

MINUTES

MARCH 20, 2002

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met for a work session in its offices in the Freeholder meeting room at the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building, Belvidere, New Jersey on March 20, 2002, at 7:32 p.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, CFO Charles Houck, County Engineer David Hicks 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 STAR/GAZETTE, THE EXPRESS-TIMES, STAR-LEDGER, 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”.**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

RESOLUTION 209-02

On motion by Mr. DeBosh, seconded by Mr. DiMaio, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held March 20, 2002.

RESOLUTION TO PAY BILLS FOR MASTER VOUCHER CERTIFICATE # 2002-11.

Be and it is hereby resolved that Master Voucher Certificate **For Certification/Ratification for Payment No. 2002-11 dated March 20,2002** In the amount of **\$4,833,898.67** including bills and Investments, is approved subject to the review of the vouchers By the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

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.

Tammy M. Lynn Deputy Clerk

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

Director Doherty called for a break at 7:36 p.m. to allow for the arrival of the presenters of the work session subject material.

The Board returned to open session at 7:43 p.m. for the purpose of meeting with the firm HQW - RICCI, Architects and Planners. County Engineer David Hicks explained the firm was called to present the final revision to the report, which will show in detail the anticipated cost for the Warren County Agencies, and Superior Court Facility future needs. Rob Fisch of the HQW-RICCI firm began the presentation. He explained the original request was to design a facility for the Courts. The presentation made now will include enhancements for the Warren County Agencies

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and the Superior Court Facility. Mr. Fisch gave a history of the prior options and their costs as presented to the Board in April 2001. All were based on a five-year plan to complete. The 5th option presented was scaled back and the total cost was substantially reduced. Mr. Fisch explained they focused mostly on creating new space for the departments that were currently being operated from leased space. He also described that the difference in the square footage rate was due to renovations in the actual space to be changed and new construction includes the foundation and framing.

Under Freeholder comments Mr. DeBosh mentioned he understood the report presented with all the changes. He would like to suggest the Board sell the Barry House and Cummins Building, which would help the Town of Belvidere get some properties back on their tax rolls. Mr. Fisch responded they focused on presenting the option of moving departments out of the leased buildings. He felt moving the departments out of County owned buildings would not be cost effective and it would also reduce the parking spaces those locations offer.

Mr. DiMaio stated that last year he observed the proposal was so high for the Superior Courts and minimal for the remaining County Facility needs. He stated they need to look at all the buildings needs throughout the County and this presentation was far more addressing that. Mr. Hicks responded that the presentation was based on the committee work developed through the facility inventory records in years past. This 5th option was presented to show that portions can be prepared for now and then expanded on later as the needs increased. Mr. DiMaio agrees that we need to eliminate the leased space environment and expenses. He also feels we should consider allowing some of the county buildings to be sold so that the Town of Belvidere could see additional tax ratables. Mr. Hicks stated he understands however, reminded the Board that parking is still a concern in Belvidere.

The Board and Mr. Fisch discussed the Courthouse addition and renovation was for the purpose of moving County Agencies into the Court House Annex. The Alman report indicated that some of the work could be Federal Grant funded. It would not be cost effective to sell some buildings and move them into a new facility since prior maintenance cost spent would not be recovered in the sale. The presentation costs were based on a five-year projection, if the time is extended to a ten-year plan the anticipated cost would increase. If the County Clerk and Surrogates office were moved over to the Courthouse Annex they would have the improved quality vault area for storage of historical documents. Mr. Doherty thanked the firm for the presentation and asked to allow the Board time to consider any or some of the suggestions.

Mr. Marvin wanted the Board to recognize the committee people that have been working on these proposals: County Clerk Terry Lee, Judge Albrecht, Gene Farkas and Sue Regan from the Superior Courts, Director of Buildings and Grounds James Durborow, Warren County Bar Association rep. John O'Reilly, County CFO Pete Houck, County Engineer David Hicks and Freeholder John DiMaio.

Under Closing Public Comments Rick Gardner, Franklin Township, NJ asked since the Court use is mandated by the state will they be reimbursing the County for any portion of the capital improvement. Mr. Doherty responded in 1997 the State picked up the cost of the employees and there is a Senate Bill proposal that may be approved for a 50% reimbursement for capital projects. Gene Farkas explained that in 1995 a Law was implemented authorizing the personnel and operating expense be covered with state funding. However, all Capital Improvements for building and facilities are still the responsibility of the Counties.

Mr. Gardner also asked if there were per capita projections for the County payment. Mr.

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Fisch explained that was not part of the study.

Laura Opdyke, Oxford, NJ had concern about the parking. She asked if there was going to be space provided when the project was completed. Mr. Fisch explained that was one of the options presented. There is an area behind the Carriage House that would allow for approximately 175 spaces and it was included in the project cost presented. Mrs. Opdyke also asked about the Library and its' ability to provide parking. Mr. Fisch confirmed the new location for the Library included adequate parking.

John O'Reilly, Allamuchy Township, NJ explained he was speaking on behalf of the Warren County Bar Association. He stated the Senate bill has been going back and forth since 1992. He suggested to the Board that it would be best to do this now while the interest rates are down. To wait for the Gormley Bill is not to this Boards advantage. It could be another two years before that is passed. He reminded the Board that leaders are remembered in history for what they do to improve not for what they choose not to do.

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 8:45 p.m.

ATTESTED TO:

Tammy M. Lynn, Deputy Clerk