

**MINUTES****DECEMBER 17, 2008**

The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren met in Special Session in its offices in the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building, Belvidere, New Jersey on December 17, 2008 at 4:03 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Director DiMaio and upon roll call, the following members were present: Freeholder John DiMaio, Freeholder Richard Gardner and Freeholder Everett Chamberlain. Also attending were County Engineer Dave Hicks, CFO Charles Houck, County Counsel Joseph J. Bell and County Administrator Steve Marvin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director DiMaio.

Director DiMaio read the following statement: **“ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2008 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-LEDGER, AND DAILY RECORD 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.”**

Library Director Richard Moore came forward and thanked the Freeholders for the opportunity to speak with them regarding the bookmobile. Valid questions had been raised during previous budget sessions and Mr. Moore said he would be happy to address them at this time.

He reminded the Board that a separate and distinct tax is levied for library services, obligating the County to provide library services to all taxpayers. The bookmobile is an effective way to deliver that service to a specific segment of the population. The bookmobile makes regularly scheduled direct stops with a focus on preschool-age and special needs children. The mobile library allows the children to have a library experience on a smaller scale.

Referring to it as a “mobile library”, Mr. Moore said the bookmobile is a good way to promote the library and increase circulation. Opening it to the public on site during the Warren County Farmers’ Fair was very successful and taking it to township community days is under consideration.

The library systems of Hunterdon County and Jersey City recently purchased new bookmobiles. The funds are available in the library budget. The average life span of this type of vehicle is 8-10 years. The existing vehicle has considerable rust on its undercarriage and it takes 7-8 months to build and deliver a new bookmobile once an order is placed.

Mr. Gardner asked if usage was decreasing. Mr. Moore said it would be more accurate to say it has gone in a different direction. The mobile library makes 16 stops now. Additional stops have not been added despite requests and teachers limit the number of books students are permitted to check out. Circulation would increase if teachers were to allow it.

Mr. Gardner asked about school libraries versus a mobile library. Mr. Moore said this is entertainment for the kids as opposed to being curriculum related. Angela Lundgren, who is in charge of bookmobile operations, pointed out that these are preschools we’re talking about. They have only minor book collections, not libraries. The bookmobile has much more to offer. Mr.

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Gardner asked if the teachers would feel a void if there were no bookmobile. Ms. Lundgren said yes. They are very excited about having a library environment come to their school. It is a great learning experience for the kids.

Mr. Moore thought the best way to sell the old bookmobile would be through auction. The rust is a real concern; he was worried about making it through the winter. In terms of finances, Mr. Moore said the library will also be able to replace a delivery van without asking for additional money.

Mr. Chamberlain said since these purchases will be paid for with funds that have already been appropriated, he was not opposed. Mr. Gardner expressed concern that both the van and bookmobile would reach the end of their life spans at the same time. Mr. Moore assured him that the van would not last as long as the new mobile library.

The Board reached a consensus to authorize bidding for the purchase of a new bookmobile. This portion of the meeting ended at 4:25 p.m.

Mr. Chamberlain then clarified the resolutions concerning health insurance. The first established new rates for medical and prescription plan benefits for Calendar year 2009. Going forward, Mr. Chamberlain was of the opinion that the County could save a lot of money on the prescription and health care side by participating in the State Health Benefits Program. While the unions' local presidents and attorneys would have to be convinced, they should be in favor of the change if they are interested in cutting costs and preserving jobs.

The second resolution dealt with medical reinsurance. Mr. Chamberlain said Otterstedt will still serve as the County's broker with commission costs being cut significantly.

Mr. Chamberlain said that according to estimates from people on every side of the issue, the County can save \$1.5 million to \$2 million by switching to the State Plan. Plus, health care costs would then be outside the CAP.

Risk Manager Mike Grossmann said he had obtained five sets of numbers. Using highs and lows, once the new health and prescription plans are fully implemented, the County should save a total of between \$1.7 million to \$2.9 million.

Analyzing cost savings and looking at CAP restrictions, Mr. Chamberlain said he didn't see a better way to go. He did note that once the State Health Benefits Plan was implemented, any pending claims would have to be paid out of the prior plan, so savings would not be immediate.

Mr. DiMaio said he wanted to be sure the bargaining units were being informed. He didn't want to move too fast.

Mr. Gardner commended Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Grossmann for their research. Mr. Grossmann thought switching to the State Health and Prescription Plans shouldn't be a hard sell since the benefits are not substantially different than those of the New Jersey Teachers' Union.

**RESOLUTION 731-08**

On motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Gardner, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held on December 17, 2008.

**RESOLUTION RE: ESTABLISHING ANNUAL HEALTH CARE RATES FOR WARREN**

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**COUNTY EMPLOYEES, RETIREES AND CONTRACTED COUNTY AGENCIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders recognizes a need to revise and establish new health care benefit rates for Warren County employees, retirees, and contracted county agencies for purposes of calculating budgetary funds for the fiscal year 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, these new rates have been recommended by the county's fiscal analyst in conjunction with our contractual agreement with Horizon Blue Cross & Blue Shield;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the new rates be approved commencing January 1, 2009, and continue until December 31, 2009, and be established as follows:

	<u>Medical</u>	<u>Prescription</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Single Coverage	\$ 564.00	\$155.00	\$ 719.00
Parent/Child Coverage	\$ 696.00	\$208.00	\$ 904.00 H/W
Coverage	\$ 960.00	\$260.00	\$1,220.00
Family Coverage	\$1,300.00	\$375.00	\$1,675.00

Retirees Rates

Single Coverage Retiree Medicare Supplement Plan (Includes Rx)	\$351.00
H/W Coverage Retiree Medicare Supplement Plan (Includes Rx)	\$668.00
Single Coverage Retiree Old Indemnity Plan (Rx is covered under the medical plan)	\$413.00
H/W Coverage Retiree Old Indemnity Plan (Rx is covered under the medical plan)	\$827.00

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 at a meeting held on December 17, 2008.

Steve Marvin, Clerk of the Board

Recorded Vote: Mr. Chamberlain yes, Mr. Gardner yes, Mr. DiMaio yes

**RESOLUTION 732-08**

On motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Gardner, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held on December 17, 2008.

**RESOLUTION RE: APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WC0897R FOR PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE SERVICES TO PROVIDE MEDICAL REINSURANCE FOR THE WARREN COUNTY SELF INSURED EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2009 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009 TO HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29.98 PER EMPLOYEE PER MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the professional services of an Insurance Company to provide Medical Reinsurance for the Warren County Employee Medical Insurance Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.) requires that a resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "professional services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Purchasing has certified that this contract meets the statute and regulations governing the award of such contracts; and

**MINUTES****DECEMBER 17, 2008**

**WHEREAS**, adequate funds are available in budget accounts 33105/5721 – Healthcare Trust Account, Administrative Costs and certified by the County Chief Financial Officer,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren in the State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The agreement between the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, for professional services for the above project, for the term of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 in the amount of \$29.98 per employee per month is hereby approved and the Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute the appropriate contract.

1. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a Professional Service in accordance with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (40A:11-5(1)(a)(i))

2. A notice of this action shall be published in the Star Ledger, as required by law, within ten days of its adoption.

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 at a meeting held on December 17, 2008.

Steve Marvin, Clerk of the Board

Recorded Vote: Mr. Chamberlain yes, Mr. Gardner yes, Mr. DiMaio yes

**RESOLUTION 733-08**

On motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Gardner, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren at a meeting held on December 17, 2008.

**RESOLUTION RE: APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WC0898R FOR PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE SERVICES TO PROVIDE THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION AND A DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE WARREN COUNTY SELF INSURED EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2009 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009 TO HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54.73 PER EMPLOYEE PER MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the professional services of an Insurance Administrator to provide Third Party Administration and a Disease Management Program for the Warren County Employee Medical Insurance Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq.) requires that a resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "professional services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Purchasing has certified that this contract meets the statute and regulations governing the award of such contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, adequate funds are available in budget accounts 33105/5721 – Healthcare Trust Account, Administrative Costs and certified by the County Chief Financial Officer,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren in the State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The agreement between the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Warren and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, for professional services for the above project, for the term of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 in the amount not to exceed \$54.73 per employee per month is hereby approved and the Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute the appropriate contract.

2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a Professional Service in accordance with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (40A:11-5(1)(a)(i))

3. A notice of this action shall be published in the Star Ledger, as required by law, within ten days of its adoption.

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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 at a meeting held on December 17, 2008.

Steve Marvin, Clerk of the Board

Recorded Vote: Mr. Chamberlain yes, Mr. Gardner yes, Mr. DiMaio yes

On motion by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mr. Chamberlain, and there being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Recorded Vote: Mr. Chamberlain yes, Mr. Gardner yes, Mr. DiMaio yes

**ATTESTED TO:**

**Steve Marvin, Clerk of the Board**