

REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2011

5:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR** at 5:00 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Freeholder Crabb; Freeholder Space; Freeholder Vohden; Freeholder Zellman; Freeholder Director Zeoli; John Eskilson, County Administrator; Dennis McConnell, County Counsel; and 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 February 15, 2011 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. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A.

PUBLIC HEARING – 5:02 PM

FINAL ADOPTION – ORDINANCE

Freeholder Director Zeoli: "At our regular meeting held on July 27, 2011, we introduced for first reading the following Ordinance which was advertised in the New Jersey Herald issue of August 5, 2011 together with a Notice of Public Hearing stating it would be held at this meeting at 5:00 PM:

ORDINANCE RE: GUARANTY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, SECURING THE MORRIS COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY'S COUNTY OF SUSSEX GUARANTEED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM LEASE REVENUE BONDS (COUNTY OF SUSSEX PROGRAM), SERIES 2011 (FEDERALLY TAXABLE) IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000,000.00

MOTION made by Freeholder Crabb to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Freeholder Space and passed unanimously.

Is anyone present to be heard regarding this Ordinance?

There was no one.

MOTION that the Public Hearing be closed made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

MOTION that this Ordinance be finally adopted made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Space.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Space	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Zeoli	Yes

MOTION to authorize the Clerk to advertise this Ordinance as finally adopted, and also post same on the bulletin board in the lobby of the County Administrative Center made by Freeholder Space, seconded by Freeholder Crabb and passed unanimously.

6. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamations/Certificates

1. Proclamation recognizing Patrick James McGuinness for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

462-2011

2. Certificate presented to Eric Legrand in recognition of his positive outlook and determination to overcome any obstacle.

463-2011

MOTION made by Freeholder Crabb to approve this Proclamation and this Certificate, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

7. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

Public Session will be held tonight at the Sussex County Technical School Auditorium, 105 North Church Road, Sparta, NJ on August 17, 2011 at 6:00 pm. There will be no Public Session held tonight at the County Administrative Center, Freeholder Meeting Room.

(Please note: Everyone is asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes or less)

This was held later in the meeting at the Sussex County Technical School at 6:00 pm.

8. FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

No Comments made at this time.

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS
464-2011

- B. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND BOARD CLERK TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR DISCRETIONARY AID FROM NJDOT LOCAL AID INFRASTRUCTURE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FRANKLIN VIADUCT BRIDGE E-07
465-2011

- C. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND BOARD CLERK TO EXECUTE AN APPLICATION FOR DISCRETIONARY AID FROM NJDOT LOCAL AID INFRASTRUCTURE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$580,000.00 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FRANKLIN VIADUCT BRIDGE E-07
466-2011

- D. **RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH
467-2011** NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR A TRANSPORTATION GRANT UNDER SECTION 5310 OF THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LEASE OF ONE 16 PASSENGER LIFT EQUIPPED VEHICLE #16-1443
- E. **RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH
468-2011** NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR A TRANSPORTATION GRANT UNDER SECTION 5310 OF THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LEASE OF ONE 12 PASSENGER LIFT EQUIPPED VEHICLE #16-1386
- F. **RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH
469-2011** NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR A TRANSPORTATION GRANT UNDER SECTION 5311 OF THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LEASE OF ONE 12 PASSENGER LIFT EQUIPPED VEHICLE #18-132
- G. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELING OF
470-2011** THE GRANT ACCOUNT BALANCES FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, SHARING AVAILABLE RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY 2009, AMENDMENT, 2009-04665-0588-02, FOR A REMAINING TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,675.00
- H. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELING OF
471-2011** THE GRANT ACCOUNT BALANCES FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, JANUARY 1, 2011 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011 BASED ON FINAL AWARD, #2011-05157-0439-00 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00
- I. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF
472-2011** ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2011 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00
- J. **RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE
473-2011** OF A VEHICLE FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (Resolution authorizes this purchase from Warnock Fleet of one (1) Ford Explore SUV in the amount of \$29,552.00, with \$6,307.00 of that amount for non-contract after-market options)
- K. **RESOLUTION RE: ALLOCATION OF \$29,621.00 TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY
474-2011** DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR VOUCHERS FOR TRANSPORTATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND CLERK TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT

- L. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 ET SEQ. FOR VARIOUS SERVICES, WITH ACCUMULATED VALUE LESS THAN THE BID THRESHOLD, AS STATED BELOW (Resolution authorizes purchase orders for KW Applications, Inc., C&V Paving Contractors, Inc., and Pen TeleData)
- 475-2011
- M. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 ET SEQ. FOR VARIOUS BID EXEMPT SERVICES AS STATED BELOW (Resolution authorizes purchase orders for H&G Contractors, Inc.)
- 476-2011
- N. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND COMPENSATION OF RON REBISH OF APPRAISAL SERVICES OF NORTH JERSEY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR THE LANE AND KEYES FARMS IN WANTAGE TOWNSHIP; THE TAGGART FARM IN ANDOVER TOWNSHIP; THE MILLER #1 AND #2 FARMS IN GREEN TOWNSHIP; THE JORRITSMA FARM IN LAFAYETTE AND THE MAZZA FARM IN FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP FOR THE 2011 COUNTY FUNDING ROUND (Resolution authorizes this Agreement in the amount not to exceed \$10,850.00)
- 477-2011
- O. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND COMPENSATION OF MICHAEL HOLENSTEIN OF HOLZHAUER AND HOLENSTEIN LLC IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR THE LANE AND KEYES FARMS IN WANTAGE TOWNSHIP; THE TAGGART FARM IN ANDOVER TOWNSHIP; THE MILLER #1 AND #2 FARMS IN GREEN TOWNSHIP; THE JORRITSMA FARM IN LAFAYETTE AND THE MAZZA FARM IN FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP FOR THE 2011 COUNTY FUNDING ROUND (Resolution authorizes this Agreement in the amount not to exceed \$10,430.00)
- 478-2011
- P. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY LIBRARY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY IN ORDER TO RECEIVE \$5,092.83 FROM THE SALTON, INC./GEORGE FOREMAN GRILLS ANTI-TRUST SETTLEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
- 479-2011
- Q. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX TO ENTER INTO A REVISED AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF NEWTON FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF NEWTON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 ET SEQ.
- 480-2011

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 Crabb to approve the Financial Consent Agenda, seconded by Freeholder Zellman.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Space	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Zeoli	Yes

10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting July 27, 2011

Executive Session Minutes
Regular Meeting July 27, 2011

MOTION made by Freeholder Vohden to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Freeholder Crabb and passed unanimously.

11. **APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS**

A. Appointments

1. RESOLUTION RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF MELANIE M. ARPAIO AS A MEMBER OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2014
481-2011

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

12. **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. RESOLUTION RE: AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY RESOLUTION OF AUGUST 3, 2011 AUTHORIZING THE AUTHORITY'S APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL FINANCE BOARD FOR THE NECESSARY CONSENTS AND APPROVALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE JOINT SUSSEX COUNTY/MORRIS COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY SOLAR INITIATIVE
482-2011
- B. RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 AS A DAY OF SOLEMN COMMEMORATION OF THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
483-2011

MOTION made by Freeholder Space to adopt these Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Crabb and passed unanimously.

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

A. Awards of Contracts

1. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARLA D. SCHOOR, R.D., TO PROVIDE CONSULTANT DIETITIAN SERVICES WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING AS A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i) (Resolution authorizes this

Agreement in the amount of \$42.00 per hour two days a week at 8 hours per day for a total not to exceed \$35,000.00)

2. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR "REPLACEMENT OF SUSSEX COUNTY BRIDGE C-16", COUNTY ROUTE 607, BYRAM TOWNSHIP, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY (Resolution awards this Contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Jogi Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$667,066.00)**
485-2011

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

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Space	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Zeoli	Yes

B. Change Orders

1. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND MERCO, INC. FOR THE SUBSTRUCTURE REHABILITATION OF SUSSEX COUNTY BRIDGE K-03 (CR607) OVER RIVER STYX, BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY (Resolution authorizes this change order in the amount of \$33,249.01 (3%) to an adjusted amount of \$1,139,889.01)**
486-2011
2. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 TO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF SUSSEX COUNTY BRIDGE Q-09 CARRYING COUNTY ROUTE 620 OVER SPARTA GLEN BROOK, TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY (2009 ARRA GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$449,509.40) (Resolution awards this Change Order to reflect the actual completion date of October 20, 2010 in order for NJDOT to process the final Contract payment)**
487-2011

MOTION made by Freeholder Crabb to adopt these Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Space.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Space	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Zeoli	Yes

14. **FINANCIAL**

- A. **RESOLUTION RE: CERTIFICATION OF REVIEW OF AUDIT BY GROUP AFFIDAVIT**
488-2011

MOTION made by Freeholder Space to adopt these Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Crabb.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Crabb	Yes
Freeholder Space	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Zellman	Yes
Freeholder Director Zeoli	Yes

15. PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda

MOTION made by Freeholder Zellman to approve the Personnel Agenda Items A and B, seconded by Freeholder Space and passed unanimously.

B. Resolutions

1. RESOLUTION RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF "SECURITY GUARD" AND SALARY RANGE
489-2011

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

16. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. Other

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

17. COUNTY COUNSEL

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

Mr. McConnell said he did not have a report at this time.

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

19. NEW BUSINESS

Freeholder Zellman said she wanted to bring up two (2) things that could be for future discussion; one is the article from the paper yesterday regarding the State funding for historic sites and Sussex County received none; she said she would like to write a letter or have a letter come from the Director inquiring why the County received nothing; the other one is the Tennessee Gas Lines; Freeholder Zellman knows there is the hearing tonight and the Board also received an informational packet on the Tennessee Gas Lines; she knows that Steve Ellis is very concerned because it is going right through High Point State Park; the comment period as she sees it ends on August 26th; she doesn't expect the Board to formulate any kind of comment tonight, but perhaps it could be placed on a future agenda.

Freeholder Zeoli agreed.

MOTION to have a Special Meeting on August 24, 2011 at 9:00 am specifically regarding NJTPA scoping projects regarding Newton Sparta Road, NJTPA scoping Project CR517 Rudetown Road in Hardyston, and the Tennessee Gas Lines made by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

20. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

Public Session will be held tonight at the Sussex County Technical School Auditorium, 105 North Church Road, Sparta, NJ on August 17, 2011 at 6:00 pm. There will be no Public Session held tonight at the County Administrative Center, Freeholder Meeting Room.

(Please note: Everyone is asked to keep their comments to 5 minutes or less)

This was handled later in the meeting.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION RE: REQUESTING EXECUTIVE SESSION (voice vote)

There was no 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

Monday	September 5, 2011	Labor Day	Holiday
Wednesday	September 14, 2011	Regular Meeting	5:00 pm

23. RECESS TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, 105 NORTH CHURCH ROAD, SPARTA, NJ, ON AUGUST 17, 2011 AT 6:00 PM FOR PUBLIC SESSION AND A BALANCE OF ANY UNFINISHED BUSINESS OR AGENDA ITEMS.

MOTION made at 5:21 pm by Freeholder Crabb to recess to the Sussex County Technical School, 105 North Church Road, Sparta, New Jersey at 6:00 pm for public session and a balance of any unfinished business or agenda items, seconded by Freeholder Zellman and passed unanimously.

MOTION made at 6:00 pm to reconvene the meeting by Freeholder Crabb, seconded by Freeholder Space and passed unanimously.

MOTION made at 6:01 pm by Freeholder Crabb to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Space and passed unanimously.

Freeholder Zeoli asked if anyone had anything for the Board that was not related to the Homestead to come forward since some of the buses were still arriving with people from the Homestead.

Mr. Bill Gettler of Wantage came forward; he saw an article in the paper the other day that supports commuter rail; he felt the commuter rail will do nothing for Route 23; he discussed some commuter rail problems and asked the Board not to waste his money; he said they have to come up with something outside of commuter rail.

Freeholder Zeoli thanked everyone for coming and made some comments about the format for this public session; he asked people to come forward and state their name for the record; he asked people to keep their comments to 5 minutes or less.

He also said that this is only a study; the Board has not voted to sell the Homestead, the Board is not voting tonight to sell the Homestead and there is no for sale sign on the Homestead; there is a study going on right now that will look at many areas of the Homestead; there are several options being looked at, including creating a housing authority to assist with the operation of the Homestead, which would keep it a public entity and it would help with raising capital dollars for the future of the facility; the Board is pursuing what a sale would mean to both a private or not-for-profit; the Board is also pursuing leaving things the way they are; he says that because he knows that a lot of people are under the impression that the Board is going to take action tonight or in the near future to sell the Homestead and that is just not the case.

Freeholder Zeoli said these are studies that the Board is doing in many other areas of County government also; the Freeholders believe that government should do things out in the open and they are not going to hide anything or do things behind closed doors; none of the Freeholders have made their minds up yet on this issue; he indicated that the Board is looking at the same issues with other areas of County government as well from the Jail, County College, the Vo-Tech, etc.; he said the most important part of any conversation is the level of care for the residents of the Homestead; he said even if the Homestead were to be sold, not one resident who lives there would have to leave their home.

Freeholder Zeoli also said the County is going through an unprecedented economic crisis; he said there are seniors in the County who don't live at the Homestead who are losing their homes, there are people who cannot pay their property taxes, and those residents are asking the Freeholders to try and do something for them also; the Board is going to look at every single aspect of County government.

Freeholder Zellman said she feels the Homestead has come a long way from a number of years ago; in the past few years the County has initiated programs at the Homestead such as the sub-acute care and the balance center and also some infrastructure renovations such as new flooring and new bathrooms; over the next decade there will be substantial infrastructure improvements that will be needed; Freeholder Zellman feels everyone will need to work together on this issue; she is extremely proud of the Homestead and she is not convinced that selling it is the right thing to do; she hopes tonight to hear the audience's practical suggestions on how you think the Homestead could become self-sufficient and self-sustaining; she thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Freeholder Crabb said the easiest thing for this Board to do would be to walk away from this; the Board has 153,000 constituents to work for; there are no conclusions yet; this process has just started; there is the possibility for things to just stay the same; it was incumbent upon this Board to make this part of a conversation; then Freeholder Crabb thanked everyone for coming.

Freeholder Space said the Board is at a point in time where it has to explore all the different options and try to keep people employed; the Board can't put the cart before the horse; the County needs to make sure its County residents are taken care of.

Freeholder Vohden said he hoped that a lot of the audience gets up to speak; he was there to listen; he is a senior citizen and he is looking for help for all the senior citizens in Sussex County; the County is going to investigate this thoroughly and make a compassionate, educated decision.

Linda Hunter-Conklin came forward and said first she wanted to point out that Freeholder Crabb told her that people were going to be able to speak as long as they wanted, but Freeholder Zeoli said that each person could only speak for 5 minutes; Freeholder Zeoli said the Board was going to observe the 5 minute rule.

Ms. Hunter-Conklin said she was a resident of the Homestead and wanted to let the Board know that she wanted the Homestead to stay exactly the way it is now and did not want the Board to sell it; she said the staff at the Homestead is like family; she said as far as the financial side of the Homestead, she feels that the County is looking at 2010 and not looking at 2011; she indicated the Homestead was doing much better in 2011; she (Linda Hunter-Conklin) went on to explain about the other services the Homestead provides; she discussed the information she received as a result of a couple of OPRA requests; she continued to let the Board know that the staff at the Homestead is wonderful as is the Administrator; she asked the Board not to jump to any conclusions and to check the 2011 figures; she also indicated she had 4,471 signatures on petitions, including on-line voting and the Jersey Herald Poll on whether or not the Homestead should be closed – about 88% said no.

Louanne Cular, Montague, came forward and said the reason she became involved is because her father spent the last 4 years of his life living there; the staff was wonderful and he referred to the Homestead as his home; tonight you will hear many reasons why the Homestead should not be sold; she said she was going to ask a lot of questions, but did not expect answers immediately unless the Board wanted to answer them.

Ms. Cular requested that this matter be carried on all future agendas until it is resolved.

Ms. Cular expressed her concerns about the Freeholders moving the meeting to the Sussex County Technical School.

She asked how many Freeholders have been to visit the Homestead; she pointed out that Freeholders Zellman and Crabb have been there; she also said that no homework has been done.

Freeholder Zeoli asked Ms. Cular to wrap up her comments at this point; there was a short discussion.

William Kulsar, lifelong resident of Sussex County and a retired CPA, came forward; he said during his career he had several clients that had to go to the Homestead and he wanted to tell the Board about two of them; one was his mother; he told the Board about her experience at the Homestead, which was wonderful; the second story was about his brother who was a VietNam Veteran and his sister; his brother is still there; he went on to discuss some reasons why he felt the Board should reconsider selling the Homestead; he suggested instituting a tax to keep the Homestead going.

Eileen Kisler, Sparta, came forward and said she was a volunteer at the Homestead years ago; the staff is fantastic; she discussed issues that occurred at the Pines Boarding Home in Sussex County and said that is what could happen to the people of the Homestead if the Board sells it; she feels that State, County and municipal employees should all take a cut in pay to help pay for the Homestead.

Teresita Boella, Supervisor of Fiscal Operations at the Homestead, came forward and said she was from Wantage and explained to the Board about her credentials for the job she does and that she feels the Homestead is doing well and should not be sold.

Freeholder Zeoli asked how many people would be in favor of having a question for a separate tax for the Homestead on the ballot for the people to decide; there were a lot of positive responses for that and the Board said it would not be opposed to that.

Freeholder Zeoli asked County Counsel to find out if there would be time to get the question on the ballot before the deadline.

Diane Van Volkenberg from Branchville came forward; she said she was here representing some of the residents and some of the employees; she said the Homestead is by far the best nursing home in the area; there is no comparison; what makes it special is the staff.

Ray Witte of Hampton came forward; he asked if the Freeholders have been to the Homestead to visit since Memorial Day; he then told the Board about his Mother-in-Law, who has been there since 2007 and he explained how she got there; the fact is that the staff is wonderful; a move can affect the residents in a place like the Homestead negatively; he has done a lot of research on this. (Mr. Witte's full statement is attached to these minutes)

Thea Unhoch from Newton came forward; she said she was the President of the AARP Chapter in Sussex County and the Primetime Seniors in Newton; she asked the Board to go over its figures one more time to find a way to keep the Homestead.

Karen Kitchell came forward; she said that the Homestead was wonderful and that she would be willing to pay a little bit more in taxes to preserve the Homestead; she feels the County needs to look at the bigger picture and that is to take care of the senior citizens not only at the Homestead, but all over Sussex County.

Mark Schulte came forward and said his Mother-in-Law spent a lot of time at the Homestead; he said the staff there is wonderful.

Roseann Salamecci of Sandyston came forward and said she was here tonight because her mother is a resident at the Homestead; she said there is a doctor in Denville that has created a clinic in response to Obamacare; she has been running this clinic with absolutely nothing from the government; she (Roseann Salamecci) feels this might be a solution to this problem; she feels we have to take care of our seniors.

Matthew Alfonso of Sparta came forward; he was happy that the Board had this meeting and gave everyone a chance to speak; he understands that the Board is in charge of raising revenues to give some relief for this economy; his suggestion was to subdivide the property – perhaps the JDC or the Civil Defense building; he said the County should leave the Homestead alone; he said the people at the Homestead are doing a good job.

Ed Szabo, Stillwater, came forward and said he was here as an advocate for the Alliance of County Government and Social Services; in January the Mental Health Board, together with social service organizations, went out with a list of questions; they had 391 responses; he said food and shelter were a huge item in that study with the most vulnerable age group being people from 22-30 years of age; he discussed some of the services they provide and also about the partnership with NAMI; his suggestion was for the Board to continue to operate as it has been on an interim basis and before the Board reaches its final conclusions, just let people know what the Board is thinking and the people will be happy to support the Board.

Tacia Johnson of Montague came forward; she indicated that she has known people recently who were looking for a rehabilitation facility and no one tells them about the Homestead; it needs to be promoted more; she also suggested that the County check on the election website to see what the time frame is for getting something on for the November election.

Dick Durina of Franklin came forward; he said he had the pleasure of being a Freeholder liaison to the Homestead in the 90's and he feels it should be kept open; the most rewarding things he remembers from being a Freeholder are the phone calls from the people he helped get into the Homestead; if you work to keep the Homestead open, you will have the rewards for the rest of your life.

Harry Dunleavy of Augusta came forward; first he said that Ms. Cular did a good job; he then went on to discuss the fact that there are too many school boards in the County and they should be combined into a lot less than there is now.

Mary Dunleavy of Augusta came forward to say that as a society, we are judged by how we treat the young, old, sick and poor; she said that people are saying that being a senior costs too much money, they want to cut social security, Medicaid and Medicare; her mother was in Newton Memorial Hospital and had to be moved to Andover Nursing Home because she was a Medicaid patient; she went on to tell the Board what happened with her mother; she said you can't put a dollar figure on how we care for the seniors; she asked the Board to consider this and said she would gladly have her property taxes go up to keep the Homestead open.

Joan Current of Sandyston and Kathy Coleman of Newton came forward; Ms. Coleman explained that they are here to represent the volunteers at the Homestead; Ms. Current is the President of the Homestead Auxiliary and Ms. Coleman is the President of the Homestead Life Enrichment Foundation; Ms. Coleman said her father was at the Homestead and she wanted to echo the comments about the staff being superior.

Ms. Current said her Mom has been at the Homestead three times in the Rehabilitation Center; she couldn't say enough good things about the care her mother received while at the Homestead.

Ms. Current said they wanted to talk about what they do, which is volunteer; she said there is nothing they do that the staff doesn't help them with; there was a lengthy discussion about saving the Homestead and how good the Homestead is; they are improving the County property inside and out; please keep the Homestead.

Laura Mistry came forward and said her father has been in the Homestead for approximately two years; he has had Alzheimer's for approximately five years; about 6 months ago is the first time he has smiled in five years; it is because of the staff there; he is happy there.

Henrietta Touw Martin of Branchville came forward and said that her mother is at the Homestead; she explained to the Board how wonderful the staff is to her mother; she is asking the Board to keep it open.

Jack Cornwell of Fredon came forward and said he does not have any direct experience with the Homestead; actually his wife has been visiting people at the Homestead with a church group for a long time; he told the Board about a story involving Ellen Courtright and something that happened to him when he was a young boy; his point was that there is more to caring for the elderly than finances; he asked the Board to consider not selling the Homestead.

Giselle Marra of Sandyston came forward and said she volunteers at the Homestead; she said that there are approximately 80 people that call the Homestead their home; if you sell it they will be homeless and there are enough homeless people in Sussex County now.

Freeholder Zeoli said he felt it was important to point out that not one person would have to leave under that scenario; he said no one that lives there at the time of the sale (if there is a sale) would have to leave; that will be the law and would be part of any contract that would be signed. It doesn't mean the County is selling it, but if that did happen, no one living there at the time would ever have to leave.

Debbie (could not get the last name) of Wantage came forward; she asked about what Freeholder Zeoli explained as far as the patients not having to leave if the Homestead was sold; there was a short discussion; she explained that she has worked there since 1997 and considers them her family; she needs her job and loves her job and asked the Board to please keep the Homestead.

Alex Kuchinski came forward and said that he is a resident of the Homestead and said the care he gets is fantastic; there was a short discussion about the excellent care at the Homestead.

Ms. Kistle came forward and asked what would happen if a private company bought the Homestead and didn't want to keep it as a nursing home; Freeholder Zeoli said that could never happen; there was a short discussion; Mr. McConnell, County Counsel, explained that it would be a condition of the sale so that would not be able to happen; there was a short discussion.

Donna Steffy from Hamburg came forward and said she is a volunteer with a small church ministry at the Homestead; she said the residents have contributed to society for many, many years, served our country and would be homeless without the Homestead; the staff is wonderful; her Mom has been there twice for rehab and said if she ever needed a nursing home that is where she would want to go; she said the County has the responsibility to care for, love and honor the County's elderly.

Jane (could not get the last name) from Newton came forward and said one of the things that concern her about selling to a private entity is that they might cut down on beds some day and they might cut staff; she feels the Board should get in writing that they would not cut beds or staff.

Linda Hunter-Conklin, a resident at the Homestead, came forward and asked Freeholder Zeoli how he could guarantee the care to be the same with a private owner; Freeholder Zeoli said he never said he could guarantee care, he said that the County would never sell it without knowing that the care would be as high as it is now; Ms. Hunter-Conklin asked how that can be guaranteed; Freeholder Zeoli said that is why the County is doing the study; he said the level of care is the highest priority for this Freeholder Board.

MOTION made at 7:55 pm by Freeholder Crabb to close the Open Session, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

24. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made at 7:56 pm by Freeholder Space to adjourn, seconded by Freeholder Zellman and passed unanimously.

Elaine A. Morgan, Clerk

Dated: August 17, 2011