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The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session on Wednesday, July 3, 1996 at the Allamuchy Township Municipal Building, 292 Alphano Road, Allamuchy, 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".

The Allamuchy Council also opened a public meeting. Mayor Gavin welcomed the freeholders to the meeting, and stated he believed it was a good idea for the Board to travel to each municipality.

Mrs. Dickey thanked Allamuchy for hosting this traveling meeting.

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.

There were several questions about eligibility and transportation to get to work. Additionally, a question was raised about integration with Hackettstown's bus route. Mrs. Dickey reported that there had been a meeting last week at the Pequest Fish Hatchery regarding how municipalities might meet the COAH rules. Planning Director Dech handed out a report from that meeting indicating the mission statement of the Rural Policy Task Force. Barbara Wolf, a former township mayor and a member of COAH began the group in Hunterdon County to try to devise alternatives to the "builder's remedy" for compliance.

Mayor Gavin said the COAH requirements applied to Allamuchy before the area of the township subject to building gets done, the municipality may be required to produce housing from its own budget.

David Dech said the Hunterdon County task force is reaching out to Warren, and looking to Sussex to join soon.

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Mrs. Dickey stated she is trying to get state acceptance that can address the need on a regional or countywide basis, rather than on each municipality.

Mayor Gavin asked if Trenton listens. Cross acceptance was a public relations farce.

Mr. Dech said Trenton would probably listen as Wolf is on the COAH, and Senator Schluter and Assemblywoman Meyers are on the board, etc.

Mr. Miller said the numbers required change each 6 years. Once you comply, then they give you more responsibilities. He doesn't think the situation will change.

Mr. Gavin reported having a history of developer problems in the township.

Mr. Dech said the involvement must come from the municipalities, as they are the ones who get forced into compliance. The county can aid as a coordinator.

Mr. Gavin indicated that when it gets to administering the COAH regulations, the municipality is too small to be able to do it. He asked if there was a possibility of the county providing coordination for municipalities.

Mr. Dech responded that a non-profit corporation may be available for municipalities to contract with, although it would cost the towns some money.

Mr. Miller indicated that the League of Municipalities, which Allamuchy does not attend, is a good place for the municipality to discuss common concerns and problems.

Assistant County Engineer Jim Bernaski reported that a letter in April asked for some investigation, and this project is coming up to the top of the list now for study. Engineering needs traffic counts at peak hours. He asked what the township wants to see. All improvements for Panther Valley have been on Route 517, and the county is trying to keep the other road rural but safe. Many from Panther Valley use it to go to Hackettstown.

Mayor Gavin mentioned the site distance is short by the Shell station, and when someone is turning left, some others either rear-end the car or drive off the side of the road to miss the stopped vehicle.

Mr. Bernaski responded that if we put a left turn lane in and widen the road, that would encourage more use of the road instead of using the main entrance to Panther Valley. The Mayor said there was some proposal on having a traffic signal installed at Panther Valley. The response was that Panther Valley had wanted a traffic signal. The county would not provide or maintain this as it is a private road.

A citizen said a committee at Panther Valley is trying to get a light installed. Just because Bald Eagle Road is private, does this mean that a light is not possible? They are looking to make a two lane road parallel to Rt. 517, and need to know how to get a light.

Mr. Bernaski said it would need DOT approval, and would need to show the volume and usage at peak hours. The county would not be opposed to a light but as this is a private road, it would be the responsibility of Panther Valley to install, and pay for the

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electric to operate it.

Mr. Miller said that maybe \$30,000 would be needed to determine the need, and then about \$75,000 to install.

The Mayor said that also the curb can't be seen at night, and maybe some chevrons might help.

Council member Mike Sloane said the intersection off Rt. 80 and Rt. 517 could maybe look at this area, that it is dangerous, and would require state involvement.

Mr. Bernaski reported that state aid of \$150,000 for this year for improvements. However, there is a need to deal with problems in the right of way. One property at least has a rock knob, that would disrupt a septic system. One option may be a deal with Pryslak on the other side, or move the barn or tear it down. We want to do a study to get the best solution for the money spent. It might involve moving the road or moving the intersection. All solutions involve dealing with property owners for the right of way. If we don't get construction done, we may at least get easements, etc. Mr. Sloane said maybe we could install a sign that says "dangerous curve ahead".

The Town Clerk said there is lots of traffic in April, May and June to the various greenhouses, and when Rt. 517 is tied up.

Mrs. Dickey asked if the speed can be reduced and more patrols used.

Mr. Gavin said that maybe additional signing is possible.

A citizen said many trucks and commuters use the road. There is Wicki Stone, Southland corporation demolition, Kasper/Rogers, Pryslak, etc. Would like to see something done before someone gets hurt or killed.

Mr. Miller responded that he had made visits to the farm in years past, and this is a tough problem to resolve. If the house could be removed, this would become easier to solve.

A citizen said that at Ridge Road and Rt. 517, 517 permits passing both north and south of the intersection with Ridge Road. With more housing, there should not be passing allowed. Same problem on Rt. 613 and near Eagle Drive at Panther Valley, there should be no passing allowed.

Mr. Bernaski said that passing zones are set by site distances rather than intersections. It would tend to eliminate most zones if you took out any areas near intersections. The county will look at this area, but can't say it will be changed.

Mayor Gavin asked about the possibility of the township obtaining some of the open space funds. Mr. Dech distributed some information. The township is included in one of the six zones that have been established around the county. The groups have not

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yet met to determine what townships will be initially represented on the committee. Mr. Dech said that 25% of the fund is for municipalities and trusts, and this committee will make recommendations to the freeholders on funding of projects.

Mr. Gavin asked if there is a time frame for actually getting the land. Mr. Dech responded that some money is committed to farmland, recreation, etc. The committee is to decide how the money is to be distributed among the various zones. The freeholders will make the final decision on allocation.

Mr. Gavin mentioned the county traffic circulation plan, and its reference to the by-pass off Johnsonburg Road to Rt. 517. If there are plans for infrastructure changes, now is the time before the land goes into farmland preservation. The township would like to take as much traffic out of the town center as possible, maybe by making one way traffic, etc.

Mr. Bernaski said we need to know the plans for the area before we plan any road changes.

Councilman Sloane mentioned the need to make some decisions soon, or they may find out you want to put a road through the middle of a football field.

Mr. Bernaski said proposed work in the village of Allamuchy is set to begin in about two weeks. The contractor is supposed to be finished by Labor Day. It will be a problem all summer. Traffic through the village will be maintained. The county had written to the town about the right of way for sidewalks. Some owners don't want sidewalks that they would have to maintain. County Counsel has informed the Engineer that we need a township ordinance on who will be required to maintain sidewalks. The county is also repairing the bridge near Morris County, which should be completed in September.

The Mayor thanked the freeholders again for coming to the locality.

Mrs. Stone asked the other freeholders if there were any objections to the American Cancer Society holding its annual "Jail and Bail" on the Court House steps on July 9. Two phones from the Election Board offices will be used. On motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stone, permission was granted for the Cancer Society to hold its fund raiser at the court house and the use of two telephones on July 9, 1996.
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 at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.