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JANUARY 27, 2001

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 Saturday, January 27, 2001 at 8:10 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director DiMaio and upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder John DiMaio, Freeholder Michael Doherty and Freeholder James DeBosh. Also attending were County Administrator Steve Marvin, Personnel Director Jerry Coyle, CFO Charles Houck, Fiscal Analyst Dan Olshefski and County Engineer David Hicks.

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

Director DiMaio 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.**

Dan Olshefski opened the meeting by reviewing the amended budget figures reporting a total budget of \$75,213,356. Mr. Doherty asked Mr. Hicks if the \$6 million in capital grants shows up in the county budget and Dave explained that the bond money has never been earmarked for long-term projects. Some of the bridge bond projects are done in conjunction with Morris County.

Regarding bridge inspections, the Federal DOT performs inspections. Mr. Hicks said that he is trying to cut back on Phase II costs (bridge spans) which shows up in capital at \$225,000. Dave said that he is trying to be conservative but unexpected expenditures, for example the "Butler Park" bridge collapse, forced him to pull from other budget resources to fund these types of unexpected issues.

Regarding resurfacing, Mr. Hicks said that roads are resurfaced every 13 years and the cost of materials and supplies have gone up. Mr. Doherty asked how much was returned to surplus from last year and Dan indicated that of \$1.3 million, \$125,000 was returned.

With reference to project management, Mr. Doherty pointed to road surfacing as an area that can be trimmed from \$1.5 million to \$1.3 million due to last year's dollars being returned to surplus. Mr. DeBosh didn't agree with this and feels we should stay on course with the engineer's plan. Mr. Hicks suggested cutting a project for next year and Mr. DiMaio suggested pulling out \$150,000 and Mr. Hicks suggested moving \$125,000 out to next year.

Under planning capital, Mr. Doherty questioned a laptop computer and projector for planning and suggested borrowing from another department. After some discussion, the cost will be omitted at this time.

Regarding the plan to create a museum, which would include housing the Jim Lee artifacts,

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Mr. Doherty was not in favor of this but Mr. DeBosh said we should stay on course with the plan. Mr. DeBosh said that this has been built into open space funding. Mr. Doherty wants those funds to be used strictly for open space purchases and land acquisition.

Mr. DiMaio said we should hold off on any architectural contracting until we have a plan or at least an idea as to where county buildings will be constructed.

Mr. Doherty requested that the \$60,000 for an expansion of Warren Acres chain link fencing be reduced to \$55,000. Discussion ensued.

Regarding the Warden's house and old jail demolition, Mr. Marvin recommended that this issue be omitted from capital.

Mr. Olshefski said that based on these modifications, the capital budget has been reduced to \$3.9 million.

Mr. Marvin said that the recent news article stating that 911 is under consideration for privatization is totally incorrect. He said that Phillipsburg is closing their dispatch center and joining the county's. He said that additional budgeting in the amount of \$120,000 would have to be included in this year's budget and each year hereafter to accommodate Phillipsburg. Pat Rivoli also said that 4 full-time telecommunicators would be needed. Regarding 911 calls, Mr. DiMaio thinks that Phillipsburg's dispatching can be phased in over a two-year period. Mr. Doherty is concerned about the non-emergent calls. Mr. DiMaio reminded the board that the county agreed to take on the level of service that municipalities were getting and the plans called for "the same or better level of service."

Mr. Rivoli said that \$140,00 has been spent of the \$1,000,000 bonding for restructuring the towers. Mr. DiMaio suggested that the salary and wages be increased in the 911 budget by \$120,000 to include Phillipsburg. Mr. Marvin is to contact Phillipsburg to get a feel of their timelines for releasing their dispatching services to the county. Mr. Doherty questioned Mr. Rivoli about a specific vehicle used by the 911 staff and Mr. Rivoli explained that it is used on an infrequent basis and is fairly old.

Regarding the open space trust fund, Mr. Houck gave the board projected revenues and expenditures for the Open Space Trust Fund. Mr. Houck feels we may be faced with having too many properties to fund with not enough money in place to purchase them. After some discussion about the procedure that must be followed to report the funding, it was decided that Dave Dech, Greg Sipple and Duane Copley meet with Mr. Houck to work this out. Mr. Doherty asked if the \$1.7 million bonding could be held off and Mr. Houck said that the rates may not be as favorable later as they are now.

The board reviewed the Prosecutor's Budget and questioned a recent resolution submitted by Mr. Laky for overtime and materials to investigate accidents. Prosecutor Laky explained this request and the BCF was satisfied with his explanation.

RESOLUTION 87-01

On motion by Mr. DeBosh, seconded by Mr. Doherty, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held January 24, 2001.

RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF

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**HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR A HIGHWAY SAFETY PROJECT GRANT (FATAL
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT)'**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Highway Traffic Safety has made available funds for the highway safety project grants; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office desires to apply for such funding for year three of a Warren County Serious Collision Analysis and Response Team.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren is authorized to submit an application for a Highway Safety Project Grant to the Division of Highway Safety for \$40,000 in federal funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren does hereby authorize the Director and Chief Financial Officer to execute a grant agreement for the Highway Safety Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of the Resolution with the application be forwarded to the Division of Highway Safety; the Office of the Prosecutor; the County Treasurer; the Division of Budget Management and the Division of Grants Management.

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: Mr. DeBosh: yes Mr. Doherty: yes Mr. DiMaio: yes

Mr. Doherty questioned the size of the Prosecutor's staff and in comparing it with Hunterdon and Sussex, we seem to be top heavy with personnel. He compared the staffing and vehicles with the other counties plus on-staff attorneys, size of caseloads, etc., and Mr. Laky said that our county has greater activity due to the major thoroughfares that run through the county. Mr. DeBosh questioned the use of vehicles for Prosecutor Attorneys. Mr. Laky explained the need for this but both Mr. Doherty and Mr. DeBosh were opposed to including new vehicle purchases for attorneys in the 2001 budget. After further discussion about vehicles, the BCF informed Mr. Laky that they would review this issue and confer at a future meeting whether or not to withdraw this funding.

Also in the Prosecutor's budget, Mr. Laky spoke of a Systems Network Administrator for greater effectiveness in this area. He is willing to delete a vacant clerk position and use those funds towards this new position. Mr. Doherty said the county is taking a look at the Information Systems process countywide.

Prosecutor Laky reported that the Riverside building is in need of repair and he has received quotes of \$44,000 from two vendors to make these repairs. He feels Buildings and Grounds should look into this. He encouraged the BCF to look into the idea of a Justice Complex to consolidate all his satellite offices. He feels it would be a cost savings to the county.

Mr. Olshefski gave a brief overview of the Sheriff's submitted budget. Mr. Doherty asked about a budget surplus for 2000 in the Sheriff's OE and Mr. Olshefski said there was one. The Sheriff is concerned about the removal of transportation from his office to the Correctional Center. He asked that the BCF look at this again. Mr. Doherty questioned him about the counsel line item and the Sheriff explained that it was created when he no longer had access to County Counsel Dave Wallace. Mr. Doherty spoke about residency requirements. Sheriff Kelley said he currently has a residency preference. Mr. DiMaio and Mr. Doherty were both in favor of hiring county residents. Jerry Coyle asked how he is doing with negotiations regarding healthcare and was told that he is waiting for Dave Wallace to assist him. Mr. Coyle asked if this could be resolved by the end of February and the Sheriff said he is sure it could be.

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Regarding debt service, Gary Pulcini provided an in-depth analysis of bonding in relation to past, current and future capital projects being considered by the board.

Summary: Mr. Doherty suggested that the BCF consider a 3% cut in OE among all county departments. Mr. DiMaio stated that he could not seek a 3% cut in all department budgets. However, Mr. DiMaio felt that a 3% cut in certain county budgets might be appropriate. Mr. Doherty asked Mr. Olshefski to guide him in this process and Mr. Olshefski said he would and said he will revise the budget figures for the next meeting.

On motion by Mr. Doherty, seconded by Mr. DeBosh, and there being no further official business to come before the board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. DeBosh: yes Mr. Doherty: yes Mr. DiMaio: yes

ATTESTED TO:

Naomi J. Stout, Deputy Clerk