

MINUTES

May 5, 1999

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in regular session in the Greenwich Township Municipal Building, Stewartsville, New Jersey on Wednesday, May 5, 1999 at 7:10 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. County Administrator Steve Marvin and County Engineer David Hicks also attended.

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".

In attendance from Greenwich Township were Mayor Deborah Pasquarelli, Committee Members Joseph Gurneak, Guy Fleming, Mark Grubb and Bob Zelle, Twp. Attorney Ron Peles, Twp. Engineer Mike Finelli and Twp. Clerk Kim Viscomi.

Mrs. Dickey made opening remarks thanking the committee for hosting the meeting.

Mayor Pasquarelli welcomed the board and opened matters with questions regarding the status of planning for Route 22/519 improvements.

Dave Hicks briefed the attendees on the current status of NJDOT project planning including: distribution of most recent DOT plan revisions to the county, Pohatcong Twp. and Greenwich Twp.; meetings to express local concerns and comments to DOT; the primary revision involves construction of an interchange at the Route 22/638 intersection as opposed to raising 22 over 638 which would present great problems in construction and maintenance of traffic; requests made to DOT for additional studies to preclude shutting of 122 at the Route 22/122 intersection which would be better for local traffic; DOT's objectives are to retain maximum traffic flow on Route 22 while local objectives center on retaining access and local use.

Mr. Zelle discussed concerns expressed by Pohatcong Twp. regarding the median break. Mr. Hicks said that the county and townships should put together jointly, their best

MINUTES**May 5, 1999**

local agreement in order to maximize input to impact on DOT. Mr. Hicks went on to say that the project estimates were in the \$15-20 million range, that no comments had come back from DOT yet and that their funds won't become available until FY'00.

Discussion ensued regarding impacts of new and planned developments, the Pennsylvania Route 78 - 33 link and coordination of planning between the NJ and PA DOTs. Mrs. Stone said that the project should be accelerated at DOT due to safety considerations and Mr. Hicks added that the accident results at the site don't compare with other higher volume, higher priority NJ projects.

Mr. Finelli asked how secure the DOT funding commitment is going to be. Mr. Hicks stated that DOT's Transportation Improvement Plan must go to NJTPA for approval and that the burden of justifying the project priority rests with DOT. Locals must support through participation in the NJTPA.

Mr. Hicks briefed those in attendance on the status of the new four-way stop signal in town and that it is scheduled to be activated on May 21st.

Also, design for signalization of Route 519/High St. intersection is under way utilizing delay studies, etc.

Mr. Hicks responded to inquiries on the Route 639/Shackletown Bridge project. An at-grade crossing will be utilized to satisfy railroad corridor historic status, lowering the roadway to grade. The road will not obstruct the corridor and SHPO deems the bridge not historic. The project began in the early 1980's with safety concerns of local residents expressed to the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mr. Zellely stated that an at-grade crossing will work fine based on his experience.

Mayor Pasquarelli inquired regarding plans for the use of the Hamlen property and suggested a partnership between the county and Greenwich for recreational use. Mrs. Dickey stated that there are no use plans in place, that the property is currently leased for farming, that a resolution prescribing use and conduct on public properties has recently been passed. Mr. Lance described the Hamlen property as part of the overall Morris Canal/Lee property development process and also outlined structural problems with the bridge and proposed solution.

Mr. Zellely asked the Board of Chosen Freeholders to support continued groundwater contamination studies being conducted by the EPA. Mrs. Stone will discuss and coordinate with John Hawk at the Health Department and inform Ms. Viscomi of results.

A brief discussion ensued regarding county developed golf courses. A suggestion was made that the county Open Space Plan be revised to equalize acquisition priorities in all areas of the county.

Mr. Fleming inquired regarding shared service agreements for road equipment, etc. and Mr. Lance discussed the new Road Supervisor's (Rick Miller) progress in this area.

MINUTES**May 5, 1999**

Mayor Pasquarelli inquired regarding the status of the 911 Center and Mrs. Dickey briefed on the progress of the Communications Committee, contract with consultant, etc.

Mr. Zelley asked if the Board of Chosen Freeholders had changed their position regarding the imposition of Environmental Investment Charges (EIC) in regard to PCFA. The Board of Chosen Freeholders affirmed their continued position against EIC's and noted that local State Legislators must be prodded to assist. Mr. Zelley suggested that Mr. Marvin should be appointed to the PCFA in place of Mr. Dinger as the intention was to have the county administrator serve and report back to the Board of Chosen Freeholders on the status of PCFA actions. Mrs. Stone noted that Greenwich needs to nominate a SWAC member.

Mr. Fleming inquired regarding the Recycling program direction. Mrs. Dickey outlined the recent agreement with PCFA to continue the program and the requirement that they come up with a plan for continuation by September which would not include county funds. Mr. Zelley described the efforts being undertaken by PCFA to come up with a final solution and the review of possible funding sources.

Mrs. Stone asked whether the township had any plans for the old Greenwich school as it has some historic value as the old Stewartsville Academy and should be preserved. Mayor Pasquarelli and Mr. Zelley are currently negotiating for something to be done with the building.

On motion by Mr. Lance, seconded by Mrs. Stone, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
ROLL CALL: Mrs. Stone: yes Mr. Lance: yes Mrs. Dickey: yes

ATTESTED TO:

NAOMI J. STOUT, DEPUTY CLERK