

MINUTES**March 20, 1996**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session in its offices in the Administration Building, Belvidere, NJ on Wednesday, March 20, 1996 at 7:20 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Susan Dickey and 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".

There were no minutes submitted for approval.

PROCLAMATION 148-96

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mr. Miller, the following proclamation was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 20, 1996.

PROCLAMATION - SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH - APRIL 27, 1996

WHEREAS, alcohol and substance abuse are a concern to communities throughout Warren County and alcohol and substance abuse related problems impact the quality of life in the home, school and workplace; and

WHEREAS, alcoholism and substance abuse are linked to domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, divorce, suicide and crime and the cost to the County of Warren is enormous and the human suffering incalculable; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and substance abuse related auto accidents are a primary cause of death and injury, costing the United States in excess of \$25 billion a year and drunk driver accidents are the single leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds and 130,000 teenagers are injured annually in alcohol or substance abuse related highway accidents; and

WHEREAS, health and social problems arising from alcohol and substance abuse can be prevented through education and adoption of healthy attitudes and lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, responsibility rests with both public and private sectors for assuring reductions of alcohol and substance abuse related problems and for providing persons with alcoholism and substance abuse and their families access to treatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren does hereby proclaim the month of **APRIL** as **SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**.

Susan A. Dickey, Director
Board of Chosen Freeholders

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a proclamation 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

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Pam Stewart and Karen McQuade accepted the proclamation.

Under public comments, Anna Maria Caldara spoke to the board regarding a report on a conference she attended regarding toxins, pollutants, etc. She accused Mr. Miller of being underhanded and of accepting campaign monies from incinerator related firms.

Freeholder Dickey interrupted the public comment portion to open the public hearing on the second reading of an Interlocal Service Agreement for a transportation study at 7:32 p.m.

Dave Dech, WC Planning Director, gave a brief summary of the transportation system and the study.

Director Dickey closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

RESOLUTION 149-96

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 20, 1996.

RESOLUTION APPROVING INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, THE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR PARTICIPATION IN A NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY SECTION 8 STUDIES GRANT ENTITLED "NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY-NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA PASSENGER RAIL STUDY" AND AUTHORIZING THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1991 declares it national policy to encourage and promote the development of transportation systems embracing various modes of transport in a manner that will serve the States and local communities efficiently and effectively; and

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (hereinafter the "NJTPA"), the federally mandated and state designated metropolitan planning organization for the northern New Jersey region and the Federal Transit Administration has approved a Section 8 studies grant in the amount \$300,000.00 to the counties of Morris, Sussex, and Warren for a study entitled the "Northwest New Jersey-Northeast Pennsylvania Passenger Rail Study"; and

WHEREAS, the counties of Morris, Sussex, and Warren have determined it to be in the best interests of their residents and jurisdictions to proceed without delay to enter into a contract with the NJTPA for the "Northwest New Jersey-Northeast Pennsylvania Passenger Rail Study" and to jointly select and hire a transportation consultant to perform the study with active participation by the sponsoring counties; and

WHEREAS, prior to the contracting with the NJTPA for the Section 8 funds an interlocal agreement must be executed between Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren as follows:

1. The Interlocal Service Agreement by and between the County of Warren, the County of Morris and the County of Sussex, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference, providing for the participation of the counties in a North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Section 8 studies grant entitled "Northwest New

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Jersey-Northeast Pennsylvania Passenger Rail Study", as set forth in said Agreement, is hereby approved.

2. The Freeholder Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Agreement on behalf of the County of Warren.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be published, together with a notice of the date, time and place fixed for consideration of its final adoption, and notification of the place at which copies of the proposed contract are available for public inspection and the times at which such inspection is permitted, in The Star Gazette as provided by law.

First reading and introduction	February 28, 1996
Publish, <u>The Star Gazette</u>	March 7, 1996
Second Reading, public hearing and final adoption	March 20, 1996

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

Public comments resumed at approximately 7:41 p.m.

Delia Quigley asked that Frank Leary and Jack Joyce be removed from the PCFA. Experts in the field should be serving on PCFA.

Mrs. Dickey remarked that she takes their recommendations very seriously and she would consider appointing a medical expert to the PCFA.

Margo Rinehart of Morris County said that the incinerator and the PCFA need to be shut down. The Ogden Martin pamphlet is full of lies.

Similar comments were made by Jill Lockwood Mausser, Anna Maria Caldara and Delia Quigley. An article from Newsweek was presented to the board allegedly supporting their views.

Several comments were made to Mr. Miller alluding to improprieties in his acceptance of campaign monies and he cautioned them to be careful of any charges being made against him. He does not feel anything dishonest was done in his campaign.

Regarding the closing of the incinerator, Mrs. Dickey said that the legal process is to pay off the debt before the incinerator can be closed.

Ms. Quigley said the board needs to look at alternatives, we should go into debt to pay this debt off.

Mrs. Stone said that their conception of recycling is not correct. We have come a long way. This didn't happen overnight and can't be corrected overnight. They should work with Dinah Rush to educate the little children involved in recycling. Their information is misleading. Margo Rinehart said that Dinah Rush knows nothing about recycling.

The public comment portion ended at 8:37 p.m.

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RESOLUTION 150-96

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 20, 1996.

RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING A PAYROLL DIRECT DEPOSIT PROGRAM FOR WARREN COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE ON-SITE EMPLOYEE BANKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND UNITED NATIONAL BANK

WHEREAS, the County of Warren has decided to implement a payroll direct deposit program for its employees; and

WHEREAS, in order to effectuate this program, an on-site employee banking agreement must be executed by the freeholder director, the chief financial officer and an officer of United National Bank;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the director of the board is hereby authorized to executed the on-site employee banking agreement.

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

RESOLUTION 151-96

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 20, 1996.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CENSUS BUREAU PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF FARMS

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau presently defines a farm as "any place from which \$1,000.00 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Commerce's Bureau of Census is planning to reduce 1997 Census of Agriculture coverage due to budget constraints by raising the annual sales requirement to \$10,000.00 for consideration as a farm; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that the budgets of land-grant institutions would be directly impacted and agricultural enterprises not officially recognized as farms under the proposed Census Bureau definition may be ineligible for many USDA programs; and

WHEREAS, the scope and magnitude of the impacts of a revision in the definition of a farm are unknown and this cut is being planned without information on the economic, social and political effects; and

WHEREAS, this definition change would reduce the number of farms in the United States by about 49% and the number of farms in New Jersey by 60%;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren, a county with over 83,000 acres in agriculture, supports the transfer of the functions of the agricultural census from the U.S. Department of Commerce to the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as advocates of farmland preservation and in support of small farming operations, Warren County opposes the change in definition of a farm from

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\$1,000.00 to \$10,000.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Congresswoman Marge Roukema, Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Senator William Schluter, Assemblyman Leonard Lance, Assemblywoman Connie Meyers, Art Brown, NJ Secretary of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and Burlington, Cumberland, Hunterdon, Salem, Sussex, Morris, Somerset, Monmouth, Mercer, Gloucester and Atlantic Counties.

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

County Counsel had nothing to report in open session.

County Engineer was not present.

County Planner David Dech gave a brief report of his meeting with Senator Schluter.

County CFO Pete Houck reported to the board on the GAAP based financial reporting system. We have received the report from DCA and must notify them of our decision by April 5th. Mr. Houck offered to explain the current accounting system and the proposed system to the freeholders if they care to meet with him.

Mr. Miller feels the county should take advantage of using their money if we can.

Pete said that he attended the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting last night and there were four members present. The next scheduled meeting is for April 16th. The committee has asked for a mission statement from the freeholder board.

Mr. Dinger said that just a word of caution, government budgeting is entirely different from private budgeting.

Mr. Dinger had nothing to report.

Under freeholder comments, Mr. Miller had no comments at this time.

Mrs. Stone mentioned that we need to get the positions filled on the Trustee Search Committee. There are three to be filled.

Mrs. Dickey said that she attended the meeting in Morris County regarding the regionalized detention center concept. No consensus was reached. Freeholder O'Brien would like to come and talk to the board and make a short presentation on the issue.

Mrs. Stone is still not in favor of a regionalized detention center.

Mrs. Dickey said she has been approached with a request for the county to consider adopting a policy to allow EMS volunteers to answer emergency calls on county time without loss of pay.

After some discussion, it was decided that this is a negotiable issue and also would create many complications in the workforce.

There were no closing comments.

There were no press comments or questions.

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RESOLUTION 152-96

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 20, 1996.

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Master Voucher Certificate for Certification for Payment No. 96-7 dated March 20, 1996 in the amount of \$1,177,667.93 including bills and investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

96-7	245,601.14
Payroll 3/14	<u>932,066.79</u>
TOTAL	\$1,177,667.93

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

RESOLUTION 153-96

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 20, 1996.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MARCH 20, 1996. THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDES VARIOUS PERSONNEL MATTERS; CONTRACTS; LITIGATION; LAND ACQUISITION; ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE ABOVE STATED SUBJECT MATTER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AT SUCH TIME AS THE PUBLIC INTEREST PERMITS DISCLOSURE AND/OR WHEN A REQUEST IS MADE CONSISTENT WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT AND WITH STATUTORY AND COMMON LAW "RIGHT TO KNOW" PROVISIONS

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren in the State of New Jersey, pursuant to Section 8 of said act, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is:

1. Various personnel matters.
2. Contracts.
3. Litigation.
4. Land acquisition.
5. Attorney/client privileged communications.

3. It is anticipated that the above stated subject matter will be made public at such time as the public interest permits disclosure and/or when a request for disclosure is made consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act and with statutory and common law "right to

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know" provisions.

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Director Dickey called for a five minute recess at 9:06 p.m.

The board went into executive session at 9:30 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 10:12 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, effective immediately, the board will eliminate all electronic taping of all freeholder meetings.

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

County counsel said that the subjects discussed in executive session have not lost their confidentiality.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk