

MINUTES**November 19, 1997**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in their offices in the Administration Building, Belvidere, NJ on Wednesday, November 19, 1997 at 7:08 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Stone and upon roll call the following members were in attendance: Freeholder Ann Stone and Freeholder Susan Dickey. Freeholder Lance was absent due to attending the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City.

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".

Alan Kaufman, Director, Div. of Mental Health Services, Dept. of Human Services, and Terri Wilson, Asst. Div. Director, Central Region, Div. of Mental Health Services, spoke to the board regarding concerns about the new 100 bed facility at the Hagedorn Geriatric Center.

Mr. Kaufman explained that in January 1995, the Department of Human Services introduced the redirection plan which would reorganize the state's mental health program and strengthen the system. The mental health system services 200,000 people in the community per year. Marlboro State Hospital in Monmouth County is in the process of closing so all that money will be redirected to get a better system. In 1995 - 1997, the legislature appropriated over \$25 million of bridge funding to put into the system. Public hearings have been held (four of them).

There are now 180 beds in the Gero-Psychiatric Center and the purpose of the new 100 bed facility is to provide regular psychiatric services but it is not the intent to use them for either sex offenders or the criminally insane. The facility should be complete by April 1998.

The new facility is designed with four wings with a core facility in the center and surveillance is being built in the design. All internal and external doors are locked at all times and magnetic cards are needed to open these doors. There is a delayed door opening of thirty seconds and in three of the courtyards, there is a seven foot fence and in the intensive treatment wing, there is a fourteen foot nonclimbable fence. All parts of the facility have surveillance television cameras in the common areas.

There is no fulltime police protection but it is covered by Human Service Police Officers. At the time of the opening, there will be eight police personnel (seven fulltime and one dispatch) assigned to the facility on a twenty-four hour basis.

Mrs. Dickey asked if the facility will have a perimeter fence and Mr. Kaufman said they are not planning for one but that the facility itself acts as its own perimeter fence.

Mr. Kaufman said that 73% of the patients are treated and discharged in six months and some are discharged in thirty days.

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Mrs. Dickey asked if the use of the facility can be changed in the future and Mr. Kaufman said that technically it could but it would be difficult. There is no legislative way of doing this. Mrs. Dickey also asked if there is an emergency plan in the event of an escape and Mr. Kaufman responded that yes there is a plan. The Human Service Officers that are going to be used can contact the state police or the local police for their assistance if needed. If the public would like, they can set-up a computer system and those who want can be put on a list to be notified if an escape occurs.

Mr. Kaufman said that when the new facility opens, 150 additional staff will be needed. Pat Rivoli asked how many officers are on duty at one time and Mr. Kaufman said one or possibly two. Mr. Rivoli also asked if there will be any training done with the local police and Mr. Kaufman said yes.

Dr. Mark Perrin, Chair of the WC Mental Health Board and a physician said that having a facility at Hagedorn is better for the families of the patients from this locality as it permits more family visits. When the facility is some distance away, it limits family visits and this interaction is very necessary in treatment of the patients. This is an opportunity for Warren County to have a state of the art facility. He supports the plan completely and said that we will have the best care possible for our people.

Karen Kubert said that when the plan came out, Warren County lobbied to go to Hagedorn. Ellen Sivan doesn't agree with this and wants it to remain as a gero-psychiatric hospital. The population should not be mixed. Karen Kubert said that as a parent and a bureaucrat and just as Megan's Law occurred, it is crucial for Mental Health Boards to make recommendations of support to the Task Force.

Mrs. Stone expressed the board's appreciation for Mr. Kaufman and Ms. Wilson coming to the meeting with their presentation.

Greg Sipple, Planning Dept. Staff Representative of the Morris Canal Committee, spoke to the board regarding an additional \$750,000 to support Morris Canal acquisitions. This action must be taken by September 1998 or the grant will expire and the committee would like freeholder support on this. This is the last of the 50/50 Green Acres grants that will be handed out. There is \$400,000 available in 1996/1997 Discretionary funds plus a return of \$350,000 of the grant money.

Henry said as he understands this, the county puts up \$750,000 and gets half of it back, but when will we get this, which budget year, the treasurer needs to work this out as the budget is in serious trouble. The board should make no decision until the treasurer can work out the bugs. If the concept is o.k., we should work together.

Under public comments on agenda items, Sue Lennon, Caroline Willner and Charles Rush spoke on behalf of Resolution #E1 and said they are very much in favor of this program.

RESOLUTION 676-97

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 November 19, 1997.

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Master Voucher Certificate for Certification for Payment No. 97-30 dated November 19, 1997 in the amount of \$1,014,643.93 including bills

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and investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

97-30 \$1,014,643.43

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 677-97

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held November 19, 1997.

RESOLUTION RE: PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW JERSEY EASE (EASY ACCESS/SINGLE ENTRY) PROGRAM, AND APPROVAL BY THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE WARREN COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING TO BE DESIGNATED THE LEAD AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION OF SERVICES UNDER NJEASE

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has established the New Jersey EASE (Easy Access/Single Entry) program to provide a statewide system which facilitates local access to services for older New Jersey citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Office on Aging has been instrumental in the development of this statewide system; and

WHEREAS, members of Office on Aging Advisory Council have participated numerous statewide task forces to advance the philosophy of an easy access system of services for older adults; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Office on Aging is the focal point for planning, coordination, information, assistance, and services to Warren County's 17,000 adults age 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Office on Aging seeks to continue to develop and refine a coordinated system of services to the County's older population; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1997, the Warren County of on Aging Advisory Council formally voted to endorse the establishment of a NJEASE site at the Warren County Office on Aging; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Warren County authorizes the Warren County Office on Aging to pursue designation as a NJEASE site with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Senior Affairs.

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.

Mr. Dinger pointed out that NJEASE can lead to "One Easy Link", which is not a single service agency, it is a computer system, which can fail. Technology is not the solution, we should revise the provider.

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s/Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk

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

There were no reports from County Counsel or the County Planner.

County Administrator Henry Dinger submitted two hiring requests and both were approved.

Under freeholder comments, Freeholder Dickey attended the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast this morning in Hackettstown. The theme was "All Aboard for Hackettstown" and she feels the board should give them encouragement and work with the small businesses.

Henry commented on the fact that the PCFA audit was released to the papers and others before it was given to the board. Henry also reminded the board that the Task Force Meeting is scheduled for Friday at 3:30 and asked who will be attending. It was decided that Mr. Lance will attend.

Mrs. Stone also pointed out that there is a meeting scheduled with the legislators regarding solid waste at 8:00 a.m. on December 2nd at Centenary in Hackettstown.

Under closing comments, Bob Shandor said that there will be hiking tours held at West Oxford Mountain and White Lake on the Friday after Thanksgiving. He also asked what is being done about the maintenance on the county's acquired properties.

There were no press comments or questions.

No executive session was required.

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 9:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Lance: absent Mrs. Dickey: yes Mrs. Stone: yes**ATTESTED TO:**

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk