MINUTES **December 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, December 17, 1997 at 7:05 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 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".

There were no public comments on agenda items.

RESOLUTION 719-97

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 December 17, 1997.

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Master Voucher Certificate for Certification for Payment No. 97-33 dated December 17, 1997 in the amount of $455,440.05 including bills and investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

97-33 $ 455,440.05

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

RESOLUTION 720-97

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 December 17, 1997.

TRANSFER IN THE 1997 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS:

TO:	**GROUP INS. PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES**	**$ 17,000.00**	
	SURROGATE, S & W	**9,000.00**	
	SHERIFF, S & W	**11,000.00**	
	WAR VET. BUR. & GRAVE DEC., S & W	**425.00**	
	CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMM., S & W	**350.00**	
	NUTRITION PROG., S & W	**300.00**	
	JAIL, OE	**55,000.00**	**$93,075.00**

FROM: JAIL, S & W	**$ 55,000.00**	
INS. ON BLDG. & MOTOR VEH. ETC.	**17,000.00**	
PROV. FOR SAL. ADJ. & NEW EMP.	**21,075.00**	**$93,075.00**

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-58 states that transfers can be made after November 1, and

WHEREAS, by unforeseen demand there has arisen the necessity for expenditures to fulfill the purposes of the appropriations as stated in the 1997 Budget and Tax Levy in the following account:

GROUP INS. PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES	$ 17,000.00	
SURROGATE, S & W	9,000.00	
SHERIFF, S & W	11,000.00	
WAR VET. BUR. & GRAVE DEC., S & W	425.00	
CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMM., S & W	350.00	
NUTRITION PROG., S & W	300.00	
JAIL, OE	55,000.00	$93,075.00

and there being an excess in appropriations heretofore made as follows:

JAIL, S & W	$ 55,000.00	
INS. ON BLDG. & MOTOR VEH. ETC.	17,000.00	
PROV. FOR SAL. ADJ. & NEW EMP.	21,075.00	$93,075.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren that by a Majority Vote of this Board that the following transfer in the 1997 Budget Appropriations be made:

	FROM		
A01-05-01100.00.000	JAIL, S & W	$ 55,000.00	
A01-01-00395.00.200	INS. ON BLDG. & MOTOR VEH. ETC.	17,000.00	
A01-09-01835.00.200	PROV. FOR SAL. ADJ. & NEW EMP.	21,075.00	$93,075.00
	TO		
A01-01-00397.00.343	GROUP INS. PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES	$ 17,000.00	
A01-02-00540.00.000	SURROGATE, S & W	9,000.00	
A01-03-00700.00.000	SHERIFF, S & W	11,000.00	
A01-06-01580.00.000	WAR VET. BUR. & GRAVE DEC., S & W	425.00	
A01-07-01770.00.000	CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMM., S & W	350.00	
A01-06-01560.00.000	NUTRITION PROG., S & W	300.00	
A01-05-01101.00.098	JAIL, OE	55,000.00	$93,075.00

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

RESOLUTION 721-97

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 December 17, 1997.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SERVICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF WELFARE, HENRY D. DINGER, WARREN COUNTY WELFARE BOARD,

AS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, WARREN COUNTY, FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 1998 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1998

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders is in need of the services of a county administrator; and

WHEREAS, Henry D. Dinger, Director of Welfare, Warren County Welfare Board, is qualified to perform said services in view of his previous service as full-time county administrator; and

WHEREAS, the parties have developed an agreement outlining terms and conditions governing the provision of services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren, that the Director of the Board is hereby authorized to execute the agreement between the parties, subject to the review and approval of such agreement by county counsel.

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

RESOLUTION 722-97

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 December 17, 1997.

RESOLUTION SETTING DATE AND TIME OF ANNUAL MEETING

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:20-75, the Stated Annual Meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren shall be held in the Warren County Court House, Court Room #1, Belvidere, New Jersey, at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 1, 1998. The Board of Chosen Freeholders shall take action upon reorganized resolutions, appointments, and other matters normally acted upon at reorganizational meetings.

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 letter of resignation was received from James Lee as a member to the Morris Canal Committee. A letter of appreciation or possibly a plaque is to be done commending Mr. Lee for his service to this committee.

RESOLUTION 723-97

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 December 17, 1997.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE WARREN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren hereby appoints the following member to the Warren County Economic Development

Advisory Council for a two year term effective December 18, 1997:
Kathie Enz Term to expire: 9/30/00
18 Spring Lane
Washington, NJ 07882

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

RESOLUTION 724-97

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 December 17, 1997.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE WARREN COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren hereby appoints the following members to the Warren County Commission for Women, effective December 18, 1997, to fill a three year term:
Loraine Gonsky Term to expire: 10/30/00
24 Colby Court
Belvidere, NJ 07823

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 resolution was received from Hudson County supporting the BESTEA Bill which would help preserve the state's share of the national transportation budget.

A resolution was received from Ocean County opposing any legislation that would in any way require the taxpayers of Ocean County to contribute to the retirement of Solid Waste Facility Debt for other districts.

County Counsel David Wallace had nothing to report.

County Engineer David Hicks and County Planner David Dech were not present at this meeting.

County CFO Pete Houck had budget items to discuss.

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

The request from the Givens-Belet American Legion Post #258 in Blairstown for a donation towards their annual Memorial Parade was denied. A letter is to be sent advising them that this would be more appropriate on a municipal level, not a county level.

The request from Tom Planer, Chairman, WC PRMUA, regarding the reinstatement of a stipend to the authority's members was denied. A letter is to be sent advising the authority of this decision.

Regarding the Recycling Program, Mrs. Dickey said she proposes that the center be open only two days per week plus Saturday, set the hours and this is when people will use it.

Mrs. Stone said that the funding is there, we need to move forward for at least one year. Continue the program the way it is run now; in-house with two fulltime people on-site plus the education component.

Susan said that the operation is smaller now, the program should be geared down. 1.2% of the county's recycling is all that is handled at the center. This should not be approached in the same way as PCFA handled it. Keep the program going but borrow two fulltime employees from some other department. She is still waiting for information from John Carlton on the Recycling Coordinator position before she makes a decision on this.

Mr. Lance said we should bring two employees over for now and the other aspects will depend on the 1998 grant. Susan agreed with this.

On motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, effective January 2nd, recycling will continue, utilizing two fulltime employees from county departments with a decision on the Education Coordinator/Specialist position at a later date.
ROLL CALL: Mr. Lance: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes Mrs. Stone: no

Under comments about recycling, Gladys Blemmer said she is surprised at Susan and her position on recycling. Susan asked why because she has always been in favor of the recycling program and it is going on.

Frank Van Horn said that it appears to be going backwards.

Dinah Rush said that with regard to the Education Coordinator/Specialist position, education is just one component. Also involved is administration of the program, supervising new programs and campaigns, working with the schools and senior citizen groups, etc. She feels the position should go under the Planning Department. If anyone has any questions about the program, she will be glad to answer them.

Robert Masterson, the union representative of the PCFA employees asked that the board consider taking on all four of the current employees.

CFO Pete Houck said that regarding the budget, we have a $2 million shortfall this year and we will have to increase revenues by a like amount. We definitely have a problem.

Mr. Dinger said that there are "the got-to-dos", "the need-to-dos" and "the want-to-dos". The question in the county is what can we do and what can we afford to do.

Most departments have responded with ideas on what to do and how to cut but some just can't cut any more. We have held the line with hiring; we had 782 employees in 1996 and in 1997 we have 777. We know what is mandated so we know what we have to do. Welfare has not filled any vacancies in four years. The county employees think there is going to be a lay-off and we should try everything before we come to that. It is a very bad policy to lay-off. We can fill positions through attrition, job sharing, etc. Staff needs to know that lay-offs are not an option.

There were no freeholder comments and no press comments or questions.

No executive session was required.

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mr. Lance, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. ROLL CALL: Mr. Lance: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes Mrs. Stone: yes

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk