

**MINUTES****January 15, 1997**

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, January 15, 1997 at 7:10 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Ann Stone and upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Ann Stone and Freeholder Susan Dickey. Freeholder Stephen Lance arrived at 7:28 p.m.

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

Director Stone 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".

A video was shown by Shawn Buskirk, County Substance Abuse Coordinator on the municipal alliances and their work. Terry Clancy, Municipal Alliance Coordinator was also present.

**RESOLUTION 42-97**

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, 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 January 15, 1997.

**RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS**

**BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Master Voucher Certificate for Certification for Payment No. 97-1 dated January 15, 1997 in the amount of \$3,526,750.50 including bills and investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

97-1	2,502,553.49
Payroll 1/2	935,273.00
Retro 94-95	44,392.90
Retro 96	<u>44,531.11</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,526,750.50</b>

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

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**RESOLUTION 43-97**

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held January 15, 1997.

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING BARRY W. SMITH TO THE UNCLASSIFIED POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 23, 1997 AND APPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren that Barry W. Smith is hereby appointed to the unclassified position of Director of Information Systems for a five year term commencing January 23, 1997 and terminating January 22, 2002, and the employment agreement with Mr. Smith is hereby approved and the Director is hereby authorized and director to execute same.

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

**RESOLUTION 44-97**

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held January 15, 1997.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND THE WARREN COUNTY WELFARE BOARD FOR PURCHASE OF SERVICES OF THE COUNTY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 23, 1997 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1997**

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Welfare Board is in need of the services of an experienced individual to assist in the operation of the Data Processing Unit of the agency; and

**WHEREAS**, Barry W. Smith, Director of Information Systems, Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is qualified to perform the duties in view of previous service as the Data Processing Coordinator at the Warren County Welfare Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Warren County Welfare Board agree to Mr. Smith's services to the agency on a time reimbursement basis, and have negotiated an Agreement governing terms and conditions for a period of January 23, 1997 through December 31, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, it appears that the use of an employee from one local government entity by another is allowable within the confines of the Department of Personnel and with the approval of the Division of Family Development;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders does hereby approve of the purchase of services of the Director of Information Systems, Barry W. Smith, by the Welfare Board on an hourly reimbursement basis as per the agreement between the parties, and authorizes the Director of the Board to sign the Agreement covering the period January 23, 1997 through December 31, 1997.

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

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**RESOLUTION 45-97**

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held January 15, 1997.

**RESOLUTION RESCINDING ACTION OF THE BOARD ADOPTED MARCH 13, 1996  
AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE 1993 EARLY RETIREMENT  
INCENTIVE PROGRAM ALTERNATE PAYMENT PERIOD**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren elected by resolution on March 13, 1996 to pay the liability for the 1993 Early Retirement Incentive Program, Chapters 138/181, P.L. 1993 in a lump sum payment in the amount of \$440,434.00 payable April 1, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren has reconsidered the decision to pay the liability in one lump sum payment and decided that it is in the best interest of the county to elect to pay the liability for the 1993 Early Retirement Incentive Program, Chapters 138/181, P.L. 1993 over a five year period;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren hereby rescinds the resolution approved March 13, 1996 and elects to pay the liability for the 1993 Early Retirement Incentive Program, Chapters 138/181, P.L. 1993 in five installments in the amount of \$100,763.00 plus interest at six percent (6%) and actuarial fees annually payable April 1, 1997 through April 1, 2001; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the CFO is required to file this resolution with the Director of the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

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

Under the County Administrator's report, Mr. Dinger reported that the Warden had indicated that the potential to house immigrants awaiting deportation actions in the county correctional facility. Before exploring the issue further, the freeholders were asked for their opinions on the matter.

The freeholders questioned if the facility has the room for these detainees and what would happen if the local inmate population begins to rise. It was agreed to have the Warden explore the agreement with the INS and determine the safeguards for the county before completing any deal. The Warden will be informed and a final decision will be made after the agreement is reviewed.

Mrs. Stone then indicated that the remainder of the meeting would be used to obtain an overview of the proposed 1997 county budget. A brief overview was provided by Mr. Olshefski of the Treasurer's Office. The budget is increased about \$760,000 or a 1.2% increase. The departments generally complied with the directive to hold the line on expenditures.

The capital improvement program was reviewed by the CIP committee of Mr. Houck, Mr. Olshefski, Mr. Hicks and Mr. Marvin. The total for CIP in the budget is \$5,053,650. These projects are based on needs and the time required to do the jobs. Road resurfacing is set at

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\$1,250,000 which is a routine annual amount to keep current with the need.

The bridges amount is higher because Bridge #20032 was originally priced at \$450,000 in 1996 but the project was cancelled and recycled into 1997 at a cost of \$500,000.

There is no allocation for farmland preservation in the general CIP as those monies come from trust account from the designated tax for open space.

The CIP is all in cash and none of the anticipated expenditures depend on borrowing money.

In the salaries and wages area, the Road Department reduced positions by four and Warren Haven reduced nine positions, reducing anticipated costs by about \$300,000 overall. The only recommended new position is in the Communications Center with the addition of one new operator. The Mosquito Commission requested and was granted funds to continue to fight the black fly population.

Human Services, outside agencies, was set at the same amount as in 1996. Mr. Dinger stated that it was his belief that the amount should be reduced by one-half of the amount of the reduction in Peer Group funding for the year. Since the mid 1980's, the agencies have benefitted from annual increases in funding as the PG monies increased. Now, when the revenue is beginning to decrease, the agencies should share in that loss. Additionally, in 1996, the agencies received an increase even though PG funds did not advance.

In education, the WCCC was given an OE request based on an estimate of S & W increases similar to the county, but no recommendation for capital expenses as had been requested by the college. For the Vo-Tech, the S & W figure had about 4% added to it.

Debt service is dropping slightly in 1997. By 1999, the budget will be reduced by \$1 million due to paying off the 1983 bonds. The county's contribution to the cost of the courts also ends this year.

The HLR assessment reduction in White Township wiped out the tax base growth in the county so that there is no amount of increase based on assessments.

The same amount of money is to be raised by taxation in 1997 as was raised in 1996. However, the surplus draw is increased. The anticipated surplus at the end of the year is \$2.8 million.

Mr. Dinger noted the large increase in the employer share of pension payments. He warned that further proposed changes in the system could yield problems in the future. A request to the Pension Division for an explanation of the increase by the Welfare Board is pending receipt. Health care costs are reduced in the allocations but actually are increased in terms of real estate.

The Medical Examiner budget is up \$30,000. It had been at \$140,000 since 1993.

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Much has to do with who pays for autopsies and lab tests.

In Roads, the large increase in OE is the result of all motor pool expenses being consolidated into the department. Previously these expenses appeared in each department and were subject to bill-back. Departmental usage will be tracked via the computer. Additionally, the auditor has indicated that vehicles are to be included under OE, not capital as was done for the past several years.

It was agreed that the pension contribution for the early retirement process will be reduced and the human service reductions will be completed. These reductions will reduce the draw on surplus. It is hoped that budget introduction can be accomplished at the freeholder meeting set for January 22, 1997. The CAP calculation and budget intro statement will be finalized by Mrs. Stone.

Under freeholder comments, Mrs. Dickey discussed residency requirements. We have supported the two assembly and one senate bill which would require reimbursement for training costs for SOs, COs and telecommunicators. NJAC is asking for a floor vote to get these bills enacted.

Mrs. Stone said that the Sheriff has lost another officer. Mr. Lance said the civil service list has people from all over the country. He thought that the board should look at a hiring preference. Mr. Dinger and Mr. Wallace briefly reviewed the research on this matter.

Under closing comments, Mr. Bohacz thanked Mrs. Stone for her answer prior to the meeting and had nothing further at this time.

There were no press comments or questions.

There was no need for an executive session.

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.  
ROLL CALL: Mr. Lance: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes Mrs. Stone: yes

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk