

**MINUTES****October 29, 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, October 29, 1997 at 7:30 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".

**A. KARL KAHDE - LUFNET**

Karl Kahde from LUFNET made a presentation regarding a system for collaborative processes for the conceptualizing of land developments. LUFNET is a non-profit group that is designed to help citizen groups and planning boards to review land development proposals. It utilizes aerial photos and simple models and tools to show what a development will look like and what it will do to the neighborhood once it is built. This process gives everyone a chance to design walkways, roads, open space and other characteristics before construction begins. The plan is to attempt to end the adversarial relationship and try to get all parties working together. Photos are available for anywhere in New Jersey within a week for \$300. There is a set of harmony cards so all involved can have input into what should be included in the planning process. He has worked in eight New Jersey towns and also in Pennsylvania and New York. The group receives grants and their services are at "no charge".

Mayor McDonough said in a perfect world, this is what we should be doing in planning, as it makes a lot of sense. Mr Kahde said it has the ability to end the hostility, as the goal is to benefit the community and improve the quality of life. He is usually brought in by the planning board or a citizens group. He provides the tools and they then can do it on their own.

Under the question and answer period, Timothy McDonough, Mayor of Hope, restated Hope's desire to find a solution to truck traffic through the village. He asked that Engineering research perhaps placing speed reduction signs between the 45 mph ones and the 25 mph signs. He thanked the county for working on the roads and traffic light in the center of town. He asked if there was any new information on the possibility of restricting trucks through a historic center.

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Mrs. Dickey responded she had not had an opportunity to look for the information. There are national rules on historic districts, and NJ case law that would allow regulation of truck traffic.

Mayor McDonough said the State Police did some weight stops and of 20 done, all were through trucks, not making deliveries in Hope or for that matter in the county. Eight violations were issued.

Mr. Hicks, County Engineer, stated he has the report on the traffic study, which includes more than just the number of trucks, but also what kind they were. 7% to 8% of traffic was trucks, of almost any type. Finding alternate routes is tough, as there is no good alternatives close by.

Thomas Charles, Frelinghuysen Township, reported that Mayor Rydell was just home from the hospital having had a hip replacement. Frelinghuysen wanted the county to work on providing more transportation for senior citizens, as they have no stores or other facilities in the township. Mrs. Stone said the county is looking for a new coordinator to see what is available and what may be doable. She felt the seniors needed more information about the services available ready. Mr. Charles said they needed volunteers for meals on wheels, and they would be opening the campaign to the entire county. He then asked what is to become of the county recycling center and the eager beavers.

Dinah Rush, Recycling Coordinator/Education Specialist from PCFA was present. She said many residents are concerned about the eager beavers. She just submitted a report to the freeholders, and it will be up to them to decide how recycling will be handled after the end of the year. Most haulers handle six items while the county center handles twenty. Some residents use the county center even though their townships recycle certain things. More than 50% of the services are privatized. Mrs. Stone urges a visit to the recycling center by the other freeholders.

Mayor Frank VanHorn of Knowlton Township discussed the Fair Association and plans to attempt to acquire 99 acres across from the fairgrounds. He felt there will be a need for this land if the fair is going to continue to operate. He said there is a plan to hold a balloon festival next year. He also asked the county to consider closing Stryker's Road during the fair. Mr. Hicks said to close a township road, he needed to contact Harmony for permission. If it will be more than 48 hours, the DOT will need to approve.

The asking price for the 99 acres is \$480,000. They would want it to stay in farm use, not turn it to brush.

He said his township can pass a sludge ordinance, not to control sludge, but to control the application. Maybe they need to demand that it be tilled under within 24 hours.

The Pohatcong representative said he just received the farmland and open space application from the county, and found it to be too involved. He suggested it be simplified and if funding is being considered, the rest of the information can be requested.

The Lopatcong representative said he worked on the county group that developed the application, and he thought it was rather simple.

Mr. Lance said the information on things like the slope helps rate the overall package.

Mr. Lance handed out a draft resolution regarding proposed legislation on bankruptcy laws that could negatively impact municipalities.

Mrs. Dickey suggested that the BCF send a letter to Somerset and Hunterdon counties and ask to meet with them to discuss what will happen at the end of flow control.

Mr. McDonough said that the PCFA spoke with both those counties with various

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reactions. He thought the BCF should try to meet with them.

Mrs. Stone said she was going to make that suggestion, as the matter was discussed at the task force meeting yesterday.

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 8:30 p.m.

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

**ATTESTED TO:**

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk