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The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session on Wednesday, June 5, 1996 at the Phillipsburg Municipal Building, 675 Corliss Ave., Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

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".

Mrs. Dickey thanked Phillipsburg for hosting this traveling meeting. Mayor Corcoran welcomed the freeholders and expressed appreciation for the visit.

Mike Hession, County Transportation Coordinator made a brief presentation on the coordinated transportation system operated by the county. Mr. Hession is appearing at the traveling meetings to get the information out to local officials and the public regarding the current status of the program, and future plans for improvement.

In response to a question from the mayor, it was noted that riders are requested to call two days in advance, or they can call up to one month in advance. Councilman Cassar asked if there was a computer study of cost effective routing. A consultant is to look at the software, but there is not enough capability right now to do a study. This will be pursued, and the department is attempting to get information on the start and end point of routes.

Regarding the discussion on the library, Mayor Corcoran asked when the start date for digging the foundation was to be. Mr. Miller responded that it would be as soon as the cost comes to a reasonable amount. Councilman Jiorle stated it was not their cost, but the estimates of the architect. Mr. Cassar said the cost includes moving and storing books, and other expenses not directly connected to construction, but that they are just as necessary.

Mrs. Dickey said the discussion has not come back to the board until now. The freeholders put Mayor Corcoran on the County Library Commission to establish a connection between the two facilities. Mrs. Stone is the liaison to the group. She indicated that the issue should be coming up at the commission soon, to begin a dialogue.

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Mr. Cassar said the longer it takes, the more the cost increases. Maybe soon, we won't be able to afford it. He asked what is the projection for movement.

Mrs. Stone said the meeting is only to open a dialogue, not to make a decision. The federation agreement needs to be worked on before any expansion.

Mr. Cassar responded the he still hasn't heard from any freeholder on their commitment. There is a genuine need for this project. There will be more growth in the southern end of the county. In two or three meetings, this could be finished.

Mrs. Stone said she is willing to do this, but someone needs to set up the meeting. Mrs. Dickey agreed with Mrs. Stone. With Mayor Corcoran on the commission, it should be possible to set up a meeting on the issues between the freeholders and council.

Mr. Corcoran stated the library is used heavily, the parking lot is often full. Phillipsburg may have to spend some money on this project to see it become reality. Mr. Miller indicated that maybe the board of freeholders should talk to the architect, that the board may need to direct the architect. He suggested the freeholders contact the architect and try to establish a meeting.

Mr. Jiorle said it looked like the project had a lot of fat in the budget, with a 30% contingency amount. Mr. Miller indicated to Mr. Cassar that he always felt the building needed to be done, that the freeholders needed to honor the commitment.

Mayor Corcoran asked that if the meeting moves on, would it be possible to get money in next year's budget? The board indicated that might be possible.

With regard to the feasibility of the Warren County Health Department and/or other county offices being located in Phillipsburg, Mr. Cassar voiced that half of the health department calls, half of the transportation and half of the welfare caseload are in Phillipsburg. Maybe the county should consider locating some offices in town.

At the request of Director Dickey, Mr. Dinger briefly outlined the present office space of the welfare department, its relationships with other county offices, the difficulties which would need to be addressed in any move and other related items.

Mr. Cassar stated he believed the county should have a stronger commitment to the town. Mrs. Stone said the health department has a presence in Phillipsburg. Mr. Hession stated that about 24% of the transportation trips are for trips to social service agencies in the county, not exclusive to welfare.

Mrs. Dickey said the county has a presence in town already. Mr. Cassar said the location of the offices doesn't have to be in the municipal building, it could be anywhere in Phillipsburg. It should not be so much of a money decision, but a political decision to have a presence.

Former council member Crozier said she thought the county should explore a

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system whereby Phillipsburg residents could call county offices toll free.

A citizen said there is poor signage on Route 22 at Route 519 South and North. Mr. Miller said it would be necessary to have the county engineer talk to the state about those problems. Mrs. Stone said she would talk to Mr. Hicks.

Mrs. Crozier spoke on behalf of the senior center. She wants the freeholders to consider a move of the nutrition site to the center. Mrs. Stone will discuss this with the nutrition people.

Under the county administrator's report, three hiring requests were submitted:

- a. Sergeant - Correctional Center
- b. Telecommunicator (Part-Time) - Public Safety
- c. Bldg. Maint. Worker - Buildings and Grounds

These positions were recommended to be filled. There were no objections from the freeholders.

There was no schedule of bills to be paid.

RESOLUTION 329-96

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 June 5, 1996.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON JUNE 5, 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.

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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 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

A recess was taken at 8:25 p.m. and the board returned and went into executive session at 8:45 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the meeting returned to open session at 9:10 p.m.

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

Mr. Dinger updated the board on efforts to correct situations involving the changeover to CIGNA for medical coverage. Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Dickey had not received new cards, and it was discovered they needed to complete the new enrollment sheets.

On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk