

## MINUTES

September 17, 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, September 17, 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, 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".

Jay Miers, Director of Economic Development and Tourism spoke to the board regarding an update on activities of economic development in Warren County and submitted his monthly report.

Mr. Miers submitted a 30 month summary that shows that trends are up in employment, which is based on statistics from labor reports. This is due in part to the fact that the education level is increasing in the county; in particular this is due to the county college.

Jay reported that Pat McCormick resigned from the Economic Development Advisory Council and they elected Mimi Wilson as the new chair.

Mrs. Dickey questioned the third loan that we are working on. It is her understanding that the loan was not approved, by the loan committee, in its present form. The county's limit on loans is five years and the current one is for ten years. The rate is different also. She asked how they are doing with the procedures. It seems terms and interest rates are being set without approval by the executive committee. Has the executive committee, which consists of three people, reviewed this. Jay responded that they have. Susan said that it seems that one or two people are making up the terms and all other decisions.

Mrs. Dickey asked if a new vice chair was selected and Jay said yes. A vice chair and a vice president were elected last night as the terms for the others ran out last night. Mrs. Dickey said that if no one else is concerned about this, she will drop the subject.

Mr. Lance asked about the procedures and Jay said they were submitted two weeks ago.

Ann Stone thanked Pat McCormick for all the work he did on this committee.

Mr. McCormick said they tried to determine where new business would like to locate in the county. They were looking for smaller sized buildings, not large humongous ones. The three popular locations are Oxford, Phillipsburg and White Township.

Susan said she can't see the advantages of White and Oxford, they are in the center of the county and not readily accessible to the people.

Under public comments, Dave McNulty questioned #3 under the Administrator's report and asked if the EIC is not a tax and was told by Mrs. Dickey that yes it is a tax and she is not in favor of this tax.

Mr. McNulty said he is in support of the recent decision by the board to not approve PCFA's plan to address the financial difficulties that we now face. He said they have many hundreds of supporters and they will be disseminating much information on the incinerator in the next few months.

Mr. Lance said that we have to look at the impact this would have on the Warren County taxpayers. When a default occurs, we will be responsible for payment of the bonds. The local finance board has the final word. We will have to assume the debt. As far as the health department reports being flawed, he is satisfied with the report but more testing should be required.

Ed Church spoke to the board regarding recycling. He feels the county should not take over recycling as it is not an efficiently run program and we should let it close at the end of the year.

Mrs. Stone said that the recycling program runs very well. In mid October, a program will be presented to the board regarding recycling.

### **RESOLUTION 561-97**

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 September 17, 1997.

#### **RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS**

**BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that Master Voucher Certificate for Certification for Payment No. 97-24 dated September 17, 1997 in the amount of \$2,396,595.81 including bills and investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

97-24	\$1,440,498.84
Payroll 9/11/97	956,096.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,396,595.81</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: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes Mrs. Stone: yes

A recommendation was received from Frank Mancuso, Supt., WC Technical School District, for the reappointment of Mrs. Margaret Niece as a member on the Vocational-Technical School Board of Education. Her term will expire October 31, 1997. A resolution is to be prepared for the next meeting.

A letter for board consideration was received for the appointment of George A. White, III from Great Meadows to fill a vacancy on the Environmental Commission. Thomas Hartnett does not wish to be reappointed.

It was decided to send Mr. White's resume and another one that hasn't been received set to the Environmental Commission for their review of these applications.

Mrs. Stone asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Hartnett for his service.

Mrs. Stone also supports the reappointment of Sam Race. Mrs. Dickey asked that this be brought before the commission for their comments. The Chair, Neil Conover, has been ill

and Dan Salvito has been running the meetings and she would like the commission's input on Mr. Race's reappointment.

## RESOLUTION 562-97

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 September 17, 1997.

### RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PAY SCHEDULES FOR THE TEMPORARY PART TIME POSITIONS OF LIBRARY TRAINEE AND SENIOR LIBRARY TRAINEE EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1997

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the pay schedules are established effective retroactive to September 1, 1997:

Senior Library Trainee	
Starting Wage:	\$5.24/hr.
After Six Months:	\$5.81/hr.
After One Year:	\$6.38/hr.
After Two Years:	\$6.96/hr.

Library Trainee	
Starting Wage:	\$5.15/hr.
After Six Months:	\$5.36/hr.
After One Year:	\$5.70/hr.
After Two Years:	\$6.04/hr.

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

County Counsel asked permission to leave the September 24th freeholder meeting at 9:00 p.m. and permission was granted.

County CFO Pete Houck submitted the 1995 GAAP report to the board. No more information has been received on Phase II.

Under the County Administrator's report, the letter from Nancy Chambellan, Hope, NJ requesting assistance regarding the runoff problem that developed on Great Meadows Road which she feels is due to road resurfacing that has increased the height of the road and apparently changed the pitch will be forwarded to the Public Works through the Road Department.

The letter from Christine Musa, Director, Mosquito Extermination Commission regarding a Lyme/Tick-Borne Disease Management Proposal will have to be considered during the budget review.

Regarding the letter from Harry Pool, Chairman, PCFA, requesting the county's position with reference to the environmental investment charge and whether or not the county is considering imposing such a charge, the county is not in favor of an EIC. We do not want to support an EIC tax for county residents.

Mr. Dinger received a telephone message from the President of MADD requesting that the county put red ribbons on all county vehicles to support the MADD cause. After some

discussion, it was decided not to do this but the ribbons could be made available if people wanted to do this on an individual basis.

Regarding articles in the paper making it appear that there is a hiring freeze, in the Library in particular, it was noted that there is no hiring freeze in the county.

There were two positions vacant that were recommended not to be filled but to look at the staffing to see if they could reassign duties, etc. Jerry Coyle met with Tom Carney today to discuss this situation. Henry pointed out that the Library Commission is not autonomous, the freeholders set their budget and strikes the tax rate. Boards, committees and commissions must realize that their advice is not always accepted. Some suggestions to cut back are to drop the bookmobile, transfer staff from headquarters to the branches, title reclassification, etc. Tom Carney needs to sit down with his commission and explain the situation to them to clear matters up. Henry said it is o.k. to send a budget call letter to the library.

Henry reported on PCFA and said that he is very disappointed in the fact that lobbying is going on. There are lots of issues that need attention such as: 1. An ultimate decision on flow control and the fact that no action will be taken by the state until after the election. Henry said that this is not a crisis that has to be solved immediately, there is no shortage of product.

Under freeholder comments, Susan said she received a letter from Jim Broschius in which he said he will have to get permission to answer the questions that Susan asked in her letter.

Mr. Lance had no comments at this time.

Mrs. Stone had an item for executive session. Also, she received a request from the group that is cleaning up the Delaware River on both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania sides. Dinah Rush is taking this project on and Ann is requesting that the group be allowed to use a county truck for debris. This involves about 28 miles along the river and is the continuation of a project that was started last year. The date is October 6th, rain date is October 9th.

On motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Stone, approval was given for use of a county truck to collect debris from along the Delaware River during a clean-up project.  
ROLL CALL: Mr. Lance: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes Mrs. Stone: yes

There were no public comments.

Under press comments and questions, Art Charlton asked the board for their response on the Industrial Park recommendation of the Ingersoll Rand site in Phillipsburg. Mrs. Stone said she is a strong supporter of economic development and the Phillipsburg area is a very good area.

Mr. Lance said he is a supporter of locating the Rail Road museum in Phillipsburg.

Mrs. Dickey said that Phillipsburg is worthy of support but Oxford and White needs further study.

Mr. Lance mentioned that he disagreed with the board's position taken last week regarding the incinerator debt. The state is not going to bail us out, we are on our own.

## **RESOLUTION 563-97**

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 September 17, 1997.

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1997. THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDES VARIOUS PERSONNEL MATTERS; CONTRACTS; LITIGATION; LAND ACQUISITION; ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE ABOVE STATED SUBJECT MATTER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AT SUCH TIME AS THE PUBLIC INTEREST PERMITS DISCLOSURE AND/OR WHEN A REQUEST IS MADE CONSISTENT WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT AND WITH STATUTORY AND COMMON LAW "RIGHT TO KNOW" PROVISIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren in the State of New Jersey, pursuant to Section 8 of said act, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.

2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is:

1. Various personnel matters
2. Contracts
3. Litigation
4. Land acquisition
5. Attorney/client privileged communications

3. It is anticipated that the above stated subject matter will be made public at such time as the public interest permits disclosure and/or when a request for disclosure is made consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act and with statutory and common law "right to know" provisions.

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Director Stone called for a ten minute break at 9:37 p.m.

The board went into executive session at 9:45 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 10:11 p.m.

Nothing discussed in executive session has lost its confidentiality.

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 10:12 p.m.

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

**ATTESTED TO:**

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk