

REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015

5:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY DIRECTOR** at 5:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL** Freeholder Graham; Freeholder Mudrick; Freeholder Phoebus; Freeholder Vohden; Freeholder Director Crabb; John Eskilson, County Administrator/Clerk; Dennis McConnell, County Counsel; Cathy Williams, Secretary to County Administrator
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."

Freeholder Crabb asked the Board to consider moving Agenda Item #21, Executive Session, to just before Agenda Item #7, the first Public Session from the floor; it is anticipated that it will be a very short Executive Session.

MOTION made by Freeholder Vohden to move Agenda Item #21, Executive Session, to just before Agenda Item #7, Public Session, seconded by Freeholder Mudrick and passed unanimously.

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A.

--
PUBLIC HEARING – 5:03 P.M.

FINAL ADOPTION – RESOLUTION

Freeholder Director Crabb: "At our regular meeting held on February 25, 2015, we introduced for first reading the following Resolution which was advertised in the New Jersey Herald issue of February 27, 2015, together with a Notice of Public Hearing stating it would be held at this meeting at 5:00 PM:

RESOLUTION RE: AMENDING RESOLUTION ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING CAP TO LIMIT COUNTY BUDGET APPROPRIATION INCREASE IN 2014 COUNTY BUDGET TO 3.5% OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S FINAL APPROPRIATIONS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS AND TO ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATION CAP BANK"

MOTION that the Public Hearing be opened made by Freeholder Mudrick, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

Is anyone present to be heard regarding this Resolution?

There was no one present.

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

MOTION that this Resolution be finally adopted made by Freeholder Vohden, seconded by Freeholder Mudrick.

On Roll Call the vote was:

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

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

-
B.

-
PUBLIC HEARING – 5:05 P.M.

**FINAL ADOPTION – CAPITAL ORDINANCE
133-2015**

Freeholder Director Crabb: "At our regular meeting held on February 25, 2015, we introduced for first reading the following Capital Ordinance which was advertised in the New Jersey Herald issue of February 27, 2015, together with a Notice of Public Hearing stating it would be held at this meeting at 5:00 PM:

CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$15,000.00 FROM GENERAL CAPITAL SURPLUS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF POSTAGE METER AND MAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE CENTRALIZED MAIL SYSTEM BY THE COUNTY OFFICE OF CENTRAL SERVICES

MOTION that the Public Hearing be opened made by Freeholder Phoebus, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

Is anyone present to be heard regarding this Capital Ordinance?

There was no one present.

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

MOTION that this Capital Ordinance be finally adopted made by Freeholder Phoebus, seconded by Freeholder Graham.

On Roll Call the vote was:

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

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

6. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

A. Certificates

1. Certificate in recognition of Don Hall as recipient of the 2015 “Ramsey/Cooper Memorial Award” awarded by the Chinkchewunska Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.
2. Certificate in recognition of Jenina Wycalek as recipient of the 2015 “Woman in American History Award” awarded by the Chinkchewunska Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.
3. Certificate in recognition of Edward Fritsch as recipient of the 2015 “History Award” awarded by the Chinkchewunska Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.
4. Certificate in recognition of John Harrigan as recipient of the 2015 “Community Service Award” awarded by the Chinkchewunska Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

-
Freeholder Crabb added the following Proclamation:

5. Proclamation proclaiming March 2015 as “American Red Cross Month”

-
MOTION made by Freeholder Phoebus to approve these Certificates and Proclamation, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

-
Freeholder Crabb asked County Counsel for the reasons for going into Executive Session at this time.

County Counsel, Dennis McConnell, advised that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement between Power Partners MasTec, Morris County Improvement Authority, the County of Sussex, Sunlight Entities and their subsidiaries, as well as potential litigation regarding same.

MOTION made at 5:10 p.m. by Freeholder Vohden to go into Executive Session for the reasons given by County Counsel above, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

MOTION made at 5:24 p.m. by Freeholder Graham to come out of Executive Session and return to Open Session, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

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

MOTION made at 5:25 p.m. by Freeholder Vohden to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

Comment by Harry Dunleavy

Harry Dunleavy came forward; he spoke passionately about the waste of taxpayer money and provided several situations that he felt diagramed that waste by the Freeholder Board.

MOTION made at 5:32 p.m. by Freeholder Vohden to close the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

8. FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

Comments from Freeholder Graham

- **Rotary Events**

Freeholder Graham remarked that he attended the Rotary Luncheon and also the Rotary Pancake Breakfast last weekend and that's why he was unable to attend the Irish Breakfast in Franklin.

- **Sussex County Transit Citizens Advisory Committee**

Freeholder Graham reported that he attended the Transit Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting and found it to be very eye opening; he said that in 2014 Skylands Ride provided 111,000 rides to Sussex County citizens and the public transportation bus, Skylands Connect, provided 62,000 rides. Freeholder Graham feels they are doing a good job, but one of their biggest ongoing problems is funding.

Comments from Freeholder Phoebus

- **Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month**

Freeholder Phoebus advised that April was Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month and as professionals involved in the care and protection of children in Sussex County, the Board is invited to an Open House at Ginnie's House Children's Advocacy Center on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 and it runs from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

- **Skylands Ride**

Freeholder Phoebus remarked that five Skylands Ride buses have been "wrapped" now to display advertisements for Metro PCS; in addition, two Skylands Ride buses were "wrapped" with Gateway advertisements to raise awareness and promote sales; in total 10 buses now contain advertisements geared to generate additional funding.

- **Sussex County Municipal Alliance**

Freeholder Phoebus stated that the Sussex County Municipal Alliance program was featured by Chris DeBello, host of the syndicated radio show, "Issues and Ideas" on Sunday, March 8th, at 7:00 a.m. locally on WNNJ, 103.7 FM.

- **Traditional Irish Breakfast**

Freeholder Phoebus said that she attended the Traditional Irish Breakfast at the Irish Cottage Inn in Franklin; she said it was very enjoyable and the food was very good.

Comments from Freeholder Mudrick

- **Sussex County Retirees**

Freeholder Mudrick acknowledged the retirements of the employees on the Personnel Agenda including Eugene Norman, Laura Camp, David O'Brien and Patrick Higgins and thanked them for their many years of service to the County.

- **Traditional Irish Breakfast**

Freeholder Mudrick remarked that he, along with Freeholder Phoebus and Freeholder Vohden, attended the Irish Breakfast at the Irish Cottage where Dennis and Mary Harrington were recognized as the Grand Marshals of the upcoming Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Freeholder Mudrick also attended the Mass at St. Jude's Church in Hamburg prior to the Breakfast.

Comments from Freeholder Vohden

- **Open Space**

Freeholder Vohden reported that at this month's Open Space Meeting there was a discussion about renewing the current Open Space Plan; he said that they will be getting the County's municipalities involved regarding the future funding for Open Space projects. He provided the Board with the history of the funding.

- **North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)**

Freeholder Vohden remarked that he attended an NJTPA Meeting this past Monday and under the "Safe Routes to School" Program, a program that is funded by Federal Aid and the NJ Department of Transportation, the NJTPA has awarded Franklin Borough a Grant for sidewalk improvements to County Route 631 in the amount of \$330,000.00.

Freeholder Vohden said that after the regular meeting, he had a conversation with a Board Member who is Assistant Commissioner of the NJ Department of Transportation and is also the NJTPA Director of Capital Program and Project Development; they discussed the Route 206 repaving project from Paterson Avenue by Tuscany Bistro in Newton to Pines Road on Route 206 where you turn off for the Fairgrounds; bids on that project are going to be accepted in early 2016 with a contract being awarded in March 2016 and a completion date of March 2017.

- **Executive Session from February 19, 2015**

Statement by Freeholder Vohden:

"I personally am very troubled and disappointed that I had to read in the newspaper, the confidential information from our four and half hour Freeholder Executive Session Meeting held on February 19, 2015 was illegally leaked and documents from the Meeting were provided to a local newspaper as reported by that newspaper. According to the New Jersey Statute Annotated Title 10, Civil Rights, this is Civil Rights violation under Section 10, 4-12B this was an illegal leak. It's a serious violation to release any information from an Executive Session especially when, as stated in Section B2, that the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States. This applies here. We are going to receive funds for this solar program from the Government of the United States. This makes this especially more grievous and especially when there's a discussion of any investigations or violations or possible violations of a law. That also applies here. Or any of the other nine items which are listed in the Statute which a public body may exclude from the Public portion of the meeting. The release of this confidential information is a very serious criminal matter and I believe it should be investigated. There were only 10 individuals attending this Executive Board Meeting and one or more of us are guilty of a very serious ethical or criminal violation offense. In the future, how can we confidentially discuss matters in Executive Session when one or more of us feel they have a right to leak any information, to whomever they like. We have laws to determine our actions. You can't pick and choose our laws. As Freeholders, we are bound by and have sworn an allegiance to obey these laws. I would be pleased to know who of us leaked this confidential information. It's important to me that I do know. It would be good for Sussex County to know which of us think they are above the law and are not bright enough to understand the consequences or

politically ambitious enough to not care about the welfare of Sussex County. This is a serious ethical and criminal violation.”

“Over the last couple of weeks, I’ve been asked many times, if I had the opportunity to vote again for the solar program, would I vote for it, would I vote yes. This actually is a stupid question. It’s like asking a guy that’s in the hospital after being seriously injured in an accident on Route 80, you think it would’ve been a good idea if you stayed in bed this morning? That’s very similar, I think that’s a good analogy. But, the most often asked question I’m asked, most often asked question is, why did I vote yes on this settlement agreement and I’ve been answering that. As a Freeholder, I’ve been elected to represent the residents of Sussex County. All of us have. And, all our decisions should be based on what is best for the residents of Sussex County. It’s very unfortunate that we’re in this situation with the solar problem, whatever you want to call it. But, we are. We’re here, we’re in a situation.”

“I have to tell a story. As a kid on a trip to Gettysburg Battlefield, my lifelong decision making process was greatly influenced by a series of photos and a presentation by a tour guide and I actually think about this often. The photos show doctors doing amputations of wounded Civil War soldiers and photos of piles of amputated limbs outside the building. The guide explained how the doctors would need the permission of the wounded soldiers to amputate. I guess it was made a little easier when the doctor would say we have to cut off your foot or the infection is going to spread to your leg, then we’ll probably have to cut off your leg, and if we don’t do that, the infection will likely kill you. So, an agreement would be made by the doctor and the wounded soldier to go ahead. The doctor would say, this is going to hurt a bit, so bite hard on this bullet and we’ll do the right thing.”

“I decided to bite the bullet here and do the right thing and I’m confident that I made the right decision for Sussex County by voting yes on this Agreement and I would vote way over and over again. This came down to an economic decision to not put the taxpayers’ dollars at risk any further. A “no vote” would have created a series of disastrous consequences and would have cost the taxpayers of Sussex County tens of millions of dollars without completing our solar projects which I believe are a good thing. It’s the wave of the future. Eventually we’re going to be using this alternative energy. And, without the receipt we would no longer receive the Federal grant funds or the SRECs to pay back the tens of millions of dollars that we’ve encumbered here. There was a vote on a negotiated settlement agreement between all of the parties involved. Like any negotiated agreement today, nobody gets everything they want. We didn’t get everything we wanted, but it was a negotiated agreement and the vote that we made was on the complete agreement as it was presented to us. We can’t pick and choose what we’d like after an agreement has been reached and distributed. I think everybody in Sussex County and in the three County region is interested in how we got to this situation. I do. Had this settlement been voted down by any of the parties involved we couldn’t go forward, but we could still go forward and study the projects. We can still go forward and study the projects without facing the consequences of a “no vote” and all the problems associated with that.”

