a disaster area, especially with the potential forthcoming storm tomorrow. It is imperative that the state make the proper declarations so that local governments are able to declare and respond as well.

Director Holt noted the passing of Gregory Marshall, the County's very first Parks and Recreation Director, over 35 years ago. Director Holt gave credit to the Freeholder Board who hired Mr.

Marshall, who were able to see that his expertise would serve the County in a great way. Mr. Marshall went on to serve in the National Parks Service. Director Holt extended condolences to the family of Mr. Marshall.

Director Holt reported that JCP&L was invited to attend this evening but was unable to send a representative due to the storm watch.

Director Holt read a comment that came from a constituent – “a man from Bethlehem Township questioned why out of state linemen are dispatched to power outages if they are unable to work on the line until a JCP&L employee drives by to approve the work”.

Ms. Lagay added that this exact question was raised multiple times during the phone call she participated in with other elected officials and JCP&L earlier in the day.

Director Holt said the preparation on the part of JCP&L has been lax. He will not discredit the severity of the storm, but he will not lower the expectations of the response and communications from JCP&L.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 3/6/18-3A

PROCLAMATION

RESOLVED, Recognizing March 2018 as American Red Cross month in the County of Hunterdon.

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

Director Holt advised there have been many Red Cross's achievements in 2018, including the response to California wildfires and the shooting in Las Vegas. In New Jersey, they provided families with 10,000 free smoke alarms, as well as assistance for military families, and assistance with blood donors. This does not happen without volunteers and the numerous people who believe in a good cause and contribute to that cause.

Bob Rabitsky, American Red Cross representative, first came before the Board at this time last year as a new volunteer. He welcomes anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer for the local Red Cross Chapter. The American Red Cross starts fire safety education in the third grade with various projects and builds on that up until the high school level.

Mr. Rabitsky is looking for towns to cooperate with the home fire campaign. He left his contact information with the Clerk of Board, Denise Doolan and invited anyone who is interested to please contact him.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Holt opened to meeting for public comment.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident, noted various conferences and memberships are listed on the Claims Register. She would like those who attend to report on what they learned. Ms Sachau noted specifically costs associated with: the NJCEA, the food for IE training center, the Delaware River Town membership, the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce membership, NJFuture, Went to Work, the NJEPA conference, the NJHME, and the Cherry Valley group.

FINANCE

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 3/6/18-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the cancellation of certain Bond and Capital Ordinances to Open Space and to cancel the Unfunded Debt Authorization.

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

Director Holt clarified with the Chief Financial Officer, Janet R. Previte, that this action is not a reduction of resources for preservation, but a routine reconciliation of the Open Space Bond and Capitol Ordinance accounts. Every property listed on this has been finalized. The money that is left will be returned to the Open Space fund and the debt authorization will be cancelled. This is simply a housekeeping item.

Ms. Previte added that all of the ordinances were reviewed with the Planning Department and this action is a housekeeping issue that unencumbers the funds so that they may be allocated to other things in the Open Space trust.

PURCHASING

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

See Page 3/6/18-3C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a contract for Payroll Services, using Cooperative Contract #151901, with ADP, for the Finance Department, in the amount of \$75,870.15.

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

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

See Page 3/6/18-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the emergency purchase of HVAC Repairs to the Route 12 County Complex, Building #1, using N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6, with Trane USA Inc., in the amount of \$54,025.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kevin Davis, County Administrator, reported on the JCP&L phone call that he also participated in today agreeing that many elected officials participating in the call were upset. He hopes that their concerns will be dealt with appropriately.

Mr. King noted many of the local mayors in Hunterdon County were physically active during the storm, whether it be to check on residents or helping with clean up.

Ms. Lagay reported she was at the Shop Rite in Flemington earlier and Joe Colallio, himself was stocking the shelves himself. Everyone is really pulling their weight in the time of need.

Director Holt advised social media has been very helpful in disseminating information to the public.

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."

Items Held: Checks 160480 and 160749.

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated March 06, 2018, with the exception of Checks 160480 and 160749.

See Page 03/06/18-4B

CLAIMS REGISTER

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded a motion to approve Checks 160480 and 160749 in accordance with the Claims Register dated March 06, 2018..

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion to approve the regular and executive session minutes of February 20, 2018.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

See Page 3/6/18-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Catherine Torre appointed provisional, full time Principal Account Clerk, Finance Department.

See Page 3/6/18-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Debra Reed appointed as a part time, as needed Parks Naturalist, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning, Economic Development and Land Use.

See Page 3/6/18-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Sidebar Agreement with FOP 186.

See Page 3/6/18-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Donna Snyder, Prosecutor's Sergeant, salary adjustment, in accordance with the FOP 186 agreement.

See Page 3/6/18-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salary adjustment for Prosecutor's Investigators, in accordance with the FOP 186 agreement.

See Page 3/6/18-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Joshua Burk, Equipment Operator, salary adjustment, in accordance with the CWA Rank and File agreement.

See Page 3/6/18-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Keith Fleming, Equipment Operator, salary adjustment, in accordance with the CWA Rank and File agreement.

See Page 3/6/18-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Trevor Smith, Equipment Operator, salary adjustment, in accordance with the CWA Rank and File agreement.

See Page 3/6/18-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Frederick Albe, Jr, appointed full time, provisional Road Repairer Supervisor, Department of Public Works.

See Page 3/6/18-5D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the creation of the Division of Social Work Services and to dissolve the County Adjuster's Division.

See Page 3/6/18-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving plans and specifications for the Replacement of Inter-County Bridge L-25-W, in Hunterdon and Warren Counties; and authorizing the Hunterdon Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids.

See Page 3/6/18-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a weight limit of 23 Tons for County Bridge D-337, on Locktown Road, in Delaware Township.

See Page 3/6/18-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Haeree Park to the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

See Page 3/6/18-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Todd Lambrix to the Cultural and Heritage Commission.

See Page 3/6/18-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of James Hager Jr. to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

See Page 3/6/18-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of William Millette to the Musconetcong River Management Council to represent the County of Hunterdon.

See Page 3/6/18-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a Transportation Service Agreement with The ARC of Hunterdon County, for transportation services for 2017, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

See Page 3/6/18-5L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the integration of the Division of Adjuster Services into the newly created Division of Social Work Services and changing the County's Table of Organization to reflect the same.

See Page 3/6/18-5M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the transfer of employees within the Division of Social Services to the newly created Division of Social Work Services, Department of Human Services, effective April 1, 2018.

See Page 3/6/18-5N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Authorizing the transfer of employees within the Division of Human Services and the Division of Senior and Veterans Services to the newly created Division of Social Work Services, Department of Human Services, effective April 1, 2018.

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

Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. King seconded this:

See Page 03/06/18-5O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a professional services agreement with Stark & Stark, to represent the County in opposing the PennEast application to use eminent domain to acquire private land, including preserved farmlands, to construct it's pipeline.

Ms. Lagay advised Stark and Stark are representing various public entities and private property owners. The County has over 20 properties that will be impacted. Public funds were used to purchase these easements.

Mr. King believes that obtaining legal representation on behalf of the County's easements is essential and the move towards this type of opposition is imperative to the residents of Hunterdon County.

Mr. Lanza noted the time that he and Mr. King spent on the PennEast pipeline position. That position has not changed. Those reasons are due to eminent domain and how that affects the land that was purchased with public money as well as for the idea of preserving farmland. PennEast's use of the land will be commercial and that destroys why those lands were preserved in the first place.

Mr. Van Doren looks forward to joining the fight; it is not something he experienced in his municipal experience in Tewksbury, but he has received a good education from his fellow Board members and believes it is the right thing to do.

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

GRANTS

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

See Page 3/6/18-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving an Operating and/or Non-Operating Assistance Agreement, for 2018, for an Innovation Grant through NJ Transit, in the amount of \$200,000. (Federal - \$100,000; NJ Transit - \$50,000; County Match - \$50,000).

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A request was received from the Safe Harbor Child Access Centers, asking permission to hold an evening of Mental Health Awareness, on the historic Court House portico; as well as the sidewalk in front of the Court House, on Saturday, May 19, 2018, from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

Correspondence was received from the Hunterdon County Bar Association, requesting permission to have the fee waived for use of the historic Court House on Monday, May 21, 2018, for a program starting at 6:00 p.m., commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Law Day. The program is free to the public. Ms. Lagay moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Division of Buildings and Maintenance.

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

A request from the High Bridge Fire Department, asking permission to hold a Coin Toss on Saturday, April 7, 2018 (Rain Date: April 14, 2018) and on Saturday, November 24, 2018, at the intersection on County Route 513 between Grayrock Road and Arch Street, from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Mr. Lanza moved and Mr. King seconded a motion granting permission provided this event is coordinated through the County's Public Works Department.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Director Holt opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sauchau, Raritan Township resident, commented on a recent article that ranked all the counties based on their tax rate saying Hunterdon was among one of the higher taxed counties.

Ms. Sauchau would like to see the meeting recordings posted online. The issue has been in discussion phases for a long time.

Curtis Leeds, East Amwell resident and TAPinto reporter, voiced his criticism of JCP&L. Mr. Leeds appreciates that Director Holt personally invited a representative from JCP&L to respond to public and any questions that the Freeholder Board might have for them. The fact that they chose not to attend is Mr. Leeds main reason for voicing his concerns: Stan Prader, the area representative is at almost every one of the Freeholder meetings. The lights can't flicker in Glen Gardner without a full report. There are thousands of people without power, going on day four. A JCP&L employee told Mr. Leeds personally on Monday that they looked forward to attending the Freeholder meeting to answer questions. It is a shame that not a single representative from JCP&L is in attendance tonight.

Director Holt made clear that two requests were made to JCP&L and that they were responsive. They are on storm watch for the incoming northeaster that is set to come in the area early tomorrow. Director Holt would only add that the criticism is on one part the infrastructure, but the main concern

which he is hearing from the public - is the complete lack of communication. What most people want is to know what to expect so that they can properly plan. Director Holt also would like to know the economic impact of this loss; it has to be huge. This is a monopoly that has not held up their end of the bargain. If you do not pay your bill as a consumer, you get your power shut off but if you lose it, the recourse is not much, and that is unacceptable.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise B. Doolan

Transcribed By:

Dana A. Gootman