

REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2015

5:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item

1. CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR 5:01 PM

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

Freeholder Phoebus was absent.

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 5, 2015 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

There were no Public Hearings.

6. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentations

1. Acknowledging the retirement of Pauline L. Crown, Supervisor Building Service LP, for Facilities Management, who retired after 13 years with the County; Dennis McConnell, County Counsel for the Freeholder Board, who retired after 26 years with the County; Ruth D. Puzio, Senior Library Assistant, for Finance & Library Services, who retired after 22 years with the County; Bernard A. Re, County Department Head of Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, who retired after 11 years with the County; Virginia M. Sanders, Senior Building Maintenance Worker, for Facilities Management, who retired after 11 years with the County; Daniel J. Storey, Sheriff's Investigator for the Sheriff's Office, who retired after 25 years with the County; and Herbert Yardley, County Department Head for the Department of Environmental & Public Health Services, who retired after 10 years with the County.
2. Presentation by Sussex County Clean Communities Program.

7. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

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

MOTION made at 5:17 PM by Freeholder Graham to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

County Counsel Williams read Sarah Balzano's RICE Notice to her. Ms. Balzano's election of choice was to be present in the Freeholder meeting during conversations. Mr. Williams gave Sarah the letter to sign, in which she signed it.

Comment from Margaret Emmetts

Ms. Emmetts came forward and stated she is the President of the Swartswood Lakes and Watershed Association. She is requesting a letter from the Freeholders, or the Commissioner or the Governor or whoever is in support of our position. We are in need of help to correct recurrent and ongoing lake management issues at Swartswood Lake. The issues are:

1. Aligning and educating all within NJDEP to the Swartswood Lake Management Program.
2. Designation of a functioning NJDEP Lake Management advocate or champion.
3. Restoration of a Transparency Partnership.
4. Development of credible data and interpretation, and coordinated decision making.

The residents are picking up the cost of this. We are so tired of fighting the same battle year after year and getting no results. We have approached Stillwater Township, and Fredon Township.

Freeholder Director Crabb asked that she keep the document with him and they will look into it.

Comment from Ed Szabo

Mr. Szabo, Stillwater, NJ came forward and stated he would like to emphasize what Margaret Emmetts has just covered by way of trying to get your help and cooperation in getting us back into the good graces with the State of New Jersey.

Freeholder Graham said he is on the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board. He said they ran into the exact same thing. He told Mr. Szabo to contact Earl over there and he should be able to give him some ideas of what to do.

Freeholder Director Crabb stated now that we have the information, we can come up with a letter of support as we see fit but need to share it with the Board and the Organization.

Freeholder Mudrick stated maybe we could have a follow up at our next meeting which is Wednesday, August 12th.

Comment from Barbara Miller

Barbara Miller, Sussex County Youth Services Coordinator, Franklin. She wanted to come here today because of all the negative publicity surrounding the appointment of Sarah Balzano as Administrator of Human Services. I am here because I have worked with Ms. Balzano since her first day on the job at Sussex County and I can state unequivocally that I have never worked with anyone that I have respected and admired more for a number of reasons. Those reasons include her knowledge and experience, her commitment to the residents of Sussex County and her ability to problem solve and see the big picture and future impact of daily decisions without losing sight of day to day operations and needs. She is caring, compassionate and tough when she needs to be and is able to make the hard choices. Sarah has demonstrated great grace under fire without sacrificing her integrity, honesty or character. Everyone who works for Sussex County, in a sense, is doing a job interview every day that we show up for work. Because every day we are not only demonstrating our character, work ethic and our competence in our current job, we are also demonstrating skills and abilities required for our next job should opportunities become available. I believe that Sarah Balzano has demonstrated all of these things. In my opinion, this appointment should be less about longevity and other imposed criteria and more about the capacity about doing the job. Sarah has that capacity. One of the hallmarks of her work with the County is her can do attitude.

I have never heard her say that cannot be done when asked to do something that will benefit the County or its residents. Her motto could easily be "How could we make that happen?" and more importantly beyond just asking that question like Nike, Sarah just goes ahead and does it. Sarah has the ability to build teams, create collaborations and whatever resources to get people and organizations involved in meeting the needs of the County. She knows and understands this

County and is committed in doing her best possible work here. There is no doubt in my mind that the County of Sussex will not find anyone more capable or competent to fill the position of Human Services Administrator than Sarah Balzano.

Comment from Terrance McGowan

Mr. McGowan, Hamburg stated he has been a resident of Sussex County for a long time and moved away with work and came back only to find some disappointment with the politics and some of the sad stuff that has been all over the place; he really did not expect that. I am going to be more direct than I usually like to be. In reading the newspapers, Freeholder Graham, I am confused with your objection to Mr. Gruchacz's appointment and Ms. Balzano's. After reading the articles in the NJ Herald and seeing the infighting taking place on the Freeholder Board, I decided to look at the background of the Freeholders. According to your biography and the County website, I see that you do not have a college degree and no experience in Human Services. I am curious why you question an appointment made by a person with a Master's Degree in Public Administration and has served as an Administrator for Human Services for 13 years. I would assume he understands the duties in hand and has appointed the person he believes is best fitted for the position. In looking into the Transitional Care Program, I found that you voted and supported this program and those who implemented it on every occasion and every item that has come before you accept for this one. It appears that you are on the team when accolades will benefit you and not when there is some controversy. This seems to be in line with you changing your mind on important topics. According to the New Jersey Herald and your official voting record, you changed public parties in the last several years. I am not sure why this appointment has turned into a political talking point or why Ms. Balzano has made your political target. According to today's New Jersey Herald, Mr. Graham suggests we allow ourselves to fall in the trap of awarding public jobs based on seniority rather than work ethic. A good leader surrounds themselves with good skilled people that prove they can react to change and still strive to maintain human services. Instead, Mr. Graham suggests we promote through seniority. I hope this gives Mr. Gruchacz the ability to build what he sees as the best team to navigate the difficult financial decisions that best help the citizens of Sussex County and ways to take into account the entire scope of cost effective quality of life health services that I pray that no one in this room ever needs to depend on by themselves.

Comment from Jonathan Rose

Mr. Rose, Mayor of Sussex came forward and stated the Freeholder Board told the audience they would consider changing the meeting time from 5 PM to 7 PM and that decision would be made by the end of July. I wanted to know if you had made a decision and if it is going to happen.

Freeholder Director Crabb responded and said we were talking about that today.

Freeholder Mudrick said he chaired the meeting on May 27th and he said within 90 to 100 days a decision would be made. We are getting there. There was a lot going on with terms of the changing of the guard relative to administrative leadership, solar related matters and others, but by all means the 90 to 100 days will not expire today but that doesn't mean we can't make a decision today.

Freeholder Director Crabb said one of the things he brought up to Freeholder Mudrick on the phone today, in his conversation with him, was that they would be leaving it up to the new Freeholder board as of January 1st. What would you think about that? Or would you want action to take place at its original request.

Mayor Rose said he would like action to take place as soon as possible.

Comment from Rose Ann Salanitri

Ms. Salanitri came forward and stated she read the article about the appointments and she feels that she needs to defend Freeholder Graham. She feels this County has been run by academics and where has that gotten us? We need people with common sense and leadership. You might not have academic credentials; I don't think that impairs your ability to serve, but I think Freeholder Graham is absolutely right and a position of this magnitude should be put out for bid and you should receive a lot of resumes from people who want to apply for the position not just an appointment. If an appointment is made, it should be made by somebody within the

corporation and that entity only for that corporation and that entity. If we are paying for that and contributing to that, we should have something to say about it.

Comment from Regina Hannapple

Ms. Hannapple came forward. She is a social worker with the Sussex County Department of Human Services and specifically she works for the Transitional Care Program. She stated one of the reasons why she is in this room tonight is because she loves Sussex County and loves being able to serve as a social worker for the County's most vulnerable citizens which includes our aged, disabled and chronically ill. Another reason I am here tonight, is to show my support for Sarah Balanzo who has been my supervisor for the last three years and also to voice my disappointment on how both Sarah and the transitional care program have been portrayed in the media. I feel it has been a one-sided view and this negative press has really overshadowed not only Sarah, but all of the significant accomplishments that we have made as a team. Most people are not aware that Sarah was able to turn a conversation about the rising cost of Medicare to tax payers into a fully implemented and successful program. It was under her direction that our team was invited to present nationally our Transitional Care Program model to the National Association of Counties. In addition, she was instrumental in formulating unique private and public partnerships enhancing the quality of life for Sussex County's citizens that are at most risk. While working with Sarah for the Transitional Care Program, I have never been more proud to be part of team like this in my entire career. Sarah leads by example and holds us accountable as employees, fiscally, ethically and with purpose. She delegates with honesty and integrity. She never asks our team what she wouldn't do herself first. As a leader, she has an uncanny ability to inspire. She makes me want to work harder and be better not only as a County employee but as a person because she always puts people first. In closing, I just want to take this opportunity to thank Sarah so much for your dedication and commitment to this County. It has been my privilege to be able to work with you and could not have been successful as a team serving our Sussex County residents without your support and encouragement. Also it appears that you have had some challenges and hurdles out there, you have handled yourself professionally and with such grace under pressure that you have been instrumental in showing me why your behavior truly means to be a public servant and I thank you for that.

Comment from Christine Florio

Christine Florio, Division Director for Community and Youth Services for the County, came forward. She said she wanted to take this opportunity to say that the Department of Human Services means a lot to her. She said that over the years, they have made such an impact on the residents of Sussex County. We do impact lives, we really do change lives and the reason why we are changing lives is because we are true public servants. It is not about the money; it is not about the employment, the reason why we are here is to serve the community. I can tell you that is why Sarah is here and why I am here. We truly are public servants and we take our jobs extremely serious and at the end of the day we are here to serve Sussex County and look at what our population needs. We are also here to look at how we are accountable to the tax payers to make sure all the programs we do are moving towards evidence based, best practices, collaboration with the community, being fiscally responsible and making sure we are doing the best job that we can possibly do and that is what we are going to continue to do and that is why I support Sarah and this is what this is all about and it is about serving the community. We are vested here and we want to improve the quality of life for the residents here.

MOTION made at 5:41 PM by Freeholder Vohden to close the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

8. FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

Comments by Freeholder Vohden

- **North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority**

Freeholder Vohden attended the meeting which was offsite at the USS Juneau Memorial Center in Kearny. They had the opportunity to tour the Office of Emergency Management Center which is located in the building. He said it was a very impressive operation. Hudson County has a population of 669,000 who live in an area of 46 square miles. Vernon is 70 square miles. That is a lot of population in a small area. We have a population of 145,000 that is about 20% of Hudson's population and a land area of 519 square miles 11 times larger than Hudson County. I am more impressed and proud of our operation in Sussex County than I am of their operation with their 669,000 people. At the meeting, we were informed of a couple of changes that will affect Sussex County in

the fiscal year, 2016 Transportation Capital Program. The construction phase of Rt. 206, from Paterson Avenue in Newton to Pine Road in Frankford is no longer a multi-year program; it has been funded in the amount of \$12.8 million by the National Highway Performance Program. The project will be done next year. The Repaving Project for Rt. 206, from High Glen Road in Byram to High Street Manor, has been delayed from fiscal year 2016 to 2017. This project is funded with \$3.4 million in state funds and we hope the state funds are there next year. For the fiscal years 2016 to 2019, Transportation Improvement Program lists eight projects for Sussex County with a total value of \$44,600,000. They are scheduled to be endorsed at the next October 17th meeting and adopted at the September 18th meeting. So State funding does come back to the County.

- **Highlands Regional Master Plan Update Sub Committee Meeting**

Freeholder Vohden attended this meeting and a regular meeting for the Highlands Council. As part of the Regional Master Plan Review, the council is contracted with a consultant with expertise in Fiscal Impact Analysis and Economics to complete a Fiscal Impact Assessment. They are going to measure the overall health of the Highlands Region as compared to the rest of the state. They will study population, real estate, economic growth, municipal finance trends related to the time frame since 2004 to present since the Act was passed. The information will be presented in three reports. A Regional Economic Evaluation on the Highland Region has been completed. The second report will be a demographic in Real Estate Analysis and a Fiscal and Financial Analysis. The second report is complete in draft form and it should be presented at the next council meeting. This information is very important and will be very valuable for the future and the wellbeing of Sussex County.

- **Comments Misleading and Inaccurate**

At the last Freeholder meeting, there were several comments made during the Public Session that were misleading and inaccurate. It was stated that this Freeholder Board's decision concerning appointments are increasing the footprint of government in Sussex County. The truth is there have been reductions in the footprint of government. It was stated that our Administrator was the highest paid administrator in the State. I would like to talk a little about the facts. I did my homework and I think we should all do our homework. All of the 21 counties in the state have a Chief Executive Officer, we have an Administrator. These individuals are responsible for the day to day operations of county government and supervision of county departments and projects under the direction of the Freeholder Boards in all 21 counties. There are Administrators of Affairs and they are Administrators of all county business. These positions are authorized by the New Jersey State Statutes. They are legislatively approved laws of the State. Five counties have an elected County Executive with administrative staff. The other 16 counties, that include us, have an appointed County Administrator, as we have, or an Administrator/ Clerk of the Board, as we did have, and there are four counties that do have Administrator/Clerk of The Board, that we gave up, or a Director of Operations or a Chief of Staff. Most of these are backed up with a Deputy County Administrator, Deputy Chief of Staff or an Executive Assistant or an Administrative Clerk. We have a County Administrator, Steve Gruchacz with no deputy, with no assistant.

There are nine counties with a County Administrator serving as the Chief Executive Officer. The average 2014 salary for these 9 County Administrators is \$166,000; our Administrator receives a \$165,000. We are just a little below average, but that is only half of the story. When we look at the total cost of county administration, we realize the true impact of the county government on our tax payers. The true cost of administration is calculated by adding the budgeted cost of the Executive Administrative office, the Clerk of the Board, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders. These figures can be found on the website of every county and is posted on the Department of Community Affairs Division of Local Government Services Standard Form, which was required by transparency to be posted. When you look at these totals, you find that Sussex County spends \$506,000 a year on these services. Five counties providing the same services for their counties spend between \$2.4 and \$3.9 million, we spend half a million. Eleven other counties spend between \$1 million and \$2 million. Sussex County is in the bottom five with a spending figure of \$506,000. The administrative services of Sussex County are being provided efficiently and economically and are good for the tax payers of the county. I am commenting on these points because I think it is very important that the residents of Sussex County have the true facts and that they have the information they need to make important and major decisions that will impact the rest of their lives. We the Elected Officials at all levels of government and the media have an obligation to provide accurate, honest and true accounts of county statistic trends and information. The millennials are

making decisions about staying or leaving the county, senior citizens and retirees are planning on or thinking about moving out of state. Families with their homes in foreclosure are deciding whether to fight and beat the foreclosure and the high taxes or just walk away. These individuals need to know the facts to make the best decisions and all of these decisions have an impact on us and our tax bills. Pre-foreclosures in Sussex County this week went over 9,500 and they are rising daily. You can google www.foreclosuressussexcounty and view over 4,300 foreclosed homes listed for sale with photos. You can purchase homes in Sussex County for \$40,000 to \$50,000 and they are not selling. I have asked real estate agents how many millennials are shopping for homes in Sussex County they said none. I asked how the house sales are going, not well, they are down. Since 2009, we have lost 21% in tax values. When a home sells for lower than it is appraised for, that is reflected in this ratable loss and this is happening daily. That loss is then paid by all of us tax payers. It is important that we do not allow untrue, exaggerated or false facts be reported to the residents of Sussex County.

Comments by Freeholder Mudrick

- **Branchville Businessmen's Club**

Freeholder Mudrick stated that the Branchville Businessmen's Club will be celebrating 70 Years of Service to the Sussex County community with an anniversary celebration on September 11, 2015 at Perona Farms. The presentation on September 11th is of significant dollar donation in which the proceeds will be split between the Sussex County Food Pantry and the newly established Sussex County Veterans Cemetery on Rt. 94 in Sparta. For the 50th Anniversary, a Proclamation back in 1995, under the Director Erma Gormley provided a Certificate of Commendation for this group who has done wonderful things for the County over the years. If there is no objection, can we get a Proclamation in place for the August meeting so it can be given to a Branchville Business Leader and be presented to them?

- **Attendance**

Freeholder Mudrick stated, in the last couple of months, I have been working with Ms. Givone in the spirit of the accountability of transparency specific to the attendance records since myself and my colleagues began their tenures on the Board. To this day, the research has been completed, but the typing has not. I was able to type up 2013, 2014 and 2015 as well as 2012 and 2011, but because Freeholder Crabb started in 2008 and Freeholder Vohden a short time after, the typing of 2008, 2009 and 2010 should be done within the next week or so. It has been more arduous of a task than I expected and I think it is important that we are transparent with our public on our attendance records as Freeholder members. I just ask that you be patience with me.

- **Knolls Heights Senior Meeting**

Recently, I was assigned as the Liaison to the Executive County of Superintendent of Schools for Sussex and Warren County by Dr. Lamonte. I got to meet with Dr. Lamonte and I want to follow up on a meeting that I attended at Knoll Heights several weeks back and it came up that the continuing education program for our seniors is something that that group would like if it could be addressed. I shared that with Dr. Lamonte and we do now have an acting interim Frank Nocella who is the President of the college. Dr. Lamonte gave me a lead and I will reach out to this individual in August, if not September.

She also shared that Freeholder Ed Smith of Warren County is a liaison. Freeholder Mudrick thanked Freeholder Vohden for bringing that to their attention that we get an appointment.

The other thing I shared with Dr. Lamonte, who I happened to have had the privilege of working with at the high school as a Social Studies teacher when she served as my Vice-Principal at Mendham High School in the late 1980's to 1990's, was that the partnership that the college has, could have or could enhance with Sussex Tech and could prove to be very beneficial relative to program offerings, relative to improving enrollment with a decreasing enrollment in the County, specific to a sending/receiving relationship in partnering with each other to some end. This leads into my discussion with Superintendent/Principal at Sussex Tech, Gus Modla today. I spoke with him for two reasons. One to follow up on the sending and receiving relationship and he shared with me some great news. It is no secret to those who have been paying attention, but there is an improved and attention getting Agricultural Program and a Law and Public Safety Program. They are programs that they think both schools can work in concert with that

might show student interest. Mr. Modla also shared with me and I know back in my high school principal days in early 2000's, we had concurrent relationships with certain universities and colleges. I am pleased to report that we currently have that in place with Sussex Tech with SCCC. He said he is pleased to report that. He also reported that through Sussex County they are trying to expand some groups that might be able to perform in the McNiece Auditorium which is great news because it is bigger than the Performing Arts Center at the college which then could maybe draw an interest to those students at Sussex Tech and/or SCCC. Another item that I talked about with Mr. Modla was that I frequently pass by Sussex Tech for various reasons, and I was pleased to see that they are working on some capital projects. They are working on new concrete walkways that are sprucing up the entrance to McNiece Auditorium and the walkway leading to across the street to the other section of the high school. I also asked Mr. Modla what the paving status is at Sussex Tech and he said the projection for that could be completed around mid-August.

Freeholder Graham said he saw some capital improvements on the waste water treatment system over there.

Freeholder Director Crabb said he saw some work going on at the entrance patio.

- **Misrepresentation**

Freeholder Mudrick said on Monday, July 13 as a follow up to our last Freeholder meeting, I felt an obligation, duty and responsibility as an Elected Official for those who voted me into office to listen to an audio tape of the last meeting. I did that, not the meeting in it's entirety, but the part where I was misquoted, misrepresented in a local media newspaper. I will read verbatim from the New Jersey Herald dated Friday, July 10, 2015 the title of the article is "Homestead Sale Opponent Slams Solar Bailout". I am going to read the first two paragraphs, but I find it more disappointing than surprising. The first two paragraphs reads, "The leader of the movement to block the sale of the Homestead Nursing Home three years ago, the proceeds of which the county is now borrowing from itself from the tune of \$6.7 million to fund the buildout of solar projects remaining on a \$28 million initiative, took exception Thursday to Freeholder Dennis Mudrick comment's about an opponent of the nursing home sale allegedly having only some of the facts at the time but not all of the facts." The word opponent was never mentioned at the last meeting. I am almost at a loss. I have people unsolicited coming up to me from last meeting to this meeting saying Dennis, or Mr. Mudrick or Freeholder what is going on? First of all they know I would not say such a thing.

Why is it being embellished, why are the facts being misrepresented to the public? Are they not doing their homework there? It is bizarre. By definition *yellow journalism* or *yellow press* is a type of journalism that presents little or no legitimate well-researched news and instead uses eye catching headlines to sell more newspapers. Techniques may include exaggeration of news events, scandal-mongering, or sensationalism. By extension, the term *yellow journalism* is used today as a pejorative to decry any journalism that treats news in an unprofessional or unethical fashion. The strength of county government, folks, Freeholder colleagues, the strength of county government and its employees, and its Elected Officials representing that government should not be damaged by misrepresentation, misreporting of facts. This leads to when a statement was made of us not reducing the footprint of government, I concur with you Rich. These are actual numbers. Four and half years ago, it will be 5 years ago, but before going to work one meeting, I read a book by Darrell Huff, How To Lie With Statistics where you can spin what you want and present your case with false statistics.

Here are factual statistics, the factual statistics, residents of Sussex County, and I hope it gets printed, is our current County Administrator is salaried at \$165,000 under \$13,000 less than what his predecessor was salaried at, our County Counsel is now salaried at \$175,000, \$20,648.00 less than his predecessor and our County Treasurer Department Head of Finance, Mr. Maikis, is now salaried at \$120,000, \$33,060 less than his predecessor; that is \$67,708 less than their predecessors not to mention the fact that there is a resolution on the table tonight that is going to see a real nice salary breakage of a predecessor's \$140,441 with a recommendation for us to vote for \$102,506 or \$37,935 different bringing that total to over \$105,000 in salary breakage. That is not to mention that we still have a Department of Environmental & Health person that we still have to put in place as we are still transitioning. That is not to mention the fact that they Clerk of the Board's office is being restructured in such a way to show a real life savings and salary breakage. Just reporting the facts. The reason I listened to that tape was I had to hear my exact words and at no time during anything that I said did I say opponents of the Homestead, yet the public is reading, however many readers subscribe to the local newspaper, are reading it. I have a gentleman that I respect and an unnamed woman that

I have all the respect in the world for, for the numerous visits I took meetings with Jake Lighten and in my years prior to and since being on the Board, the Administrator of the Homestead. The public is not being given accurate information and it is unfortunate, it is just unfortunate.

Comments by George Graham

- **Sussex County Fairgrounds**

Freeholder Graham said it is a beautiful day today. I hope someone can smile about that. A few days ago, I had a chance to go to the Sussex County Fair and anyone that has been going by there has seen the tents are going up, the stands are going up, and the Health Department is gearing up. They have a lot of work to do and I hope everyone can be patient with them. They are doing the best they can. I had a great meeting with Emrick Seabold. I was taken back by his very professional attitude. Emrick Seabold is the Health Officer. I have a lot of respect for him.

- **Tax Bills**

Freeholder Graham said most of you have gotten your tax bill during the last few days. I don't know if you have looked to see how they compare to last year. Mine went up. A gentleman in the back of the room is complaining that his went up. We don't have control over it. Our budget is what our budget is and it falls in with the municipal budgets, school budgets and they create this monster that we have to pay every year quarterly. I appreciate what you say about breakage, but we can do better. It is not just us; everybody in government can do better. One of the things we try to do is shared service to try and improve things and something that is on the Agenda tonight is a shared service with SCMUA to do better with our enforcement of our land fill, our solid waste. I was speaking with someone from Cumberland, I was so impressed with the agreement, it was a long time coming. A group of people who sat in a room and said we need to do something about this. They came from different directions, different departments, different perspectives, they agreed on it; it is a good agreement. They came to us two weeks ago and I asked for a delay for two weeks, because I had just received it, but since that time I have read it and I put my full heart behind it and support it. I am glad I was given time to make sure it was right, Thank you to Freeholder Mudrick and Freeholder Crabb.

Freeholder Graham said he attended a SCMUA meeting and he also listened to the minutes from the last meeting and you are right, you are sitting up here and sometimes things are going through your head, or someone says something that you didn't hear, I listened to your update on solar, Mr. Crabb and in there you said that things were very positive in a lot of different ways, but you never mentioned that we were having issues with Sparta. I was a little surprised when I saw you at SCMUA asking if you could send Vanguard over to look at the locations over there. I would have preferred to have known about that ahead of time. I did mention to you there and I will mention it publicly that I would like to work together to go about this in a professional fashion. As much as I am not in favor of the bailout, I am in favor of solar. It is very important that we get as many of these panels up as possible because they do defer the long term cost that this county will be saddled with. No matter what we do, if they don't put the panels up, that is less money that will be coming in on the Power Purchase Agreements. It means it will be less money that we are receiving on the 1603 Grant and the SREC values. All of these are important elements. The cow is out, the barn door is shut and if we don't do something, we are going to be saddled with all of these things. I would like to go ahead with that. Again, I was surprised. I saw a letter that went to Sparta that I thought was not really in the same fundamental principles that you and I had spoken about. It was a letter that went to Sparta that said basically if you don't do what we want there are millions of dollars to be paid back. Was this letter discussed by other Freeholders or did you send it out as your own.

Freeholder Director Crabb said I sent it out to simply to relate the facts of the framework. We are in anticipation of hoping to sit down with Sparta to discuss that, but we have not heard from them and we are coming up to a Board of Education meeting.

Freeholder Graham said that it is fine, but I feel very strongly that a letter like that is policy and following with what Mr. Vohden said we set policy and we set it together. I am very upset about this.

Freeholder Director Crabb this was not policy, this was the terms of the agreement.

Freeholder Mudrick asked Freeholder Graham does setting policy also include sending a letter calling for the resignation of someone without discussing it with your colleagues.

Freeholder Graham said that was my personal doing, I did not send it to an outside source.

Freeholder Director Crabb said this was not anything that was not news to any of us anyways.

Freeholder Graham said, in regards to my getting beat up there for attacking a particular person, I did not attack that person. I wasn't going to bring this up right now, I don't know Ms. Balzano. I have nothing negative to say about her or anything that she has ever done to me. She has been nothing but pleasant to me, she has been professional and every single time I've see her, she has a smile. I can't say anything negative about her. My only justification in saying this is what it is - you are right, I don't have a college degree; anything else you said probably is true. The reality is I can't become a lawyer or a doctor because they have certain educational qualifications and certain educational criteria. I did not spend \$200,000 on a degree and a Masters- many other people do. I did spend a lot of money on a college education for my daughter and God bless her, she will go further because of it. I don't think there isn't anything that Ms. Balzano can't do, but the same way you are going up the stairs, you have to take it one step at a time. My feeling about it is, you don't have a college degree, you are months away, if you get it, and also according to your resume, you will also be taking the CPM that will have you one day a week for 6 months out of office. My feeling is that, I do not feel that we are in a position right now to offer you that position. I think that you will have that position at one time, but it is my personal feeling that this is not the time.

I think you are on your way, you have all the criteria, you do not have the education and I think when you say things relating to Transitional Health Care, I don't have anything against Transitional Health Care, I just don't think that is something we need to pay for. I think the County has some way or another gotten in a situation where we are paying for health care benefits where it is benefiting the hospital to defer Medicare costs that never come to us. The program was sold as a pilot. Let's do what we are supposed to do - open it up for transparency. Look at it for what it really is. Look at it, if we spent a dollar, make sure it is a dollar, and not if we borrowed that guy from another department and used him for a while and that dollar was not reported. I see evidence of both of that. There is a lot of gray when you say you are not ready for this right now, it is like telling your child you can't stay up to 10 o'clock to watch TV because you are not old enough but some day you will be. You are getting closer to it. If there are any negatives in this article at all, it would be that there is a typo in there that says she earned her Bachelor's Degree this past February and she did not. That is the only thing that I see that is wrong. Again, I have asked repeatedly from our Finance Department for a better accounting of what we put in Transitional Health Care. We have C Grants; these grants are not enough to offset the entire cost of the program. I think the hospital is the true beneficiary to the program - we are not. I think the same argument that was made for selling the Homestead is it is not our business and that Medicare and Medicaid take care of us anyway really applies to Transitional Health Care. There are Transitional Health Care programs that are under other names in other counties that have gone onto private places and I think it would be good for this Freeholder Board to look at it honestly and openly. I am not saying shut it down. I am just saying let's look at it and see if this is what we really want. With the aging population, this could be an extremely costly program to this county in a very quick period of time. That is what I am concerned about. It all comes down to what I said before; I think we can do better. I believe everybody and I completely agree with what Christine Florio said that the people in Social Services in particular don't do it for the money – they do it because they are truly dedicated to doing it. I have sat down there when people are yelling at them through the window and all they are doing is doing their job, but they go out of their way to try and help them. They go the extra effort and Sarah you have been one of those people who have been noted as doing that exact same thing. I will probably get outvoted tonight; my feeling is that you will be the right person, but I think you just need a couple more years before you are the right person. That is my position.

Freeholder Graham said we are the same up here. We care. If you think we are doing this for the three cents a week that we receive or whatever it works out to be. We have disagreements. People say we are a divided Board. We do have disagreements and take a look at what we are divided on. I would say about 98% to 99% of the time we are in full agreement on what we are talking about. We do have disagreements on where things might go this way or that way. We might use Mr. Vohden's crystal ball today or we

might use my crystal ball tomorrow. We care about this County - all of us together, in excess of 100 years of living. That is my position.

Freeholder Director Crabb said over the last six years, I think that is where we started, the size of county government has dropped by a third account wise. We have taken a million dollars away from Social Services, Public Safety, the Prosecutors' Office, the County College and the Vocational School. I would put that record up against any other county in the state. I received an email from Freeholder Phoebus's personal email account right before the meeting. It is from her private Gmail account to my private Gmail account and also to the Freeholders and County Counsel.

Freeholder Director Crabb read the letter into record:

Dear Director Crabb and Fellow Freeholders:

The Sussex County Division of Social Services has reported that funding for the Emergency Assistance (EA) program has been terminated. Currently, those making use of the program are all receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Department of Social Security. As such, they have been determined disabled and not able to work. The Housing Assistance Program (HAP) that helps people with a long term medical issues or disabilities with maintaining housing expired earlier this month. Now there are 29 adults and 3 children (2 families) who face homelessness on August 1st unless the county can find the money to keep them housed. One child is a 6-year-old girl who is undergoing treatment for cancer. There is no way that we can stand by and see her made homeless.

I suggest that the Freeholder Board hold off spending any money on filling administrative positions until we have worked out how to fund housing for these vulnerable people. It is the prudent and humane thing to do given the circumstances we face. Even if it means forgoing some of our salaries as Freeholders, I believe we should look at all options in finding the means for our neighbors to keep a roof over their heads. Thank you. Sincerely, Gail Phoebus, Sussex County Freeholder.

Freeholder Director Crabb said he has an update on the Solar Project. There is some good news and there is some bad news. The good news is for Kittatinny, the engineering has been finalized and the permit has been filed and they are going to start in mid-September. On the Sparta schools, the report that I had before this afternoon was, they are still deciding if they want solar or not. They have a Board of Education meeting coming up on Monday. We have been reaching out to them for the last few days, we have not heard from them since our last meeting which was about three weeks ago, to see where they are at. We understand Sparta is concerned with the removal of snow off the roofs of their buildings when it reaches a certain threshold that I believe is one to two feet. In 2011, Sparta BOE entered into an agreement that directed the County of Sussex to move forward with solar installations on most of their school buildings, most with roof mounts, but also with significant ground mounts, the Sparta Junior High School on Rt. 517, in particular, and to that end the County purchased approximately \$1 million worth of panels to fulfill that request. Sparta Township represents 47% of the remaining buildout. Since we have yet to receive formal go ahead to start this project, we reached out to Sparta Township over the last few weeks to schedule a follow-up meeting to see where we were. Today, Sparta Superintendent Dennis Tobin indicated to us that there would be no need for that meeting because the Board of Education has decided not to pursue this project at all. I would like to discuss some of the ramifications of that decision.

In order to put someone up on the roof of the buildings, to blow the snow off when it gets to that level; frankly, if there was someone going up on the roof, and nobody is debating student safety, but if they feel like they need to put someone on the roof if it gets to one to two feet, than I would think they would want to consider what the suitability is of that roof. To that end, we had Vanguard go to Sparta and inspect every one of their school buildings. Other than the Alpine School, which was deemed insufficient, they not only validated that the integrity of the roofs were well enough that it could sustain the one to two feet of snow, plus the solar panels with a whole category of safety guards put in with regards to excess at this percentage. Sparta, if they were to have gone forward, like they advised the County they would do, would save over the term of the agreement \$1,156,000 million without a penny of investment on their part. If they don't go forward, it could risk the collapse of the settlement that had been agreed upon based on the fact that they had signed an agreement in 2011 to proceed forward. That could be as much as \$22 million incremental for something that is being advised that they don't want to go forward because they want to have the ability to put someone on the roofs of their schools to blow off snow or remove it and it would have been without one cent of

investment on behalf of the Sparta BOE to have the solar project to roll out. If the settlement does fail, there is as much as \$22 million incremental cost of which Sparta Township, not Sparta BOE, would bear 18.17% because that is where the ratable falls. Hopatcong would be a big piece, Vernon will be a big piece, Franklin; Fredon they would also have the pieces. I am hoping going forward to touch base with Dennis Tobin. I tried this afternoon, but I was too late to get him. I am going to try this week to get him. One of the things we have been doing since we haven't heard from them is we are not sitting on our hands. Pending Sparta's decision, Sussex Vo-Tech and Hardyston are also on hold, but at the Vo-Tech we can install an extra 755 Kilowatts if Sparta pulls out. At Hardyston we can install an extra 104 Kilowatts if Sparta pulls out. The reason why I went to the SCMUA meeting, was not to hide anything, but to do due diligence because Vanguard said they had their own photographs of a potential opportunity to do SCMUA. We want to be partners with Sparta Township. We understand their concern about the roof. What is happening is for them to be able to have someone push the snow off the roof is more valuable than what I just related to you.

One of the things that I mentioned earlier is that a significant ground mount that has been planned for Sparta Junior High School on Rt. 517. It is positioned to be on the far right; there is a hill; it is probably at a 55 degree incline and that is where the ground mounts will go. My suggestion to Sparta Township, and what I will raise with the Superintendent, is we are in this together and I also am going to reach out to the Sparta Town Council because they have a stake in this too, if it doesn't go as we expected it to go. If Sparta will still go forward with the ground mount, the other opportunities that we have gone out for the contingencies would make the project whole. So one of the things I am going to try personally and I would encourage my colleagues also is to reach out to Superintendent Tobin and see if there is something that we can work out not only for the project, but for Sparta Township and the Sparta Board of Education. The letter that I sent to the Sparta Board of Education, I am not sure if the Herald has that, but I will be glad to share as to what some of the practical ramifications are if they do not go forward.

Going forward, when we heard this today, it was my decision to bring this as forward as we can. I am hoping we can reach out to the Board of Education and anyone else to see how we can move forward. If it is a complete loss over there, than we need to go back to the drawing board because the extension at Vo-Tech and the extension at Hardyston although there are several other locations that we have not officially considered yet, there would have to be incremental kilowatts mounted somewhere else. That is the situation now. I hope we can work through something that we have worked through once already and go forward from this point.

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS 330-2015

**RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FILING OF AN
331-2015 APPLICATION TO NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
ELECTIONS FOR AN INCREASE IN GRANT FUNDING
NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$38,000.00 UNDER
SECTION 261 OF HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002**

B. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR 332-2015 TO EXECUTE THE TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE \$33,660.00 IN FUNDING TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016

C. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR 333-2015 AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MODIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT, ATTACHMENT "A" FOR THE PROVISION OF ASSISTED TRANSPORTATION WITH CATHOLIC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$26,115.00

- AND
- E. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR
334-2015 CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MODIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT, ATTACHMENT "A", WITH CATHOLIC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE PROVISION OF WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND HOME DELIVERED MEALS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015 A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$100,819.00
- F. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND
335-2015 CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MODIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT, ATTACHMENT "A", WITH LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHWEST JERSEY, INC., SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION FOR THE PROVISION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$38,380.00
- G. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND
336-2015 CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MODIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT, ATTACHMENT "A", WITH NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE PROVISION OF FOOD SERVICE FOR THE WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND HOME DELIVERED MEALS FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$92,118.00
- H. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND
337-2015 CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MODIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT, ATTACHMENT "A", WITH NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE PROVISION OF FOOD SERVICE FOR THE CONGREGATE NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$91,288.00
- I. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR
338-2015 AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MODIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT, ATTACHMENT "A" FOR THE PROVISION OF RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE WITH NORWESCAP, INC. FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$5,055.00
- J. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR
339-2015 AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MODIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT, ATTACHMENT "A", WITH RES-CARE NEW JERSEY, INC. D/B/A RESCARE HOMECARE FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AIDE SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$55,409.00
- K. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR
340-2015 AND CLERK OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE THE MODIFICATION OF AN AGREEMENT, ATTACHMENT "A", WITH THE SUSSEX COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSIT/SKYLANDS RIDE FOR THE PROVISION OF SENIOR TRANSPORTATION (STOP) FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$84,393.00
- L. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR
341-2015 TO EXECUTE THE FY2016 LETTER OF AGREEMENT FROM THE NJ GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE TO PROVIDE

\$210,366.00 IN FUNDING TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & YOUTH SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016

- M. **RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE \$172,695.00 IN FUNDING TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016**
342-2015
- N. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELING OF VARIOUS GRANT RECEIVABLE AND RESERVE BALANCES**
343-2015
- O. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2015 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE 2015 HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT SECTION 261 GRANT AWARD #15ELEC008APA FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$33,307.42**
344-2015
- P. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2015 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE 2015/16 SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS GRANT CONTRACT #SH16019 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$172,695.00**
345-2015
- Q. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2015 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE AGAINST ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$210,366.00**
346-2015
- R. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2015 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE 2015/16 STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SHIP) AWARD #DOAS15SHF002 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$31,000.00**
347-2015
- S. **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2015 BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX RELATING TO THE 2015/16 TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT CONTRACT #TS16019 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$33,660.00**
348-2015
- T. **RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND ITS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES WITH THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR SOLID WASTE ENFORCEMENT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:6501 ET SEQ.**
349-2015

- U. RESOLUTION RE: EMERGENCY SITUATION PERTAINING TO COUNTY BRIDGE D-44 ON COUNTY ROUTE 637 IN FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP AND AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR THE REQUIRED MATERIALS AND SERVICES WITHOUT PUBLIC BIDDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 AND THE COUNTY POLICY ON EMERGENCY PURCHASES
350-2015

- V. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROADWAY CRACK SEALING FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND PLANNING
351-2015

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 Vohden to adopt the Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Graham.

Discussion

Freeholder Mudrick said there are a lot of dollars amounts mentioned in these resolutions. County Budget match for 9B, 9C, 9F, 9J, 9K, 9L, 9M, 9O, 9P, 9Q, 9R, 9S those are all grant related so the County budget match for those zero dollars. I didn't want the public to think that we just rolled up seven figures of spending here but it is grant supported in major ways.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Graham	Yes
Freeholder Mudrick	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Director Crabb	Yes

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting - May 13, 2015

MOTION made by Freeholder Vohden to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2015, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

11. APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS

- A. RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATING THE MEMBERS OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY VOTING ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
352-2015

MOTION made by Freeholder Vohden to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Graham

On Roll Call vote was:

Freeholder Graham	Yes
Freeholder Mudrick	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Director Crabb	Yes

- D. RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF SARAH BALZANO AS DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, PURSUANT
353-2015

TO SUSSEX COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
ARTICLE 9, SECTION 9.1

MOTION made by Freeholder Mudrick to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Vohden

Discussion

Freeholder Director Crabb said with the anticipating passing of this Resolution, we have decreased the organizational structure by 3 head count after the hiring of Suzie Givone to the Clerk's office, Cathy Williams as the Clerk of the Board, Steve Gruchacz as Administrator, John Williams as County Counsel, Rob Maikis, as the Chief Financial Officer, Emrick Seabold without a titled pay at his post for the Health Department, the Clerk's Office and Sarah Balzano. If it is passed, in the election coming up, it is a net savings bottom line of \$291,656.00 to the county government.

Freeholder Mudrick said that is a net of 3 less employees thus reducing the footprint of government that you reported accurately.

Freeholder Vohden said he wanted to say something about the process. We are a nation of laws; all elected officials are required to swear to an Oath of Allegiance to uphold the laws in the State of New Jersey and the Constitution of the United States. We, the Freeholders have all sworn that Oath of Allegiance. I am not going to read the name of the statues, but one of the New Jersey statues is 40:21-3 provides that we, the Board of Chosen Freeholders may adopt an administrative code organizing the administration of county government setting forth the duties, responsibilities, and powers of all county officials and agencies in a manner of performance needed. We have adopted the Administrative Code, it is on-line; everybody can read it. It is the Bible. We operate under the Administrative Code. We are statutorily obligated to abide by the Code. State Statute 40A:9-42 provides that the Board of Chosen Freeholders creates the office of County Administrator who acts as the Executive or Administrative officer of the Board and has Executive or Administrative powers to perform such Executive and Administrative duties as the Resolution creating such office shall provide. The Administrative Code provides for the appointment of a County Administrator to serve as a Chief Executive to the County and in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 it lists the Executive Administrator's duties. 3.6 of the Code states that the County Administrator shall, with the advice and consent, appoint department heads. That is what we are doing here tonight; we are appointing a Department Head. The manner of whose appointment is not otherwise prescribed in the Code or by the New Jersey Statues, it is his responsibility, it is his obligation to make this appointment. There are no restrictions, no obligations; it is not spelled out how he should do it, it is his appointment. Statute 40:41-A-86, Separation of Powers, this law applies in most government bodies in the state of New Jersey. The Board of Chosen Freeholders shall deal with County employees only through the Officials responsible for the overall executive management of the county's affairs, our Administrator. All contact with county employees, all actions and communications concerning the administration of the County's government and provision of services shall be through the afore entioned Officials except for otherwise provided in the Act. It is the intent of this Act to confer on the Board's general legislative and such legislative powers as it remains to exercise the legislative powers but to retain in the Executive Branch full control over the County Administration and over the administration that the county services provided by that fact. It is very important that we follow the intent of this law. I have spent six years in the military. There is a chain of command; you don't break the chain of command. We should not in Sussex County, in New Jersey; in this Country break the chain of command. We all have to abide by the laws of the State of New Jersey. According to all the pertinent statutes in our Administrative Code, it is clear that this appointment is to be made by the Administrator with advice and consent of the Board. Whatever we may think about this appointment being made differently, the appointment has been made and submitted according to the laws of the State of New Jersey. We can change this law, we could do it differently by talking to our Legislatures and we can do it our way, but it has to be through the Legislatures and it has to be approved by the Legislatures. Right now we are following the law of the State of New Jersey whatever we may think.

I voted for Steve Gruchacz as the County Administrator because after talking to many individuals around the County and State, because we all knew this was coming and I voted for him because I felt he was the best candidate for Sussex County and I would feel most confident with him in this position. After being in business for 17 years and running a construction company, 35 years in construction, I believe in order for me to be a successful businessman, I had to be able to make the decisions for the best person possible for that job. For the Administrator, he should have that same capacity and he does have that same advantage. After reading all the State laws, the intent of the law is to allow this to happen. I am voting yes on this Resolution.

Freeholder Director Crabb said he cannot be happier that Sarah Balzano is taking on this role. I am very confident in her abilities to succeed.

Freeholder Graham had something to add and it goes back to not putting a person down but following the set of laws and rules, I agree. If you look at the Administrative Code for the Health Department it is a very specific, very educational requirement. We are very vague on the Human Services. The Deputy Director has a very tight one including a four year degree. The Deputy has to have a four year degree and the Director does not have to. We did that. It is in the Administrative Code. I have looked at other counties and they are also deliberately vague. It is the rules we work under. I agree, sometimes you don't like things or you like things but you have to deal with what you are faced with. I feel by not posting the job, it is not the only one that we have not posted, you do something that I can only put in relation to owning a business and you have had the same employees for 40 years, yes they are very loyal but they never learned anything, they never grew, they never expanded into anything else. My biggest concern is that we didn't do that. We didn't post the job; we didn't try and find out if we could do better. That is a big concern of mine. Dennis, if you were hiring a fourth grader teacher you would want to make sure they have all the requirements, that is what I am trying to do. You wouldn't just hire someone because they would make a great teacher. That is where I am coming from. It has nothing to do with Ms. Balzano, it has nothing to do with the department, it has nothing to do with trying to force my will over a job, and it has nothing to do with other negative things that were said for some bizarre reason. That is my reason.

Freeholder Mudrick thanked all the folks that came forward on Sarah's behalf. He said he appreciated what they said, how they said it and he supports the four of them. He thanked them.

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Graham	No
Freeholder Mudrick	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Director Crabb	Yes

12. RESOLUTION

No Resolutions.

13. AWARDS OF CONTRACTS/CHANGE ORDERS/BIDS

A. Awards of Contract

1. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF A CONTRACT EXTENSION 354-2015 FOR MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING TRADE SERVICES FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM'S SERVICE IN VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES**
2. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR GUIDERAIL MATERIALS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND PLANNING – 2015 355-2015**
3. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ROAD GARAGES – OVERHEAD DOOR REPLACEMENTS FOR VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY FACILITIES 356-2015**

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

On Roll Call the vote was:

Freeholder Graham	Yes
-------------------	-----

Freeholder Mudrick	Yes
Freeholder Vohden	Yes
Freeholder Director Crabb	Yes

14. FINANCIAL

There were no Financial items.

15. PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda

MOTION made by Freeholder Graham to approve the Personnel Agenda, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

16. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. Other

Mr. Gruchacz stated that he would like to report that he has been working with all Department Administrators coming up to speed with the new business and unfinished business in the County. Looking at the items that we need to pay particular attention to between now and the end of the year and have a lot of discussions with local officials regarding constituent issues that come up and to address those issues.

17. COUNTY COUNSEL

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

Mr. Williams had nothing to report tonight.

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Freeholder Graham said I have heard rumors about renovations and new furniture in the offices. Is this something that is going on?

Steve Gruchacz stated that Joe Biuso has put together a plan that is not completed yet, in order, to look at the offices to adjust the space based on the configuration when John Eskilson needed to make the space accommodating for the daily operations. There was a look at installing a wall for County Counsel, the Clerk's office (who is certainly upstairs) and to basically reconfigure the space back to the way it was before the change.

Freeholder Graham asked if we could get a tie in as to how much it cost last time around.

Steve Gruchacz said he will get that from Mr. Biuso.

Freeholder Graham asked about the furniture?

Steve Gruchacz said he is working on that with a vendor. We don't have a price yet. We don't know what furniture will be replaced or not, it is something that is in process.

Freeholder Graham said I don't want to insert myself, I think flat out there is no reason for us to do it. I know there is furniture here that we have spent a lot of money on.

Steve Gruchacz said I know that Joe's plan does include using some of the existing furniture and relocating it. He is not finished with the plan yet. When he does have the plan completed, I will be more than happy to provide it to the Board.

19. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

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

MOTION made at 6:55 PM by Freeholder Mudrick to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

Comment by Jane Murphy

Jane Murphy of Vernon came forward. She asked if Sparta did sign the agreement.

Freeholder Director Crabb said yes, we moved forward at their bequest. Ms. Murphy asked so when they signed that contract is it non-binding? Freeholder Director Crabb said I am not going to hold court here, but we will make the letter point out to them what the agreement was.

Ms. Murphy said being in Vernon and since we did not sign the agreement it sounds like we are equally responsible.

Freeholder Director Crabb said to the extent that it would apply.

Ms. Murphy made a comment that in the County she does volunteer with Meals on Wheels, not sure where Social Services comes in, but I can tell you visiting some of these homes at some point, I have to give them a lot of credit. I know whoever visits them in snowstorms and whatever they do is great.

MOTION made at 6:56 PM to close the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Closed Session – If Necessary)

There were no items for Executive Session.

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.

22. REMINDERS

Wednesday August 12, 2015 Regular Meeting – 5:00 P.M.

23. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made at 6:57 PM by Freeholder Mudrick to adjourn, seconded by Freeholder Graham as passed unanimously.

Catherine M. Williams, Clerk

DATED: July 22, 2015