

**MINUTES**

September 30, 1998

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met on Wednesday, September 30, 1998 at 7:49 p.m. in the Administration Building, Belvidere, New Jersey with Municipal Elected & Appointed Officials.

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 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".

**RESOLUTION 638-98**

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 September 30, 1998.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL AID  
LOCAL SCOPING FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999  
FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE #2102215,  
COUNTY ROUTE #623 OVER THE POHATCONG CREEK,  
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY.**

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to replace Warren County Bridge #2102215, County Route #623 (Brass Castle Road) over the Pohatcong Creek, Washington Township due to its structural condition; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Transportation Authority (NJTPA) has invited counties to submit applications for funding under the Local Scoping Program for fiscal year 1999.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren in the State of New Jersey that the above application is hereby approved and that the County Engineer is authorized to submit said application with all necessary supporting documentation to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

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

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Mrs. Dickey asked Mr. Rivoli to discuss several matters with those present. She indicated that in some other counties and municipalities they are requiring any cell phone towers must reserve antenna space for 911 communications systems.

Mr. Rivoli asked everyone to distinguish between 911 and radio service. The engineering company that designed the radio coverage did not do a good job as they should have, and the problem in reception is shadowing. The signals never get to the base of the mountains. Some fire dispatch pagers don't open. Washington Boro and Township have troubles along Route 31 corridor, where they sometimes open but the message is scratchy or absent. We had problems in Lopatcong, Pohatcong and Greenwich, and now have gotten space on the GPU tower which helps. Only rescue squad having problems is Oxford. They have a new radio, antenna and cable, and now are having problems.

Cellular towers are going up in many places. Towns may want to consider negotiating for space. Some companies will pay to use municipal towers or space around the tower. If you get tower space, remember to try to get space in the building for radio equipment and power.

With cellular 911 calls, between Phillipsburg and Washington, most go to Northampton County because the service provider is in PA. New Jersey calls all go to NJ State Police in Totowa for now.

Mrs. Dickey said she can provide a model ordinance for the towns.

Mr. Rivoli said the system was designed to give 90% coverage 90% of the time. If we change to high band, still will have problems, unless we go to satellite feeds, which are expensive. Most of the two communications work correctly, but there are still a few dead spots.

Mrs. Stone if the Board has changed positions on supporting tower applications.

Mrs. Dickey said no, not changing position, but if they come in and get approval, the towns and county should take advantage of the opportunity. Simply offering information, not setting policy for towns.

Mr. Rivoli said that if there are coverage problems, they should work with the local chief and they can refer the problems to the county communications center.

Mrs. Stone ask for an update on the Merrill Creek sirens.

Mr. Rivoli said the sirens were mandated by the State for construction of the dam. Merrill Creek didn't activate until there were local plans in place. In December, 1997, four sirens didn't work, so couldn't evaluate the coverage. The June, 1998 test found all sirens working, but still some couldn't be heard. No sirens were heard in Riegelsville, and some areas of Phillipsburg. These complaints were passed on tot the Board of Directors, but no

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feedback yet. Merrill Creek says there are no sirens in Riegelsville even though it is in an inundation area. The county is waiting for Merrill Creek to provide a siren coverage map.

Mrs. Stone said the State Police are the ones to enforce compliance, not the county.

Mr. Rivoli stated that Merrill Creek said they had a legal obligation for coverage one and one-half hours out, but he feels they have a moral obligation to cover the affected areas.

Pohatcong Emergency Management Coordinator said he needs the county to support whatever plan is devised to push Merrill Creek to improve the system. Mrs. Dickey said they will meet in a few days to try to get this resolved.

Pohatcong Mayor said that if they need to change plans, maybe Merrill Creek should shoulder the costs.

**QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Tim McDonough - Hope

Mr. McDonough thanked Mrs. Dickey and the Board for assistance on the truck routes through the county. PCFA will set procedures to suspend contracts for companies that violate truck routes. Maybe the county can help enforce the routes. He also said the crosswalks in town helps force trucks to stop, and may discourage them coming in. He wants to look at reducing the speed limit as you come into town.

Mr. Hicks said he didn't think DOT would look favorably at a speed reduction. The problem is where it goes to 25 mph, they don't slow down. More enforcement is needed.

Mr. McDonough said the State Police will have three troopers doing community policing beginning in November.

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The issue of a traffic light at ramp off Route 80 and at intersection of Bald Eagle Road and Route 517 was discussed. Mr. Hicks said the Route 517 light has been previously discussed. It is Panther Valley's responsibility as Bald eagle is a private road. At the ramp, they need to discuss with DOT. He believes new striping and other changes would help.

Lois Markle - Harmony

Mayor Markle asked for county support for host fees for towns with sludge facilities. Harmony testified on the impact of these facilities on the townships and counties. There are new problems now with the noise from the scrubbers. They have to hire a mercury expert. The facility may be planning to expand the tonnage being taken.

Ms. Markle asked for support of a resolution that should be coming next week. She would like to have the county provide testimony in support of legislation. She expressed appreciation to county staff that have helped them deal with the problems.

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Mr. Rydell discussed drainage problems on Route 661 in Johnsonburg. He stated that Robert Canace thinks he can obtain a grant to help the problem. He asked if the county would be interested in meeting with Mr. Canace on the grant.

Mr. Hicks said they needed to look to see if there is any way to improve drainage. There are wetlands behind houses, and the county needs to do some survey work. The county usually leaves sidewalks to the municipalities, but we will work with Mr. Canace on the project.

Planning Director Dech provided handouts to those present regarding a meeting for October 26, 1998 at 8:00 p.m. in the Freeholder meeting Room on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. He also provided a document, "Issues of Statewide Concern" regarding the State Plan Cross-Acceptance.

This is the second phase, and is the negotiating phase. The Planning Board will meet with State on the 81 issues. First meeting is October 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pequest Fish Hatchery. Second meeting is December 15, same time and place.

The state plan may become regulatory in the future, as it has been moved into the DCA.

Mr. Hicks said the county is using long life stripes on the roads. This is the first year to bid the striping and it may be an opportunity to add some municipal roads to our contract.

Alan Fisher asked for an update on WFNJ. Mr. Dinger provided rezones.

Mayor Fey thanked the Board for continuing to have these meetings even though he is disappointed that more local officials do not attend.

Upon motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**ATTESTED TO:****NAOMI J. STOUT, DEPUTY CLERK**