

MINUTES**November 6, 1996**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session on Wednesday, November 6, 1996, at the Alpha Volunteer Fire Company Building, 1109 Lee Avenue, Alpha, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Director Dickey at 7:10 p.m. Upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Susan Dickey and Freeholder Ann Stone. Freeholder Kenneth Miller was on vacation and unable to attend.

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"

Michael Hession, Transportation Coordinator for the county, made a presentation on the county's coordinated transportation program. Mr. Hession outlined the present policies and indicated some of the ongoing initiatives being explored to expand and improve services. The county is advertising services through monthly meetings, the Office on Aging and its Warren Crier. They are considering the development of a video.

The agenda reflected a discussion of Fire DPW/Radio Frequencies as the result of a proposed frequency swap between the Communications Center and Alpha. The letter from Mr. Rivoli had arrived at the Freeholder office with little lead time. Mr. Dinger stated that he had made an attempt to contact Mr. Rivoli but had been unable to make contact, and Mr. Rivoli was unable to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Stone asked if Alpha Council had taken any action with regard to this matter. Mayor Fey indicated they had not, but might take it up at their meeting next week. Whatever the outcome, they will forward the result to the Freeholders. It was suggested that the appropriate method of accomplishing this trade would be to have county counsel draft an agreement between the entities, and send a copy to Alpha for approval.

Regarding the traffic light at Rt. 519 and High Street, Mayor Fey said they have brought this item up before, and the traffic is getting worse at this intersection. In the morning and afternoon rush hours, there are long waits to get out onto Route 519. Alpha is asking the Freeholders to help get approval for a traffic light. They want the county engineer to look at the situation and report back.

Mrs. Stone said that Alpha should be aware that the state is involved in approving of lights, and this intersection hasn't yet met the criteria for a light. Mayor Fey asked what has to happen before the state will approve? He doesn't want to see someone killed before a light is installed. Mrs. Stone said she would discuss their concerns at the public works meeting set for tomorrow. Mr. Fey stated that further development in the area will increase traffic.

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A citizen said there is also a lot of traffic on side streets, and a light would allow people to get onto the roadway more quickly. Another citizen said he has lived in town many years, and this is the worst he has ever seen the traffic.

Regarding the issue of courtesy busing, the town would like sidewalks and curbing extended past Alpha Lumber. There is a need for these, particularly if busing ends next year. Mr. Dinger indicated that the county engineer has stated previously that sidewalks are considered a municipal responsibility, not the county's.

With reference to the extended traffic on Rt. 519 and Springtown Road, this conversation was covered by extension with the discussion of High Street.

With regard to the triangle of land at Rt. 519 and Springtown Rd., there is a triangle area on Route 519 and Springtown Road. The question was asked about where the property line is. The owner nearby is encroaching with vehicles. Mrs. Stone said she would talk with Mr. Hicks about this issue.

About the direction of traffic on Springtown Road, a citizen asked what is the direction, one or two ways? If it is two-way, he would like to see it become a two-way area, in a southerly direction.

Regarding shared services (road equipment, health benefits, etc.), Mrs. Dickey said she asked Mr. Coyle, Personnel Director, to send a questionnaire on what is desired. As for the sharing of equipment, the county does not have a policy, but may take a look at it in the new year.

Mrs. Dickey opened the meeting to any other items for discussion. Mr. Thomas Shore asked about the emergency resolution regarding the security system in the Court House. He represents an alarm company, and sent a letter stating that he believes the freeholders have erred in not bidding the project as no bona fide emergency exists. He asked what action is being taken, and if not, when will it be taken.

Mrs. Dickey replied that his letter will be sent to county counsel for information. The first opportunity to discuss this will be at the next freeholder meeting next Wednesday. Mr. Shore said he believes it is improper to proceed with any work. He asked the freeholders to suspend any action until the situation is clarified.

Mr. Dinger said he would talk with Mr. Wallace tomorrow, but unless county counsel so stated, no suspension of action on the contract appeared warranted.

RESOLUTION 625-96

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held November 6, 1996.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION OF PERMANENTLY
PRESERVED FARMLAND OWNED BY JAMES C. GIBBS, JR.,**

BLOCK 105, LOT 8 AND BLOCK 201, LOT 42, ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, by deed recorded December 22, 1993 and pursuant to the Agricultural Retention and Development Act, N.J.S.A. 4:1C-11, et seq. (the act), Warren County

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acquired from James C. Gibbs, Jr. a development easement on property he owns in Allamuchy Township designated as Block 105, Lots 8 and 12; Block 106, Lot 8; Block 201, Lot 42; Block 202, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 5; and Block 203, Lot 1; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gibbs now wishes to sell a portion of his farm, known as "Farm #3", comprised of Block 105, Lot 8 and Block 201, Lot 42, to a third party who intends to maintain agricultural use of the properties; and

WHEREAS, in order for such sale to be accomplished under the act Mr. Gibbs has applied to the state for a division of his permanently preserved farmland, has obtained approval from the Warren County Agriculture Development Board by resolution adopted September 9, 1996, and now needs formal authorization from the county freeholder board,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby authorizes the aforesaid division of permanently preserved farmland owned by James C. Gibbs, Jr.

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: absent Mrs. Stone: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes

RESOLUTION 626-96

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held November 6, 1996.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A REVISED GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A DEVELOPMENT EASEMENT FROM THE ESTATE OF ANNA SEMANCHIK, BLOCK 202, LOT 6, ALLAMUCHY TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, in 1995 the freeholder board authorized the purchase of a development easement from the Estate of Anna Semanchik, Block 202, Lot 6, Allamuchy Township; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Department of Agriculture, State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) promulgated regulations which require the county to execute a grant agreement prior to the receipt of SADC funds subsidizing the purchase of development easements; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 1996 the freeholder board enacted a resolution authorizing the freeholder director to execute such grant agreement, but subsequent to enactment the SADC entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. government in which federal funds will also be used for the easement purchase; and

WHEREAS, a revised grant agreement between the SADC and county is required which incorporates federal cost-share participation; and

WHEREAS, the revised grant agreement and attachments have been reviewed by special county counsel and approved as to form and substance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren that the freeholder director be and hereby is authorized to execute the attached revised agreement for SADC funds to be used in connection with the purchase of

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a development easement from the Estate of Anna Semanchik, Block 202, Lot 6, Allamuchy Township.

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: absent Mrs. Stone: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes

Mrs. Dickey expressed the freeholders' appreciation to Alpha for hosting the traveling meeting, and stated the board would try to resolve the issues raised. Mayor Fey expressed the town's thanks to the freeholders for coming to Alpha, and extended an invitation for the board to visit when the new municipal building is completed.

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk