

MINUTES**October 4, 1995**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session on Wednesday, October 4, 1995, at the Hope Township Municipal Building, Rt. 611, Hope-Great Meadows Road, Hope, N.J.

The Hope Township Committee opened their meeting with the public announcement.

The meeting was called to order by Director Dickey at 7:10 PM. Upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder 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".

Mayor McDonough began the discussion. He said that Hope is a historic district with many restored buildings. There are a great deal of visitors to Hope as they come to visit the county. He asked if there were suggestions to have the town and county work together on tourism.

Jay Miers, Director of Economic Development and Tourism for the county said that in 1992, they offered Hope as a pilot in tourism. The Economic Development Council is now restructured, with one subcommittee handling tourism issues, composed of members and others from outside the council to inventory what exists in the county and plan from there. There is a brochure that is also directly aimed at tourism. An RFP is drafted, and we will have ads in the document, and it will be effective for about one year. There will be no cost to the county, as the advertisers will pay for the brochure.

A questions was asked about how the brochure was to be organized, distributed and in what time frame. He responded that it is probably six months work. All who advertise will have copies to distribute, and it will also be distributed through the state and in Pennsylvania, in local towns, etc.

Councilman Beatty asked if the county considered a county distribution bulletin board for advertising and display of the brochure. There is a lot of traffic off Exit 12, and a board should prove beneficial.

Due to the necessity of attending another meeting, N.B. Rodman, P.E., had asked if other issues could be discussed regarding such areas as the bridge on Route #519, signage and the intersection of Ridgeway Ave. and Silverlake-Marksboro Road. He asked if the county could do anything about a pedestrian walkway over the stone bridge.

County Engineer Hicks said he looked at a bridge downstream from the arch. He is not sure if the historic entities would approve of a crossing that close to the stone arch. He could run the idea past the historic agencies and ask for a response. It would be costly and would need approval of the property owners. There may be other options above or below the arch.

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A member of the public asked about the use of an old alley for passage. The Mayor referred to the Old Moravian Alley that could serve as an option, but a business may have taken some of the space of that alley away.

Councilman Koonz said that along with the hazard to children, there are many visitors on weekends who have had close calls with traffic.

The owner of the local bed and breakfast (Mr. Gable) stated that some of his guests have commented as to the volume of truck traffic in the town. The Mayor said he talked to the main trucker who runs through town and he has tried to reduce the traffic.

The owner of the Inn at Millrace Pond said he has seen truck traffic decrease about 50% from a year and a half ago.

Mr. Gable stated that last year, a Pryslak truck hit the wall on Millbrook Road, and destroyed the wall, then left the scene. Pryslak had said he would fix the wall if no ticket was issued, but he hasn't done anything to comply. Mr. Gable asked if the county could exert any pressure to have Pryslak comply. It is not a county wall, but it is in a county right of way.

Mr. Rodman said that the Silverlake-Marksboro Road is not a safe intersection. He would like to see it redesigned to a T intersection with a stop sign. It may be possible to get state aid to do the work, and will probably need to be a cooperative effort of Hope and the county.

Mr. Hicks responded that it has been reviewed before. We need a decent survey to design solutions. Major reconstruction is on Ridgeway Ave. We should get a survey and then ask for state aid. There is a need to design a proper site distance.

Mr. Koonz asked if anything can be done without a large cost. Mr. Rodman said that we have done as much as we can without doing an actual survey, etc. Mr. Koonz asked if the county had in-house staff to do this. Mr. Hicks responded that the county does surveys, but many projects are underway, and no new ones could be undertaken this year. He suggested that Hope budget the \$3,200 for an outside survey.

The Mayor said there are many signs at the intersection in town, including route, directional and business signs. He asked if the county could take a look at eliminating signs or combining them.

Mr. Koonz asked about rules that say a sign must be a particular size, color, etc.

Mr. Hicks indicated that the county follows the manual on route signs. Information signs are usually according to the book, but can be modified. We can look at it, but we don't want to deviate too much from the standards, as we don't want to confuse motorists.

