

REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

6:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item

1. CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR at 6:02 PM

2. ROLL CALL Freeholder Crabb, Freeholder Rose,  
Freeholder Vohden, Freeholder Director Graham;  
Steve Gruchacz, County Administrator; John Williams,  
County Counsel; Catherine Williams, Clerk of the  
Board

**ABSENT:** Freeholder Lazzaro

3. MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND 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, such notice being submitted on January 7, 2016 from the Administrative Center of the County of Sussex, located at One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey to the following:

New Jersey Herald	WSUS Radio
New Jersey Sunday Herald	WNNJ Radio
Star Ledger	

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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION** made by Freeholder Rose to do a separate vote on each item under Item 11 Approval of Minutes, seconded by Freeholder Crabb and passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentations

1. Presentation by NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio and NJAC President John King to discuss strategic goals and objectives for the New Jersey Association of Counties for 2016.

Mr. Donnadio spoke about their legislative goals and objectives that they believe will affect all 21 counties across the state of New Jersey.

He said one of the big items is an initiative that came from our County Administrators and we believe it will streamline the bill paying process and save tax payers dollars. This was sponsored by Senator Oroho. This legislative will allow counties to pay their bills by electronic means. Under current law, counties, municipalities and school districts have to pay their bills by writing paper checks. We have bi-partisan support and hoping to get it done as early as June but as late as December of this year.

He reported on the state pension systems. He said NJAC is trying to educate the public that the local pension systems are solvent at close to 80% and are well funded by counties and municipalities that have been good stewards of property tax payer dollars and funded the local pension systems for well over a decade.

He said their concern long term is that the state to address the issues with the state pension system, they are going to look to co-mingle the local pension systems and the state pension systems and we feel that is an unjust practice on behalf of the state and we are urging all counties to adopt a resolution to encourage them not to do that.

The second issue that we are working on is the reauthorization of the Transportation Trust Fund. What NJAC has been doing at public and committee meetings over the past few years is to educate both the front office and our legislators that we want to increase local aid allocations under the Transportation Trust Fund.

The last issue is criminal justice reform. NJAC has been working and meeting with legislative leaderships on both sides and we are looking for state funding or some type of mechanism that will help offset the unanticipated costs with implementing criminal justice reform. He said he is pleased to announce that we have legislative this week that will make modest increases to certain criminal and civil court fees and dedicate about \$21 million back to the counties to help to address some of those costs that we are seeing such as staffing, court facility improvements, court security enhancements, etc. State appropriation was not included in the governor's budget and we don't believe it was included in the legislative's budget as well. We asked for a CAP exception and we were told no.

I think everyone has supported bail reform moving forward and good public policy and in the long term it should save property tax payers dollars. There is an estimate that it could save \$45 to \$50 million because it will reduce our prison population and then reduce the operating expense. That is the theory but we don't know when we would see it. In the meantime, we are hoping to secure some state relief to address some of the concerns with the criminal justice reform.

Freeholder Director Graham said he and Freeholder Vohden have attended three or four bail reform meetings and what I have gotten out of it is that all the meetings are slightly different in their outcomes as to what they are going to be, the predictions and the timelines with the predictions. The thing that concerns us the most is that we are in a pilot program and if we are going to reduce our population by just a few 10%, it doesn't really change the matrix of how we handle those that are incarcerated in Sussex County. How do we see something out of it more than just that we need to have more people staffed to handle weekends? How do we see any cost savings, in your opinion?

Mr. Donnadio said that is the challenge that we are facing. We have a fiscal note that was prepared by the Office of Legislative Services for 2014 that said again that it will save counties 45 to 50 million dollars. We are not seeing that now. You are not the first county to say, "We have to hire 10 sheriff officers, so if we reduce our jail population, we still have to pay the sheriff officers." This is why we have been aggressively and proactively pursuing funding for counties to address some of these concerns. He said, "I don't think I am answering your questions, but I am trying to provide a solution or remedy for counties to deal with these unanticipated expenses that when bail reform was working its way through legislature, weren't discussed. I can tell you that if we don't see any funding from the state or if this legislation doesn't get signed into law, I have already spoken to our labor counsel about pursuing a complaint with the counsel on local mandates. It is not an avenue we want to pursue but we are prepared if we need to. I think the legislators are hearing us.

Freeholder Crabb said we have a paradox here, because unless we can firm up the savings or more importantly the timing it is a bit of a balance for us with budgeting for those positions rather than actually filling them. Do you budget and take the breakage or do you not budget? It all depends on what our situation is here. We were originally told as pilot we would be knee deep in it right now. It is a moving target for us.

Freeholder Rose said along with that you have the legislation that went in that put the Prosecutors' office/ Sheriff's office under the 2% CAP beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> of next year which has to be done in the budget this year or you will be in trouble next year. Is there any possibility that the legislation would remove bail reform items from the 2% CAP passing?

Mr. Donnadio said that is a very good question and something that can be spoken about with the front office and with the legislation delegation.

He said one of their legislative priorities for a number of years was to place the Prosecutor under the 2% CAP, because as you know it is a major challenge for governing bodies throughout the state not only dealing with the prosecutor office but county independent autonomous agencies both elected and not elected, or those that are appointed by the state but funded by the county so this was an initiative of ours to control those expenses long term, but you are right and now you facing a challenge with bail reform that you have prosecutors saying we need 10 to 15 new assistant prosecutors. It is not going to be an exception.

Freeholder Rose said so based on your experience, it definitely won't be an exception.

Mr. Donnadio said no.

Freeholder Rose said if this body needs to move forward with anything this year, we will be in serious trouble next year.

Mr. Donnadio said I don't want to be negative about the 2% CAP but I can tell you it is a non-starter with the front office and a non-starter with the legislative leadership that we met with, even an appropriation is a non-starter. The green light we got was this court fee increase bill because we found a source of revenue. We are not taking money from any place else.

Freeholder Vohden asked if any funding does come forward would it be just for the pilot program or for all the 21 counties.

Mr. Donnadio said it will be for all 21 counties. He said we are not giving up on the appropriations yet. We have had conversations with the legislators on state appropriation for the four pilot counties. It is a long shot and if we do get any funding it will be for the four pilot counties.

Freeholder Crabb that is why we to get clarity of what the current jail population is or the timing of when we are going to start because if we need to allocate headcount for this year, there is a difference between budgeting headcount and actually filling it that is why I was talking about the potential breakage but unless we can get clarity on what the timing is going to be to bring these people on or it is just going to be incremental expense. That is our framework challenge going forward.

The Board continued with their concerns of the timing.

Mr. Donnadio asked the Board to put their concerns in writing and he will go back to the offices of the administrative courts and circle back with them in June and get some guidance if you think that will help.

Freeholder Crabb said the only challenge we have is we are at the decision points right now in regards to the head count.

County Counsel said the one thing you do know as I did hear this from one of the criminal justice conferences that I have been to is there will be an increase before it levels off. You will have the population that are already in jails that will not come under the bail issues or the speedy trial, which is the second half of it, and that is a statistic or an observation from the six states that it has been put into place and I asked about it but if we could get the numbers from the other six states, that would be helpful.

Mr. Donnadio said he will reach out to his colleagues and get some more information.

Freeholder Director Graham talked about the bridges. He asked Mr. Donnadio when you are addressing this and trying to get more funding is there more emphasis on bridges?

Mr. Donnadio said in the packet that he handed out there is a Transportation Impact Statement that outlines the county inventory of bridges. It is over 7,000 bridges statewide. Counties maintain just about every bridge in the state of New Jersey and have overall operating expenses of close to \$600 million a year. Some of the numbers that we highlight when we meet legislators are not necessarily the operating expenses; but the long term capital expenses which are approaching close to \$3 billion for counties across the state.

He said close to 75% of the minor bridges are in need of repair and close to 30% of major bridges that are maintained by counties are in need of repair. He said there is a real need for funding and real need at the county level.

## **8. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR**

**MOTION** made at 6:25 PM from Freeholder Vohden to open the floor to the public, seconded by Freeholder Rose and passed unanimously.

**Please Note: Everyone is asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes or less. Please state your name, spell your last name, and state you're municipal residency.**

### **Comment from Garry Larson**

Mr. Larson from Frankford Township came forward and said he is here in two capacities, one as a resident of Sussex County and also as the Fairgrounds Manager. He thanked Freeholder Crabb for his visit a couple of weeks ago as they are looking to further enhance the county building and have a little bit more to offer to county residents and residents around the state visiting the fair this year. My other issue is bureaucracy at its best. It looks a little like double dipping depending on how you are looking at it. You may or may not be aware of some of things that I am going to talk about. Back in 2010, the Freeholder Board at that time passed an ordinance involving farmer's markets and temporary events. Within that ordinance they put together an additional onetime annual fee for the food vendor that was involved in these types of things. From 2010 to 2015 that ordinance sat dormant. It was never instituted. The County Health Department never enforced it. On April 17, 2015 an email went out to county inspectors informing them of this particular ordinance and they were to begin enforcing this. He said what happens is a vendor comes in and the vendor would go to the Township and fill out the appropriate paperwork for the county and the Township and the application that they are filling out has been approved by the County Health Department. They pay their \$200 to Frankford and it gets sent to the county. In the past that is how it worked. The county came out and they would inspect and were done. Starting last year, an additional layer of bureaucracy has been thrown out there. Now the vendor fills out the application that the township gives them, the township sends it into the county, but the township also gives them information to contact the county and then they have to repeat the application and pay an additional \$50 to the county; this is for every vendor that comes throughout the county; but most notably I am looking at it from a fairgrounds standpoint because we have so many vendors that go through.

He said not only is it a double layer of bureaucracy because they are filling out an application and they have to fill out another application for the county with pretty much the same information and then pay a \$50 fee. Frankford Township who has already gotten the \$200 fee from the vendor turns around and that money is used at the county level because the county is our enforcing agent, so through our township taxes the county receives money to have the Health Department do their due diligence and come out and check out the food vendors. My point is I would like to streamline this application process. I have spoken to Emrick Seabold and Christine Davies who are well informed about this and I am not standing here complaining about the Health Department, but what I am complaining about is what I perceive as a double dip by the county as they receive money from taxes and now hitting the vendors with an additional \$50 fee. Which again, the ordinance was in place since 2010 and for some reason it just appeared in April of last year.

### **Comment from John Snyder**

Mr. Snyder of Sandyston came forward and said that at the last meeting he has asked for an item to be placed on the agenda of having an open forum to explain to the public the status of the solar projects. I don't see it on here. He said he is hoping to see it on for next time because I think the public does deserve the forum and whether you are in favor of having one or not.

## **Comment from Sylvia Opresnick**

Ms. Opresnick from Sparta came forward and she is here tonight to talk about the Forestry Stewardship Plan aka the logging plan on Sparta Mountain. She said some comments were made at the last meeting about democracy in action. I think we need a little bit of a review of what a democracy is and it is the government of the people, by the people, for the people. I would ask all of you tonight when you took your oath to remember the issues and concerns that your constituents have here in Sussex County. The other thing she discussed was a comment about an emotion not belonging in the court room. I would like to challenge and ask all of you when you bought your first home, think about it; wasn't there an emotion that went along with that. It makes us human beings that we do have emotions otherwise we would just be machines. So moving forward, I would like to provide some facts why this plan is a very bad plan for Sussex County and the entire state:

1. No environmental impact studies were actually done so we do not know what the negative effects are to our water, air, wild life and home property values. For those reasons alone the plan should be abandoned.
2. The safety of our water supply. It has been discussed that 5.4 million New Jersey residents rely on their drinking water from the Highlands so we need to protect that and for that reason the plan should be abandoned.
3. The plan not once or twice, but on five separate pages talks about the use of herbicides. If you don't know, they are toxic chemicals that are known cancer causing agents. They will get into our water and I am here before you because we cannot undo the bad. I am here to try to compel each and every one of you that we can't make bad decisions. Using herbicides near a watershed is not only irresponsible; it is egregious and for those reasons, the plan should be abolished.
4. The plan violates the New Jersey Environmental Rights Act. We have already seen clear cutting. I didn't see any of you on the hikes but I encourage you to go on one and you can see the clear cuts and for example on the Highlands Trails there is a clear cut right over a stream. This is near Ryker Lake which feeds Russia Brooke which is a C1 category river. This is unacceptable and once again puts our water at risk. For that reason, the plan should be abolished.
5. This plan also violates the No-Net Loss Law in that we don't know what the damage is to our streams, lakes, water, our air and existing wildlife and what about the soil. You remove trees, trees not only hold the water they hold the dirt. When the trees are not there, the carbons the nitrates all change. Go to the clear cuts, there is nothing growing except weeds. The trees are not growing back. The regrowth is not there. Vernon Township and the Vernon Environmental Commission as well as New Jersey Highlands Coalition, the New Jersey Sierra Club, Lake Tamarack all have submitted resolutions opposing this plan and I encourage all of you to also make a resolution that addresses the concerns and understand the issues that Sussex County taxpayers pay. The risks of this plan are too great to our environment, to the existing wildlife to the New Jersey Taxpayer and to the safety and quality of our air and drinking water.
6. One more fact is the Green Acres open spaces and if you read what Green Acres mean, it does not say to allow for logging on public land. I have provided facts to you on why this plan needs to be abolished.

## **Comment from Steve Skorupka**

Mr. Skorupka from Lake Tamarack came forward and is here to support the resolution that was just brought up. I have lived in Lake Tamarack for about 15 years and have been looking at picture of the clear cutting. I looked at the picture of the lake and I took a walk to see where these trucks will be entering. They are going to the top and will be removing 90 acres of trees. Up along our lake is a beautiful view. Nature take cares of itself. I look up there and it will be going on for a while. I just don't understand why New Jersey is doing this. What business is it of theirs to come to this location and rip it apart? There is nothing wrong up there. It has been like that for millions of years and yet all these biologists, scientists, ecologists are coming in and talking about clear cutting to clear out an area that needs to be done. It should be left alone, it is for our kids, for us to walk through and enjoy; this whole plan should be abandoned.

**MOTION** made at 6:40 PM by Freeholder Crabb to close the floor to the public, seconded by Freeholder Rose and passed unanimously.

## 9. FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

### Comments by Freeholder Vohden

- **NJTPA Board meeting**

Freeholder Vohden attended the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority meeting in Newark. Our town of Franklin has followed Newton as a participant in Street Smart New Jersey program for pedestrian safety. Allison McHose and Tom Drabic attended the kick off meeting at SCCC and also attended the public outreach event in Franklin on March 12<sup>th</sup>. This program has been successful in reducing pedestrian safety and accidents. There is a pedestrian death every 2.1 days in New Jersey. We have had a few pedestrian deaths in Sussex County in the past few years. Tom Drabic, Sussex County's Transportation Planner attended an all-day workforce in transportation tourism symposium at Fairleigh Dickerson University in Madison. The symposium is bringing together private and public sector leaders to discuss how to support the growth and redevelopment of the retail, hospitality and tourism sector in Sussex County. Tammie Horsfield from the Chamber of Commerce and a representative from Vernon Resorts will also be attending the meeting and Tom Drabic will be reporting back to us on this meeting.

- **New Jersey Forestry Associated Meeting**

Freeholder Vohden attended the annual NJ Forestry Associated meeting at Cook College at Rutgers University. There was a lot of information provided on the Sparta Wildlife Management Area Project. As reported, there will be a Forest Stewardship Plan overview and a field tour hosted by the NJ Forestry Association to be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>. He said he has the invitations because you do need to RSVP. He gave a couple of facts that surprised him. NJ is still 42% forested and 67% of is privately owned.

- **Warren County Board of Agricultural Legislative Dinner**

Freeholder Vohden attended this dinner. They do go over new legislation and legislation that is affecting the farmers and the residents of the county. Our 24<sup>th</sup> District Gail Phoebus, Parker Space and Senator Oroho were there and answered a lot of questions from the public. What was very obvious from the questions asked is that Warren and Sussex counties have very similar problems that are distinct and separate from the rest of the state.

He said he was asked to give an update on the Highlands Regional Master Plan and he concluded with the statement that all of us have to become more involved in this process with the regional plan update or our situation in Warren and Sussex County is going to become more regulated.

- **Springfest**

Freeholder Vohden said he attended the Springfest at the Fairgrounds. He said it was very well attended. He said most of the residents were from out of the county. Our Planning Department had an agri-tourism booth and handed out all of their information.

### Comments by Freeholder Rose

- **Solar Update**

Freeholder Rose said work has begun on some of the remains of the projects. The Hardyston Middle School ground mounts are currently being installed. The conduit installation for the meter has been completed at the Wheatsworth Road facility, wiring has not been completed. This site has been in place but not fully operational for over a year. This will be the last piece of the puzzle to get the metering properly installed. All the other projects are still stuck in the paperwork phase. We received our first invoice from Matt Boxer for the solar investigation that covers through February 29, 2016 in the amount of \$6,528.84.

- **Records Management**

Freeholder Rose said for Engineering and Records Management a meeting was held on March 11, 2016 with Bill Koppenaar, Dan Freed, Matt Sinke from Engineering, Rob Tappan and Tracy Luckert from Records Management. The project to move documents to OnBase from Engineering is making quick process forward and Tracy demonstrated a prototype OnBase interface for Engineering to use. Matt is looking into the investigation of the county's GIS interfaces with Engineering's access databases. There is a GIS contract on the agenda for approval and I ask the Freeholder Board to approve this. We do need to look further into this for next year.

- **Budget**

Freeholder Rose said the worst case debt service for the solar project we learned early this week is \$3.6 million. This includes the Mastec loan agreement amounts but it does not include the \$500,000 one-time investigation money from Matt Boxer. This would amount to a 5.44 percent tax increase for year 2016 if it was put into the budget in whole and including operational increases for 2016 which are surprisingly small. I have asked the Freeholder Board to consider a special meeting to go over the budget before it is introduced; just so we can discuss some options as a whole.

- **Thank you**

Freeholder Rose said thank you to County Administrator Steve Gruchacz. Tonight is his final regular meeting. Steve came in at a time of tremendous turmoil and has been a great asset during his tenure. I would like to personally thank you for the help you gave me as I sought to learn the County and how it works. Thank you.

### **Comments from Freeholder Crabb**

- **Branchville**

Freeholder Crabb said he had a conversation with May or Tony Frato of Branchville; they have made a decision to not pave over their roads after they put their sewer system in until the town gas came in. Elizabethtown Gas is looking for a waiver for the winter road opening permit. I did check upstairs on this and it looks like they are finishing up the paperwork.

- **Technical School, Board of School Estimate**

Freeholder Crabb said earlier today we had the Board of School Estimate meeting for the Technical School. He said it went very well. I can report that the new freshmen class is going to have 268 pupils. It is the largest freshmen class that they have had there. It is interesting that for the second straight year to have a flat increase. They will be getting no more money than they got last year from the County. There was also a benefit because the bonding for the McNeice parking lot came up under budget. They plan to reutilize the savings from that to permanently fix the greenhouse that has been in various staging of disrepair for some years. I think they are doing a great job there. They have the highest graduation rate in the entire county and they have had various individuals from their shops not only being recognized regionally but nationally.

- **Congratulations**

Freeholder Crabb congratulated Steve and Sheila. Steve came in and went from the frying pan into the fire and I thank you for being there to being the conduit for business continuity and for the time that you gave us.

- **Belgium**

Freeholder Crabb said there has been a lot of news with the situation in Belgium. A week ago I was in Brussels airport. To have something like this occur just brings goosebumps.

Where those explosions happened is where the taxis and limos come up and park very close to the door unlike Newark airport where the check in desk is perpendicular to the door. Check-ins in most European airports are parallel and you have different aisles to go down.

Where I was is where the left bomb went off. He said when you start recognizing faces who check you in, you really wonder how they fared. He said after you check in, you go to the back and that is where the big pile was and you can look right into the duty free store. It makes me think that at the end of the day, whatever decisions and actions that we take individually or as a county going forward one of the things that should be at the forefront of our minds is our own security and what goes into that. This was too close. They are the most passive country and to have something like this happen there, it could happen anywhere.

### **Comments from Freeholder Director Graham**

- **Freeholder Lazzaro**

Freeholder Director Graham said you may have read in the paper, Freeholder Carl Lazzaro had surgery the other day. He is recuperating quite nicely. I am very surprised with his recovery. He did not have a heart attack but he needed bypass surgery.

- **Budget**

Freeholder Director Graham said we had a budget meeting yesterday and it lasted six and half hours. We have gone through it and through it and we have to ask ourselves how to do we deliver the most premium services that have to be delivered at the most effective way, at the least expensive way. We are not done with it yet. We will have a special meeting next Wednesday. A good portion of that will be in closed session.

- **Social Services/Human Services**

Freeholder Director Graham said we had something that came up in the middle of budget and had to do with a program called SHIP. It was a program that allowed health information to be shared with seniors. There was a possibility we could save some money if we shifted it another way; this is an important program and sometimes when you are working with numbers and things by line items you don't see it that way. It was the hearts and minds of the people who actually work in Senior Services who came in to rescue this program and they found a way of doing it with volunteerism and keeping the head count the way it is now. I want applaud everyone and thank Sarah Balzano for jumping in there and helping us with that.

- **Foreclosures**

Freeholder Director Graham said he has spoken with a number of people regarding foreclosures in our county. As Freeholder Vohden has said many times our foreclosure rate in the county is extreme. Right now sitting at the Sherriff's office there are 900 foreclosures. Those foreclosures can only be moved at a certain amount a week.

Freeholder Vohden said 19 in 40 minutes were moved.

Freeholder Director Graham said they are all over the county. He said when you talk about economic development you talk about new development, new businesses, new opportunities. A lot of these homes are very livable and are coming up now with a different rate. We have to try and attract people back into our county. We have schools that have fewer students than they had before, but not enough to close them so we have reason to bring people back into the county. In my discussions with Economic Development Partnership and Chamber of Commerce when you look at things not only from the business side but also what are our opportunities with all of these homes that are available. We really need to encourage people to come back.

- **Thank you**

Freeholder Director Graham thanked Steve Gruchacz for his professionalism, his good humor and I want to thank you for your non-verbal communication sometimes. I sincerely want to thank you for everything that you have helped us with in the last several months and in the previous 14 years. You have always been a professional and always a gentleman.

- **Elaine Morgan**

Freeholder Director Graham said we have a resolution on the agenda tonight and we will be naming the Freeholder Meeting room for Elaine Morgan. She served as our Clerk of the Board for 23 years. We will be naming the room for Elaine in May. The family would like to be here but Elaine's husband is now gravely ill. Please keep in him your prayers. Elaine's family is a fine family and I would have liked to be able to hand the resolution to him tonight, but I won't be able to do that.

Freeholder Vohden thanked Steve for all that he has done over the years for Sussex County.

**10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

A. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS  
**142-2016**

B. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES FOR THE STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SHIP) FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017  
**143-2016**

C. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION FOR A PROJECT UNDER THE 2015 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT, (JAG), FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$3,700.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2016  
**144-2016**

D. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION TO NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF ELECTIONS FOR AN INCREASE IN GRANT FUNDING NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$6,800.00 UNDER SECTION 261 OF HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002  
**145-2016**

E. RESOLUTION RE: TRANSFER OF 2015 APPROPRIATION RESERVES  
**146-2016**

F. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS OF 2016 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX  
**147-2016**

G. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS OF 2016 LIBRARY, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FUND OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX  
**148-2016**

H. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND USA ARCHITECTS FOR THE PROVIDING OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY COURTROOM RENOVATIONS  
**149-2016**

I. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE FOR GIS SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX  
**150-2016**

J. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR  
**151-2016** MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING TRADE SERVICES  
(ROOFING) TO BE PERFORMED IN AND AROUND  
VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS FOR THE  
COUNTY OF SUSSEX

K. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR  
**152-2016** MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING TRADE SERVICES  
(PLUMBING) TO BE PERFORMED IN AND AROUND  
VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS FOR THE  
COUNTY OF SUSSEX

**The Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Sussex has reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of various proposed Resolutions and determined that adoption of the said Resolutions is in and will further the public interest.**

Freeholder Rose asked to have Resolution 9.A handled separately.

**MOTION** made by Freeholder Crabb to vote on B-K, seconded by Freeholder Rose

**On Roll Call the vote was:**

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

**MOTION** made by Freeholder Crabb to vote on A, seconded by Freeholder Vohden

**Discussion**

Freeholder Vohden asked why we consider this separately.

Freeholder Rose said so he can abstain.

Freeholder Vohden said for what reason.

Freeholder Rose said several of the customers he has for his business are on the list.

**On Roll Call the vote was:**

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Rose	Abstain
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Director Graham	Yes

**11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – March 9, 2016**

**MOTION** to adopt the minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 9<sup>th</sup> made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Rose and passed unanimously.

**Executive Session Minutes – March 9, 2016**

**MOTION** to adopt the minutes from the Executive Session Minutes from March 9<sup>th</sup> made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

**Executive Session Minutes  
Special Meeting February 19, 2015**

Freeholder Graham said there are a few typos that need to be correct.

Clerk of the Board said she will clean them up and put them back out.

**MOTION** to adopt the minutes from the Executive Session on February 19, 2015 with corrections made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Vohden; Freeholder Rose Abstain.

**12. APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS**

- A. RESOLUTION RE: AMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW HANNUM TO FIRST ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD FOR A THREE (3) YEAR TERM. SAID TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2018  
**153-2016**

**Discussion**

Ms. Williams said when she did the resolutions at the Reorganization meeting; she made everybody a member rather than picking the alternates; so I amended it.

**MOTION** to adopt the resolution made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

**13. RESOLUTION**

- A. RESOLUTION RE: ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING THE VIABILITY OF THE COUNTY'S ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EDMS) IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.A.C. 15:3-4.3 FOR LONG TERM AND PERMANENT DOCUMENT STORAGE  
**154-2016**
- B. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING WAIVER FOR EXISTING PARKING SPACES ENCROACHING INTO COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY, COUNTY ROUTE 607, BYRAM TWP  
**155-2016**
- C. RESOLUTION RE: PROVIDING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CR 613 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA  
**156-2016**
- D. RESOLUTION RE: CONCURRING RESOLUTION FOR ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS FOR BOTH DIRECTIONS OF TRAFFIC ALONG SUSSEX COUNTY ROUTE 631 WITHIN FRANKLIN BOROUGH AND HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP  
**157-2016**
- E. RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION NAMING THE FREEHOLDER MEETING ROOM AT THE SUSSEX COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
**158-2016**

**MOTION** made by Freeholder Crabb to adopt the resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Rose and passed unanimously.

**14. AWARDS OF CONTRACTS/CHANGE ORDERS/BIDS**

- A. Awards of Contracts
1. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT BASED ON PROPOSALS RECEIVED THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR THE PROVISION CARE MANAGEMENT AND OUTREACH WITH SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016  
**159-2016**

2. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO THE CENTER FOR PREVENTION AND COUNSELING FOR ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES**  
**160-2016**
3. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO THE CENTER FOR PREVENTION AND COUNSELING FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY SUPPORTS PROGRAM**  
**161-2016**
4. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO CAPITOL CARE, INC. FOR ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES**  
**162-2016**
5. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO DASI: DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY SUPPORTS PROGRAM**  
**163-2016**
6. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO FREEDOM HOUSE, INC. FOR ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES**  
**164-2016**
7. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO TURNING POINT FOR ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES**  
**165-2016**
8. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO TURNING POINT FOR ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES**  
**166-2016**
9. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR AERIAL LARVICIDING AND ADULTICIDING OF MOSQUITOES – 2016**  
**167-2016**
10. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR RENTAL OF VARIOUS ROAD MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT 2016 FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX**  
**168-2016**

**MOTION** made by Freeholder Crabb to adopt the resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Vohden

**On Roll Call the vote was:**

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

**15. FINANCIAL**

**INTRODUCTION FOR FIRST READING - RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CAP TO LIMIT COUNTY BUDGET APPROPRIATION INCREASE IN CY 2016 COUNTY BUDGET TO 3.5% OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FINAL APPROPRIATIONS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS AND TO ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATION CAP BANK**

**MOTION** to adopt this Resolution on first reading made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Rose.

**On Roll Call the vote was:**

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

**MOTION** to authorize the Clerk to advertise this Resolution as introduced for first reading, and also post same on the bulletin board in the lobby of the County Administrative Center, together with a Notice of Public Hearing stating that a hearing will be held on April 13, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. prior to final adoption of this Resolution made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Rose

**On Roll Call the vote was:**

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

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**16. PERSONNEL**

A. Personnel Agenda

**MOTION** to approve the agenda made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Vohden

**On Roll Call the vote was:**

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

**17. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

A. Other

Mr. Gruchacz said he is thankful for the opportunity to work here for 14 years and it is the end of a chapter.

**18. COUNTY COUNSEL**

- A. Capital Projects
- B. Litigation
- C. Contract
- D. Other Matters

County Counsel said the issue at Wheatsworth is getting resolved on Saturday.

**19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None for tonight.

**20. NEW BUSINESS**

None for tonight.

**21. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR**

**MOTION** made at 7:12 PM by Freeholder Crabb to open the floor to the public, seconded by Freeholder Rose and passed unanimously.

**Please Note: Everyone is asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes or less.  
Please state your name, spell your last name, and state your municipal  
residency**

**Comment from Rhonda Iwanski**

Ms. Iwanski from Sandyston Township came forward. She is a member of HSAC. She said she wanted to be face in front of all of you. She has been a member for about a year and half and it has been quite an eye opening experience. She said HSAC stands for Human Services Advisory Council and is commissioned by the Sussex County Board of Freeholders Board and is considered a branch of county government. She read what the committee does. She said it is an honor to be part of this Advisory Council. She said she has worked with the elderly for 19 years, children and now she will be working with the homeless. She invited the Board to attend one of their meetings. She also thanked the Board for all that they do.

**Comment from Glenn Hull**

Mr. Hull from Sandyston Township came forward and said there seems to be a lot of controversy over Sparta Mountain. He said he would like to put his support in for the cutting. He said once the trees get to a certain height it serves no purpose and the forest become sterile and once it is sterile it does not help the animals.

**Comment from Sylvia Opresnick**

Ms. Opresnick from Sparta came forward. She said there have been interesting comments made tonight. I think we can all agree for every environmental point there is always a counter point and I provided you facts earlier and why the Stewardship Plan should be abandoned. I have brought with me tonight the Vernon Township Environmental Commission Report as well as the New Jersey Highlands Coalition Report and I will give them to you. Something that I forgot to mention earlier and that is we are experiencing global climate change and different species of birds such as the grouse and the golden-winged warbler do not prefer this area as much as it was mentioned by other bird experts and Minnesota seems to be a place where they are migrating. Again, I do not want it to be all about the birds and with that in speaking about the finances, you spoke about the foreclosures and this plan will just add to more homes being foreclosed. She said there are 358 homes in the immediate area that will be affected by this. If you take 1/3 of the homes and with the average taxes they pay \$12,000 a month that would be \$1.2million in revenue that you will not be getting when these homes are foreclosed. She said we should work with nature and keep the beauty that Sussex County has to offer.

She left with this quote, "Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish that has been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money."

**MOTION** made at 7:23 PM by Freeholder Crabb to close the floor to the public, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

**22. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Closed Session – If Applicable)**

No Executive Session items for this evening.

**RESOLUTION RE: PROVIDING FOR AN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 ET SEQ.**

**WHEREAS**, the subject matter(s) about to be discussed may be excluded from the public portion of the meeting by Resolution of the Board of Chosen Freeholders as an exception to the "Open Public Meetings Act" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b); and

**WHEREAS**, it appears necessary for the Board of Chosen Freeholders to discuss such matter(s) in Executive Session.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Sussex, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) and N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 that the Board at this time enter into an Executive Session from which the public shall be excluded; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the general nature of the subject(s) to be discussed relate to the following item(s) authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) as designated below:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) **Matters Required by Law to be Confidential:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) **Matters Where the Release of Information Would Impair the Right to Receive Funds:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) **Matters Involving Individual Privacy:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) **Matters Relating to Collective Bargaining Agreements:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) **Matters Relating to the Purchase, Lease or Acquisition of Real Property or the Investment of Public Funds:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6) **Matters Relating to Public Safety and Property:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (7) **Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney Client Privilege:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (8) **Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship:**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (9) **Matters Relating to the Potential Imposition of a Penalty:**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders or provided by law that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that upon completion of the business for which the Board has entered into the Executive Session, the Board shall reconvene and resume its meeting open to the public.

**23. REMINDERS**

Friday	March 25, 2016	Holiday – Good Friday
Wednesday	April 13, 2016	Regular Meeting – 5:00 PM

**24. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** made at 7:23 PM by Freeholder Vohden to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Freeholder Rose and passed unanimously.

**DATED:** March 23, 2016

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Catherine M. Williams  
Clerk of the Board