

**ANNUAL RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.
HISTORIC COURTROOM
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
3 HIGH STREET, NEWTON, NEW JERSEY**

Item

1. Call to Order by the Clerk of the Board at 6:00 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Board of Chosen Freeholders would like to thank you for attending its 2016 Annual Reorganization Meeting, and appreciates your interest in County Government and your community.

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

At this time, I would like to call this Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders to order.

I would like to call up the Reverend Randall Parks for the Invocation.

- 2. Invocation and Moment of Silent Prayer by Reverend Randall Parks**
- 3. Salute to the Flag**
- 4. Public Statement**

"Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, Adequate Notice, as defined by Section 3D of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, has been made by regular mail on the 14th day of December, 2015, as per authorization of the Board, and per notice which was posted, faxed and mailed from the Administrative Offices of the County of Sussex, located in the Administrative Center, One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey, to the following: New Jersey Herald, New Jersey Sunday Herald, The Star Ledger, WNNJ Radio and WSUS Radio, and is also posted on the bulletin board maintained in the Administrative Center for public announcements, and has been submitted to the Sussex County Clerk in compliance with said Act."

- 5. Jeffrey M. Parrott, County Clerk - Determination Statement for the November 3, 2015 Election.**
- 6. Carl F. Lazzaro to be sworn in as a member of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders by Congressman E. Scott Garrett for a three-year term.**

Oath of Office will be placed on file and recorded in the Sussex County Clerk's Office.

- 7. Jonathan M. Rose to be sworn in as a member of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders by Judge Frederic G. Weber for a three-year term.**

Oath of Office will be placed on file and recorded in the Sussex County Clerk's Office.

8. Director of Board of Chosen Freeholders

Clerk of the Board states that the first order of business is the election and appointment of a Director for the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2016.

Nomination made by Carl Lazzaro to appoint Freeholder Graham as Director for calendar year 2016.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Abstain
Freeholder Graham	Yes
Freeholder Lazzaro	Yes
Freeholder Rose	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	No

Freeholder Graham by a vote will be appointed to the Director of the Freeholder Board for 2016.

**RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN
01-2016 FREEHOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2016**

MOTION made by Freeholder Lazzaro to nominate George Graham for Freeholder Director, seconded by Freeholder Rose.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Abstain
Freeholder Graham	Yes
Freeholder Lazzaro	Yes
Freeholder Rose	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	No

Oath of Office was administered to Freeholder Graham as Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders by Judge Frederic G. Weber.

9. Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders

Director states that there are times during the year the Director of the Board may be absent and it is the desire of the Board at this time to appoint a Deputy Director of the Board for the year 2016.

**RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTING THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF
02-2016 CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2016**

Freeholder Director Graham opened the floor for Nominations for Deputy Director.

Nomination made by Freeholder Rose to appoint Freeholder Lazzaro as Deputy Director for calendar year 2016.

MOTION made by Freeholder Rose to nominate Freeholder Carl F. Lazzaro for Freeholder Deputy Director, seconded by Freeholder Graham.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Lazzaro	Yes
Freeholder Rose	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Director Graham	Yes

Oath of Office will be administered to the Freeholder as Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders by Congressman E. Scott Garrett.

**10. Recognition of Dignitaries Present by Jerry Scanlan, Chairman, Sussex
County Republican Committee.**

REMARKS:

Freeholder Crabb's Remarks

Freeholder Crabb thanked Director Graham and congratulated him. He also welcomed everyone and hoped that they had a nice holiday and New Year. He said what a difference a year makes. At these proceedings last year we were able to review the goals set the year before and reported the measurable progress of each of them including the jail project, the 9-1-1 center and bringing the library system into the 21st century.

He said the county was benefiting financially not only from the difficult decision to sell the Homestead but also from the many key shared services that have been carefully developed over the past several years.

Our accomplishments were never personally granted but were a collective effort of many freeholder boards that was focused on what was best for the Sussex County tax payers. This way was the key to how we did business. At this time, we are being asked to consider a resolution to spend \$500,000 for an investigation that has no definition and seems to be only driven by personal, political vanity and ambition.

Freeholder Crabb talked about the solar project and how the Board was asked to be a conduit for local municipal tax relief. This was a meticulous process that ensued for over a year. All municipalities were very interested and listened to many presentations on the topic. When the vote was taken there was no objection raised nor was there any correspondence or communication from any municipalities with concern from the projects. The entire Board was proud of what we were going to embark on.

Freeholder Crabb said due to a conflict that evolved regarding a private contract between the developer and the contractor, this Board engaged numerous executive sessions along every step of this conflict to find a way to insert ourselves as much as law would allow finding a quick resolution which resulted in the settlement that was made almost a year ago. This settlement would protect the tax payer's investment by providing a known comprehensive cost going forward and the framework to complete the project going forward.

Freeholder Crabb expressed his concerns about the resolution that they are to consider at this time. He said he doesn't know what the goals can realistically be when the current Board is more concerned with personal and political agendas than what we were elected for. He said for his part he was elected to solely act in the best interest of the Sussex County taxpayer and I promise you that is what my role will be going forward. He said most people want delivery of results and running the County should not be that difficult and those should not forget that we still live in a small pond. He said God bless this County and God bless all of you that have gathered here.

Freeholder Vohden's Remarks

Freeholder Vohden congratulated the newly elected officials and wished everyone a happy New Year.

Freeholder Vohden said this is his first meeting in his sixth year as a Freeholder. They have been very rewarding years. He said he has met a lot of interesting people and has learned how county government functions and how essential it is to gain the institutional knowledge that is needed to make the best choices and decisions for Sussex County. Most importantly I have learned to appreciate and respect all the individuals that are acting together to provide the services and resources to keep Sussex County running smoothly.

Freeholder Vohden thanked all the Freeholders; Constitutional Officers, County Administrator, County Clerk, County Counsel, Clerk of the Board, all county employees and all county board and committee members. They are the dedicated and loyal individuals who make important recommendations to the Freeholder Board. He said he is proud of the team and he hopes it continues. He said it is important that the team works together to solve the serious problems that Sussex County residents face every day.

Freeholder Vohden brought up the foreclosure situation and mentioned that the number is over 10,000. It is important to have unity to help with the problems in Sussex County. He wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Freeholder Lazzaro's Remarks

Freeholder Lazzaro gave his background on how he got to be a Freeholder. He gave his thoughts on how he sees Sussex County and that is as a tourist, semi-rural community. He agreed with Freeholder Vohden's comment about working as a team and that is the only way we are going to make progress. He mentioned that issues need to get resolved such as the solar project. He said the election was an election that the people said we want it resolved. We want to know what, why and how it happened. He said we are going to try and do that. He did say if the people decide that they do not want that than we will change gears and address that.

Freeholder Lazzaro thanked the donors, and the volunteers who helped him get to Freeholder. He said we need to keep a positive vision that Sussex County will continue to grow to be the great county in New Jersey. He thanked everyone and said he looks forward to serving all of you.

Freeholder Rose's Remarks

Freeholder Rose thanked everyone coming tonight to celebrate the event with him and all the Freeholder members. He said 2016 is going to be a tough year for the Board. We have to deal with the aftermath of the solar bailout, we need to deal with a very tough budget and most importantly we need to work together at this awesome role they have in governing the county. He promised the residents of Sussex County and this Board that he will do what he believes is right even, if it is difficult, even if it means that he is in the minority, even if it means he is not loyal to any group. He thanked his family members, his running mates, and his friends and colleagues. He also thanked the rest of the Freeholder Board for their time, sweat and money. He believes that everyone sitting at this dias has a common goal and seeks to do what is right for this county. He thanked everyone for coming and sharing in this with all of us.

Freeholder Graham Remarks

Freeholder Graham started by quoting Henry Ford "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is process; working together is success. He stated that we have our differences but as everyone has stated, we have to work together.

Freeholder Graham said he was very happy to see so many Sussex County employees here. He said we serve the public and the people and that is our responsibility. We do it to the best our ability and as efficiency as we can. He wanted to let every employee know how much they are appreciated.

Freeholder Graham said we need to go forward with respect – not only for those we serve but also to those that are doing the serving.

Freeholder Graham thanked his family and elected officials and he said he applauds their service. He said we are going to move forward together. He used a quote he heard from Freeholder Lyon from Morris County and he quoted George Paton "If everyone is thinking the same way, someone is not thinking". He said that is what we have to understand that we have different ways on approaching things. He said we can disagree without be disagreeable. He said that is what the platform will be moving forward. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

11. RESOLUTION RE: DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF 03-2016 CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**12. RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
04-2016**

(BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Herald is hereby designated as one of the official newspapers for the advertising of any public or legal notices by the County of Sussex)

**13. RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
05-2016**

(BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Sunday Herald is hereby designated as one of the official newspapers for the advertising of any public or legal notices by the County of Sussex)

**14. RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
06-2016**

(BE IT RESOLVED that the Star Ledger is hereby designated as one of the official newspapers for the advertising of any public or legal notices by the County of Sussex)

**15. RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF NEWSPAPERS IN CONFORMANCE
07-2016 WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

(BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Herald, the New Jersey Sunday Herald, and The Star Ledger are hereby designated as Newspapers for the placement of notices in conformance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, commonly known as the "Open Public Meetings Act")

**16. RESOLUTION RE: BANKS AS DEPOSITORIES
08-2016**

**17. RESOLUTION RE: APPROVING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2016
09-2016**

**18. RESOLUTION RE: FILING OF OATHS
10-2016**

**19. RESOLUTION RE: CLERK OF THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE
11-2016 FEES FOR COPIES OF PUBLIC RECORDS**

\$.05 per page for pages 8 ½ x 11 or smaller

\$.07 per page for pages 8 ½ x 14 or larger

**20. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF SALARIES
12-2016**

**21. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS
13-2016**

**22. RESOLUTION RE: FILING OF BONDS
14-2016**

**23. RESOLUTION RE: DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENTS FOR VARIOUS
15-2016 DEPARTMENT LIAISONS AND COMMITTEES**

**24. RESOLUTION RE: HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2016
16-2016**

New Year's Day Observed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Lincoln's Birthday
President's Day
Good Friday
Memorial Day Observed
Independence Day

Labor Day
Columbus Day Observed
Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

**25. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF A FREEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY ARTS & HERITAGE COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 2016 (Resolution appoints Freeholder
Lazzaro)**

**26. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENTS OF THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR,
FREEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE AND A FREEHOLDER
ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SUSSEX
COUNTY PLANNING BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2016
(Resolution appoints Freeholders Graham, Lazzaro and
Vohden)**

**27. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF FREEHOLDER GRAHAM AS THE
SUSSEX COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LAKE
MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD**

**28. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENTS OF FREEHOLDER VOHDEN AS THE
FREEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE AND TOM DRABIC
THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NORTH
JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY,
INC. FOR THE YEAR 2016**

**29. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX
COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS AS
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE OF
THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX
(Resolution appoints Freeholders Graham, Crabb and
Vohden)**

**30. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX
COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS AS
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE OF
THE SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE
COUNTY OF SUSSEX (Resolution appoints Freeholders
Graham, Lazzaro and Rose)**

**31. RESOLUTION RE: NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR 2016
23-2016
(Resolution appoints Freeholder Graham, Freeholder
Vohden and Stephen Gruchacz as representatives to the
NJAC)**

**32. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE STECCATO AS PUBLIC
AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER IN AND FOR THE
COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016,
PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 1975 c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27)**

33. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR 2016
25-2016
34. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM JOSEPH AS THE OFFICIAL TOWN CRIER FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR 2016
26-2016
35. RESOLUTION RE: ESTABLISHING POLICY RELATIVE TO EMERGENCY PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 AND N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1
27-2016
36. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY TREASURER TO PAY BILLS ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH WHEN THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS DOES NOT MEET ON THE SECOND AND/OR FOURTH WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH
28-2016
37. RESOLUTION RE: PROVIDING THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR WITH VETO POWER OVER COUNTY AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:20-71.3
29-2016
38. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF DONALD R. PLOETNER, II AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM. SAID TERM TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018
30-2016
39. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF MIKE DOLAN AND TONI-LU MARTIN AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH. TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018
31-2016
40. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER R. FITZPATRICK AS A MEMBER-AT-LARGE (ENVIRONMENTAL) AND DONALD PLOETNER AS MEMBER-AT-LARGE (ENVIRONMENTAL) OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH. SAID TERMS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018
32-2016
41. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN SKELLENGER AS A MEMBER-AT-LARGE (ENVIRONMENTAL) AND JIM OSCOVITCH (SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL) OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH. SAID TERMS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2018
33-2016
42. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF WOLFGANG GSTATTENBAUER, GENE CRAWFORD AND DANIEL G. FLYNN AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD. SAID TERMS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018
34-2016

43. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF LISA CHAMMINGS, MARK ZSCHACK AND MATTHEW HANNUM AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD FOR THREE (3) YEAR TERMS EACH. SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018
44. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF RICHARD GOTTEMOLLER AS A MEMBER-AT-LARGE OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS. TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2018
45. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF GEZA CSIPPAN AS THE MEMBER/PLUMBING SUBCODE OFFICIAL AND WALTER CRAMP AS THE ALTERNATE MEMBER ENGINEER/ARCHITECT/BUILDING SUBCODE OFFICIAL FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE BOARD OF APPEALS FOR TERMS OF FOUR (4) YEARS EACH. TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019
46. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF LOUIS AVENATTI, LOUISE IMPERIALE, NANCY HESS, HERMAN TERPSTRA AND GEORGE WANG AS MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES FOR TERMS OF THREE (3) YEARS EACH. SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018
47. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH ZVIRBLIS (CONSUMER ADVOCATE), GWEN KIESSEL (SENIOR CITIZENS REPRESENTATIVE), CHRISTINE FLORIO (STAFF REPRESENTATIVE) AS MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THREE (3) YEAR TERMS; SAID TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018
48. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF LORRAINE HENTZ (STAFF REPRESENTATIVE) AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY TRANSIT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS. TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018

MOTION made by Freeholder Vohden to adopt the Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Rose

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Lazzaro	Yes
Freeholder Rose	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Director Graham	Yes

49. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF A. MATTHEW BOXER, ESQ. OF LOWENSTEIN SANDLER, LLP AS SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

MOTION made by Freeholder Rose to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Lazzaro.

Discussion

Freeholder Vohden said we are considering the adoption of a resolution regarding the authorization of a contract that has not been defined and the approval of an expenditure of \$500,000, a half million dollars, for unspecified services. He said he found out about this resolution on New Year's Eve. The Freeholder Board operates under the Administrative Code, and Section 2.7 states: A copy of resolutions shall be furnished to each member of the Board, as far in advance of the meeting as time for preparation will permit. He said he doesn't believe that this is enough time to study and consider a resolution of this magnitude. He did say that it should be obvious to everyone here that there were ample opportunities to bring this resolution to the Freeholder Board at an earlier date.

Freeholder Vohden read off a list of questions and said before he votes on this resolution he wants to know the answers. He also stated why are we considering spending half a million dollars of taxpayers' funds, which are not available, when four government agencies have already been asked to investigate and these investigations may be ongoing today. We asked The United States Securities and Exchange Commission, The United States Department of Justice, The Office of the Attorney General of the State of N.J., and the Office of the State Comptroller.

Freeholder Vohden said he has questions about the wording in the second paragraph of the resolution which states "the Freeholders recognize a need to appoint a qualified law firm to review the facts and circumstances involved in the County's participation in the Sussex County Renewable Energy Program". He said is not clear on exactly what it means.

Freeholder Vohden said how will Sussex County residents benefit from this \$500,000 investigation? And what negative impact will it have on our capital and operating budgets?

The Sussex County Freeholder Board signed the solar settlement and we were all party to that agreement. He said he would ask that County Council review any possible impact of an investigation by the Freeholder Board on the settlement and non-disparagement clause.

Freeholder Vohden pointed out that the law firm Boxer Lowenstein Sandler may have a conflict of interest because Attorney Boxer was NJ's comptroller when the State Comptroller's office reviewed and signed off on the solar project. He also pointed out that in paragraph 5 of the resolution there is a reference to a statue that does not exist.

Freeholder Vohden said according to the pay to play statues and the Department of Community Affairs Local Finance Board Procedure 5:30-5.4, it may not be legal to adopt this resolution and if we cannot legally act on this resolution tonight, he suggested they either table or withdraw the motion. He read information from the local Finance Board which indicates the resolution is insufficient. He said N.J. Statutes Title 40A:11-5 states that any contract the amount which exceeds the bid threshold may be negotiated and awarded by the governing body without public advertising for bids and bidding therefor and shall be awarded by resolution of the governing body. He said I personally as a member of the Freeholder Board did not negotiate this contract. I knew nothing about the contract until New Year's Eve. It did ruin my New Year's Eve a little bit to see that these things are happening in Sussex County. After bringing forward these facts, he stated again that I think we either table or withdraw this motion tonight.

Freeholder Rose said there are several small technical deficiencies in the contract as he reads it. Another deficiency is the termination date of the contract may be an issue and I would like to table this resolution until the next regularly scheduled meeting on January 13, 2016, I would make a motion to that fact, seconded by Freeholder Lazzaro and passed unanimously.

50. **PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR** (Please note: everyone is asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes or less)

MOTION made at 7:08 PM by Freeholder Rose to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Lazzaro and passed unanimously.

Comment by Harry Dunleavy

Mr. Dunleavy expressed his concerns about the resolution that is on the table to hire a law firm at \$500,000 to investigate the solar situation. He said all of the money from the sale of the Homestead nursing home has been squandered, mainly on this project. The Juvenile Center was closed down to save money but the real reason was the outfit hired to take care of county business was not checked for bonding and ran away with the money. He also said why on earth somebody should be appointed to the College Board who would be part of this oncoming investigation and I would also like to ask how come nobody with a mathematics background or physics is ever appointed to that Board.

Comment by Robert Walker

Mr. Walker said he hasn't been to many meetings and started coming during the solar situation. Like the new Freeholders, I am concerned how it ever took place. He feels we should never have been in the solar business. We have roads, bridges, colleges, the tech school and we have a lot to maintain. He also said that he has seen two amounts that have been spent. One amount is \$21 million and the other one is \$37 million. How much is \$500,000 put over that number. Between 1 and 2 percent to find out what really took place. He welcomes another road to finding out what really happened.

Comment by Neal Kenny

Mr. Kenny came forward and said I thought it was wonderful that the Board spoke in the spirit of working together. I did not know the protocol and I didn't clap after Freeholder Crabb spoke and I thought it was interesting that everybody else got a round of applause and he got none because he brought up an issue that is very volatile. Mr. Kenny also expressed his concern about people who represent themselves as veterans in this community and this state and they are not veterans. It is a crime and a detriment to us veterans. I am hoping that this Board and the prosecutors of our county will do something about this.

Comment by Glen Hull

Mr. Hull said he welcomes an investigation. He believes we need transparency into what really happened. He feels the little bit of money needed for the investigation is a welcome.

Comment by Bob Clark

Mr. Clark said I believe all of you on the Board believe wrong was done. Somebody knows who is responsible and the rest of us would like to know. It is not about revenge. It is about who sold us out and if you are going to take our money, we are going to come looking for you.

Comment by Harvey Roseff

Mr. Roseff said he agrees with the comments regarding having an investigation. He made one suggestion that he feels the public should have a presentation on the state of the project, in particular the finances. He said there is a concern about the \$500,000 being too much money but we don't know how much really was lost. There are no up-to-date projections. He stated that the Board has an opportunity to update the public.

Comment by Rose Ann Salanitri

Ms. Salanitri said she is a conservative Republican and often finds herself agreeing with Mr. Dunleavy. She said that when a Republican and Democrat agree on certain things, she said this Board should take notice and I find it very interesting the diligence that the Board is now paying attention to on properly following the law and figuring out if this is the right way of doing this. That diligence was not paid attention to when the solar project was first initiated, she finds that very interesting. She said she can't fault the Board when they wanted to look into Solar, at that time everybody was up on solar, the contracts, however, are very dubious. She said she did some research and the fees that the law firm wants to charge is not unreasonable as long as he has the power to subpoena and if he doesn't then we may want to look into the hours he is putting in. She said from what she hears, it should only be a 500 hour job. There are also questions about whether this lawyer will be supervised in this process. She said this Board needs to pay attention to these details. She said you need to learn from your mistakes and let's move forward with unity and diligence.

MOTION made at 7:24 by Freeholder Rose to close the public session, seconded by Freeholder Lazzaro and passed unanimously.

51. **DIRECTOR:** "Any appointments not being made today to the various Boards or Committees will be made at subsequent meetings and there are other appointments which are coming up during the year which will be made at that time."

52. **REMINDERS**

Wednesday January 13, 2016 Regular Meeting 5:00 pm

53. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION made at 7:28 PM by Freeholder Rose to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Freeholder Lazzaro and passed unanimously.

Catherine M. Williams,
Clerk of the Board

DATED: JANUARY 4, 2016