

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

West Amwell Township Municipal Building
150 Rocktown Lambertville Rd., Lambertville, NJ 08530

October 01, 2019

"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 24, 2019, 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."

Present: Mr. Lanza, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren

Absent: Ms. Lagay

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Zach Rich – Welcomed all of those in attendance in the meeting. Mayor Rich also advised that Freeholders and audience that former Mayor Carolyn Deal recently passed away. Mayor Rich also highlighted artwork in the meeting room that was created by local artists.

FREEHOLDERS REPORTS

Mr. Lanza reported that the Freeholder Board provides informational updates to the public concerning the current operations of County government during their meetings. Mr. Lanza went on to reflect that when visiting individual municipalities, the Board tailors those updates to the individual municipalities.

Ms. Soloway reported on her role as the Freeholder liaison to the Department of Health, including the many services that the Department provides to West Amwell Township. Ms. Soloway noted that the Health Department provides septic inspection services to West Amwell along with retail food inspections. In addition, Ms. Soloway noted that the Vector Division of the Health Department has been conducting ongoing mosquito control, black fly suppression, and testing for mosquito borne illnesses.

Mr. Van Doren reported on his role as the Freeholder liaison to the Department of Public Works. Mr. Van Doren noted that West Amwell Township is home to the Mt. Airy South County Garage, and that the County maintains 9.5 miles of roadway within West Amwell Township. Mr. Van Doren also highlighted the numerous culverts and bridges that are maintained by the County within West Amwell Township. Mr. Van Doren also noted the various shared service agreements with West Amwell Township including the chip seal and line striping programs which the Township has worked on in conjunction with the County. Mr. Van Doren also extended his thanks to Mayor Rich and the governing body for hosting the Freeholder meeting.

Mr. Holt reported on the County's efforts aimed at preserving farmland and open space in West Amwell Township. Mr. Holt noted that 556 acres of farmland have been preserved within the Township, as part of the nearly 4,000 acres of overall farmland that have been preserved County wide. Mr. Holt also noted that the Hunterdon County Department of Planning and Land Use has been successful in helping West Amwell correct Census information which was incorrectly counting the prison population of the nearby Mercer County Correctional facility as part of West Amwell's population. Mr. Holt also noted that he was pleased with the Freeholder Board's ongoing efforts to conduct meetings on the road.

Mr. Lanza reported on his role as liaison to the Department of Public Safety including an overview of the number of calls that the County's 9-1-1 Center handled in West Amwell Township. Mr. Lanza also reported on the Freeholder Board's efforts to oppose the proposed Penn East pipeline including the hiring of Tim Duggan, Esq. to help oppose Penn East's application. Mr. Lanza noted that at a recent Freeholder meeting, Mr. Duggan advised the Board that a federal Appeals Court recently issued a ruling that dealt a significant blow to Penn East's application. Mr. Lanza also reported on the ongoing fiscal conservatism demonstrated by the Freeholder Board including the fact that the 2019 County budget is nearly \$330,000 less the 2013 County budget. Mr. Lanza also noted that the County tax rate has remained flat for the 4 out of the last 5 years. Mr. Lanza also thanked Mayor Rich and the governing body for hosting the Freeholder Board meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

See Page 10/1/19-2A

PROCLAMATION

Declaring October 2019 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

See Page 10/1/19-2B

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing October 6th through October 12th as National Fire Prevention Week.

Moved: Mr. Van Doren

Seconded: Ms. Soloway

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Van Doren, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

PUBLIC COMMENT, Limited to 2 minutes per person.

(Comments exceeding 2 minutes will be entertained later in the agenda)

David Owen, Whitehouse Station – Offered alternatives to the roundabout in Readington Township. Mr. Owen also informed the Board that the upcoming community meeting date has been moved to October 17th for the roundabout discussion.

Mr. Holtbush of Readington Township – Informed the Freeholder Board that he has alternatives for the roundabout as well and his own personal feelings about this matter. Mr. Holtbush noted that there is a meeting on October 15th with Mr. Van Doren.

Susan Tuskie, West Amwell – Appreciated the meeting time being during the evening while it was still light outside and that the senior citizens can come and attend. Ms. Tuskie spoke about high property taxes and also asked for more recreational opportunities to be opened up for senior citizens.

Linda Empsin of Easton Coach – Offered to provide any assistance that was requested in regard to the new LINK contract and provided her contact information to the Freeholder Board.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Marc Saluk

See Page 10/1/19-2C

RESOLUTION

Authorizing an Economic Development Grant to the Borough of Bloomsbury in the amount of \$3,600 for the creation of a municipal website.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

PURCHASING, Ray Rule

See Page 10/1/19-3A

RESOLUTION

Award of County RFP #2019-15 to Easton Coach Company, in an amount not to exceed \$2,407,125.00, for operation of the Hunterdon County Consolidated Transportation System, known as "The Link."

