

MINUTES**June 4, 1997**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session in the Belvidere High School Auditorium, Oxford Street, Belvidere, New Jersey on Wednesday, June 4, 1997 at 7:18 p.m. This was the regional meeting to include Belvidere, White, Knowlton, Liberty and Hope.

The meeting was called to order by Director Stone and upon roll call the following members were in attendance: Freeholder Ann Stone, Freeholder Susan Dickey and Freeholder Stephen Lance.

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".

Mrs. Stone indicated that there were no set agenda items.

The only members of the audience were Mayor Libby and Councilman Ritter of Belvidere. Mr. Dech, Planning Director, was also present.

There were no issues raised.

RESOLUTION 374-97

On motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held June 4, 1997.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING GRANT OF RIGHT OF WAY
EASEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF PAHAQUARRY,
THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDWICK, AND THE COUNTY OF
WARREN, AS GRANTORS, AND THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, AS GRANTEE, REGARDING THE ROADBED,
RIGHTS OF WAY, BRIDGES AND DRAINAGE STRUCTURES
KNOWN AS OLD MINE ROAD LOCATED WITHIN DELAWARE
WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, PAHAQUARRY TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior has determined that it is necessary to acquire the roadbed, right of way, bridges and drainage structures constituting real property known as Old Mine Road located within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Pahaquarry Township, in order to fulfill its responsibilities under Public Law 89-158 as amended by Public Law 95-625; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has prepared a Grant of Right of Way Easement

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whereby all of the interests of the Township of Pahaquarry, the Township of Hardwick, and the County of Warren in said real property shall be conveyed to the United States of America for acquisition of same by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, said Grant Right of Way Easement has been reviewed, revised, and approved as to form by the Warren County Engineer and by Warren County Counsel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren, that the Grant of Right of Way Easement, incorporated herein by reference, is hereby approved and the freeholder director is hereby authorized and directed to execute same.

Mrs. Dickey questioned why the rush on this matter. The Mayor of Hardwick had requested this matter be completed so as not to delay the Hardwick/Pahaquarry municipal merger.

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 mentioned.

s/Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk

ROLL CALL: Mr. Lance: yes Mrs. Dickey: no Mrs. Stone: yes

Mrs. Stone asked for board permission to conduct the annual "Jail & Bail" for the Cancer Society on the steps of the Court House on June 17, 1997.

On motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, permission was granted to conduct "Jail and Bail" on the court house steps on June 17, 1997.

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

Mrs. Stone questioned the closing of the court house switchboard this past Monday. She has had a number of complaints about the phone not being answered. The 475-5361 and 475-8000 numbers still appear in the directory for the Phillipsburg and Washington/Hackettstown area.

Mr. Dinger explained that the board had been informed at the last meeting of this plan due to a reduction in staff. However, we have not been able to work out the details of having the numbers transferred to another phone, such as transferring them to the Administration Building. We are in the process of obtaining an answering machine on which we could leave a message to consult the direct number, or where to call for information. It appears that we implemented this change too quickly. If the freeholders so desire, we will reinstate switchboard coverage immediately and continue planning to eventually close down that function.

Mr. Lance favored a gradual phaseout, after the phone books have been changed. We should pursue a part-time position until then. As for the mail duties, we may be able to get other departments to supply some help.

Mrs. Dickey said we need to have the switchboard open all day. It cannot be closed for hours at a time. Maybe two part-time employees with no benefits would suffice. We also need a reception desk.

Mr. Ritter asked if the state is paying any rent. The answer was negative. He asked if the system can be upgraded to voice phone. Again, the answer was negative, without a new system.

Mrs. Dickey then broached the reports on the Hamlen property. She indicated that there were problems listed in the house inspection and the environmental study. Mr. Dinger explained that the reports were forwarded to Mr. Marvin for review and response. Also, Mr. Hamlen had sent comments on the house inspection. The freeholders requested Mr. Hamlen's comments and on further reports and information that might be available.

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all reports had not yet been completed. The members will be provided with all information presently available. This will be done for the meeting scheduled for June 11, 1997.

Mr. Lance stated that there will be a walking tour of West Oxford Mountain on June 20th at 6:00 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk