

MINUTES**May 6, 1998**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session in the Township of Blairstown Municipal Building, Stillwater Road, Blairstown, New Jersey on Wednesday, May 6, 1998 at 7:15 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Dickey 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 Director Dickey.

Director Dickey 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".

PROCLAMATION 301-98

On motion by Mrs. Stone, 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 May 6, 1998.

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 7, 1998.**

WHEREAS, the founders of this great nation were, in most cases, men and women of faith who incorporated the principals of Scripture in the Constitution and the government it authorized; and

WHEREAS, they referred in these foundational documents to "the God of Nature and Nature's God";

WHEREAS, that early influence prevailed in the culture until our day, when sadly, many of us have forgotten the God of our Fathers; and

WHEREAS, the **National Day of Prayer (NDP)** is an annual event for Americans of all faiths to take time to pray for our nation and its leaders; and

WHEREAS, national days of prayer have been called as early as 1775 and were established by a joint resolution of congress in 1952 and amended in 1988 and signed by President Reagen to be the first Thursday of May each year; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans and since 1988, every president has issued a proclamation encouraging Americans to participate in NDP;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren supports May 7, 1998 as a **National Day of Prayer**.

Susan A. Dickey, Director
Board of Chosen Freeholders

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

Mrs. Dickey thanked the Blairstown officials for hosting the floating meeting and the freeholders were thanked for coming to Blairstown.

There had been no agenda items submitted.

A Blairstown resident discussed his concerns with not being able to obtain coverage and information on Medicare supplemental insurance coverage. He stated that he had called some of the advertised 800 numbers and when he told them he resided in Warren County, he was told that the company did not write policies covering this area. He wanted to know what could be done to ensure that residents of this county could have equal access to the health care options and HMOs.

Mrs. Dickey asked Mr. Dinger to see if some information could be obtained and perhaps write to the Insurance Commissioner to see that all state residents were being treated equally. This resident also questioned why the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission could not remove the toll booths. He said many former toll highways had removed the tolls, and he felt the DRJTBC should do likewise. He asked what they spend the money on. Again, Mrs. Dickey indicated we would try to obtain information for this gentlemen, James Sikkes.

Mayor Rydell of Frélinghuysen Township mentioned that he has recently changed his insurance to AARP. He then mentioned some issues for this township, notably Rt.612 in regard to when construction may begin, and that there were concrete chunks falling from the tunnel on Rt.661. He said he would Engineer Hicks about these issues. Mrs. Stone said there is a public works meeting next week and she would ask about these items and get back to Mr. Rydell.

Blairstown Mayor Ardia stated that if the freeholders need to appoint a new administrator, that she hoped the appointment would be based on credentials, not politics.

Mr. Sikkes stated that the road department had done a good job on tree trimming in the township.

Mayor Ardia said the meeting was poorly attended perhaps due to a lack of advertising. However, there were also other meetings scheduled for this night and a function at the school.

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Sal Simonetti asked about any progress on the bridge by the old railroad station, now a radio station. It is unlikely that the gap could be filled in and the bridge widened as that line will probably be put back in service in the next several years. No one wants to be financially responsible for widening the bridge.

Mayor Ardia asked if the county was doing anything about sludge. Mrs. Dickey replied that the committee continues to try to bring some control to the county but the DEP has blocked the efforts. New York sludge is coming in, and the Yonkers sludge is again being imported. She said the Planning Board resolution in opposition to sludge would be sent to the municipalities.

There were several questions on the EFR situation which were responded to by Mr. Dinger.

Mrs. Dickey reminded those present that the Governor's Property Tax Committee will hold a public hearing on Sunday, May 17, 1998 at 1:00 p.m. at Warren Hills High School.

RESOLUTION 302-98

On motion by Mr. Lance, 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 April 22 1998.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON MAY 6, 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.