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February 17, 1999

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, February 17, 1999 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 and Freeholder Ann Stone. Freeholder Stephen Lance was absent.

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".

Barry Smith, Director of Information Systems, gave a presentation on the Information Systems up-grade and the implementation of the Flexible Chart of Accounts.

Mr. Smith said that we started reviewing the process of the Y2K issues in 1997. This affects more than just the computers, it also involves the radio system at 9-1-1, the phone system throughout the entire county and the main frame. We will have to replace the computers that are not compliant with the new system. It is best to go with an integrated system. This system will cost less to operate over the long run and has been budgeted for previously. The life-span of a computer is approximately 18 months. This is the last major piece of the contingency plans for operating. 9-1-1 will hold a drill. There is a potential for a phone shut-down and an electricity outage.

Susan asked where the state is on what they need to do and Barry said their situation is not very good. They have only five systems taken care of; three of them being; treasury, labor and public assistance. We are meeting tomorrow with a vendor for the phone system. By mid-March we should be cutting p.o.'s for the phone system. This will probably take three to six months to complete. There are eleven major projects going on at the same time.

Susan said that her concern is with 9-1-1. What happens if an emergency occurs. Barry said that part of that will be coordinated in June with the drill. Some up-upgrades will be needed. The Road Department will have portable generators if needed. Supplies should be stocked, plenty of fuel on hand, etc.

Mr. Houck said that they are incorporating the new Chart of Accounts with the new

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system. These are standardized financial procedures. We have to comply with the state. We will schedule training one week per month for the next three to four months. The financial part should be up and running in April and payroll in July. We are on schedule but we have to keep up with all the existing work and get the new system going too. The target date for completion is the end of the year.

Mr. Marvin asked what the board wants during the year by way of reports; do they want monthly reports, written or oral, they need to let Mr. Marvin know.

This report ended at 7:32 p.m.

RESOLUTION 110-99

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held February 17, 1999.

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS.

BE AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Master Voucher Certificate for Certification/Ratification for Payment No. 99-5 dated February 17, 1999 in the amount of \$1,870,475.51 including bills and investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

99-5	\$ 798,651.01
Payroll 2/11	1,011,137.00
Uniform	60,687.50
Total	\$1,870,475.51

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: absent Mrs. Dickey: yes

County Counsel David Wallace had no report.

County Engineer David Hicks and County Planner David Dech were absent.

County CFO Pete Houck had no report.

County Administrator Steve Marvin met with Pat Rivoli today regarding 9-1-1. The board tentatively set the April 21st work session for Pat to talk to the board about staffing issues. We also need to look into the renewal of the Interlocal Service Agreements with the municipalities.

Mr. Marvin also had items for executive session.

Under freeholder comments, Mrs. Stone asked if the 9-1-1 committee is meeting on

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a monthly basis and Mr. Marvin said no but they talked about that today. Pat is looking at regenerating that committee.

Mrs. Stone also asked about Economic Development. She said they couldn't have a meeting last night because no notice had been sent out. She said it is imperative that this situation be addressed. Mr. Wallace said he doesn't think they are affected by the Sunshine Law. We should check back in 1994 and see if the freeholders established a procedure for advertising meetings.

Mrs. Dickey had no comments.

Director Dickey called for a five minute break at 7:40 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

John Carlton, Executive Director of PCFA, spoke to the board about the future of the Recycling Program. At the last meeting, PCFA was asked if they had \$20,000 available to add to the county's \$40,470 to continue the Recycling Program through 1999. PCFA is looking for a long-term solution to the problem. We need to work together to keep the program going beyond 1999.

Mrs. Dickey is in favor of keeping the program through this year but her concern is that we get some type of recycling plan in place by September that will not become a county program. She does not want it to be a county program. There is not enough tonnage to warrant it.

Mr. Carlton said that the PCFA members want to get this resolved. It is a valuable program. Reports have been submitted to the board showing tonnage and facts on the outreach programs in 1997 and 1998. DEP might be rescinding the Recycling Grant. Dinah heard that at the DEP meeting today.

Mrs. Dickey asked if he has any ideas on the PCFA end of this.

Mrs. Stone said that someone from Americorps talked to Dinah about a solution to this.

On motion by Mrs. Stone, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, the board authorized the allocation of \$40,470.00 for the recycling program.

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

Mr. Carlton left at 8:00 p.m.

Under closing public comments, Donald Grube, the OEM Coordinator from Pohatcong Township, spoke to the board regarding a problem with the Merrill Creek siren system.

He said they tried to work with Merrill Creek directly; Pohatcong and Phillipsburg agreed to do this as a joint venture. On December 5, 1998, Merrill Creek had their test but Pohatcong feels that 1/3 of Pohatcong wasn't covered adequately. They did not receive the

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report on December 31st as they were promised. Mrs. Dickey got a copy and the press got a copy but Pohatcong did not receive a copy until January 26th. They feel that there has been no improvement to the siren coverage in that area. Merrill Creek did not address any of their problems. This involves about a thousand people and is a serious problem. He is asking if the freeholders are still supporting them. They need additional sirens.

Mrs. Dickey said that the system belongs to Merrill Creek and the freeholders can't tap into that system. She doesn't know how to resolve this issue. Mr. Grube asked if the freeholders are still behind them. The state police supports what is in place.

Nancy Mason, Recycling Coordinator for the Town of Belvidere, said that the comment was made that the county never funded recycling but they did back in 1983 or 1984. She doesn't know how it was funded at that time but this issue needs to be addressed. The funds need to come from somewhere. The grant funds were initially given as start-up funding.

As for the revenue not being there, she said to keep in mind that it doesn't need to make a profit. It shouldn't be that way. Mrs. Dickey said that we are not looking to make a profit. She is saying that there is a limited amount of tonnage coming through and the expense is extraordinary for the amount of recycling that is generated. Mrs. Dickey said that recycling is the responsibility of the municipalities.

A gentleman in the audience asked if the board had considered the change from three to five freeholders. Do they feel they need more help. Mrs. Dickey said no. Mrs. Stone said she gave up her full-time job to be a full-time freeholder.

There were no press comments or questions.

RESOLUTION 111-99

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 February 17, 1999.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON FEBRUARY 17, 1999. 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:

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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: absent Mrs. Dickey: yes

Director Dickey called for a five minute break at 8:30 p.m.

The board went into executive session at 8:45 p.m.

The board returned to open session at 9:10 p.m.

Nothing discussed in executive session has lost its confidentiality.

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 9:11 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

NAOMI J. STOUT, DEPUTY CLERK