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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 Wednesday, March 29, 2000 at 7:40 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"**.

The Municipal Elected and Appointed Officials Meeting began with a presentation by Sgt. Richard McDonnell, Regional Coordinator, NJSP, Office of Emergency Management.

Sgt. McDonnell attended tonight to present the board with a check for funds designated to come to Warren County for the county's efforts in preparation for Y2K.

The funds come from a community out-reach program for the preparation for Y2K and Warren County's name was submitted by the Governor's Office and the NJSP. Warren County was the first in the state to plan and prepare for Y2K back two years ago. We were the first to organize and design and implement the Y2K exercise. The staff, (mainly Gary Wassel) got the cooperation of the municipalities of which nine played an active part in the program. Gary Wassel should be recognized for his leadership skills in this program/exercise. Also, an outstanding presentation was made at the Warren County Fair.

Funds were presented to the county but ultimately there will be a trickle down to the municipalities for training. Sgt. McDonnell presented a check for \$4,000.00 to Director Stone. She thanked him and mentioned that we appreciate any money that we receive from the State of New Jersey.

Pat Rivoli, Warren County's Public Safety Director, presented the board with a status report on 911 services and the annual report.

Mr. Rivoli said they had a very busy year last year. One important thing they did was bring up the staffing level. All municipalities received a copy of the activities book.

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The 1999 Year in Review covered 911 and 7-digit call totals and growth, police related incident counts and growth, fire/EMS related incident counts and growth, Communications Center activities in the Year 2000 and the Municipal 911 Coordinator responsibilities.

The 911 calls in 1999 totaled 18,332 and the 7-digit non-emergency calls totaled 147,853.00. Pat also gave a summary of police incidents/events which had increased 2.73% in 1999. He also broke out the types of police incidents reported. He also gave a summary of fire/EMS incidents, which represented a 7.5% increase in 1999.

Mr. Rivoli also submitted non-emergency service statistics, which shows that non-emergency calls account for 87.6% of incoming telephone traffic. He also updated the board on the user agency operating policies, the accomplishments of the center in 1999 and the upcoming activities for the year 2000. A status of 911 Interlocal Service Agreements received as of March 29th was submitted to the board.

At the end of this presentation, the floor was opened for questions.

Charles Rydell, Mayor of Frelinghuysen, said that two towers are being put up in their area and asked why two are being erected right next to each other. He asked if Pat could talk to Crown Castle Intl. Mrs. Dickey asked if they have a cell tower ordinance in their township and Mr. Rydell said that they do.

Mayor Dave Ostile of Pohatcong said that they have applied for an escrow fee from Sprint.

Mayor Ostile said they are formally asking for a report from Merrill Creek on the telephone notification alarm system. They have requested that each municipality receive a report on the siren system but this has not happened. Mrs. Stone said that this is Merrill Creek's responsibility and Mr. DeBosh said they should write to the owners group and request this report.

Rick Gardner asked if they have a long-range plan for a computer up-date and Mr. Rivoli said that we are set for another three to five years (closer to three) before we need to buy new PC's. Mr. Gardner asked if this is a capital improvement and do we have a spending plan. Mr. Rivoli said that we do have a plan.

Franklin Township Mayor Valerie Riggs spoke to the board regarding the signal timing at Rte.57 and Asbury-Broadway/Millbrook Rd. and their support of funding for curbing, sidewalks and flashing lights to Cty.Rte.643. Dave Hicks said he spoke to Tony Ganguzza about the timing situation. She also spoke about the truck traffic coming from Rt.57 to Asbury and put the stop light back 20 - 25 feet. Mr. Hicks had no problem with this. Ms. Riggs also asked to be able to meet with Pat Rivoli about 911 services to their township and a way to improve the response capabilities of the Asbury Fire Company. It is suggested that the Hunterdon Dispatch could alert the Asbury Fire Company with a tone only on a channel other than the Warren Fire Dispatch to eliminate possible interference. It would not change any current policies and would eliminate the transfer delays. They are asking the county's support of this proposal.

Tim McDonough, Mayor of Hope Township, spoke to the board about the traffic at Rt.519/521. The state took a look at this and they did communicate to Dave Hicks. They said this is

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a county situation, not a state situation. They gave various recommendations in their letter to Hope, did the county receive a copy of the letter and if so, can the county do anything else to help them? Dave Hicks said he did get some correspondence, he will check further.

Mayor McDonough mentioned the Warren County Co/Op but he will talk about this later.

Ben Ritter, Councilman from Belvidere, said that the town has been approached by the veteran's group and the post office to reserve some additional parking spaces with limited parking times in the area of the war memorial and the post office. They are looking for 6 - 7 spaces with 30-minute maximum parking. The town would like guidance from the county because most of the parking in that area is by either county employees or visitors to the courthouse. The streets involved are town streets but as a courtesy, they wanted to bring this to the freeholders. The board had no problem with the town doing this.

Ellen Nerbak, Committeewoman of Mansfield Twp., spoke about the county cooperative pricing system. They joined the Morris County program last year and they notice that the items on our list are very minimal. She asked if Warren County is going to increase the items on the list. Chris Pessolano, WC Purchasing Director, said that this is our first year and there are not too many members yet. The main focus to date is on electric deregulation; energy is the main issue. Obviously we would like to come up with a better list but we need more members. Officially we have two towns, PCFA and PRMUA. Mr. Pessolano pointed out that municipalities could belong to more than one co/op. We have no admission fee.

Ms. Nerbak asked if the county plans to take over any more roads. Mr. Hicks said we have no plans to do this. We are looking at a road swap with Hope but nothing beyond that.

Dick Barrow, Mayor of Hardwick Twp., asked if, regarding open space/farmland preservation, is the county favoring the southern part of the county? Is there any commitment for the northern part of the county? Do we have an inventory to show what we are doing in the northern part of the county?

The process was explained. A project was just approved in Knowlton and one in Frelinghuysen. The second round has been approved. Pohatcong will combine the financial structure in one package, they have had two applications approved.

Mrs. Stone said that the second round has not come before the board yet.

Dick Dunlap of Greenwich Twp. said we did not have active participation in Trenton. The farmers did not get the type of help they needed.

Betty from Allamuchy said they found that the county and the state have been very helpful to them, they were very cooperative.

Jane Santini of Blairstown spoke about open space and asked that the county keep cooperating with the municipalities. Regarding Rt.521, they received a letter from Barth Johnson but they have a serious problem and they need more than a traffic study done. Pulling out of driveways

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is very serious, more signage is needed and perhaps a blinking light during school hours.

Mrs. Dickey asked Mr. Hicks to explain the weight restriction law. Mr. Hicks said the weight restriction applies except for local pick-up and delivery. He will do what he can.

Mayor Charles Rydell of Frelinghuysen Twp. said that in his opinion, farmland preservation is more important than open space. They have a .01 tax which generates \$15,500 per year. Two farms have been accepted this year. Open space can be preserved in many ways, but he likes to focus on farmland preservation.

Mayor Rydell brought up a drainage problem on Rt.661. It works fairly well but they would like more county assistance to keep it moving. He also brought up a problem concerning one of their residents, Dawn McPeck, which regards the sidewalk between the church and her home. The catch basin there is dangerous but is this the owner's responsibility or the county's? The lines are on the Main St.; the water just sits at the end of her driveway. She is interested in paving her driveway but she needs to resolve the sidewalk situation first before she can get her driveway paved. Is it her responsibility to fix the sidewalk?

Dave Hicks said that regarding the sidewalk, it is the municipalities' responsibility in general, it is a function of the municipality. The county's responsibility is "curb to curb". As far as traffic, we have talked about this before. We have a difficult time doing anything, it needs a whole new traffic system but we don't have anything planned at this time. He will try to help her on the town level.

Bill Rosebrock, Chair of the Harmony Environmental Commission, said that they are host to a sludge processing facility. It has been tested for air emissions and they are asking for stack test results. They can't get results from the test reports. It is important that they get the results reported back to them. Can the county put pressure on the state? They will write again, copy our legislators, and ask them again for help. Mrs. Stone said we would do what we can to help them get these results.

Dick Dunlap pointed out that Warren County has failed in the sulfur dioxin tests regarding our air quality.

Chris Pessolano spoke about electric deregulation. Correspondence has been sent out for the co/op. The main push for this year is electric deregulation. So far, only two towns, PCFA and PRMUA are involved. We need more towns. Other items we are interested in are road salt, diesel fuel, etc. We could save 10% - 15% but we have to act as soon as possible. We are going out to bid this summer; he needs a response packet with a resolution that forms the co/op. This is recognized by DCA, the resolution for the township and the contract need to be signed. Also, PMK, the County Consultant, has the ability to get their billing records.

Tim McDonough said that the value is in numbers. The contracts that have been negotiated so far, we would like to get into the market by September 1st. Hunterdon County has 100%, Somerset is close to that, Mercer anticipates 100% also.

Dick Dunlap said we have a very complicated problem in this county. He asked if this is

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strictly for municipalities, can citizens make the power companies come to us? Tim said that it is set up for cost. Right now it is counties and municipalities. Residents will come on later down the road. Someone asked who pays PMK and Tim said the power companies pay them.

Chris pointed out that there is no cost to the municipalities. Ben Ritter asked if this would be passed on to the school boards and was told yes.

The board thanked Pat for his presentation.

Gil Greene from Harmony said in closing that we have to keep in mind, open space, parks and recreation along with farmland preservation.

On motion by Mr. DeBosh, seconded by Mrs. Dickey, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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

**ATTESTED TO:**

**NAOMI J. STOUT, DEPUTY CLERK**