“Just last night, a Blackhawk Helicopter went down off the coast of Florida. Eleven members of our military on board. They are all presumed dead. I can just imagine the outcry from the American people if it was decided first to do an investigation and then proceed with the rescue. To try to decide, was it mechanical failure, was it pilot failure, can we blame the weatherman because of the fog, was it terrorists? Meanwhile, the guys are floating around out there in the sea. You solve the problem and then you take care of the investigations or to resume. Someone is responsible for every situation in this life and it’s easy to point fingers, place blame, make accusations of wrong doing which there’s a lot of Monday morning quarterbacking going on now, placing blame, but in all serious problems, the first thing you have to do is stop the bleeding. I’m proud of the decision that I made on this solar settlement. I wish it was a much better settlement, but it was done in the best interest of Sussex County. There’s 17 Freeholders in Morris, Somerset and Sussex Counties, 12 of us agree with the decision. There are three County Administrators, three County Counsels, and three County Treasurers that all agree that this was the best settlement that we were going to get for Sussex County. Five Freeholders think that we should have

investigated before settling, whole thing, most likely would have fallen apart. Again, we go back to the tens of millions of dollars. Today's paper reports that one municipality obviously agrees with them. This is one municipality out of 82 municipalities in the three Counties that believe that we should investigate before solving the problem."

"When a decision was made to move forward with this solar power project, we were, and I'm sure you all can remember, back in 2010, 2011, we were in a much different economic and political climate. There were State, National and International programs encouraging alternative energy projects. The State and National economy was still struggling. And, at the County level, we were looking for any cost savings available. The cost saving benefits and advantages of solar power were backed by attractive, difficult to ignore, incentives. There are Federal 1603 grants awarded after connection or substantial completion. This project would be helping New Jersey meet its energy master plan goal of 22 ½% renewable energy sources by 2021. I know there's a lot of people who disagree with that, but that is the position that our State has taken. We were helping move forward with that. While doing this, we were providing onsite sources of electric at a lower price for a lot of facilities in Sussex County with no capital costs to the County. And, we're providing clean energy and jobs. We did our due diligence; the Freeholders that did vote for this and we all did. We researched; we investigated other County projects especially Monmouth, Morris and Somerset who did not have any problems with previous contracts. The concept, the Morris model, was held up nationally as an example of how to produce renewable energy through public private partnerships. It was the second project of this kind and the previous one was hailed as a success. We were experienced with the Morris County Improvement Authority; they were already established and we worked them under a shared service act. We're experienced in backing bonds. We have our own Sussex County Municipal Authority, we back their bonds. The State Controllers' Office reviewed and signed off on the Request for Proposal. The State Local Finance Board reviewed the program and issued unqualified positive findings for each transaction. We did do our due diligence; and we're confident that this project was good for Sussex County, and what's left, is still good for Sussex County. We were provided with, by our staff, and everybody else, we were provided with and studied and discussed many reports and surveys, evaluations, reviews of technical and financial issues. We were provided with as much information as we were requested. We realized from the onset that this would be a very complex and complicated undertaking with Federal, State and private industry involvement, and we all agreed that this was a good project for Sussex County as did the majority of the other 17 Freeholders involved. Now that this Agreement is approved, we can move on, complete our project, receive SRECs and 1603 Federal funds and still review the project's history."

Comments from Freeholder Crabb

- **Solar Project**

Statement by Freeholder Crabb:

"In 2011 there were five Freeholders that I was one of. Parker Space, Rich Zeoli, Susan Zellman, Rich Vohden and myself, and over the course of a year, we held initial meetings, we did background checks on projects, at that particular time, had been spotless. We held hearings with the towns. We held multiple hearings with towns at the orientation, not just with the towns but the school systems, and with DPW's. Over the course of that year, we received a laundry list of applications to participate from across Sussex County and an even longer laundry list of those that wanted to, but for various reasons, did not meet what the requirements for the first round of this. Am I happy with the way things went, no? You ask me if I would have voted for this again knowing what I know now, no. Am I completely happy with the Agreement, no? But what's happened is that those, the collective Board, sitting up here, our first responsibility are to consider the welfare of the County taxpayers. Now, that being said, we've a lot of after the fact, of post mortem thoughts as to where we went wrong, as to what we did here and everything like this and I can tell you, they are not lost on us, but I can tell you that the difference between people opining like this and this

collective Board is that we had the albatross of at least a \$22M incremental cost to the taxpayers if things didn't go right. That being said, you base your decision, not on political preservation, nor on what you think will go over best, but basically what we were put up here for, by referendum, to represent the taxpayers of Sussex County. The fact that there are three solid votes that backed up the taxpayers of Sussex County with regards to this Agreement, enables the expression of personal opinion elsewhere because they know that there's a safety net for the County sitting right here. I really need to mention my appreciation for Freeholder Mudrick, in an election year, it would be easy to run away from this thing, but he stuck with us and said look, you know what, at the end of the day, we're here for one reason. Now, are we closing the door after the horse left. In some respects that may be, but we're working with what we have to work with now and I would challenge anyone out there that had ideas now about what should have been done or the terms of the Agreement, would you feel the same way if by your decision you were gambling with \$22M of taxpayers' money. That's the luxury that we didn't have. We knew what we were dealing with and that was the basis of the process that we went through. It wasn't something that we just, oh my god, we've got to get this done, this has been months. And if it wasn't for my senior staff here, John Eskilson, Denny McConnell and Bernie Re, we wouldn't be here right now with the settlement that we got. Sussex County went out autonomously when this thing was falling apart and we took it upon ourselves to go negotiate with MasTec directly. There are fruits from those negotiations to the point that it enticed the other two Counties to come onboard with us to the point that we received favorite nation status so whatever agreement they were able to get we would at least get that too. So, here we are, it's been a long run, it's been very difficult, it's been very tricky. I can tell you that, I can see, I can hear, but I don't have the luxury to respond to that to save my own skin. I'm put up here to save the skin of Sussex County and that's what we've done. Now we can go back. One of the things that we are going to introduce or at least to authorize Counsel is to come up with a Resolution to, as a first step, recommend this back to the State Comptroller. If there's something that's going to be found illegal in there, that's the path to get to the Attorney General. The other thing that I'm going to propose is and it was an idea by Freeholder Graham about getting a second set of eyes. We are under the time constraints. One of the things that everybody was wondering, was why we were rushing into this. In order for this project to work to get the revenue back in, we have to get these projects done by the end of the year. By virtue of that, whatever second set of eyes an RFP process would take at least a month, John?"

Mr. Eskilson replied that it would be more than that.

Freeholder Crabb continued: "So what we are looking at is having a firm, that's on sight now, doing other work for us."

Mr. Eskilson said that this is what has been circulated, a proposal for our on-call engineering firm to do the work.

Freeholder Crabb continued: "I have a fear about this. Remember the College. They went out and they got Mercadien. Well, Mercadien came back and agreed with the College. Right?"

Mr. Eskilson replied: That was the first study, right.

Freeholder Crabb continued:

"And, then there's all this hoopla, goes, if it's not the answer that you want to hear, that it was an inside job. That the fix was in. What I'm worried about is, I don't want to spend any money on the County level. If it's not going to be accepted, what the final report is. This can't be something where if it doesn't satisfy somebody, whichever way that this thing goes, if we complain that it was an inside job, then we're just going through the motions and that's not what we want to do here. So, that's another thing that I'm recommending to the Board, that we recommend to have Counsel draw up options for that. So there we are. As we mentioned earlier, there's been a lot of dynamics with this. It's been a good news week for the Herald, a good news two weeks. With regards to our friends from Andover Township and calling for the

resignations of our principals here, I want to, at this time, ask if there's anybody on this Board who would recommend that either John Eskilson or Denny McConnell resign."

Freeholder Vohden replied: "Not here."

Freeholder Mudrick replied: "Not here."

Additional Comment from Freeholder Graham

Freeholder Graham stated:

"It seems like everybody is taking shots and I didn't expect to read this out until we ended. I'm going to make my statement."

"Two weeks ago, the Sussex County Freeholder Board passed a settlement for the MCIA Solar 2 Project. As you all know, I voted against the Settlement. I did for very specific reasons, Mr. Vohden. First of all, I reject the concept that my position is politically motivated or designed to throw our County budget into financial chaos, Mr. Mudrick. Those comments were themselves politically motivated and designed to divert attention from those who should be held responsible. I, as most of my colleagues, have literally spent hundreds of hours poring over the thousands of pages of documents and listening to many people that have been involved in this project for years. I also did the independent research that was required to see through the various perspectives. There were a lot of perspectives. Trying to achieve a more balanced understanding of how this occurred. In my method of problem solving, especially when time allows, it is the best way to move towards a better solution. The rush to settlement was in itself a red flag that needed to be analyzed. For every complex problem, there is an answer that is clear, simple and usually wrong. The settlement that we in Sussex County voted on was designed to get the messy complex problem off the front pages and into the fog of our taxpayers' short memory. As we all see, it did not accomplish that goal, nor will it. The reason is plain and simple, there's no accountability. While a number of parties to the solar project undoubtedly heaved a sigh of relief at our hold-harmless settlement vote, the Morris County Board of Freeholders took a stand by calling for the State Comptroller to independently look at the facts and come to whatever conclusion they can. With Freeholder Gail Phoebus, I supported the action from the start, here and in Morristown, last Monday night. I voted to support the action, I'm going to vote to support the action that you are talking about today. But, we have a more immediate local issue at hand. I believe that it is essential that we engage a reputable third party review of all the actions taken by our Senior Management, staff and attorneys here in Sussex County. At the end of the day, we have no control over the Acting Comptroller, Attorney General or Board of Ethics; if they choose to investigate they will, if they choose not to, they won't. That only is reason enough to demand more. But, here in Sussex County, it's time to take control of our own house. However innocent or naive the charges of mistakes and questionable judgement appear, it is essential that we provide a thorough and honest report of this entire affair for the public. As our great Senator, Bob Littell, often said, there's no right way to do a wrong thing. This can't be delayed or brushed under the rug. I move that we begin that process today."

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

"I heard a lot of finger pointing, accusations, investigations, reviews, I heard no, how are we going to solve the problem."

Comment by Freeholder Graham

"Yes, we did because . . ."

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

"What is your solution to the problem . . ."

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“The Attorney General’s office got back to Parker Space and myself, and the Acting Attorney General, John Hoffman, is going to investigate this entire situation and his hand note on the bottom said he is going to give it his full attention. His office will give this entire thing the full attention. I will produce the letters for you if you’d like to see them.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“I would love to see that. I want to see that happen.”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“Sussex County will cooperate completely.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“That should’ve happened a long time ago then we wouldn’t be in this mess.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“Nothing helps go forward better than a good understanding of the history. And, what I want to know, all this finger pointing, all these accusations, what are your solutions to this?”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“Richie, who are we pointing fingers at? I’d like to know that because I have yet to point a finger at anybody in Sussex County. I have said that I felt this needed to be investigated as to these two companies, and maybe . . .”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“That’s what I’m talking about. That’s what I’m talking about.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“So, you’re defending these two companies?”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“No, I’m not.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“Oh yes you are.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“No, I’m not. I’m saying, I’m in favor of the investigation, but first you have to put out the fire.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“Who brought them here, Richie?”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“It doesn’t matter now.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“Oh, I think it does.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“When we’re going forward, when we’re talking tens of millions of dollars compared to \$6M settlement.”

Comment by Freeholder Crabb

“Who brought them here, Parker Space, Rich Zeoli, Sue Zellman and Rich Vohden.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“That’s funny, that’s not who I got told by.”