Moved: Mr. Holt

Seconded: Mr. Van Doren

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

Ms. Soloway: When I joined the Freeholder Board in January, I was one of the many people from around the County who cast a critical eye on the Link bus program. Questions like is it worthwhile, who does it serve, what is the ridership, and, of course, how much does it cost. Freeholder Director Lagay created a Transportation Task Force to look at those very issues at the beginning of the year and invited me, as liaison for the Department of Human Services, which has responsibility for overseeing the program, to be a member. I greatly appreciate being given that opportunity. It was an eye-opening experience. First, as I think we all know, there is no New Jersey Transit bus service to points within the County. For those without personal vehicles, with driving limitations or without the means to use the Uber app, the Link helps to meet their transportation needs. We're talking about seniors, the disabled, those with temporary health restrictions, and those with limited financial means, many of whom need transportation to get to their jobs. We learned at the Task Force that in 2018, over 123,000 trips were taken by residents throughout the year. The Link brings our older and disabled veterans living in the Veterans Haven North home to Lyons hospital daily, accounting for over 3200 trips per year. The Hunterdon ARC relies on the Link to transport 200 ARC clients to and from their workplaces, every day of the work week. There is a special Link bus to bring persons who can't afford transport to the dialysis center at the Hunterdon Medical Center. Plus, the service brings individuals around the County for shopping, to the Flemington Food Pantry, to medical appointments, to the Senior Center for activities or the meals on wheels lunch, to any number of necessary trips that those of us using personal cars and with financial means take for granted. Many who use the service have their costs covered by grants, some may pay the full or a discounted rate for use of the bus. Many seniors and other riders who use the Link and are not required to pay, still contribute by putting what they can in a voluntary cost share envelope when they use the bus. Without the Link system, with no NJ Transit service, these people would have nowhere else to turn. So, you can now count me as someone who understands why the service is needed. At the Task Force we also learned about the costs of the program and the revenues that support it. The County receives over \$1.2 million in various grants to support the Link bus system. Most of these funds are earmarked for dedicated routes. One of those, the Job Access Reverse Commute or JARC grant helps to cover the cost of bringing students to RVCC who otherwise would not be able to get there. Think about how valuable that is to young people striving to better themselves and ultimately for our economy. Additionally, the County receives over \$250,000 in other revenues, including the quarters and dollars that are put into the cost share envelopes, to help with the cost. The balance is paid from the County budget. When you do the math, that means for the 123,000 passenger trips the County's annual cost is less than \$10 per passenger trip. And, at our direction, the staff is working to bring that cost down. One of the key elements of the contract being awarded tonight, for me, is the fact that the new bus vendor, Easton Coach, will take on responsibility for the maintenance of the buses. That is a huge budget item. We are informed by the CFO that the savings there could be \$200,000. Under Director Lagay's leadership the Task Force is continuing, with its mission now to look at ways to bring greater efficiencies to the bus routes. If the number of routes and time of use can be reduced, without sacrificing service to those in need, the costs can be reduced. The Human Service Department is also moving forward on some technology adds that will give us a better idea of who is using the bus and when, which will help with

creating a plan for greater use efficiency. I again thank the Freeholder Director for including me with the Transportation Task Force. I also thank all the County staff members who worked with the Task Force to help educate us on the Link system, its needs, its costs, and its future. Thank you.

See Page 10/1/19-4A

RESOLUTION

Award of County Bid #2019-17 to Messercola Excavating Company, in an amount not to exceed \$277,737.00, to provide water service to the Route 12 Hunterdon County Complex.

Moved: Mr. Van Doren

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Holt, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

See Page 10/1/19-4B

RESOLUTION

Approving Requisition #R9-05472 for the acquisition of a new, logging recorder from Kova Corporation, for the Division of Communications, in an amount not to exceed \$49,966.20.

Moved: Mr. Van Doren

Seconded: Ms. Soloway

Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Van Doren, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

LAND USE / OPEN SPACE, William Millette / Bob Hornby

See Page 10/1/19-4C

RESOLUTION

Approving a Municipal Grant, at the recommendation of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, with Readington Township for funds related to the open space acquisition of the DeLaney Property, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Van Doren

Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

See Page 10/1/19-4D

RESOLUTION

Authorizing final approval by the Board of Chosen Freeholders to purchase the DuBrow Farm development easement (37.55 acres) via a County Planning Incentive Grant (CPIG) Agreement between the County of Hunterdon, Township of Franklin, and the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) in the amount of \$267,705.00 (SADC: \$163,597.50; County: \$52,053.75; and Township of Franklin: \$52,053.75). This resolution will also authorize to the Freeholder Director to sign any documents associated with this purchase.

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Holt

Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Kevin Davis

Mr. Kevin Davis thanked Mayor Rich for hosting this meeting tonight at West Amwell. Mentioned the Cooperative Law and how it is helping West Amwell.

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."

Moved: Ms. Soloway

Seconded: Mr. Van Doren

Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza

Absent: Ms. Lagay

Approval of the claims in accordance with the Claims Register dated October 1, 2019.

Approval of the regular and executive session meeting minutes of September 17, 2019.

See Page 10/1/19-5A RESOLUTION

Authorizing the establishment of the Hunterdon County Joint Purchasing System with the County of Hunterdon serving as the lead agent and granting the Freeholder Director the authority to sign documentation to the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services associated with the program's creation.

See Page 10/1/19-5B RESOLUTION

Approving Requisition #R9-06051 for final payment to DeSantis Construction in an amount not to exceed \$118,477.24, for the resurfacing of County Route 523 in the Borough of Stockton and Township of Delaware.

See Page 10/1/19-5C RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Freeholder Director to sign on behalf of the County, an agreement with the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission for the provision of fiscal agent services for the Municipal Alliance Consortiums, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-67, for the period of July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

See Page 10/1/19-5D RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Freeholder Director to sign on behalf of the County, a Discharge of Mortgage, with a lien in the amount of \$24,307.23, for the property known as Block 9, Lot 5 in the Township of Union, Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey.

See Page 10/1/19-5E RESOLUTION

Approving the promotion of Charlie Pierman, III to the provisional title of Road Repair Supervisor, in the Division of Roads, of the Department of Public Works.

See Page 10/1/19-5F RESOLUTION

Approving the appointment of Logan Bodine to the title of Laborer 1, in the Division of Roads, of the Department of Public Works.

See Page 10/1/19-5G RESOLUTION

Approving the advancement of Sabrina Herron to the title of Registered Environmental Health Specialist within the Division of Health Services, of the Department of Health upon completion of her 12-month training period.

See Page 10/1/19-5H RESOLUTION

Acknowledging the return of Thomas Leone from the title of Interim Road Supervisor, to his regular title of Equipment Operator, and the receipt of a corresponding salary adjustment in accordance with title change.

See Page 10/1/19-5I RESOLUTION

Approving the appointment of Cassey Gabriel to the title of Registered Environmental Health Specialist Trainee, in the Division of Health Services, of the Department of Health.

GRANTS

See Page 10/1/19-5J RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Freeholder Director to sign on behalf of the County, a Section 5310 Grant Application to New Jersey Transit for five (5) extended cutaway vehicles for Federal Fiscal Year 2018, in the total project cost of \$376,500.00 (federal funds: \$300,000.00, County Match \$76,500.00) to assist in providing transportation for senior citizens and/or people with disabilities in Hunterdon county, New Jersey.

Moved: Ms. Soloway
Seconded: Mr. Holt
Roll Call (Ayes): Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren, Mr. Lanza
Absent: Ms. Lagay

See Page 10/1/19-6A **RESOLUTION**
Authorizing the Hunterdon County Health Department to apply to the New Jersey Department of Health for a Communicable Disease Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$95,000.00 (no county match required).
Moved: Mr. Holt
Seconded: Mr. Van Doren
Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza
Absent: Ms. Lagay

CORRESPONDENCE

See Page 10/1/19-6B **APPLICATION**
Approving a request by Tewksbury First Aid & Rescue Squad to host a coin toss on Saturday, October 19, 2019 and Sunday, October 20, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with rain dates of Saturday, October 26, 2019 and Sunday, October 27, 2019.
Moved: Mr. Lanza
Seconded: Mr. Holt
Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Van Doren
Absent: Ms. Lagay

See Page 10/1/19-6C **RESOLUTION**
Approving a request from St. Magdalen's Roman Catholic Church to host a Holy Rosary prayer for America on Sunday, October 13, 2019 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the County Gazebo behind the County Administration Building in lieu of the Historic Courthouse steps.
Moved: Mr. Van Doren
Seconded: Ms. Soloway
Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Van Doren, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza
Absent: Ms. Lagay

See Page 10/1/19-6D **RESOLUTION**
Approving a request from the Milford Merchants Association for a temporary closure of County Route 519 on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 1:00 PM for Milford Borough's annual Halloween Parade.
Moved: Mr. Holt
Seconded: Mr. Van Doren
Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Holt, Mr. Van Doren, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza
Absent: Ms. Lagay

See Page 10/1/19-6E **RESOLUTION**
Approving a request from the High Bridge Police Department for a temporary detour along County Route 513 on Saturday, December 7, 2019 associated with the High Bridge Business Association's annual tree lighting event.
Moved: Mr. Van Doren
Seconded: Ms. Soloway
Roll Call (Ayes): Mr. Van Doren, Ms. Soloway, Mr. Holt, Mr. Lanza
Absent: Ms. Lagay

FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Convene if necessary)

The Board Adjourned at 6:30 PM on a motion by Freeholder Van Doren which was

seconded by Freeholder Soloway and carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted.



Brad Myhre, Clerk

Transcribed by:



Lindsay Heller, Secretary to the Board