

REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008

5:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR** at 5:02 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Freeholder Crabb; Freeholder Parrott; Freeholder Vetrano;
Freeholder Zellman; Freeholder Director Wirths; John
Eskilson, County Administrator; Dennis McConnell, County
Counsel; Elaine Morgan, Clerk
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, 2008 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
The Daily Record	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. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A.

PUBLIC HEARING – 5:05 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2008 SUSSEX COUNTY BUDGET AS APPROVED

MOTION to open Public Hearing for the 2008 Sussex County Budget As Approved made by Freeholder Vetrano, seconded by Freeholder Parrott and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING IS NOW OPEN

Is anyone present to be heard regarding the 2008 County Budget As Approved?

There was no one.

MOTION that the Public Hearing be closed made by Freeholder Vetrano, seconded by Freeholder Parrott and approved unanimously.

(The following Resolution can be acted upon only if budget approval is received from NJ Division of Local Government Services)

**RESOLUTION RE: FINAL ADOPTION OF THE 2008 SUSSEX COUNTY BUDGET AS
239-2008 APPROVED**

Freeholder Director Wirths: "BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Sussex that the Budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of \$68,490,715.00 dollars for the County purposes to be raised by taxation and certification to the County Board of Taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations."

MOTION to finally adopt the 2008 County Budget as Approved made by Freeholder Zellman, seconded by Freeholder Parrott.

Comments on budget

Mr. Eskilson stated that it had been a long process, but the Health Tax went down, the County Open Space Tax has plenty of money in it, and the line on the County Tax was largely held; when everything is added up it is a 1.18% increase.

Freeholder Wirths stated for the record that there are 11 towns where the actual tax bill will go down for 2008, adding that the taxes for the average home in Sussex County will go up approximately \$9.00 per year.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Parrott	Yes
Freeholder Vetrano	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Wirths	Yes

6. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamations/Certificates

1. Certificates for the following students for participating in Sussex County Youth in County Government Day-2008: **High Point Regional High School** – Munroe Graham, Melanie Helmer, Hannah Kattermann, Jamie McCloskey; **Hopatcong High School** – Steve Hynson, Camila Proffitt, Jackie Skutka, Kelly Sullivan; **Kittatinny Regional High School** – Zane Brylinski, Mary Kenah, Joe Rudinsky, Hixon Spangenberg; **Lenape Valley Regional High School** – Ben Crater, Gina Dalesandro; **Newton High School** – Meghan Butler, John Paul Couce, Travis Nunziato; **Pope John XXIII Regional High School** – David Astor, Ryan Feuhrer, Kaitlin Fierro, Roland Kekelia, Sylvia Okoye; **Sparta High School** – Jamie Dalcourt, Agostino Perna; **Sussex County Technical School** – Jennifer LaVine, Amy McConnell, Jessie Sisco; **Vernon High School** – Brian Jernick, Emily Mohr, Drew Nix, Danielle Zaremba; **Walkkill Valley Regional High School** – Lauren Bell, Paul Bowden, Robert Bowden, Samantha Hall.

240-2008

Note: The following students did not attend “Youth in County Government Day”:

High Point Regional High School – Hannah Kattermann, Jamie McCloskey **Hopatcong High School** – Jackie Skutka, Kelly Sullivan **Kittatinny Regional High School** – Zane Brylinski, Joe Rudinsky **Pope John XXIII Regional High School** – Kaitlin Fierro **Sparta High School** – Jamie Dalcourt, Agostino Perna **Sussex County Technical School** – Amy McConnell

2. Proclamation in recognition of Brian Jacob Walker attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

241-2008

3. Proclamation designating the month of April, 2008 as “Alcohol Awareness Month”.

242-2008

4. Proclamation designating the week of April 13-19, 2008 as “Sussex County Crime Victims’ Rights Week”.

243-2008

MOTION made by Freeholder Vetrano to approve these Certificates and these Proclamations, seconded by Freeholder Zellman and passed unanimously.

Freeholder Wirths stated that there was an additional Certificate for the Board's approval.

5. Certificate for Roland Kekelia in recognition of his appreciation of and respect for the pursuit of freedom and democracy, and his desire to achieve and preserve these inalienable rights through American citizenship

244-2008

MOTION made by Freeholder Vetrano to approve this Certificate, seconded by Freeholder Parrott and passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

MOTION made at 5:16 p.m. by Freeholder Zellman to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Crabb and passed unanimously.

Route 515/Vernon Township

James Opfer, Vernon Township, came forward; he said that his purpose for coming before the Board was the median in the Route 515 corridor in Vernon Township; Mr. Opfer said that many residents of Vernon were concerned with the project for a number of reasons; he highlighted some of the reasons, which included safety and design, adding that there was an inability for emergency vehicles to access that intersection due to the lack of area for other vehicles to pull over; also discussed was the negative effect the median has had on local businesses; Mr. Opfer discussed the matter of aesthetics, noting that this project, for many reasons, calls for removal.

Mr. Opfer produced petitions signed by those persons who did not like the median (copy on file in the Clerk of the Board's Office).

Mr. Opfer thanked the Board for its time and said that he hoped the Board could assist in a solution; he also thanked Eric Grove for all of his assistance.

Freeholder Wirths said that the Board was very aware of the situation and there have been probably thousands of hours devoted to this project.

Mr. Eskilson said that the median was obviously the biggest concern and the most problematic, adding that there were many things that were being addressed; he said the County was mindful of the aesthetics and that he understood that a Beautification Committee had been formed in Vernon, adding that the County has reached out to the Committee to work with them; Mr. Eskilson said that the County would continue to work with Vernon officials, the design consultants, and the Department of Transportation; he told Mr. Opfer that the County was not in the position to promise that the removal of the median could be done, but that there were a lot of top people working on this issue every day.

The Board thanked Mr. Opfer for his comments.

Additional comment on Route 515/Vernon Township

Carol Fortenbach, Highlands Lakes, Vernon Township, came forward; she said that there was an additional point she wanted to bring forward; Ms. Fortenbach referred to the curbing on the side which eliminated any kind of shoulder; so if there was a problem, there was no place to pull off the road; she added that she felt that the curbing should be removed along with the median.

Expression of appreciation

Mary Harrington of CASA came forward; she thanked the Board for proclaiming April 27, – May 3, 2008, as “Volunteer Week”; she also expressed her appreciation for the CASA link on the County’s website.

Reduced services in Kittatinny Valley State Park

Marge Barrett came forward; she asked if the Board could include Kittatinny Valley State Park in its letter regarding the closure of the State Parks; she said that the buildings in this Park were slated to be closed and three personnel positions were to be eliminated; also to be eliminated would be the maintenance of the Park and the Park would no longer be policed as the police would be sent to Hopatcong State Park.

Freeholder Wirths said that he would discuss this with the Board.

Closure of High Point State Park and its affect on Lusscroft Farm

Maggie Kolicko, Wantage Township, came forward; she said that the closing of High Point State Park would also affect Lusscroft Farm; she added that she was told that the Lusscroft Farm buildings would be closed and the heat and water turned off; as a result of this, all fundraising plans would have to be cancelled, and grants could not be matched and the monies would be lost.

Ms. Kolicko questioned a comment made by Assemblyman Gary Chiusano in which he said that a Resolution should be adopted to keep the Department of Agriculture and to eliminate the Department of Environmental Protection.

Freeholder Wirths said that this Bill was to be introduced by the Legislative Team, but that it was not expected to go anywhere; it was done more to send a message.

Lower Unionville Road/Sewer Allocation Plan

Ms. Kolicko then discussed the property on the Lower Unionville Road in Wantage Township that was removed from the sewer allocation plan; she asked the Board to stand by its decision.

Freeholder Wirths stated that there was ongoing litigation as the County has been sued by CJS Investments and this issue could not be discussed.

Presentation on Lusscroft Farm

Ms. Kolicko invited the Board to attend a presentation by Kevin Mitchell at the Sussex-Wantage Library on Lusscroft Farm.

MOTION made at 5:45 p.m. by Freeholder Vetrano to close the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Parrott and passed unanimously.

8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS
245-2008

- B. **RESOLUTION RE: 246-2008** AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS TO APPLY FOR A GREEN COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE GRANT 2008, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000.00 WITH AN IN-KIND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,500.00 FROM THE SUSSEX COUNTY SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEMBERS TO ASSIST THE FORESTRY CONSULTANT IN DEVELOPING A COUNTY WIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CARE OF TREES ALONG COUNTY ROADS AND AT COUNTY FACILITIES
- C. **RESOLUTION RE: 247-2008** AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE CHANGES IN THE PARIS GRANT AWARD NUMBER 05190007 FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND THE STATE RECORDS COMMITTEE IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF A DECREASE OF \$6,000.00
- D. **RESOLUTION RE: 248-2008** AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE CHANGES IN THE PARIS GRANT AWARD NUMBER 05190009 FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND THE STATE RECORDS COMMITTEE IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$9,500.00
- E. **RESOLUTION RE: 249-2008** AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE CHANGES IN THE PARIS GRANT AWARD NUMBER 06190001 FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND THE STATE RECORDS COMMITTEE IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF A DECREASE OF \$15,737.23
- F. **RESOLUTION RE: 250-2008** AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE CHANGES IN THE PARIS GRANT AWARD NUMBER 06190003 FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND THE STATE RECORDS COMMITTEE IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$60,347.23
- G. **RESOLUTION RE: 251-2008** AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE CHANGES IN THE PARIS GRANT AWARD NUMBER 06190004 FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND THE STATE RECORDS COMMITTEE IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF A DECREASE OF \$44,610.00
- H. **RESOLUTION RE: 252-2008** AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES FOR THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (Resolution authorizes this purchase from Transnet Corporation in the amount of \$47,096.90)
- I. **RESOLUTION RE: 253-2008** AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROJECT ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, OFFICE OF VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 16, 2008 THROUGH MARCH 15, 2009 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,113.00 STATE SHARE AND \$18,029.00 IN KIND MATCH

- J. **RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE TOTAL CONTRACT COST OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN NEWTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE TO INMATES OF THE KEOGH-DWYER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (Resolution authorizes this amendment in the amount of \$160,000.00 to increase the original Contract to \$348,488.17)**

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.

MOTION made by Freeholder Vetrano to approve the Financial Consent Agenda, seconded by Freeholder Crabb.

Resolution 8.J.

Freeholder Crabb said that he noticed on the check register that there was quite a jump this month with regard to payments to Newton Memorial Hospital for inmates.

Freeholder Wirths said that he thought it was because the Hospital was catching up with its billing; Mr. Eskilson said that the Hospital was behind in its billing and this was catching up with 2007; the amount in 2007 was tracking much higher than the past five years; there are a number of influences and issues converging, such as mandatory sentencing and Michael's Law; Mr. Eskilson added that there was a meeting being planned with the Assignment Judge and various other officials to determine if there was a way to coordinate length of stays; he said that nationwide, it appears that the only places that have been successful are those that are controlled length of stays for non-violent, non-threatening offenders; Mr. Eskilson said that the County was responsible for medical costs for non-violent, non-threatening offenders.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Parrott	Yes
Freeholder Vetrano	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Wirths	Yes

9. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Regular Meeting March 26, 2008
- Executive Session Minutes**
 Regular Meeting March 26, 2008

MOTION made by Freeholder Parrott to approve these minutes, seconded by Freeholder Vetrano.

Request by Freeholder Zellman to include additional wording.

Freeholder Zellman asked that Page 11 of the Regular Meeting Minutes reflect what the person was the Executive Director of, and to change from "Byram" to "Bryam Route 206", when referring to inclusion in the ten year Capital Projects Program; on Page 10, referring to Freeholder Zellman's attendance at the Mental Health Board Meeting, to state that the members of the Mental Health Board were planning to come to the Board to discuss the mental health budget, and that Freeholder Zellman suggested that the Mental Health Board discuss the budget with the Budget Committee earlier in the budget process.

The Motion was passed unanimously with the additions by Freeholder Zellman.

10. APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS

A. Resignations

1. Letter received from Phillip R. Crabb resigning his position as a Commissioner on the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority effective April 30, 2008.

MOTION made by Freeholder Vetrano to accept this Resignation, seconded by Freeholder Parrott and passed unanimously.

11. RESOLUTIONS

- A. RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSAL OF NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR JON S. CORZINE TO ELIMINATE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE PROPOSED NEW JERSEY 2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET
255-2008
- B. RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED STATE BUDGET FOR THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR TO TREAT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AS OUR PRIORITY
256-2008

Resolution 11. B.

Freeholder Wirths suggested that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to George Graham, Councilman of Stanhope, and also to all 24 municipalities, and all Legislators.

MOTION made by Freeholder Parrott to adopt these Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Vetrano and passed unanimously.

12. AWARDS OF CONTRACTS/CHANGE ORDERS/BIDS

A. Awards of Contracts

1. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF A CONTRACT WITH SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, GA #2008-05157-0131 FOR THE SOCIALIZATION/RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$13,672.00 (Resolution awards this Contract in the amount of \$11,393.00 in state and federal funds and \$2,279.00 in County match funds for calendar year 2008)
257-2008
2. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF A CONTRACT WITH DAWN, CIL FOR THE COMMUNITY-BASED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, GA #2008-05157-0131, TO SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES INTO MAINSTREAM COMMUNITY LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$9,071.00 (Resolution awards this Contract in the amount of \$7,559.00 in state and federal funds and \$1,512.00 in County match funds for calendar year 2008)
258-2008

3. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF A CONTRACT WITH SCARC, INC. 259-2008** FOR THE COMMUNITY-BASED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, GA #2008-05157-0131, FOR THE COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$7,257.00 (Resolution awards this Contract in the amount of \$6,048.00 in state and federal funds and \$1,209.00 in County match funds for calendar year 2008)

MOTION made by Freeholder Vetrano to adopt these Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Zellman.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Parrott	Yes
Freeholder Vetrano	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Wirths	Yes

B. Bids

1. **RESOLUTION RE: REJECTION OF THE LOW BID FOR THE 260-2008** REPLACEMENT OF SUSSEX COUNTY BRIDGE M-16 CARRYING CR 653 OVER A TRIBUTARY OF MILL BROOK POND IN MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP, SUSSEX COUNTY

MOTION made by Freeholder Parrott to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Vetrano.

Resolution 12.B.1.

Freeholder Wirths said that due to a flawed bid, a Bid Hearing was held; Mr. McConnell said that he spoke to the low bidder after the Hearing, and if an appeal was to be filed it would have been filed by this time; he added that the Contract was awarded to the second lowest bidder.

Mr. McConnell said that from now on, the bid specifications will be revised to make it even clearer; each sub-contractor will be cited that the County wants listed.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Parrott	Yes
Freeholder Vetrano	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Wirths	Yes

13. FINANCIAL

- A. **RESOLUTION RE: ESTABLISHING A NEW PETTY CASH FUND (Resolution 261-2008** authorizes this petty cash fund for the Office of Environmental Health in the amount of \$50.00)
- B. **RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF 2008 LIBRARY BUDGET AND 262-2008** CERTIFICATION OF 2008 LIBRARY TAX LEVY
- C. **RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF 2008 COUNTY HEALTH BUDGET AND 263-2008** CERTIFICATION OF 2008 HEALTH TAX LEVY

MOTION made by Freeholder Zellman to adopt these Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Parrott.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Parrott	Yes
Freeholder Vetrano	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Wirths	Yes

D.

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**INTRODUCTION FOR FIRST READING – BOND ORDINANCE
264-2008**

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$6,195,000.00 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,900,000.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE COUNTY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

MOTION to adopt this Bond Ordinance on first reading made by Freeholder Parrott, seconded by Freeholder Vetrano.

Modification to Ordinance language

Mr. Eskilson stated that there was a minor modification in the language under the vehicle section of the Ordinance; he referred to a demo held yesterday on a smaller Public Works plow vehicle; there may an opportunity to reduce the fleet size of some of the single axle plow trucks to the smaller truck, which is more fuel efficient and approximately \$40,000.00 less in cost per truck.

Mr. Eskilson said that it appears this truck could handle the longer County roads and potentially provides the opportunity to navigate some of the smaller municipal roads; he said there was a great deal of interest in providing plow service to municipalities; he added that additional review was needed before a decision on this type of vehicle was made; the modification in the language would allow the County the option at a later date without adopting another Ordinance.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Parrott	Yes
Freeholder Vetrano	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Wirths	Yes

MOTION to authorize the Clerk to advertise this Bond Ordinance 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 23, 2008 at 5:00 pm prior to final adoption of this Bond Ordinance made by Freeholder Parrott, seconded by Freeholder Vetrano and passed unanimously.

14. PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda

MOTION made by Freeholder Vetrano to approve the Personnel Agenda, seconded by Freeholder Zellman.

Social Worker position

Freeholder Vetrano asked if this was a new position for Social Worker.

Mr. Eskilson responded that this position was grant funded; he asked Ron Tappan, Administrator of the Department of Central & Shared Services to come forward to explain.

Mr. Tappan stated that from what he understood, this Social Worker position at the Homestead was to interact with the client and the family as an additional mediator.

Freeholder Vetrano confirmed that this was actually a new function and that there was not a person doing this function previously.

Mr. Eskilson confirmed that this position was not replacing someone else.

Freeholder Zellman said that as long as it was made clear that the position ceased when the grant money ceased; she said that she clarified with Jake Lighten at the Liaison Meeting that this position was grant funded and that the position would cease when the grant ended.

The Motion was passed unanimously.

B. Resolutions

1. **RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND THE CLERK OF THE BOARD TO SIGN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, A.F.L.-C.I.O., LOCAL 1083, SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, A.F.L.-C.I.O., LOCAL 1083, SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT, FOR THE YEARS 2008, 2009, 2010 AND 2011**

MOTION made by Freeholder Zellman to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Crabb and passed unanimously.

15. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. Other

Mr. Eskilson stated that he did not have a report at this time.

16. COUNTY COUNSEL

A. Capital Projects

B. Litigation

C. Contracts

D. Other Matters

Mr. McConnell stated that he had a Resolution pertaining to the Award of Contract for replacement of Bridge M-16.

RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT TO THE LOWEST
266-2008 RESPONSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE BIDDER FOR THE
REPLACEMENT OF SUSSEX COUNTY BRIDGE M-16
CARRYING CR 653 OVER A TRIBUTARY OF
MILL BROOK POND IN MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP,
SUSSEX COUNTY

Mr. McConnell added that the Resolution awarded the Contract to Persistent Construction Company in the amount of \$811,845.00.

MOTION made by Freeholder Wirths to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Vetrano.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Parrott	Yes
Freeholder Vetrano	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Wirths	Yes

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Closing on Hall of Records Building

Freeholder Wirths said that the County was scheduled to close on the Hall of Records Building somewhere around April 17, 2008.

18. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion concerning preparing a letter in opposition to the closing of High Point State Park.

Freeholder Wirths said that Sussex County was supposed to be an agri-tourism County and felt that the closure of High Point State Park would be devastating to the County; he added that the Park lands were taxpayer properties and that he did not know how the State could lock the gates and tell the taxpayers they could not use the land; Freeholder Wirths said that High Point State Park housed a war memorial and a veterans memorial, and an area for swimming and picnicking; he said that he felt very strongly about this issue and hoped that he had the Board's support; Freeholder Wirths said that with the price of gas and for persons who could not afford a vacation, High Point State Park was a good option.

Freeholder Vetrano added that the Park property was donated many years ago by the Kuser family to the State and said that he did not understand how the State could close it; also, the only ballot question that passed during last year's election was to support parks and places of historical significance for rehabilitation.

Freeholder Vetrano noted that if High Point State Park closed so would Lusscroft Farm; he said that it sent the wrong message to the many people who have volunteered their time to help raise funds to restore Lusscroft Farm.

Freeholder Zellman said that the State continues to acquire property through the Highlands and has no intention to maintain it or to put any investment in it.

Freeholder Parrott said that closing the Park would not close the State's liability as people will continue to go there to fish and use the Park.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether the Board should do a Resolution or a letter regarding the closure of High Point State Park; it was decided to do a Resolution using the

points made by the Board; a separate Resolution will be completed regarding Kittatinny Valley State Park and the closing of its Park buildings.

Freeholder Zellman said that the Park was slated to be closed as of July 1, 2008, and felt that the Freeholder Board should have a presence there on that day; there was a brief discussion of gatherings already taking place in opposition to the Park's closure.

Freeholder Wirths reviewed the points that should be brought forth in the Resolution for High Point State Park; he highlighted the tourism dollars generated, the high cost of gasoline and that for many families, this would be their only vacation, the fact that the State continues to acquire property and does not maintain what it already has, adding that the State should have a moratorium on acquiring additional property until it can maintain what it has; the property is owned by the taxpayers and the property houses war and veterans memorials; and lastly, the economic impact on the local businesses who benefit from those who frequent the Park.

**RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO THE STATE CLOSURE OF HIGH
267-2008 POINT STATE PARK**

MOTION made by Freeholder Vetrano to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Zellman and passed unanimously.

Shared Services

Freeholder Crabb discussed the progress being made in the area of shared services; he highlighted fleet maintenance, telecommunication; he suggested that this progress be more publicized.

Human Services Liaison Meeting

Freeholder Zellman highlighted the reconfiguration of Social Services, noting that it was about two thirds complete; she said the sub-acute population at the Homestead was improving with eight beds currently occupied.

Money\$mart Week

Freeholder Zellman said that Money\$mart Week was moving along and was to be held next week.

Bus trip to Trenton/Elimination of Department of Agriculture

Freeholder Vetrano said that he participated in a bus trip to Trenton in support of farmers and the rally in protest of the elimination of the Department of Agriculture.

Farmer's Market

Freeholder Vetrano said that the efforts to establish a Farmer's Market were moving along well; he thanked County Counsel for working on an Agreement with the Fairgrounds; once there was a signed Agreement, bids could go out for the construction of a building.

Youth in County Government Day

Freeholder Parrott said that he felt Youth in County Government Day was successful.

County Clerk/Electronic deposits

Freeholder Parrott thanked Bernie Re for his efforts regarding the County Clerk's issue and electronic deposits.

19. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

MOTION made at 6:35 p.m. by Freeholder Crabb to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Vetrano and passed unanimously.

High Point State Park closure comments

Maggie Kolicko came forward; she thanked the Board for its support to keep High Point State Park open.

Tom Davis, Wantage Township, came forward; he said that he would also like to thank the Board for its support to keep High Point State Park open.

Joe Duffy, Catholic Family Community Services, came forward; he said that Catholic Family Community Services frequently has trips to the State Park and thanked the Board for its support to keep it open.

MOTION made at 6:39 p.m. by Freeholder Crabb to close the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Vetrano and passed unanimously.

20. FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

There were no Freeholders' Comments.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no items for Executive Session.

RESOLUTION RE: REQUESTING EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Personnel
- B. Contract
- C. Litigation
- D. Other Matters

It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

22. REMINDERS

Wednesday	April 9, 2008	League of Mun.	6:30 pm
		Dinner, Lafayette House	
Week of	April 12-18, 2008	Money\$mart Week in Sussex County	
Wednesday	April 23, 2008	Regular Meeting	5:00 pm

23. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made at 6:40 p.m. by Freeholder Crabb to adjourn, seconded by Freeholder Zellman and passed unanimously.

Elaine A. Morgan, Clerk

DATED: April 9, 2008

