

MINUTES

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JANUARY 5, 2000

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in special session in its offices in the Administration Building, Belvidere, New Jersey on January 5, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Stone and upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Ann Stone and Freeholder James DeBosh. Freeholder Susan Dickey was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Director Stone.

Director Stone 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 13-00

On motion by Mr. DeBosh, seconded by Mrs. Stone the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held January 5, 2000.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT EXTENSION BETWEEN THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS AND THE POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY OF WARREN COUNTY FOR RECYCLING PROGRAMS.

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders is desirous of providing \$142,350.00 to the PCFA during FY'00 for support of existing recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, a funds disbursement procedure and schedule for the \$142,350.00 is required to be established; and

WHEREAS, previously adopted Interlocal Service Agreement and Extensions of February 4, 1998, July 1, 1998 and June 23, 1999 provide the framework for the continued operation of the recycling program and will remain in force and effect,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Interlocal Service Agreement Extension between the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the PCFA is approved and the Freeholder Director is authorized to execute this agreement extension.

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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.

Naomi J. Stout Deputy Clerk
ROLL CALL: Mrs. Dickey: absent Mr. DeBosh yes Mrs. Stone yes

RESOLUTION 14-00

On motion by Mr. DeBosh, seconded by Mrs. Stone, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held January 5, 2000.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE PHILLIPSBURG LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren hereby appoints the following members to the Phillipsburg Library Building Committee:

Frank Beruta
315 South 5th St., Morris Park
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Jacob Matthenius
516 Victory Ave., Parkside
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

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.

Naomi J. Stout Deputy Clerk
ROLL CALL: Mrs. Dickey: absent Mr. DeBosh yes Mrs. Stone yes

The board began discussion of the FY2000 county budget.

As an overview, Mr. Houck told the board that regarding surplus, it comes from reserves that lapse after the second year. It is running \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million every year. Other areas of revenue are unanticipated revenue and anticipated revenue, exclusive of the budget. The overall budget is \$67,984,000.00, which is a \$3.5 million increase over last year. Health care and wages are a good part of this increase; \$2.3 million is personnel related. Education is up \$240,000.00. Planning is increased in order to maintain open space.

Mrs. Stone asked about the \$500,000 grant to be coming to the Fire Academy. Mr. Marvin said that there was \$300,000 from last year's budget which has been cancelled. \$500,000 will be coming in from the state to fund the project.

Dan Olshefski said that Warren Haven has decreased this year. Peer Grouping funds are down \$300,000 this year. Funding for contracted Human Services Programs is proposed at the same level as last year. Welfare is up \$120,000 this year over last year.

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Regarding health care, in 1998 the claims paid were \$4.3 million and in 1999, claims paid were \$5.2 million. With no change, the projected increase is 15 - 18%. The vehicles represent an annual replacement with a new lift van for the Route 57 passenger route. Mr. Marvin said that we need to buy this vehicle as our match for a state grant.

Nutrition is up \$24,000; the majority of that is due to increased catering costs. There is also an increase in Aging but that is due to a new program for which we will be reimbursed.

It was noted that there is proposed legislation, S2058, which would increase the Judges salaries, also the Sheriff, County Clerk and Surrogate. Another part of the legislation is an increase in fees collected which would be raised significantly. The increased salaries would be offset through the increased fees.

The capital budget numbers are very preliminary. There has been some thought to renovating the JINS facility for PHNA/Health Dept. We would not need all the money this year. We will need to fund the architect fees. We are currently paying \$50,000 - \$55,000 per year for rental for these departments. Mrs. Stone said it is important to save that building, as it was the original county home. We should look at grants from the state. The building is centrally located in the county, is between 130 and 140 years old and should be preserved. It has been closed for approximately five years.

Regarding the annex repairs, we have budgeted for exterior work, windows, doors, the front porch, the roof, etc.

We also have to look at a chemical fire suppression system to protect records in the courthouse.

Regarding the potential need to build a facility for the courts, we are looking at the potential of \$20 million plus which would be \$2 million plus per year for debt service.

Dan said the total budget is \$67,984,000 (\$64,386,000 last year) with \$970,000 to be raised by taxation. This would represent a .015 tax increase. Obviously this draft budget is a wish list.

Under public comments, Bill Rosebrock asked if there are any county offices that can handle land acquisition. Mr. Marvin said that additional staff and title changes have been requested in planning.

Mrs. Stone requested that Dave Dech, Planning Director and Dave Hicks, County Engineer come in Saturday, January 8th at 9:30 a.m. with their requests.

Under freeholder comments, Mrs. Stone said that the board has lots of work to do. She thanked Mr. Houck and Dan Olshefski for all their hard work.

Under the County Administrator Report, Mr. Marvin said that regarding the courthouse improvements, the courthouse committee will be meeting January 10th and a request has been

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made for a Bar Association representative to be on that committee. John O'Reilly's name was submitted and the board agreed that he should be on the committee.

On motion by Mr. DeBosh, seconded by Mrs. Stone, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

NAOMI J. STOUT, DEPUTY CLERK