

MINUTES**March 1, 1995**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders met in regular session on Wednesday, March 1, 1995 at the Hardwick Township Municipal Building, 40 Spring Valley Road, Blairstown, NJ at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Freeholder Director Susan Dickey and upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Director Susan Dickey, Freeholder Ann Stone and Freeholder Kenneth Miller.

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

Director Dickey read the following statement: "ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT BY FORWARDING A SCHEDULE OF REGULAR 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. IN ORDER TO ASSURE FULL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE MEETING SHOULD SUBMIT ANY REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE".

Freeholder Dickey thanked the Mayor and those in attendance for coming to the meeting.

Under open discussion of the county road and bridge system, the Mayor of Hardwick Township stated that he had received a letter from County Engineer Dave Hicks regarding the projects in the township which are ongoing. He mentioned a problem with the intersection of Route #521 at the Hardwick House which is dangerous due to limited site distances. The major traffic is on Route #521 with minimal traffic off Ward Road which is a township road. There are planned changes to have Ward Road enter onto Spring Valley Road.

Jim Bernaski, Assistant County Engineer, responded that the plan is to move the township road further down and the township has the land dedicated for this change. Mr. Bernaski said that this project could be considered for scheduling next year.

Freeholder Dickey said that this would be discussed with Mr. Hicks for next year. Mrs. Stone asked if this is a joint project and Mr. Bernaski said that after it is moved it will be a township road and therefore will have to be a joint project. Mr. Miller asked if this is on the priority list and was told that it was not that expensive a project with both road departments involved.

The Mayor also discussed the planned merger with Pahaquarry Township and asked if the federal government is paying impact money. He understood that such aid is to go to the lowest governing body and had heard that the money is being paid to the county. He asked why.

Freeholder Miller said that he thinks the money amounts to about \$6,000 and is being split between the county and the township. This will be researched. Mrs. Dickey asked how the merger is progressing and the Mayor said that he hasn't heard from DCA yet. Until they agree to pay for the school children it can't proceed.

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Walter Orcutt from Blairstown asked about plans to upgrade the bridge over the Lackawanna cutoff on Route #521 and Jim Bernaski said that they have it listed as a federal aid project but the cost was so great that the federal and state levels de-authorized it. Mr. Rydell from Frelinghuysen said that the state is buying the line and probably plans to re-establish the railroad line.

It was noted that groups in Pennsylvania are moving ahead with their end of the line and New Jersey will eventually get this line back in operation. Mrs. Dickey said this will be discussed with Mr. Hicks to see if it fits in the NJTCC schedule. Freeholder Miller noted that there are several applications to re-rail if the state buys the land. He believes there will be progress in the near future.

Mr. Bernaski asked the Mayor about several projects such as the Butler Road extension and also Jones Road. The county may need to repair and upgrade the bridge at the Butler Road extension and at Jones Road, the county may need to replace the bridge, therefore the county needs to know what is going on.

Mrs. Dickey asked the Mayor about the cleanup at the Boy Scout Camp which was progressing well. Also, the Health Department has tried to help find the source of some water pollution but so far have been unsuccessful.

The freeholders again thanked the municipal officials for the opportunity to visit and gain input from the citizens.

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Miller, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.
ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller: yes Mrs. Stone: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk