

MINUTES - BUDGET SESSION**January 3, 1995**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in special session at its office in the Administration Building, Belvidere, NJ on Tuesday, January 3, 1995 at 6:36 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Dickey and upon roll call the following members were present: Mrs. Dickey, Mr. Miller and Mrs. Stone.

Director Dickey 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, BLAIRSTOWN PRESS, THE NEWS, 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.

Under open discussion, the administrator asked the board to decide how it wants to review the budget.

Discussion on whether the proposed budget should be available to the media. The director asked for a copy of the proposed budget to be made available for the media. Freeholder Stone concurred; Freeholder Miller objected. Copies will be provided.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- OEM - Added \$2,100 to the Training Line item.
- Communications Center - There were questions about the dispatching services. It was suggested that the board discuss this with county counsel as it is a legal issue. Ed Bruder made a verbal request for items outlined in his memo requesting \$38,995. The administrator asked for the list of projects and costs that are scheduled to be charged against the 1993/1994 capital projects. The Edwards & Kelcey, Inc. estimates were asked for by the board; until the board decides it is needed they will not be submitted as a capital request. Mr. Bruder did not recommend the project. The board agreed.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Roads - George Ulmer asked that the two dump trucks stay in the budget.
- Engineer's Office - Some questions about the postage figure and it was explained that now postage will be in each department's budget rather than being centralized in the Buildings & Grounds budget.
- Bridge's - No comments, except on salaries and wages for two employees who were suggested for a promotion.
- Administration - Freeholder Stone objected to this and wanted it removed. Freeholder Miller thought that it should not be struck and that the whole county organizational structure should be studied. Board decided to discuss in executive session.
- Buildings & Grounds - The increase in sewer charges (\$50,000) is for the county assumption of the VoTech Wastewater Treatment Plant. The budget is increased for water, sewer, materials for the grounds crew. Several line items were questioned.

ADMINISTRATION

- Freeholders - Freeholder Stone objected to including funds for sandwiches (a new line

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item entitled Meals - \$2,000) had been added to the proposed budget. Freeholder Dickey agreed. The \$2,000 line item (Meals) was removed.

- Administration - Freeholder Stone objected to the use of funds for the Organizational Management/Productivity Studies. Said the freeholders could make those kinds of decisions. No changes made.

- Personnel - Freeholder Stone questioned the numbers of employees in the budget. Jerry Coyle answered questions about the Assistant Personnel Director position. Mr. Coyle said he believes the position is necessary. Freeholder Dickey asked Mr. Coyle to justify his statement that the industry standard is seven personnel employees per each 1,000 employees. Mr. Coyle said he would be glad to do some research to let them see a short study - Freeholder Stone thought he had too many employees.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Mr. Clegg was questioned about the Health Department's use of the GIS;; he explained about wellhead and septic plans. Mileage has increased at users groups, demonstrations and seminars statewide. Freeholder Stone did not agree with what has been done about ADP and the absorption of Payroll into the Treasurer's Office.

PURCHASING

Budget was OK.

PLANNING

Mr. Miles explained his department's need for an additional \$12,000 for software. The board approved the addition.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The board will discuss this later.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES

OK

CONTRACTED SERVICES

The board reviewed this area and asked a few questions.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Discussion about the county administrator position. Freeholder Dickey questioned whether the position should be changed.

- Board decided to discuss the county administrator position during executive session on January 11th.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk