

MINUTES

MARCH 18, 1998

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session in its offices in the Administration Building, Belvidere, New Jersey on Wednesday, March 18, 1998 at 7:11 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Director Lance and upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Susan Dickey, Freeholder Stephen Lance and Freeholder Ann Stone.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Deputy Director Lance.

Deputy Director Lance 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".

Under public comments, Mark Portnoy, Executive Director of the Phillipsburg Urban Enterprise Zone, and Anne Jennings spoke to the board regarding the funds available in the Open Space Trust Fund.

They submitted their application to the committee to acquire the 25 acres of property on the Delaware River waterfront to be used as the site for the proposed Rail Road Museum. They did this in a timely manner and asked for the committee's recommendation to the freeholders. They were denied for administrative reasons.

The conservancy feels the area has excellent potential as the economy is depressed in that area and has been for many years. This would be the perfect opportunity to bring up the economy and it would also help the quality of life. There is a developer interested in this property and if purchased would be used for a truck depot.

Mr. Portnoy said that he knows there are funds available for this request.

Mrs. Dickey asked what the annual payment would be and Mr. Portnoy said \$84,000 over a 15 year period.

Susan asked Pete Houck if this would fit into the revolving loan program and Pete said we could only do this for a five year period.

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Mrs. Stone asked how much the other two sites have put up in money and Mr. Portnoy didn't know.

Bob Canace, President of the Ridge and Valley Conservancy, spoke to the board regarding the availability of \$75,000 in discretionary funding to acquire a part of the Tranquility Farms property. Duane Copley said they are looking for \$861,000 for the whole project. The closing is June 30th.

Duane said they are asking for funds to be made available in this calendar year.

Mr. Canace also questioned if there are any funds available for the purchase of the Limestone Forest tract. They need additional funding to preserve the entire tract. They are looking for \$250,000 over a five year period, this would be o.k. This project would compliment what they already have. Any portion that the county could put in would be appreciated. The acquisition is 278 acres.

Duane Copley said that the \$.02 dedicated tax generates about \$270,000 per year and it's hard to run the program on that kind of money. He is asking the board to consider an additional \$.01 to \$.02 tax to beef up the program. It is time to consider upping the dedicated tax.

RESOLUTION 189-98

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 18 1998.

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS.

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Master Voucher Certificate for Certification for Payment No. 98-8 dated March 18, 1998 in the amount of \$1,620,655.99 including bills and investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

98-8	648,812.42
Payroll 3/12	971,843.57

Total	\$1,620,655.99
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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: Mrs. Stone: yes Mr. Lance: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes

RESOLUTION 190-98

On motion by Mrs. Stone, 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 March 18 1998.

INSERTION INTO THE 1998 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,904.00 FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPT. OF LAW & PUB. SAFETY, DIV. OF HIGHWAY SAFETY, SUMMER INTERNSHIP #RS98-61-03-02.

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WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been available by Law and the amount thereof was not determined at the adoption of the Budget: and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Warren request the Director of the Division of Local Government services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the year 1998 in the sum of \$11,904.00, which item is now available from the State of New Jersey, Dept. of Law & Pub. Safety, Div. of Highway Safety, Summer Internship #RS98-61-03-02.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$11,904.00 be and the same is hereby appropriated under caption:

"UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS OFF-SET BY REVENUES"

State of New Jersey, Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Highway Safety, Summer Internship #RS98-61-03-02.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is the result of the approval by the State of New Jersey, Dept. of Health & Senior services and that two (2) certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services.

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

RESOLUTION 191-98

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 18 1998.

INSERTION INTO THE 1998 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,179.00 FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPT. OF LAW & PUB. SAFETY, DIV. OF HIGHWAY SAFETY, TRAFFIC COUNTY UPGRADE #RS98-61-08-01.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A.40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been available by Law and the amount thereof was not determined at the adoption of the Budget: and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Warren request the Director of the Division of Local Government services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the year 1998 in the sum of \$4,179.00, which item is now available from the State of New Jersey, Dept. of Law & Pub. Safety, Div. of Highway Safety, Traffic County Upgrade #RS98-61-08-01.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$4,179.00 be and the same is hereby appropriated under caption:

"UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS OFF-SET BY REVENUES"

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State of New Jersey, Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Highway Safety, Traffic County Upgrade #RS98-61-08-01.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is the result of the approval by the State of New Jersey, Dept. of Health & Senior services and that two (2) certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services.

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

RESOLUTION 192-98

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 18 1998.

RESOLUTION APPROVING WARREN COUNTY REVOLVING LOAN PROCESSING PROCEDURES.

WHEREAS, Warren County has established a Revolving Loan Fund to support businesses in the county; and

WHEREAS, a re-use lending plan has been approved and is in place; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Advisory Council has the responsibility of processing loan requests; and

WHEREAS, a processing procedure has been developed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren approves the Revolving Loan Processing Procedures dated March 12, 1998 as developed by the Warren County Development Advisory Council.

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

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, a resolution is to be prepared for the next meeting to reappoint Elwood Bray as a member to the WC Shade Tree Commission.

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

RESOLUTION 193-98

On motion by Mrs. Stone, 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 March 18 1998.

RESOLUTION CREATING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT PLANNER, CLASSIFIED, AND ABOLISHING THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL PLANNING AIDE, CLASSIFIED, WITHIN THE WARREN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren that the position of *assistant planner*, classified, is created within the Warren County Planning Department for the purpose of augmenting the efficiency and effectiveness of operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the position of *principal planning aide*, classified, be abolished; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of

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Warren that the position of *assistant planner* be established on AFSCME Range 13 and take effect March 26, 1998.

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

County Counsel David Wallace had items for executive session only.

County Engineer David Hicks was not present.

County Planner David Dech spoke to the board regarding recommendations from the Open Space Committee for projects to be funded.

The recommendations were made and Dave said he thinks the committee did an excellent job and they were fair to all the applicants.

The Mansfield property, the Baldwin Farm, is 140 acres at a cost of \$450,000 and the Washington Township property is 393 acres at a cost of \$200,000. The grant agreements will be prepared if the board agrees. He needs board acceptance. The board agreed and the resolutions will be prepared for the March 25th meeting.

Orrie Terpstra thanked the planning department for all their help.

Dave announced that the public hearing for the State Plan is scheduled for April 15th.

Dave said that he won't be at next week's meeting but he thanked the board in advance for approving his hiring request. The loss of Stan Wessner and the retirement of Minerva Kennedy completely eliminated the development review portion of his office. Dave also put in for a Clerk Typist position and hopes the board will look at this request favorably. He absolutely needs a fulltime clerical position in his department. He is saving \$20,000 with these two new titles. Ann Stone said she supports his request.

CFO Pete Houck had nothing to report.

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

Mr. Dinger advised the board that if they don't want to raise taxes, they will have to start looking at the hiring requests more closely, or reduce or terminate services.

Under freeholder comments, Ann Stone said that regarding the budget meetings, she requested that the freeholders attend these meetings on an alternating basis.

Mrs. Dickey thanked Mr. Lance for serving as chair for this meeting.

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Mr. Lance had no comments at this time.

Under public comments, Ed Church presented figures to the board regarding the library budget and asked the board to analyze the situation before next week's budget hearing for the library.

There were no press comments or questions.

RESOLUTION 194-98

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 18 1998.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MARCH 18, 1998. 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: Mrs. Stone: yes Mr. Lance: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes

Director Dickey called for a ten minute recess at 8:38 p.m.

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The board went into executive session at 9:00 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 10:22 p.m.

Nothing discussed in executive session has lost its confidentiality.

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, authorization was given to pay the Ag Development Board bill.

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

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the freeholder meeting scheduled for April 15, 1998 is cancelled.

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

On motion by Mrs. Dickey, seconded by Mrs. Stone, Mr. Dinger is instructed to write a letter to Hardwick Township requesting a response in writing of their intent to place a referendum on the ballot in November asking the voters to agree to an open space tax and a letter to the State of New Jersey requesting emergency funding to assist in the purchase of Tranquility Farm on an 80/20 basis.

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

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk