

**MINUTES****December 6, 1995**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session on Wednesday, December 6, 1995, at the Washington Borough Municipal Building, 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Director Dickey at 7:13 PM. Upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Susan Dickey and Freeholder Kenneth Miller. Freeholder Stone was absent.

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

Director Dickey read the following announcement: "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 indicated that there were two items listed on the agenda. The first involved the issue of the fire tower. As one of the county's staff involved with the fire school would be late in arriving, Mrs. Dickey moved to the other item, which was recycling.

Borough Manager Alan Fisher asked where the county is going on moving the recycling center to the landfill area.

Dinah Rush, Recycling Coordinator for PCFA, stated that SWAC is looking at new ways to recycle. They are reviewing information from other counties. In Warren County, some townships have been running their own centers, and others use private haulers, and still others use the county system. They are looking at districts. The problem is that we have so many different ways of doing recycling. It is hard to please everyone.

Mr. Miller said that 30,000 tons were recycled in 1994, 800 tons were done at the county facility. He said that maybe the entire amount should be privatized.

Dave McNulty stated that he volunteered his services for doing ads to encourage recycling in the county. He thinks the PCFA and county have not done enough to encourage recycling. He claimed that Mr. McDonough said there was \$1.2 million to construct a center, but they are waiting to see what happens on the issue of waste flow control. He does not see what flow control has to do with the matter.

Mr. Miller replied that PCFA is charged with the responsibility to address solid waste, and was given the task of recycling. There was an early move to private haulers. The county has an "eager beaver" trailer for loan to the municipalities. The money for a center was bonded, but they are waiting for the court and legislation. Haulers can charge \$114 per ton for collection, but can recycle and avoid the tipping fees. If control goes out, recycling will go down. Haulers will not want to recycle as there will be no cost avoidance.

Mr. McNulty asked why PCFA didn't control recycling.

Mr. Miller responded that the statute does not mandate flow control on recycling items as it does with garbage.

**MINUTES****December 6, 1995**

Mrs. Rush explained the various outreach and education on recycling. Mr. Miller indicated that the PCFA issued quarterly newsletters, and they contained at least one page on recycling.

Mr. McNulty said that there are many other areas that could serve as models for recycling, such as Morris County.

George Thompson, Borough Councilman, said the carters in the Borough pick up the recycling, but they don't pick up everything. For example, they don't take tires. The Borough pays, and to pick up everything would be cost prohibitive. Is there anything being done in those areas?

Mrs. Rush explained the Clean Communities Program. To Mr. McNulty, she said the goal for recycling was 60%, and most counties are around 40%. Some of the lack is due to poor reporting. She believes Warren County is at 40%. The mini-incinerator and landfill projects help students understand the concepts and operations.

A citizen said this is a matter of the teacher saying do as I teach, not as I do.

The citizen said that what you are doing is propaganda to ensure the future of incineration.

Mrs. Rush responded that they teach about wildlife and crops and how to keep them here in the county. We track reduction and repair things, not replace.

Mrs. Dickey stated that there had been a suggestion at the PCFA meeting that the next freeholder meeting time be changed from 9:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the members approved changing the meeting time of the December 13, 1995 Board of Chosen Freeholder meeting to 7:00 P.M.

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

The topic of the fire school was brought up by the Washington Borough Fire Chief. He asked what the freeholders thought is the future of the school. Mrs. Dickey responded that the school is important. Volunteers need the support and assistance of the board.

The chief said the budget is only \$12,700. Other counties commit much more funding to their schools. Warren doesn't support the fire school. Many companies are pinched for day time coverage. There is a need to run the school in the daytime as well as at night. Mrs. Dickey asked what the cost for Fire Fighter 1 was, and there was no immediate answer available.

It was stated that there was supposed to be a fund transfer. The chief said the Borough put out \$5,000 for close quarter fire training. If this were offered in the county, it could be run every two years for some members from each town. Training could be more cost effective if done on a county basis.

Mrs. Dickey asked Robert DeGraff, Public Safety Director, if a budget could be developed and brought to the board for discussion. Mr. DeGraff said he would sit down with the fire school directors.

Mr. Miller asked Counsel Wallace if it was permissible to raise the amount the board can put into the school. Mr. Wallace had not done the research yet.

**MINUTES****December 6, 1995**

There were several fire fighters who indicated that they felt the statute had been misread. Alan Grogan said he taught at both the Warren and Hunterdon schools, and there is a big difference. Dave Higgins asked about the dollar limit. Mr. Miller said prior county counsels had indicated that the law limited the amount the board could commit to \$10,000.

Mr. Higgins cited N.J.S.A. 40:23-8.9 and 40:14-32. There were other statements that the county could provide more. However, Mr. Miller said he was desirous of providing more funds, but counsel has consistently said it was not within the confines of the law.

Chief D'Orio of Washington Township said Mr. Miller was not considered a friend of the fire companies. Mr. Miller responded that he would be happy to support the companies so long as he is able to do so.

There were additional sites of 40:23-6.45 and 40:23-6.46.

Pat Rivoli, a director of the school, said they got the fire proofing done at the tower, and there is money left in the account. They are looking at fixing the egress, but no one has the expertise to put this into effect. The board has had much turnover. With regard to the fire escape, the director dropped the ball. Mr. Miller said they should be using the county engineer for the design.

The Washington Council asked if we can get the issue resolved, what is the potential to get all courses back in? Mrs. Dickey asked what would be the cost. The response was they didn't know, but could develop.

Mrs. Dickey said she thought the board could increase the allocation, but could not guarantee a total. Mr. Rivoli said that last year they did this and \$17,000 was agreed upon, but it didn't happen. Mrs. Dickey voiced the opinion that the amount would be looked at, but it might be too late for 1995, and the board would need to look at 1996.

Mr. DeGraff suggested that the fire chiefs get to the fire directors and get the budget sent to Mr. DeGraff by the following week, so that it can be submitted to the Treasurer. The budget should come from the directors.

A citizen asked if the board used AD Hoc committees to help with the budget. Mrs. Dickey referred to the Budget Advisory Committee, which thus far has not met.

A Ms. Quigley said it was strange that Mr. Miller could have a big budget as a member on the PCFA but couldn't find money for the fire departments. Mr. Miller said these are two distinct bodies.

A citizen referred to the county directory. He asked about contractual agreements in the budget under N.J.S.A. 40:13-2. Mr. Dinger explained how many human and mental health services are contracted out to private non-profit agencies to deliver.

A Mr. Crane from Washington Borough asked if there were any plans to expand Route 31 in the county. Also, he asked about the results of a questionnaire that had been sent out, and if there was any key issue raised.

Mr. Dinger responded that the one issue that stood out in the questionnaire responses was that if something had to be done to balance the county budget, rather than raise taxes or borrow money, services should be reduced.

**MINUTES****December 6, 1995**

Mrs. Dickey said there are no plans to expand Route 31. The state does not look at traffic at peak hours. Route 31 went from a local to an interstate highway, as it links interstates. She is trying to get the interstate traffic off of Route 31.

Mr. Miller noted the county does not have jurisdiction over Route 31. Mrs. Dickey sits on a board with more weight on that issue than the freeholder board.

Mrs. Dickey wanted to discuss actions of the PCFA. Mr. Miller stated he thought that would be unfair as the PCFA was told not to attend the meeting this evening. Mr. Wallace said he called Mr. Broschius and Mr. Carhart at the PCFA meeting. They were authorized to discuss possibly finding a middle ground on the ash issue to avoid a potential dispute.

Mrs. Dickey felt it was important for Mr. Miller and the public to know that the board is working on this matter, trying to resolve whether or not ash-phalt will come back into the county.

A citizen asked what right the board had to force a toxic product on other counties. It was requested that the board stop the use everywhere, urging a stop to the entire project.

Mrs. Dickey said the board had urged a stop to the project since 1993. She is trying to determine if the board can force PCFA to do or not do something. The answer has not yet been determined.

A citizen indicated a group would be filing suit on the project. They want public hearings on mixing ash with garbage and want the PCFA to hold night meetings. They also intend to pursue a shut down of the incinerator.

A Morris County resident said five municipalities in the county have passed resolutions opposed to the project.

Mrs. Dickey responded that the first resolution opposed the project on Route 80. The second specifically prohibits use on any county roads.

The citizen said Mr. Miller voted for the board's resolution, then voted differently at the PCFA for the use of ash.

Mr. Miller said the freeholders decided they did not want the project in the county. PCFA agreed to that request, but agreed to ash being tested elsewhere. The state has approved the ash.

The citizen said the DEP doesn't protect the environment, it protects industry. She has offered a debate by scientists versus the DEP and PCFA.

Mr. Miller said such a challenge would need to be brought to the PCFA.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:10 PM.

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

**ATTESTED TO:**

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk