

REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2008

9:00 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR** at 9:02 a.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:** Freeholder Crabb; Freeholder Parrott; Freeholder Zellman;
Freeholder Director Wirths; Dennis McConnell, County
Counsel; John Eskilson, County Administrator; Elaine Morgan,
Clerk

Freeholder Vetrano was excused.

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**

There were no Public Hearings.

6. **PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS**

There were no Proclamations/Certificates/Presentations.

7. **PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR**

(Please note: Everyone is asked to keep their comments to 10 minutes or less)

Freeholder Wirths stated that the Public Session would be moved to the end of the Meeting.

8. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR DECEMBER 22, 2008
760-2008 AUTHORIZED ON JANUARY 4, 2008
- B. RESOLUTION RE: RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN STATEWIDE
761-2008 INSURANCE FUND (Resolution renews the County's membership in this Fund and appoints John Eskilson as the Statewide Fund Commissioner and Patrick Bailey as the Fund Commissioner Alternate)
- C. RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATING THE MORVILLE AGENCY AS RISK
762-2008 MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR THE STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND
- D. RESOLUTION RE: RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN PUBLIC ALLIANCE
763-2008 INSURANCE COVERAGE FUND (Resolution renews the County's membership in this Fund and appoints Patrick Bailey as the Public Entity's Fund Commissioner and John Eskilson as the Fund Commissioner Alternate)

- E. RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATING THE MORVILLE AGENCY AS RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR THE PUBLIC ALLIANCE INSURANCE COVERAGE (PAIC) FUND
764-2008
- F. 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 Municipal Software, Inc.)
765-2008

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

On Roll Call the vote was:

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

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no Minutes for approval.

10. APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS

There were no Appointments and/or Resignations for approval.

11. RESOLUTIONS

There were no Resolutions for Item #11.

12. AWARDS OF CONTRACTS/CHANGE ORDERS/BIDS

A. Awards of Contract

- 1. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR A PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY 9-1-1 REGIONALIZATION TO COUNTYWIDE 9-1-1 CONSOLIDATION PROJECT (Resolution awards this Contract to L. Robert Kimball in the approximate amount of \$213,808.00)
766-2008

B. Bids

- 1. RESOLUTION RE: REJECTION OF ALL BIDS FOR A POLE BARN BUILDING FOR THE FARMERS MARKET AT THE NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR, SUSSEX COUNTY FARM & HORSE SHOW (Resolution rejects all bids because all bids exceeded the funds available for the construction of the building and site work as specified)
767-2008

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

Resolution 12.A.1.

Freeholder Zellman asked Mr. Eskilson if the funds were all grant money.

Mr. Eskilson replied yes, there was \$220,000.00 that he believed was already in the County's account from OETS; he added that 13 of the 14 members of the Review Committee voted for L. Robert Kimball, who has a lot of experience, particularly in technology and grant solicitation.

Mr. Eskilson said that on the surface, it appeared that RCC, a former consultant, was much lower; but when you looked at the hourly work and the add-ons, the bids were close, although RCC was somewhat lower than Kimball; there were four bidders altogether.

On Roll Call the vote was:

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

13. FINANCIAL

- A. RESOLUTION RE: TRANSFER OF 2008 CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS
768-2008

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

On Roll Call the vote was:

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

14. PERSONNEL

There was no Personnel Agenda.

15. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- A. Other

There was no report.

16. COUNTY COUNSEL

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

There was no report.

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

18. NEW BUSINESS

Request from Vernon Township for financial assistance

Freeholder Wirths referred to correspondence from Vernon Township Manager, Melinda Carlton, requesting financial assistance from the County of Sussex to assist with costs associated with the December 11, 2008 ice storm; he said that obviously the County could not offer any financial assistance to Vernon Township, but asked Mr. Eskilson to forward this letter to Skip Danielson, Director of the Division of Emergency Management; Freeholder Wirths said that perhaps Mr. Danielson could investigate the possibility of obtaining some financial assistance for Vernon Township through the Office of Emergency Management.

Mr. Eskilson said that he had spoken with Mr. Danielson yesterday regarding Mr. Danielson checking on the possibility of obtaining any funding through Emergency Management to assist Vernon Township.

Freeholder Wirths requested that either an email or letter be forwarded to Vernon Township, both the Town Manager and the Committee, that the Freeholder Board acknowledges Vernon's situation and has forwarded its correspondence to Skip Danielson to check into obtaining any available OEM money.

Mr. Eskilson said that the issue was the isolation of the storm in New Jersey; there were many declarations north of New Jersey, such as New York and New Hampshire; those areas are lined up for Federal money; since this storm was so isolated and was separated by the State boundary, New Jersey did not have a declaration; Mr. Danielson is working on trying to move this ahead; Mr. Danielson said that he has identified an account at the State that is some type of planning account for emergencies, but that there is a precedent for use of actual aid; Mr. Danielson has spoken to Senator Oroho regarding this.

Freeholder Wirths said that the County could not give any money to Vernon Township, but asked that the correspondence be clear that the County would do what it could through the Office of Emergency Management.

Freeholder Crabb stated that without a State declaration, the Township could not make an application for FEMA money.

Family Leave Act

Freeholder Wirths referred to the implementation of the New Jersey Paid Family Leave Act; he added that there had been a request for a postponement of one year for the implementation of this Act; Freeholder Wirths said that to have a Paid Family Leave Act in this economy would be devastating; he said that perhaps a letter or Resolution opposing this should be sent to the Governor.

There was a brief discussion; Freeholder Wirths said that he understood that the Governor had executive power to defer implementation until a later date.

The Board agreed to place a Resolution on the January 14, 2009 Agenda, opposing the Paid Family Leave Act, recognizing it as a law, but due to the present state of the economy, requesting a postponement of the implementation of the Act.

Freeholder Wirths asked the Clerk of the Board to have the Resolution on the January 14, 2009 Agenda.

19. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

(Please note: Everyone is asked to keep their comments to 10 minutes or less)

There was no one present for Public Session.

20. FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

Six County Coalition Meeting

Freeholder Zellman reminded the Board that the next meeting of the Six County Coalition was January 15, 2009; she asked the Clerk to place it under "Reminders" on the next Agenda; there was a brief discussion as to possible topics for the Six County Coalition Meeting; Freeholder Wirths suggested that each County highlight its top two ideas accomplished for 2008.

Freeholder Zellman asked the Clerk to check with NJAC for anything pertinent that should be brought up at the Six County Coalition Meeting.

Financial Software

Freeholder Wirths asked Mr. Eskilson if he had anything to report; Mr. Eskilson said that he wanted to thank Bernie Re for his efforts relating to the implementation of new financial software; he told the Board that the cost of the software and the reduction in the annual maintenance actually has this software paying for itself in slightly over two years; the annual maintenance would be reduced from approximately \$30,000.00 to \$17,000.00; Mr. Eskilson said that it also provides a common platform to many municipal governments which would allow the County to look outside the box for financial arrangements down the road.

Mr. Re said that he was looking for the software to provide financial statements right through the computer; he said that his goal was to have this implemented in 2009; Mr. Re said that he was looking forward to working with the computer company that was coming in and to be able to prepare the annual financial statement and budget documents right from the computer system; he added that his final goal related to the various grant reports that the County had to provide to the different agencies; there are 3 or 4 main grant reporting documents that are sent to either the State or Federal Government; Mr. Re said that he would like the ability to download the data right into the forms that must be submitted.

There was a brief discussion regarding the other benefits and capabilities associated with updated software; Mr. Re said that this could open the door for additional shared services; however, the County may have to invest some money in order to get to the point where it could be offered to other towns, as long as there was the support staff.

The Board thanked Mr. Re for his comments.

Youth Shelter

Mr. Eskilson said that potential staffing issues at the Youth Shelter were anticipated and the County was already in them; there were three part-time vacancies that were not filled, since closing the Shelter was imminent, as well as other reasons why staff has not been available; two children have already been sent to the Morris County Youth Shelter; Mr. Eskilson said that he is currently reviewing the situation, but in essence the Sussex County Youth Shelter is now closed; he said that this has some implications and he has a call into Judge Bozonelis and he was also going to contact Judge Farber.

Mr. Eskilson said that this situation was ahead of what was anticipated and also has some implications for the layoff process; it was initially anticipated to keep the provisional personnel on board until the Shelter was closed; if the Shelter is closed now, the layoff process would be accelerated to next week and these six employees would be laid off.

Freeholder Zellman asked Mr. Eskilson if he was aware that these two children were sent to the Morris County Youth Shelter; Mr. Eskilson replied this was being worked on, and no, he did not know; it was after the fact.

Freeholder Wirths asked how the two children were transported to Morris County; Mr. Eskilson that these were two separate issues; one was a late night Vernon transport that required a lot of coordination on the phone; and yesterday there was an issue where the Courts would not allow the family to drive the child, and he believed that Morris County came to Sussex County and picked up the child.

Layoffs of Sussex County employees

Freeholder Parrott asked Mr. Eskilson where the County stood as to the number of layoffs as of December 31, 2008.

Mr. Eskilson said that right now, it was about 24 layoffs; 16 layoffs and about 8 through attrition; postings have been placed in every Department and Division level informing that there are layoffs in that area.

There was a brief discussion regarding provisional and permanent employees and the layoff process.

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

Thursday	January 1, 2009	New Year's Day	Holiday
Friday	January 2, 2009	Reorganization	6:00 pm
		Sussex County	
		Historic Courthouse	
Wednesday	January 14, 2009	Regular Meeting	5:00 pm

23. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made at 9:28 a.m. by Freeholder Crabb to adjourn, seconded by Freeholder Zellman and passed unanimously.

Elaine A. Morgan, Clerk

DATED: December 31, 2008