

MINUTES

October 7, 1998

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session at the Independence Township Municipal Building, Regina Lane, Great Meadows, New Jersey on Wednesday, October 7, 1998 at 7:04 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 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".

Mrs. Dickey expressed the Board's thanks to Independence Township for hosting the traveling meeting.

Mayor Saville indicated that there were no set agenda items. She indicated that there are continuing problems with the installation of the water line in the township. The contractor has walked off the job. The present time line for completion is May 1.

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with being forced by the state statutes to accept the low bidder of public jobs. They felt that every contractor does the same thing, in that they bid low and then run the cost up with change orders.

A resident said he was disturbed that Mr. Peabody, a Vice-president of ALR, had been given an award by the county.

Independence has put a large amount of money up to help solve this problem. ALR is free and clear, but the township has picked up the tab. They questioned where the freeholders have been for the past three years.

Mrs. Dickey responded that the freeholders worked hard to get the DEP to come here several years ago and talk and get the project moving forward.

It was her understanding that the project was moving, and the DEP and the Township

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The Township got a change order bill for \$150,000, without any prior notice or approval, and Trenton told them they had to pay it. They restated their idea that they need to find a way to get away from the low bidder.

Mrs. Dickey said they need to look at the law and petition the legislature for a change.

There have been long delays in getting payment from the DEP to reimburse the township to pay the contractors.

Other than their troubles with capital projects, the township is in good shape.

Mrs. Dickey stated there were no set agenda items for the county and ask if there were any comments from the public.

There was a brief presentation, with documents provided to the freeholders, from Dana Natale, a Master's candidate at Montclair State. This was a research paper on the siting of garbage incinerators in New Jersey. The title of the treatise is "Environmental injustice as it is manifested in the building of incinerators within the State of New Jersey".

A resident asked when the county was going to close the EFR. Mrs. Dickey responded that the plant is owned by Ogden Martin. The option to close is still under consideration with PCFA.

Liberty township stated that they are still looking for the county to take over Pequest Road, now that the upgrades are 99% complete.

There was a complaint that recycling was being co-mingled rather than source separated.

Mrs. Stone responded that the county has an excellent recycling program. Municipalities can choose how they do this. Curbside is preferable, but they also have drop sites. Recycling is actually not a county responsibility, it is that of the municipality. However all levels must work together. Mrs. Stone thanked George Ulmer and Bob West for helping the recycling people at the center.

Mr. Regrut again attempted to raise several issues with the freeholders. County Counsel Wallace advised the Board that these questions were inappropriate in that they deal with issues that are presently the subject of litigation against the county by Mr. Regrut. He had previously been admonished by the Judge not to pursue this method of engaging in the merits of the case. Mrs. Dickey relied upon the advice of counsel.

All freeholders again expressed appreciation to Independence for hosting the meeting. Mrs. Dickey announced that she had met with Mr. Burd, and that a sound study was to be done on the dam break sirens for Merrill Creek.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the

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meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

ATTESTED TO:

NAOMI J. STOUT, DEPUTY CLERK