The Mayor stated that the county recreation committee made a tour the past week without notice to the town. He is concerned where the county might be going on the property at Locust Lake.

Hope already has more park land than necessary, with a municipal park and Jenny Jump State Forest. He does not feel that Locust Lake should be removed from the tax rolls.

Mrs. Stone said that municipal officials need the information, and communication needs

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to be improved in this area.

Mrs. Dickey said she understood the recreation committee was asked by the owner to come and look as perhaps an offer to donate to the county. The area has some rare species of plants. This was a fact finding mission.

Mr. Koonz stated there had been a battle between the DEP and Corps of Engineers on draining the lake. There are a lot of problems in that area.

Mrs. Dickey said she knew there was a problem with a dam and the lake being drained. This visit was only reported to the Planning Department last week. The taxes on the property are about \$650 per year.

Mr. Koonz said this area had been looked at for a golf course before, and the people didn't want that at the time. He is also opposed to the county creating a park to draw more people.

Mrs. Dickey agreed with Mrs. Stone that we need to look more at this issue, and Mr. Miller agreed.

Mr. Bratty said that tourism and trucks already tie up the center of town. If the county wants to increase tourism, Hope is at the center, and all the activities add to troubles for the town. As the county grows over 20 to 30 years, traffic will increase on Rt. 519 and coming off Rt. 80. This traffic will increase the damage to the old, historic buildings. We may need to look at a by-pass around the town. It may also be necessary to put weight restrictions on the bridges.

Mrs. Dickey recognized the amount of trucks coming through town. She is trying to get a connection between Rt. 78 and Rt. 80 to relieve commuter traffic.

Mr. Hicks said there is a need to update the traffic plans. New roads are always difficult to build, as there are wetlands, streams, developed properties, etc. The local planning board should be giving the county advice.

Mr. Koonz indicated they are updating the master plan. Before, no by-pass was shown on the map, and we need to put one on. He questioned disallowing trucks in town.

Mr. Hicks responded that would be tough to do. County roads are connections between township and state roads. If alternate routes are available, trucks could be banned, but the reason for county roads is to serve to connect other roadways.

Mr. Miller stated we needed to watch setting weight limits, as that would include busses.

A resident voiced objection to truck traffic out of the town center as well. There are other things in the county which affect the residents. Why do big garbage trucks need to come through this neighborhood?

The Mayor said that 99% of the garbage trucks through town are from other counties, and are on their way to Pennsylvania, not going to the county EFR plant. He also followed two trucks from Passaic County going to the sludge facility in Harmony Township. That traffic will be increasing.

Mr. Koonz thought we needed to solve the problem. Truckers like Rt. 519 because its smooth and fast.

Mr. Miller explained that the trucks that the residents see are going to the sludge

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facility. A resident asked if the county could control the routes these trucks use. Some sludge trucks are open trailers with canvas covers, and the smell is very bad.

Mrs. Dickey will be doing planning board seminars. This seminar will show how good planning will help to preserve the natural resources.

The Mayor thanked the freeholders for holding the meeting in Hope, and said that holding these meetings in the municipalities was a great idea. He also stated that Mr. Miers and Mr. Hicks have been very helpful to the town, and he thought they were a credit to the county.

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Miller, **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A WORK PLACE HARASSMENT POLICY FOR WARREN COUNTY EMPLOYEES.**

However, after some discussion, the members reported that they had not received the policy. Therefore, the item was tabled for the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 606-95

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Miller, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held October 4, 1995.

**RESOLUTION CREATING THE POSITION OF CLERK TYPIST,
CLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING THE POSITION OF WORD PROCESSOR,
CLASSIFIED, IN THE FREEHOLDER DEPARTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders that the position of Clerk Typist, classified, is created in the Freeholders Department to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the position of Word Processor, classified, be abolished; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders that the position of Clerk Typist be established on Range 2 and take effect on October 5, 1995.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren on the date above mentioned.

s/Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk

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

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Miller, and there being no further official business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

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

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk