

MINUTES**August 2, 1995**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session on Wednesday, August 2, 1995 at the Franklin Township Municipal Building, Route 57, Broadway, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Director Dickey at 7:07 PM. Upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Susan Dickey and Freeholder Kenneth Miller. Freeholder Ann Stone was absent.

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".

Mrs. Dickey announced that Freeholder Stone was in Warren Hospital and sent her regrets at being unable to attend the meeting.

A. OPEN DISCUSSION**1. 9-1-1 tower.**

The Mayor asked if the safety system for shutting down the microwave transmitters in the event of a misalignment was being installed in the communications system. It was her understanding from previous meetings that the transmitter would automatically be shut off if the microwave dishes were to lose their alignment, thereby ensuring that there would be no danger to local residents. Mrs. Dickey indicated that Mr. DeGraff was expected to be present at the meeting later, and we could ask for an update on this issue.

2. 9-1-1- dispatch costs.

The Mayor asked about the reimbursement for dispatching costs the municipality is paying to Lopatcong and also is being charged for by the county.

Mr. Dinger explained that the dispatch centers were asked to report their costs as of June 1, 1995, and that that information had been received. The Freeholders had decided that no payments would be made until after the end of the third quarter of the year, and that reimbursement would be based on a percentage of the total costs represented by the center compared to the budget allocation of \$100,000. No decision was made on whether or not there would be any additional money transferred for this purpose after November 1, 1995. As part of Lopatcong, it appears the percentage of payment would be about 36%. Whether Lopatcong would receive payment and be expected to pay a proportional share to the other users or if payment would be made directly to each municipality has not yet been addressed.

There was a question about the 911 maps. Some roads are being renamed and there are no current maps to use for reference. Additionally, the methods used to verify the addresses was questioned. It has been stated that the resident should contact the telephone

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company to verify their new address, as the company has said that they cannot update information without the customer providing and verifying that information.

3. Asbury intersection.

There is ongoing concern with the intersection of Rt. 632 and 643. There have been some accidents at this point. It was asked if a 4 way stop or a blinking light could be considered. Also, there are bushes which obstruct view and cars are often parked along Kitchen Street which presents problems.

Mr. Miller asked what the township would suggest.

The Mayor indicated that perhaps a 4 way stop or at least one additional stop sign. Trucks are another problem, and many cars do not stop at the present signs. It was also mentioned that Rt. 643 has never been paved, only oil and chip. It was asked if something could be done to erect no parking signs near the intersection and to cut back the bushes.

Mrs. Dickey said that Mr. Hicks would be asked to look at the intersection and determine what could be done.

At about 7:30, Mr. Hicks arrived and discussed the issue. This is not a high accident area. We may be able to look at overlay of the road. Half of it was done years ago. As for parking restriction, there are statutory distances for no parking within so many feet of an intersection.

A citizen mentioned that down the road is a culvert that is narrower than the roadway. Mr. Hicks said that the culverts are usually 28 feet wide, and some are smaller. The road is easier to widen than the culvert, which is much more expensive to widen.

A citizen referred to the January, 1995 accident involving the Prosecutor's employees. She asked about County policy on alcohol, and said the prohibition needs to be reinforced periodically. Mr. Dinger indicated that the County has had a policy regarding alcohol during working hours since at least 1982. The hiring rules are under review and should include policy on this and on drug use. Mr. Miller also mentioned the new random testing for CDL holders. The citizen complimented the Freeholders for support of Shippen Manor. Also, she asked for continued support for the Phillipsburg Library Federation.

Mrs. Dickey responded that it was the desire of the Freeholders to retain the Federation, regardless of the direction of future construction.

A citizen asked if there were any plans for open space that would be used for business/tourism. Mr. Miller asked for ideas. The response was that there could be a variety of things, such as a trout farm, pumpkin farm, camp sites, etc. Mrs. Dickey mentioned the Departments of Commerce and Tourism and their attempt to provide counties with businesses that fit into the characteristics of the county.

Mr. Miller asked if the municipality would allow a camp ground, and if it would give a tax break to keep the area a relative open space. The response was yes. There was also mention of the county's ability to look at land which does not meet State guidelines for preservation, and that some land might be retained using the new county open space funds.

Mr. DeGraff and Mr. Rivoli arrived at about 7:55. The discussion returned to the

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microwave towers. Mr. Rivoli stated that the microwave will be in use most of the time, but the siting will be pointing toward the Mansfield tower, loop to Blairstown and then to Harmony. Fiber-optics will be used as a backup. The system has an automatic shut-down built into it. The power level will be less than one watt.

Mrs. Dickey asked about progress with the takeover of Lopatcong. Mr. DeGraff said the process is on target for late September. Mr. Rivoli stated that they may take over the County Fire Frequency in several weeks, using rented space on another tower.

It was also noted that the Bell companies have gotten most of their information finished, but that United was still lagging.

A citizen questioned if the county will be producing a new map. Mr. Miller said we would take a look at the project.

Another citizen spoke about reducing taxes for Franklin because they have the Vo-Tech, Communications Center, Community College, etc.

Mr. Miller responded that the college is in Washington Township, the Vo-Tech has been there, and the Communications Center property has been exempt for some time. Mrs. Dickey indicated that the Board would be trying to hold the line on the tax rate. She also said she would like to find a way to consider compensating municipalities which have county facilities.

The Mayor thanked the Board for coming to the township, and expressed the belief that these types of meetings were valuable for the citizens. Mrs. Dickey expressed the appreciation of the Board for the local participation.

B. REPORTS

Mr. Dinger asked the members to provide an answer on the request of the County Superintendent regarding the Clerk Stenographer position. Mr. Ericson has requested to fill a full-time position which did not have benefits with a full-time position with benefits. It was indicated that any full-time position would require benefits in accordance with the contract and county policy.

The Freeholders recommended that Mr. Ericson return to part-time positions so that the added cost of benefits would not increase the budget expenses. Mr. Dinger stated he would inform the Superintendent that only part-time hiring for this position would be approved.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.
ROLL CALL: Mr. Miller: yes Mrs. Stone: absent Mrs. Dickey: yes

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk