

MINUTES

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JANUARY 24, 2000

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in special session in its offices in the Dumont Administration Building, Belvidere, New Jersey on Monday, January 24, 2000 at 7:13 p.m.

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

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 SPECIAL 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**".

There were no public comments.

It is expected that we will be able to introduce the FY2000 Warren County Budget on February 9th.

There have been no changes in the worksheets since the last meeting but there have been some changes from the previous meeting. Under Administrator, \$40,000 has been moved to grants for the establishment of a web site. Roads OE is increased by \$44,000 for vehicle procurement: the addition of two replacement vehicles for the Sheriff's Office, both standard Crown Vics (police package). After discussion, one vehicle is to be removed dropping the amount to \$22,000.

Dan Olshefski said that in the Sheriff's budget, S & W is down due to the transfer of duties. The Sheriff requested \$180,000 in OE. After discussion, the legal line item, originally \$24,000 - 25,000 was dropped to \$16,000 for legal fees based on 166 hours at \$100 per hour. Beyond this, there are no great changes to the worksheet.

Mr. Marvin said they need to talk about personnel, new positions. Some of this has already been done.

Bridges: summer help (6) increased from (4)

Weights & Measures: this has already been approved, plus an additional position.

#5: already done

Prosecutors: computer position - no new position, utilize Barry Smith.

Rutgers: Nutritionist/Dietician - this can be rolled in with the contracting deal.

Roads: done

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Warren Haven: #1 - Principal Account Clerk: asking for two positions due to changes in revenue and consolidated billing, more tracking is to be done prior to approval, possibly later this year.

The second position is a Clerk Typist in the personnel area. Payroll is more complicated in a 24 hour facility and also, flex and comp hours have greatly increased.

The board said no on both positions for the present.

In the Freeholder's office, the new position is to replace the old position with someone to do minutes, freeholder clean-up and miscellaneous clerical.

Counselor at Warren Acres; this position used to be in their budget. One counselor is required for every 20 inmates. The Juvenile Justice Commission requires this. The board approved this position.

Health Benefits Coordinator; some sidebar conversation is still going on. Ann said she is not in favor of this. Jim mentioned that we don't have to fill this position right now. Steve said that even if you don't fill it, you need to have the funding available. Jim said he is not in favor of filling this position right now but we should leave the money in.

Mosquito is asking to move a part-time position to a full-time position, as they want to add a new program. The cost will be \$43,000 for the new position, this would be the maximum cost. It is an initiative program and the position is a Water Management Specialist. Mrs. Stone said that they have a very good program now.

Steve said they are looking for a \$60,000 increase in the original request in OE. Mrs. Stone said we should ask for a copy of their salaries, number of people and what the part-timer gets. Steve said they should leave this one alone, he'll get in touch with Christine and the board can decide on Wednesday.

Regarding promotions and salary adjustments, we have a letter from the Election Board for merit increases for the three unclassified positions. Steve said he would recommend against this request, as it is not consistent with unclassifieds salary procedures. The board denied this request.

The planning issues have already been decided.

Information Systems: Barry Smith is looking to reorganize his department. This is just informational at this point.

Bridge Department: there is one promotion; Laborer to Bridge Repairer. The board approved this.

Cooperative Extension: They want to move their department from 35 hours to 40 hours. The board approved this change.

Warren Acres: promotion for their Secretary: Secretarial Assistant to Administrative

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Assistant. The board approved.

PHNA and County Clerk promotional requests are approved.

Jim said he would like to take \$25,000 from the OE side of the Community College budget. The board agreed.

Dan Olshefski said the tax rate is the same as last year. Should he adjust the surplus and Ann and Jim said yes. Ann said that she doesn't want the EDAC revolving loan money touched.

Based on this, there will be no tax increase. Jim said we could take money out of EDAC eventually, the program is not working.

There were no public comments.

Dan asked Mrs. Stone to work on the budget message. He pointed out that the tax rate in 1995 was \$.6955 and in 2000 is \$.7057.

There were no freeholder comments.

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 8:25 p.m.

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

ATTESTED TO:

NAOMI J. STOUT, DEPUTY CLERK