

## MINUTES

July 30, 1997

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren held a Freeholder/Mayor meeting in its offices in the Administration Building, Belvidere, NJ on Wednesday, July 30, 1997 at 7:45 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Stone and upon roll call the following members were present: 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 SPECIAL 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".

Duane Copley, District Manager, WC Soil Conservation, gave a presentation on farmland preservation.

Mr. Copley handed out a sheet detailing the actions a municipality could take to assist farmers in entering the preservation program and helping to raise their farm's score. Some farms are separated in the rating system by as little as one-tenth or one-hundredth of a point, so participation is important.

There are four main things a municipality can do to assist. First, appoint a liaison to the Ag Board. Second, amend the planning and zoning to reflect buyer notification so that those moving in near a farm understand that farming operations will be conducted there. Third, adopt a right-to-farm ordinance. Finally, appropriate some funds for easements.

Other activities that can get a program started are:

1. Ask the environmental commission to determine which farms should be preserved.
2. Contact farmers and owners to determine if they are interested.
3. Encourage farmers and owners to contact the County Ag Development office with questions.
4. Be sure the master plan and related documents reflect areas where farmland preservation is most appropriate.
5. Tell the Ag Board that you are interested and reflect that in the actions.
6. Seek donations of easements.
7. When doing clusters, keep as much farmland as possible.
8. Offer additional tax incentives to farmers willing to sell easements.
9. Farmland is open space.

There was a question regarding the IRS and how the tax rules apply to farms. Mr. Lance asked if there were any more than the four points where municipalities can help. There

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is not yet a program to entice younger people to buy farms as farms, but one is being worked on. Mrs. Dickey asked if there are any pharmaceutical farming operations in the county. Not yet, but there are some going on in the state.

**RESOLUTION 487-97**

On motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held July 30, 1997.

**RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING AND APPOINTING MEMBERS TO  
THE WARREN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren hereby reappoints the following members to the Warren County Community College Trustee Search Committee effective July 31, 1997:

Allen Bullock                      Term to expire: 12/28/97  
Springtown Road  
Washington, NJ 07882

Kenneth Kisselbach              Term to expire: 12/28/97  
195 Irwin Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Carl Race, Jr.                      Term to expire: 12/28/97  
93 Belchor Road  
Blairstown, NJ 07825

Thomas Rogers                      Term to expire: 12/28/97  
Hillcrest Drive  
Great Meadows, NJ 07838

Kenneth Keyes                      Term to expire: 12/28/97  
308 Fifth Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Mrs. Neal Pursel                      Term to expire: 12/28/97  
659 Hillcrest Blvd.  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren hereby appoints the following member as a member to the Warren County Community College Trustee Search Committee effective July 31, 1997:

Kay Thompson                      Term to expire: 12/28/97  
308 Irwin Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

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

Mrs. Dickey questioned the timing of this resolution as she had not been informed it would be on the agenda. Mrs. Stone indicated that there will be an appointment coming up and she felt it necessary to get the search committee started.

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

**RESOLUTION 488-97**

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mr. Lance, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held July 30, 1997.

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE  
WARREN COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren hereby appoints the following member to the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council effective July 31, 1997:

Louis Pettinelli  
213 Third Avenue  
Alpha, NJ 08865  
(representing - Alpha)

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

Under the question and answer period, Dave Werkhiser, Mayor of Franklin Township had the following questions:

1. Options for agricultural support to retain our farms and open space. This issue had been well covered by Mr. Copley. Mr. Werkhiser suggested that it may be possible to get compatible industry to locate up along the farming areas. Jay Miers of Economic Development & Tourism stated that Ise Farms buys most of the corn grown in the county. The Small Business and Industry group did a study about three years ago, and that might be helpful to local officials.

2. Welfare in-house for municipalities.

Mr. Werkhiser asked what the county could do to assist the municipalities in retaining the GA program but with administrative money.

Mr. Dinger reported that the towns must pass a resolution if they desire to retain the program. The law and regulations require a great deal of the towns, and it is so designed so that they will give it up and move responsibility to the county. The county is supposed to receive funding but the budget includes about one-fourth of the present amount being spent. Several municipalities indicated that they desired to retain their own programs. There is a pending bill that would pay the towns for their administrative costs but the likelihood of that passing is small. The takeover date is set for January 1, 1998 but the state has not organized the process for the takeover yet. It was agreed that the municipalities would be kept informed of any new information regarding this matter.

3. Discuss economic development to raise ratable base for specific needs.

Mr. Miers stated that there are some drawbacks to economic development, one of which is the lack of sewer capacity.

Charles Rydell, Mayor of Frelinghuysen Township had the following concern:

1. Bridge on Lincoln Laurel Road - needs railings.

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Mr. Hicks indicated that this project is on the schedule for the fall.

Francis Gavin, Mayor of Allamuchy Township had questions regarding the 911 system.

Mr. Gavin referred to the many complaints of poor or no radio communication with the local fire department and the Allamuchy/Green Rescue Squad. The dispatch signals are not getting through. He believes this is a serious matter and something needs to be done.

Pat Rivoli, Public Safety Director, said that Allamuchy was served off the Mansfield tower and it does not blanket the area. The fire signal is sent to a radio to rebroadcast from the old location. It records the signal and rebroadcasts it.

Mr. Gavin said he knows there is a meeting set for July 31st. The tones come out but the message is not clear. The first aid squad's radios are not working. There is a call to 911, then it is switched to Sussex County 911 and then to the Andover Police to dispatch. He thought the process was to wire from the WC Communication Center to Andover dispatch until the problems were solved. He was told the engineers are meeting to try to solve the problems. If there is a plan, what is happening?

Mr. Rivoli said the meeting is scheduled for July 31st. It will be to discuss putting a transmitter on the water tower. They went to the tower to get its coordinates and they should have coverage maps available for the meeting. They want to concentrate on solving the problems, rather than on what went wrong before. The old computer modeling did not take terrain into account. The new modeling does. Shadowing is the problem. It is critical to be sure we put the equipment in the right place.

Mr. Bruder, 911 Coordinator, said that when the plan was written, every township got a copy of the plan. That plan did not include dispatch for the Allamuchy Green squad. That was to stay in Andover. There were several other agencies that service parts of the county that also were not in the dispatch plan.

Mr. Rivoli said that after the plan was done, Allamuchy Green approached the WC Communications Center to dispatch. Their base is in Sussex County but very close to Allamuchy. We moved the antenna from the bottom to the top of the tower.

Mr. Gavin said he was told that Andover is thinking of sending a bill to Allamuchy.

Alan Fisher, Borough Manager of Washington Borough, said that each municipality was to make a plan and send it up to the county. It went from the bottom up, not the top down.

Mr. Rivoli stated that they recognize the need and will try to fix the problem. It will take time for the FCC to issue a license for the new transmitter. They want the agreement on new site coverage maps, then apply to the FCC to license the Allamuchy Green frequency. Use of the Jenny Jump tower would be long term. Mr. Rivoli asked everyone to remember to use dispatch and radios when referring to problems, no 911. The media stories may lead people to believe that 911 does not work and that is not true.

Harry Pool, Mayor of Mansfield Township brought up the following topics:

1. Spots in Mansfield Township not covered by dispatch.
2. More communication on the county's thoughts affecting the township roads/bridges.

Mr. Pool said he was told during the last storm that 911 collapsed. The Route 57 radio problems are joined by dead spots on Mt. Bethel Road. He suggested corrections be made as soon as possible.

Mr. Rivoli said that there was no collapse of the 911 system. There was an overabundance of calls. There are seven lines coming in and all were used for a long time. Some calls were transferred to other counties, such as Hunterdon and Morris. They were linked to Warren County on dedicated phone lines. The county is putting service on the tower on Schooley's Mountain trying to clear up the dead area along Route 57. He did not hear

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about any problems on Mt. Bethel Road regarding the fire company.

Scott Danielson of the WC Communication Center said they sent out a radio survey but none of them have been returned yet.

Mr. Bruder stated that the State 911 mapping unit is developing a smaller version of the maps. They will be easier to work with and should be available in a year. Be sure 911 maps are up to date, particularly with new sub-divisions.

Tim McDonough, Mayor of Hope Township spoke to the board regarding the traffic on Route 521/519.

Mr. McDonough complimented the Road Department for their efforts after the recent storm. He wanted the county to keep in mind Hope's request to ban truck traffic on these routes. This will relieve problems in other towns as well. Truck traffic brings pollution, noise, damage to roads and buildings, etc.

Mr. Hicks said they are doing a truck study in Hope. He wanted it completed by the end of the summer. It will track the types and numbers of trucks. We will need this information if we decide to ban trucks, because the DOT will want to know what the impact will be.

Mr. Pool said he had several complaints about the bridge project in his town.

Mr. Werkhiser asked if the county could do anything at the Hope intersection that would discourage traffic.

Mr. Tom Fey of Alpha was disappointed that the county had not agreed to share its street sweeper with the town. Mrs. Stone responded that the county could not provide equipment to all the towns but that she had discussed Alpha's needs with other municipalities and that Lopatcong would be happy to loan Alpha a sweeper. Mr. Fey said the county should be concerned with towns that don't have a lot of county roads or bridges and look for other things that may save them money. Mrs. Stone responded that they have access from other towns. Harmony asked for aid on tree clean-up and they were referred to Greenwich for a chipper.

Mr. Fey said that the Alpha Council was upset by the denial.

He also stated that they continue to desire a stop light at Route 519 and High Street. Traffic is getting worse and there will be new malls and developments coming.

Mr. Hicks said they did a delay study which showed a marginal need for a light. However, there would be more delay with a signal than without one.

Anna Marie Caldara gave a handout on ash to the freeholders.

Mrs. Stone thanked everyone for attending.

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 9:55 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk