

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING**MARCH 29, 1993**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in special session at its office in the Administration Building, Belvidere, NJ, on Monday, March 29, 1993 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Miller and upon roll call the following members were present: Director Miller and Freeholder Matthenius. Freeholder Dickey was absent at roll call.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Director Miller.

Director Miller read the following statement: "ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT BY FORWARDING A SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO THE WARREN COUNTY CLERK, THE STAR GAZETTE, THE BLAIRSTOWN PRESS, THE NEWS, THE STAR-LEDGER AND THE EXPRESS-TIMES AND BY POSTING A COPY THEREOF ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS. FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS AT THIS MEETING. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED. IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FULL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE MEETING SHOULD SUBMIT ANY REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MEETING".

At approximately 5:08 p.m., Director Miller declared the public hearing on the 1993 Warren County Budget open for comments.

Director Miller advised that Public Comments will be received according to the following procedures:

1. Comments on each subject by each individual speaker will be limited to five (5) minutes.
2. Total comments on each subject will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes.

County Treasurer Leupo advised Director Miller that the budget has been verbally approved by the state.

Gloria Decker, Mayor of Phillipsburg, Jayne Hess, Librarian of the Phillipsburg Library and Ann Klein, member of the Phillipsburg Library Commission spoke about the fact that the Freeholders cut \$90,000 from the 1993 budget that was promised for the expansion of the Phillipsburg Library.

Mayor Decker presented the board with a copy of a signed agreement between the Federation and the Board of Freeholders that was executed in 1992. This agreement promised to do this expansion in 1993 and she asked why the freeholders had changed their mind.

Over 30,000 people use this library and it is the best in the county. When the Federation was formed everyone was in agreement that the expansion was needed,

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING**MARCH 29, 1993**

are we going to hire an architect this year.

Ann Klein petitioned the board to honor their agreement with the library federation.

Freeholder Dickey came into the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Director Miller said that he is not against the expansion, actually he is in favor of it and he had thought that there was money in this year's budget for the architect's work. He said the board will look favorably on spending some funds out of the current capital budget for this purpose.

The County Library Commission asked for a committee to be formed (Jayne Hess, member of the Phillipsburg Library Board and two residents) and they will look at a number of things and the board would like to see the results of their study before they take action. We can do a title and text change at that time to cover this project.

Freeholder Matthenius said he is very agreeable to this but he is still concerned about the parking in that area.

Freeholder Dickey said that she is completely supportive of the Phillipsburg Library expansion.

Mr. Ed Bowman of Phillipsburg said that the voters should have the right to vote on the college and the communication center.

The following people spoke in favor of the new college campus: Roxanne Rowe, Shannon Smith, James Foerst, Robert Culp, Jr., Maureen Stewart, Ron Banghart, Ruth Ballou, Marion Tirrell, and John Howard all spoke in support of the new college. All spoke of the excellent education they have received at WC Community College and the great need for an expanded facility. Some of these people had attended other colleges and universities in the past and felt that WC Community College has provided them with a comparable and in some cases, better education than they were receiving in the other facilities.

John Howard, president of the student government for the past year, presented the board with over 400 signed petitions from both students and interested residents of the county who are supportive of the expansion.

Pat DePalma spoke against the funding of Planned Parenthood.

Renee Braeden thanked the freeholders for their support of Planned Parenthood and outlined how their organization provides low cost health care to the moderate and lower income families.

Loretta Ernst, Coordinator of Planned Parenthood, spoke of the many success stories that have come out of their program.

Linda Barnes, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and a trustee of the WC Community

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING**MARCH 29, 1993**

College, spoke in favor of the expansion of the college and said that the youth of our college will make us proud in the future. Norman Tirrell also spoke in favor of the expansion.

Jayne Hess, Librarian of the Phillipsburg Library, thanked the board for their promise to transfer the necessary funds later this year to get on with the expansion of the Phillipsburg Library.

Gladys Blemmer, White Township, questioned the item of another tier of supervisors as outlined in the budget.

Mrs. Carlton said that the Public Works Director and Public Safety Director are the new positions and with a county of this size and a budget of this size, these positions are needed to pull the whole operation together.

Mrs. Blemmer also questioned the 10.79% increase in the Human Services budget and Mr. Miller pointed out that the increase is actually 4-1/2% and the rest of the difference is in Peer Grouping funds.

Mrs. Blemmer also questioned the improvements slated for the Garrett D. Wall Park. Mr. Miller said that actually the only amount left in the budget is \$19,000 for an architect's study.

Mrs. Blemmer also questioned the \$100,000 for a NJ Economic Recovery Program and Mrs. Carlton explained that this is for infrastructure projects.

Mrs. Blemmer also questioned the Morris Canal item and Mr. Miller said that the contribution system is working very well and some donations have been accepted.

Audrey Simpson was supportive of more help in the Prosecutor's Office for assistance for domestic violence victims. Mr. Miller said that the Prosecutor had come before them with his needs and Mr. Miller doesn't dispute his figures, but they were unable to do anything at this time.

Renee Braeden addressed this issue by saying that she is very concerned about the increase in domestic violence and is concerned about the board's refusal to fund the increased personnel in the Prosecutor's Office. She asked the board to consider providing more services for abused women in next year's budget.

Eileen Brown also spoke in favor of increased personnel in the Prosecutor's Office.

Mrs. Blemmer asked for a break-down of the \$74,000 allocated for consulting fees in the Freeholder's Office.

Mrs. Carlton said that \$1,500 is for a citizen's survey, \$50,000 for a master plan, \$2,500 for goal setting and \$20,000 for an environmental audit.

Mrs. Blemmer questioned the space plan and said that the county had done many of these in the past but Mrs. Carlton said that this plan is for actual space needed in our facilities.

Mrs. Carlton explained that the master plan is designed to look at the future vision of the county.

Rose Williams of White Township asked how much money had been taken out of surplus this year and put into the budget and Mr. Miller said \$7,486,190.00 had been taken out of surplus which leaves a balance of approximately \$3 million in surplus.

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING**MARCH 29, 1993**

There being no further comments from the public, Director Miller closed the public hearing at 6:16 p.m.

Under freeholder comments, Freeholder Matthenius commented that this is a good budget and thanked the department heads, the administrator and the treasurer for the excellent job that they did on putting this budget together.

Freeholder Dickey commended the administrator and the budget committee but she is not in favor of this budget. She said she wanted to make the statement that by voting yes she doesn't want to send a message that she is in favor of the budget because she is not but she feels she needs to vote yes in order to assure cooperation between herself and her fellow freeholders for the future.

Freeholder Director Miller said that they had worked very hard in putting this budget together and he feels that it is in the best interest of the county.

RESOLUTION 188-93

On motion by Mr. Matthenius, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 29, 1993.

RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 1993 BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren that the Budget Hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations and authorization of the amount of \$34,297,208.43 dollars for county purposes to be raised by taxation and certification to the County Board of Taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.

RECORDED VOTE**AYES:** Dickey

Matthenius

Miller

NAYS: None**ABSTAINED:** None**ABSENT:** None**SUMMARY OF REVENUES****GENERAL REVENUES**

Surplus Anticipated	7,486,190.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	17,563,049.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	-0-

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING**MARCH 29, 1993**

<u>AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION</u>	34,297,208.43
Total General Revenues	59,346,447.43
<u>GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:</u>	59,346,447.43
(a&b) Operations Including Contingent	51,133,581.00
(c) Capital Improvements	2,573,372.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	3,136,095.43
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures-Municipal	2,503,399.00
(f) Judgements	-0-
(g) Cash Deficit	-0-
(h) For Local District School Purposes	-0-
(i) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	-0-
Total General Appropriations	59,346,447.43

It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Board of Chosen Freeholders on the 29th day of March, 1993. It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 1993 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have previously been approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk
The Board of Chosen Freeholders

Certified by me
This 29th day of March, 1993

On motion by Mr. Matthenius, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Dickey: yes Mr. Matthenius: yes Mr. Miller: yes

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk