

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in special budget session in its offices in the Administration Building, Belvidere, New Jersey on January 19, 2002 at 9:02 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director Doherty and upon roll call the following members were present: Freeholder Michael J. Doherty, Freeholder John DiMaio and Freeholder James DeBosh. Also attending were County Administrator Steve Marvin, Personnel Director Jerry Coyle, Fiscal Analyst Dan Olshefski and Deputy Clerk Tammy M. Lynn.

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

Director Doherty 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 EXPRESS-TIMES, STAR-LEDGER, THE STAR/GAZETTE, BLAIRSTOWN PRESS, THE NEWS 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”.**

Mr. Doherty asked Mr. Olshefski to describe an overview of the documents presented to the Board. He explained the first column represented the original budget request, the second column lists the suggested reductions and the last three columns are the results. Mr. Olshefski proceeded to the Freeholders Operating Expenses increased by \$225,000. Mr. DeBosh stated this was never discussed with him prior to this meeting. Mr. Marvin explained that the breakdown of the request is to cover \$50,000 for the Alman Phase II work, \$75,000 for consultant fees to determine if Warren Haven could be privatized and \$100,000 to consider a College merger. Mr. DeBosh further mentioned that he feels that in times of layoff the Board should not be spending funds to gain political contributors. Mr. DiMaio noted he has serious concerns relating to the Warren County Community College.

Mr. Doherty reaffirmed to Mr. DeBosh that we have to let Mr. Olshefski return to the floor and we will address all concerns for the Freeholder Budget line later. Mr. Olshefski continued with the second department Information System services and explained that salary and wages were reducing due to potential privatization, layoff and retirement and it reflected the retirees sick time allocation. Mr. Doherty asked if the Board had 45 days to give notice and Mr. Olshefski confirmed yes. They moved onto Department three: Economic Development, Mr. Olshefski explained the savings was due to removal of the clerical position. He explained the Cultural and Heritage commission had a reduction of in their Operating Expense line. The Engineering Department had Salary and Wages reduced mainly since the Senior Engineering Aide position retired and they didn't receive a replacement. Mr. Doherty asked to move onto the Administration Department items. Mr. DeBosh stated he disagreed with the Boards decision to change papers for legal advertising. The records presented on this report confirms there is an increase in cost and if we went back to the Star Gazette it could save one of the lower level positions considered to be cut. Mr. Doherty responded that we had Former County Counsel John Coyle review this for accuracy and the NJ Statute allows the choice we made on January 1, 2002. Mr. DiMaio noted that maybe we should consider changing back, if it can save money

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

we may need to go back to a local paper. He further noted that he would be in favor of authorizing a Resolution to switch back to the Star Gazette in an effort to reduce the Administration costs.

Mr. Doherty asked the Board to allow them to move to each line item for discussion. Mr. Olshefski explained the Information Systems budget would include maintenance costs, financial software costs and contracted service costs. Mr. DiMaio confirmed that he sees the overall budget was reduced \$30,000. Mr. Doherty wanted to review the Legal Service item. Mr. Marvin explained that the amount presented is a guess based on last year's expenditures of all the Litigation and there are some appeal results still pending. Mr. DiMaio calculated all the categories subject to Legal Services. Mr. DeBosh recommended that the line be reduced to \$400,000. Mr. DiMaio suggested reducing the total by \$50,000. The Board agreed to reduce Legal Services by \$50,000. The Board moved onto the Surrogates Department. Mr. Doherty noted that revenue projections might increase from \$75,000 to \$130,000. Mr. Olshefski confirmed that the Board needs certification of the new fee schedule before that can be confirmed. He further noted the anticipated 2002 income would be \$90,000, which is an increase from the \$65,000 in 2001. This is mainly due to the time constraints for the fee schedule approval. So they projected nine (9) months revenue instead of the twelve (12) months revenue as presented by the Surrogate, Susan Dickey.

The Board began review of the Engineering Department. Mr. Olshefski noted that the Salary and Wage item was reduced because the Supervising Engineering Aide position recently vacated due to a retirement and it will not be filled. However, Capital Improvements will increase for the contracted services to complete the 2002 Road resurfacing. Mr. Doherty discussed with the Board that he would like to see a feasibility study performed to possibly consolidate the Engineer, Bridge, Road and Building Maintenance Departments into one Public Works program. He asked Mr. Olshefski and Mr. Coyle to prepare a report of the past three years. He would like to see how the Departments could better utilize their services, coordinate their scheduling of staff and vehicles which may help control the Salary and Wages, and still allow for the necessary Capital Improvements. Mr. DeBosh disagreed with his option, as he feels not filling the Supervising Engineering Aide position would cause a department shortage and create a long term delay to the County infrastructure projected plan. This would be a deferral not a cost savings to the County. After further discussion between all the Board members, Mr. DiMaio suggested they add back dollars to cover the cost of resurfacing the roads this year. Mr. Doherty noted that he feels a Public Works program will show excess supervisory positions and they will be able to see a savings in the Salary and Wages. Mr. Marvin confirmed that the Supervising Engineering Aide position would remain off the Salary and Wages for the Engineering Department.

The Board went onto the Economic Development Department. Mr. Olshefski confirmed that from the past budget hearing the revised budget shows the clerical position will be eliminated and moved over to the Operating and Expense portion to cover the Public/Private partnership for the Warren County Chamber of Commerce Program. Mr. Doherty asked how much will the proposed newly formed County Chamber receive? Mr. Olshefski noted approximately \$40,000 for this year. Mr. DiMaio asked when is it planned to begin. Mr. Marvin explained they are in the planning stages right now and it is anticipated to be finalized no later than April 2002. Mr. DeBosh gave his overview of this Department noting that the Warren County Chamber is geographically located in the northern sector of the County. There is a strong Chamber of Commerce in Phillipsburg and he doesn't feel the whole county will be served equally. Also Mr. DeBosh stated the current Salary for Mr. Charlton is excessive since he will be performing less as the Tourism and Public Information Officer. Mr. DiMaio responded

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

that there is a plan to reevaluate this position since the appointment renewal is September 2002. Mr. DeBosh stated that if this position may not be renewed the individual has to be notified six (6) months prior to the renewal. Mr. DeBosh continued to debate with his fellow Freeholders the feasibility of changing to a Warren County Chamber when the Phillipsburg Chamber is not included to receive the Economic Development funding. It was concluded that the Phillipsburg Chamber was given the same offer to join or at least have representatives involved. Mr. Marvin advised the Board that they are here to discuss the budget cost and when all is finalized; any changes can be made to address Mr. DeBosh's concerns relating to the Phillipsburg Chamber of Commerce.

The Board started to review the Planning Department. Mr. Olshefski confirmed from the prior budget hearing the revised budget based on the Boards request to remove the two (2) positions paid under the Open Space Trust Fund. However, this did not effect the budget since O.S.T.F. fund is not included in the budget so the Salary and Wage portion remained the same. Mr. DiMaio asked if the Clerk/Typist position is solely devoted to processing the Open Space Trust Funds Grant applications. Mr. Dech confirmed yes. He further explained that by removing this position it would impact the processing of future acquisitions. Mr. DiMaio noted that he feels they can do without the Park Ranger position but to remove the Clerk/Typist will delay future acquisitions and he would like that added back in. Mr. Marvin confirmed that represents approximately \$40,000 going back into the budget for Salary and Wages. Mr. Dech explained that the O.S.T.F. program allows for a portion to be utilized for maintenance of already acquired property. Mr. Doherty advised him that he has been in contact with Sheriff Simonetti and there are plans from his department to police the acquired properties. Mr. Doherty further noted that he has a concern that the Open Space Trust Fund of approximated 2.8 million should be used aggressively for land acquisition not for Salary and Wage costs. He suggested that they focus on Farmland Acquisitions since there is little or no maintenance concerns for this type of property. Mr. DeBosh suggested that the Park Ranger position be put in the regular Salary and Wages instead of using the Open Space Trust Funds basing his suggestion on the fact that there will be more maintenance issues in the future as the Acquisitions occur. The Board reviewed in detail all the aspects of what the Park Ranger position performs on day to day with Mr. Dech. Mr. Dech further noted that the Park Rangers' presence at the problem areas over the past years has practically eliminated the vandalism. The Board discussed concerns that the appointed commissions, Board of Recreation etc. utilize the Clerk/Typist for their meetings and that duty this position performs should be eliminated. They should be able to perform their necessary meeting records without this county employee. As far as the Park Ranger position being removed it was directed to Mr. Dech that after the Sheriff Department inspects the property area he should be professional enough to request assistance from the other county departments to correct whatever is needed at that particular site.

The Board began discussing the Property and Casualty Insurance portion of the Budget. Mr. Olshefski verified that there is a slight credit being applied on the Workers Compensation segment due to the three (3) year performance of the JIF Fund. However, the Workers Compensation premium increased for 2002 based on the claims processed from last year. The Medical Insurance portion is up, there were some added costs for the prisoners at the Correctional Facility and it has seen a substantial increase mainly because of the events of September 11, 2001. Mr. DiMaio responded that the Workers Compensation portion was not funded properly and that is in part due to our former Insurance Risk Manager not communicating adequately. Mr. Coyle responded that you still need to know that JIF paid out more claims than the premium the County paid in 2001. Mr. Doherty noted that as an important point and he would like to see the comparison of claims paid vs premiums spent for 2001.

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

Mr. Olshefski moved onto the Public Safety portion of the budget and explained to the Board that there was a possibility that the Town of Phillipsburg may be eliminating their 911 dispatch center and that would create additional staffing needs to the County 911 Center. This would mean a budget allowance of \$65,000 for Salary and Wages and \$10,000 for Operating Expenses. Mr. DiMaio asked for status. Mr. Marvin advised that they can check last years records to determine accuracy of need. Mr. DiMaio recommended that \$75,000 be added as back up in case the Town of Phillipsburg 911 Center is removed within the next six months.

Mr. DiMaio began review of Public Safety Administration noting it went to \$186,500 this year. Mr. Olshefski confirmed there will be a reduction for not hiring a vacant Information System staff position and he will revise the records accordingly.

Mr. DiMaio went onto the Volunteer Fire Company budget allowance showing \$39,000, which is for training and was glad to see the County supports the dedicated volunteers. He further asked what the portion was for local Ambulance volunteer programs. Mr. Olshefski confirmed each program received \$1,000 a year from the County. Mr. DiMaio suggested increasing the Mansfield Ambulance Corp. contribution since they serve Warren Haven and have more calls there. Mr. Olshefski asked for a defined amount. Mr. DiMaio suggested changing it to \$2,000. There was no disagreement from the remaining Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mr. Doherty noted that the Medical Examiner position needs to be revised to show a straight contract agreement. Mr. Doherty wanted to know how many cases are there compared to revenue of fees. Mr. Olshefski confirmed that this position is far less in Salary and Wages than any of our neighboring county records show.

Mr. Olshefski noted the Prosecutor Department original reduction was \$611,000 and with revisions from Prosecutor Laky that has been revised to \$400,000. Mr. DiMaio asked to talk about this, he has done some reflection with logical concerns for the county. He would be willing to work this out to confirm efficiency in cost but wants to see adequate service to the County citizens to deter crime and give local Municipal support where it is needed. The Board discussed options to eliminate a Detective Investigator position, Assistant Prosecutor position and some clerical support staff. Mr. Marvin advised the Board to keep with budget figures not positions. He confirmed their suggestions would reduce the Investigator line \$295,000 and the Clerical line \$85,000. Mr. DiMaio noted that he felt they would end up in court. He would rather give the Prosecutor new direction to correct his Department positions for adequate Investigators and Detectives. Mr. Doherty noted that he feels the total number of Prosecutors is too high. Mr. DiMaio suggested that his review the second time concluded that the Prosecutor needs to reorganize some positions and reduce the clerical portion. Mr. DiMaio recommended Salary and Wages be reduced by \$250,000. Mr. DeBosh agreed with the suggestion and noted that will maintain support staff for the local Municipal needs. Mr. Doherty agreed with the \$250,000 reduction for the Salary and Wages.

Mr. Doherty began review of the Warren Acres Center and the Correctional Center. He suggested leaving them as presented from the past Budget hearings. He did ask Mr. Olshefski and Mr. Coyle to present at a later time the impact of consolidating the Sheriff, Warren Acres and Correctional Center services.

Mr. Olshefski gave the Board an update of the Road Department response from the prior Budget Hearing. The report confirmed a 10% reduction by reducing the summer help, not

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

replacing a traffic maintenance position that retired and eliminating the Sr. Maintenance position that will be retiring in 2002. He also confirmed the Operating Expense was reduced by \$216,899. Mr. Doherty had concern for the road resurfacing, 1.4 million is all subcontracted work and he asked not to cut the materials portion needed to maintain the County roads. Mr. DiMaio noted he believes this was a fair report presented and he would like to see 1/3 for the summer help. The report confirmed there were no layoffs, they just will not be replacing retiree positions and he would like to see \$50,000 put back into the Operating Expense for road materials. After Board discussion all the Freeholders agreed to add back \$75,000 to Operating Expense for the road materials.

The Board began review of the Bridge Maintenance. Mr. DeBosh noted the reductions suggested is only a deferral and he will not support material reductions. Mr. Doherty asked for review of the Bridge & Engineering staff and asked for their differences. After review Mr. Marvin advised the Board that it has been reduced, one Bridge Supervisor just recently passed away and the Board has not approved replacing the position. Mr. Doherty gave analogy of Virgin Airline Company that had only three supervisors. Mr. DeBosh responded that private companies have their own structure for employee promotion without supervisory positions. Mr. Marvin reassured the Board that Mr. Hicks the County Engineer and Mr. Bernaski the Bridge Supervisor have been working together to provide improved efficiencies relating to work scheduling. Mr. Doherty still had concern of the supervisory positions. Mr. Marvin advised the Board that they may not all be leadership roles, this is the way that some Civil Service jobs are classified. Mr. DiMaio concluded that when the Public Works program is presented the Board could structure that program to have a Director for each position. After further discussion between the Board, Mr. Marvin and Mr. Olshefski responded it was confirmed not to replace the vacated Bridge Supervisor position, reduce the summer support staff and to add back the material costs and the Bridge Maintenance Operating Expense.

The Board proceeded next to review the Building and Grounds Department. Mr. Olshefski reported that the revised budgets shows the department will not replace the vacated Supervisor position, elimination of the plumber position and groundskeeper in the Salary Wage portion and the Operating Expense portion was reduced by reducing hours from the sub contracted cleaning service. Mr. Doherty had concerns that they were working from the bottom up instead of his request to work on removing the higher salary positions down. He wanted to see services continue and this is the wrong direction to accomplish that. Mr. DeBosh asked if the current supervisors perform work along with their supervising responsibilities. Mr. Marvin confirmed that they do work and supervise staff and that there are two shifts. Also Mr. Marvin advised that in Civil Service positions the Supervisor positions you are recommending to be removed would create bumping rights and the lower positions would ultimately be the ones eliminated. He further advised that Mr. Durburow recognized this situation and that is why he presented his revisions. All three Freeholders agreed that they would like to see work duties amended to the supervisory positions then. Mr. Doherty mentioned he did not want to see the cleaning service contract reduced and wanted clarification of the Supervisory maintenance worker position. Mr. Olshefski explained that position is listed in the budget but currently not filled. The Board reviewed all the Department suggestions and concluded to remove the Supervisor of Building Service, Maintenance Supervisor and the vacant Building Maintenance Worker position. Also they wanted to see the contracted cleaning service portion restored back to the same as last year. Mr. Olshefski confirmed the net reduction would be \$82,000 for the Salary Wage portion. Mr. DiMaio asked for the total net for the Building and Grounds Department. Mr. Olshefski confirmed the Salary and Wage and Operating Expense total net would be \$1,623,000. Mr. DeBosh told his fellow Freeholders that he would go along with eliminating the one Supervisory position only.

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

Mr. Doherty asked if there was a Utility Budget. Mr. Olshefski advised that the budget amount is the same as 2001 records. Mr. Doherty asked if there were any left over funds from 2001. Mr. Olshefski confirmed yes there usually is every year however, the amount is so minimal that it will not impact any tax reductions. He also confirmed that utility cost for the Warren Haven Facility is included in this portion of the budget.

Mr. DiMaio advised his Board members that he has a Funeral to go to by 1:00 p.m. and asked if they thought they could get through all the Departments by then. Mr. Olshefski stated the Environmental Health Department revised their budget by eliminating one Sanitary Inspector position. The Office on Aging Department revised their budget to show their contracted services for Care Managers will be for six months now.

The Board took a five minute break at 12:02 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Olshefski began review of the Health Department and Human Services. Mr. Doherty asked if Mrs. Harth, PHNA Director responded to their request. Mr. Olshefski advised that she did and the PHNA had a net increase of \$140,000 in revenue leftover from 2001. She reduced her Salary and Wages by \$53,000 by not filling a vacated position. Mr. Olshefski confirmed there were no other positions at the PHNA that will be vacated. Mr. Doherty commented that he would like to recognize the positive cash flow she increased over the past years.

The Board advised Mr. Olshefski to remove the Sanitary Inspector position from the Environmental Health Department. Mr. Olshefski confirmed that will generate a net reduction of \$26,000 and the new Grant fund of \$34,000 combines for a total net reduction of \$80,000. Mr. Marvin noted the new Solid Waste position was not included in the report. Mr. Olshefski confirmed the Department didn't put this in their report. Mr. Doherty noted the Environmental Health Department had an excellent presentation. However, he had concern on the 600 annual inspections performed, there were no follow-ups and some inspections were being duplicated at the local Municipal levels. Mr. DiMaio asked if we can send a request to have the Department work on eliminating any duplicate inspections performed by the local Municipality. Mr. Coyle advised that any position cuts may create bumping rights but the reorganization would still net a saving to the Salary and Wage portion. Mr. Doherty proposed elimination of one Sanitary Inspector. Mr. DiMaio shared his concern relating to the possible Bio-Terrorism exposures and wants to be reassured the citizens of Warren County are protected properly and would only be inclined to support the Sr. Sanitary Inspector position be eliminated at this time. Mr. Doherty agreed noting he still has concern that the Department becomes more efficient on their inspection scheduling too.

The Board began review of the County Welfare Board Budget. Mr. Olshefski explained that they submitted their proposal including some reductions from last year. However, this is separate budget from the County Budget and it is now in review with the State. He further explained that they will need to discuss that directly with the Welfare Board at their next meeting. Mr. DeBosh noted that if it is restructured into the Human Services Departments of the County we can review it at that time. Mr. DiMaio agreed and suggested to leave it as is for now.

The County Youth Shelter portion of the Budget reviewed. Mr. Olshefski confirmed there is a \$120,000 allowance in the 2002 Budget for this. Mr. DiMaio suggested to leave it as is, Mr. DeBosh and Mr. Doherty agreed with him.

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

Mr. Doherty wanted to review the Warren Haven and Alman Group report. He asked if there have been any of the report suggestions implemented. Mr. Marvin stated that the Warren Haven Facility currently functions under the Welfare Board. Mr. DiMaio again suggested that we leave as is until the program is reorganized through the County Human Services Department. Mr. DeBosh mentioned that if they wanted to reduce staffing they should go to the Welfare Board meetings to discuss that directly with them. Mr. Doherty told Mr. DeBosh that he did not appreciate his remark and that we all know what full schedules we have. He of all people should remember there are times when we cannot make every meeting. That is why we hired specialists, like The Alman Group to review and report back to us on this issue. Mr. Doherty and Mr. DiMaio continued discussion of options and concluded on Mr. DiMaio's suggestion to review this area after the Welfare Board is abolished and added into the Human Service Department. The Board did however agree to request clarification from County Counsel Joseph J. Bell to research who has authority to change their current Budget issues.

Mr. DiMaio requested to leave for his family funeral, at 12:50 p.m. Mr. Doherty and Mr. DeBosh agreed to proceed with Public Comments during his absence and they all agreed to return to the budget items upon Mr. DiMaio's return.

Public comments: Shirley Row, Hackettstown, NJ told the Board that she appreciated their approach to cutting taxes. She disagreed with the cuts to the Prosecutor Department. She told them she had four (4) children all victimized 10 years ago. She feels this Department needs more Child Abuse Investigators to continue the added services necessary for a normal life for the children of Warren County. She asked them what would be best for the children of Warren County, volunteers or experienced Investigators. She asked the Board to break the abuse these children go through and make parents accountable. Mr. Doherty responded that she presented a very well reasoned analysis, he explained to her that since 1985 the Prosecutors Department has grown to 59 full time positions. He further explained that he recognizes that some drug forfeitures of funds program provided the resources for the vehicles they use. However, he saw a need to review the Prosecutors Department Budget and ultimately Mr. Laky is responsible to formulate his budget and the Board has the right to review it and to make sure it is within reason to provide County wide services and to control any cost to the taxpayer. Mrs. Ross told Mr. Doherty you can't bury your heads in the sand. I am willing to pay extra taxes for the system that is working for us now.

Dick Cramer, Hackettstown, NJ shared his experience of services the Prosecutors Department provided back in 1987 when his daughter was raped and beaten to death. The Prosecutors Department was there supporting us through all the court hearings. He told the Board it is that same spirit and support today and we cannot go back. We need more people in this department because no one is immune to these horrendous crimes.

Steve Siegel, Assistant Prosecutor, lives in Mt. Olive, NJ told the Board he was not here today to repeat, yell or argue with the Board what has been already said. He shared his 13 years of experiences as a Prosecuting Attorney, 9 of which were in Essex County. He wanted to let them know that the investigation portion of any criminal case is so crucial for the verdict and to put the criminal behind bars and to keep the communities of Warren County safe. He reassured the Board that they do not have any down time, they normally work beyond the workday. They sometimes have use of the Department vehicles however, when they are not available they use their personal vehicles to get where they need to be. Our job is to prove beyond a reasonable doubt to the jury in every case and that will not be possible without the recorded statements our Investigators gather for us.

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

Jim Janci, Assistant Prosecutor dual residence: 702 Lynda Road, Phillipsburg, NJ and Somerset, NJ. He told the Board he has been a registered voter in Warren County since 1973. He advised the Board that he has permission from a victim to play the recorded 911 call where there was actual gun fire and fear in the callers voice. This situation was in Washington Twsp., NJ. He told them that he heard the January 12, 2002 Budget review conversations and was offended by their comments. He explained to them that the Domestic Violence Act of NJ describes the need for the clerical, Detective, Investigators and Attorney positions. Any cut to one position will effect the teams' ability to combat crime. He further explained the tape he played today is proof the vehicles they have for their use is effective to respond quickly. He summarized for the Board they owe all the citizens of Warren County protection. Many of us have dedicated our life to Warren County. Mr. Doherty shared his West Point experiences with Mr. Janci and agreed with the responsibility of purpose. However his suggestion was to utilize the West Point program of a Duty Officer for each unit would bring more restructure of the Department and keep wear and tear of the fleet of vehicles to a minimum. Mr. Janci disagreed, it has been working just fine and his motto is if it ain't broke don't fix it. Mr. DeBosh stated that he understands that there are serious cases that do require additional time spent. However, he feels strongly too that the local Municipalities need to be able to decide which ones they are and the less serious crimes should be handled at the local municipality.

Laura Opdyke, Oxford, NJ told the Board that while she has been sitting through the budget meetings and hearing about all the comparison of services with our neighboring counties, she suggested that the Board be the innovators of new direction to work well within the needs of Warren County. We are a unique County within ourselves. She suggested the Board should express more effort in developing a new plan instead of following a model from our neighboring counties. She told them she has concerns relating to the privatization of Warren Haven, since it exceeds all of the required NJ Inspections. She also feels their cleaning service is more personal to the residents needs.

William King, Warren County Superintendent of Schools asked the Board to have permission to speak upon Mr. DiMaio's return. Mr. Doherty and Mr. DeBosh agreed.

Catherine Wojtowicz, Washington Boro, NJ and AFSME Local 3287 Rep told the Board that if they left all the positions intact there would still be a 2 cents tax reduction for the 2002 Levy. She asked why are you cutting taxes through layoff notices. She would rather the Board work out arrangements for attrition than cut the small working families. Mr. Doherty responded to her suggestions that it is not their intent to layoff, he shared mutual concerns for the Governor McGreevey statements regarding budgets. He feels that government is too big it needs to be smaller, he promised this to all the voters and he is following through with his promise. Ms. Wojtowicz stated the people of Warren County need to know what services you are going to cut. The Warren Haven Facility for one will be turned into another hole to place our seniors in if you privatize it. Mr. Doherty responded that he never stated that Warren Haven was going to be privatized.

Carol Sipple, County Employee and resident. She asked the Board to go and talk to the residents of Warren Haven to get a look and opinion at what will be lost if you privatize it. Her mother has been there for the past three years in their Alzheimer unit. Although her mother doesn't know her when she visits she responds so well to the staff that provides her care. She told them you will find staff that truly cares about the residents. Privatizing will lose that value that is being provided right now to the residents. Mr. Doherty reassured her that there was no decision made about privatizing Warren Haven today to his

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

knowledge.

Greg Gianforcaro, Attorney with an office in Phillipsburg, NJ. He spoke on behalf of the Prosecutors Department when he was defending a client he lost more cases than he won. He shared his experience as a Public Defense Attorney in Essex County was just the opposite, mainly due to the lack of factual evidence that Prosecutors Department presented. Mr. Doherty responded to him that in any organization we have to set comparisons against what we are doing to determine the need and cost for the service.

Dick Cramer asked the Board to look at how they plan to include the increased crime exposures since Warren County has two main highways Route 80 and Route 78 which allows the criminals to travel here.

John Laky, Warren County Prosecutor, told the Board that they handle 51% of the cases in Warren County. The Public Defender Office has a totally different assignment program. Mr. Doherty noted that the Board is giving him the funds they feel are necessary for him to operate his Department. He reminded Mr. Laky how he uses the resources are his decision not the Boards.

Shirley Row, Hackettstown, NJ asked if the budget will be written in stone. Mr. Doherty explained the budget plans are to introduce it on January 23, 2002. We are here today to finish up all loose ends and discussion so that the Treasurers Department can have time to prepare the written proposal. Mr. Marvin further explained the process of introduction, advertisement for the Public Hearing and final adoption later.

Mr. Sipple asked that the Board allow Mr. DiMaio time to listen to all the tapes relating to the public comments made today in his absence.

The Board took a break at 1:50 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 2:20 p.m. with Mr. DiMaio present again.

Deputy Clerk Tammy M. Lynn reminded the Board that they promised to entertain Mr. King's public comment request upon Mr. DiMaio's return to the open meeting. Mr. King began by reading a written statement to the Board with regard to their last Budget Hearing meeting of January 12, 2002. He was shocked to receive notice that his Department was to be reduced by more than 48%. He described the correct version of the NJ Statutory responsibilities for Title 18A. He further noted the Title 18A 7.7 stated that all positions including clerical deemed necessary for the County Superintendent office are the responsibility of the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders to fund along with providing adequate office space. He stated other County Superintendents staffing were far greater than his current staff in Warren County. He described his statutory requirements. However, he is not required to implement all of the duties as the Superintendent. That is why he felt it was important to explain this. He described some of the statutory requirements that justify the staff needs in his Department. Mr. DeBosh noted that he wasn't for the Department cuts last week so he has nothing to say at this time. Mr. Doherty asked for a copy of the statutory requirement describing the clerical staff. Mr. King had an extra copy and gave it to him. Mr. Doherty and Mr. King discussed the statutory requirement, further presenting their own interpretation of it. Mr. DiMaio suggested that if Mr. King can demonstrate the need, he would be willing to put back the \$28,470 in his budget. Mr. King offered to get together with any of the Board members this week to discuss alternative options. Mr. DeBosh and Mr. DiMaio agreed to reinstate the funding. Mr. Doherty noted he disagreed but the majority agrees to put the funding back.

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

Mr. Doherty went back to his concerns relating to the Warren Haven Budget and noted that we cannot cut any of this until we get the complete analysis report from The Alman Group. He went onto the Office on Aging and confirmed that they reduced \$21,000 by revising their contracting service to 6 months. He also mentioned to remove the two food service workers from the Nutrition Program, classified under the Title 5. Mr. DeBosh responded that the Nutrition Program was already cut, 5 drivers and the Site managers were changed to Part-time status. He would rather wait for additional review next year before cutting any additional staff now. Mr. DiMaio noted that the staff reductions are already presented in this 2002 budget proposal. Mr. Marvin commented that the Nutrition Program was brought into the Office on Aging Department a year ago. He noted that Ms. Lennon has made tremendous changes while she reviews and studies the program.

Mr. Doherty asked to review the Mental Disease Institutions. Mr. Olshefski explained there are spikes that vary from year to year. Mr. Doherty asked for time to review the budget. Mr. DiMaio noted that there are contracted services provided to help control costs. Mr. Doherty responded we have a bottom line \$1,000,000 to fund this Department needs. Mr. DiMaio suggested that we could spend a couple of hours here today, he would rather us go directly to Karen Kubert, Director of Human Services with any questions or concerns.

Mr. DiMaio asked to proceed with the WC Technical School budget. Mr. Doherty shared the phone conversation he had with Dr. Mancuso. The budget would be reduced from an increase of 12.8% to an increase of 8% from the 2001 County portion allowance. Mr. Olshefski also noted that since their fiscal year runs from July to June the increase change will net 50% of the request in the County 2002 budget. Mr. DiMaio asked for specific breakdowns. Mr. DeBosh agreed. Mr. Doherty explained that Dr. Mancuso reported that he plans on using the same state aid funding formula for now and will sit down with his Business Administrator to work out the reductions. Then he noted the new building requires an additional maintenance position, there are teaching positions that he is required to provide for too. All three Board members agreed to accept changes.

The Board began review of the Warren County Community College proposal requesting a 4% increase. Mr. DiMaio mentioned that Dr. DeSanctis mentioned 2%. Mr. DeBosh suggested going to the 2%, Mr. Olshefski asked if there was a second on that. Mr. DiMaio confirmed he will second it.

Mr. Olshefski verified the Warren County Special Services School budget went from \$157,000 to \$163,000 for the 2002 budget. All the Board members agreed to accept it as presented. He further explained that the Pension amount is set by the State and it cannot be changed. Mr. DiMaio wanted to discuss future Pension appropriations. Mr. DeBosh said we have that covered, as we have in the past. Mr. DiMaio noted that in his 23 years of budget planning you do not just look at the last years record.

The Board reviewed the last budget page, which was the Debt Service. Mr. Olshefski confirmed that with all this considered the approximate total estimate Tax Levy reduction will be five cents. Mr. DeBosh commented The Alman report says we will have to build a new building soon, the Court House heating upgrades are close to happening so he suggests to start working on some of the Capital Improvements that have been ignored. Mr. DiMaio responded that he would like to see the Reserve Surplus increased to 6.2 million to prepare for long term expected costs like the Pension program. The State is not going to keep funding this forever. Mr. Olshefski confirmed his plan as this year shows the projected revenues for 2002 are 4.2 million

MINUTES**JANUARY 19, 2002**

and last year it was 6.7 million. He verified too that by making that change it will change the reduction on the Tax Levy to 4.5 cents. Mr. Doherty agreed to hold on that number and agreed to change the Tax Levy to keep the Surplus at 6.9 million.

Mr. Doherty commented that he is not ready to adjourn this meeting and wanted to continue. Mr. Olshefski explained the timelines for the January 23, 2002 introduction of the 2002 Budget.

Mr. Doherty asked for Public Comments, Kelly Shelton, County resident and one of the Assistant Prosecutors asked what the tax reduction will generate for the average household. Mr. Doherty responded it will be approximately \$50.00 for a home value of \$100,000. Ms. Shelton told Mr. Doherty that she feels he is being fiscally irresponsible. You are willing to cut jobs without knowing the work of any of these positions. She told him it was not unusual for her to go home at the end of the day spend some time with her son, tuck him in for the night and go back to the office to finalize reports from that days investigation records. She told him that Government has a responsibility to its citizens of Warren County. I believe that you are using this position as a stepping stone for your political career. I feel you do not show respect to the public that has spoken at prior budget hearing meetings when you make those facial smirks. Mr. Doherty responded to her concerns but mostly advised her that what she calls a smirk is his way of acknowledging the passion of the speaker that stands before him. As far as Government responsibility he is being responsible to many citizens that really need all the tax breaks they can get.

There were no press comments or questions.

On motion by Mr. DiMaio, seconded by Mr. DeBosh, and there being no further official business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.
ROLL CALL: Mr. DeBosh: yes, Mr. DiMaio: yes, Mr. Doherty: yes

ATTESTED TO:

Tammy M. Lynn, Deputy Clerk