Comment by Freeholder Crabb

“Well, innuendo is one thing, but I’ll just repeat my question, is there anybody on the Board that would recommend that either John Eskilson or Denny McConnell submit their resignations.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“Not me.”

Comment by Freeholder Mudrick

“Not here.”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“But I do believe that there were things that were done, and I don’t direct, I’m not pointing at our senior ...”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“Yes you are.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“No we’re not.”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“Now wait a second, sir, my turn now. I’m not pointing and saying that anybody did anything immoral..., corrupt or illegal, but, I do believe that there were directives that were made by the MCIA that were absolutely outside of the contract area telling people on our side and telling contractors to do things. We had somebody in place, Gabel Associates, that was supposed to do everything that they could to make sure that they kept a close eye on what happened, and yet, when we had one meeting there were the guys that were watching everything, we have another meeting, well not so much, they show up with their ten foot pole.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“Now, that’s an accusation. That’s an accusation. And, that should be looked at, but

what is our solution to go forward? What are you recommending?"

Comment by Freeholder Graham

"We are using the same people."

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

"Why would we use the same people, Richie? And, secondly ..."

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

"Why are we using the same people because Solar Sunlight General applied for the grant and if all of you remember, at a certain date, you had have 5%, I don't know if you remember this, you had to have 5% of your product purchased in order qualify for these huge federal grants for solar panels. Sunlight holds the grant and the permits and the application. We get rid of Sunlight and the whole chain moving down, they go away. That's a third, 29 to 35% of the projects that we will now complete because we made the settlement. Had we not made this settlement, this would all go away, it'd be mute, wouldn't matter. Because then we're not going to go back to another settlement, but if we get rid of Sunlight, and we move down and get rid of these other entities, there's no grant funding."

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

"So going forward ..."

Comment by Freeholder Vohden'

"They receive the SRECs, they receive the Federal funding, we need them, we NEED them. Without them, there's nothing here and we owe tens of millions dollars of bond that we will have to pay back. That's why I voted yes on this agreement. That's why I think we all should've and that's why the majority of the 17 other Freeholders voted yes for this settlement agreement. And, now, we'll look and see what went wrong. You know, Phil used the analogy yesterday, your mother's house catches on fire, you run over there and the fire department shows up. You don't tell the firemen to do an investigation. What the hell caused the fire that's burning my mother's house down. You get your mother out of the house, you put out the fire and then ..."

Comment by Freeholder Graham

"Joe Inga is at the fire."

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

"Yes."

Comment by Freeholder Graham

"If there's a major fire that goes on, Joe Inga is right there. He's there, the smoke isn't even up and Joe Inga is there. And, no matter what happened and how it's done. And, that's all I'm asking here. I am not accusing anybody of anything."

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

"Yes you are."

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

"Oh no we're not."

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“I’m saying that things were not done according to the way that they should have done.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“And, what is your solution?”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“I have given you my solution.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“To go back and find out what evolved?”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“We already have a solution.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“And change the parties to the Agreement.”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“You can’t do that. You have an Agreement.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“Then what’s your solution?”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“First of all to find out what happened so this doesn’t happen again.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“What difference does that make going forward?”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“Second, second ...”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“Because you owe it to the taxpayers, Richie.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“You know what, a Chinaman from . . .”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“And, you’re going to be this upset about this, I’m really questioning this now.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“A guy from a mountain in Manchuria could come here and demand a study. We can all ... There’s probably going to be many studies done here. I’m done.”

Comment by Freeholder Mudrick

“Director, may I? Circling back to your question. You asked if there was anyone on this Board that would call for the resignation of County Administrator and/or County Counsel and I heard two “no heres” twice.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“I believe you need to do an internal investigation and then you can come to that decision. Without an internal investigation, I believe we owe that to these people out here.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“You just said you weren’t making accusations.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“I’m not Richie.”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“That’s not an accusation.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“It’s an internal investigation, Richie.”

Comment by Freeholder Graham

“A review.”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“A review. And, if you’re not happy with that, all of these people ought to wonder why.”

Comment by Freeholder Crabb

“I think we’re all happy with that. As you guys can see ...”

Comment by Freeholder Phoebus

“I don’t think Richie is.”

Comment by Freeholder Vohden

“I didn’t say I wasn’t happy with it, I said it was an accusation.”

Comment by Freeholder Crabb

“As you can tell that we are. As you can see, this is probably the most passion that’s been up behind this dais ever since, I don’t know, back during the days when they had Joe DelBagno and he got hit by somebody that got hit by somebody else. It just lends itself to the very complicated set of circumstances that we have here. Five Freeholders made up their minds on it. It’s not a common mind. Right? But, each of us, as you can see, in a very passionate situation here worked through this stuff and came to these conclusions. With that, I’ll leave it, at that, and we’ll get on to business.”

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS
134-2015

- B. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR
135-2015 INSTALLING A LIEBERT UNIT IN THE IT SERVER ROOM AT THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (*This resolution is for authorization for Air Maintenance Solutions LLC, whom the County currently has an open-ended contract with, to install a Liebert Unit in the server room at the Prosecutor's Office in the amount of \$41,500.00*)
- C. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE ON-CALL
136-2015 ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES FOR VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY PROJECTS (*The Department of Engineering and Planning has determined that there are engineering service needs for various County projects totaling \$160,000.00 exceeding the bid threshold*)
- D. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BOARD OF CHOSEN
137-2015 FREEHOLDERS TO EXECUTE A NO COST TIME EXTENSION OF THE 2014 SUBCONTRACT WITH THE CENTER FOR PREVENTION AND COUNSELING TO FUND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES THROUGH FAMILY COURT FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION(*The full allocation of these funds was not spent by December 31, 2014; the JJC has approved a three month extension to allow for additional expenditure of \$7,090.00 in unexpended Family Court funds; these funds will be utilized by extending the 2014 contract with the Center for Prevention and Counseling to provide adolescent substance abuse services*)
- E. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY
138-2015 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES FOR THE STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SHIP) FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2014 TO MARCH 31, 2015 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,000.00
- F. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE
139-2015 ORDERS IN COMPLIANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 ET SEQ. FOR VARIOUS SERVICES, WITH ACCUMULATED VALUE LESS THAN THE BID THRESHOLD

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 Graham to approve the Financial Consent Agenda, seconded by Freeholder Vohden.

On Roll Call the vote was:

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

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no Minutes for approval.

11. APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS

There were no Appointments and/or Resignations.

12. RESOLUTION

1. RESOLUTION RE: RECOGNIZING MARCH 18, 2015 AS NATIONAL
140-2015 AGRICULTURE DAY
2. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT AMENDMENT OF SUSSEX
141-2015 COUNTY'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY FOR SAFETY SENSITIVE EMPLOYEES(*NJ Transit Director's name has been changed from Steve Fittante to Janelle Rivera*)

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

13. AWARDS OF CONTRACTS/CHANGE ORDERS/BIDS

A. Awards of Contracts

1. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR
142-2015 AERIAL LARVICIDING AND ADULTICIDING OF MOSQUITOES – 2015 (*it was recommended by the Department Administrator that an award be made to the only bidder, Rebecca Lynn Flying Service, for the unit prices bid and in the approximate amount of \$30,000.00*)
2. RESOLUTION RE: AWARDED A CONTRACT EXTENSION
143-2015 THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE NEXT GENERATION COMPUTER SOFTWARE/HARDWARE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE 911 CAPABLE CALL TAKING SYSTEM FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX(*This resolution is for authorization to extend the current contract for another year to Solacom Technologies Inc. for the purchase of the computer software/hardware equipment and support for the 911 Call Taking System on no additional cost.*)
2. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR
144-2015 MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING TRADE SERVICES (ELECTRICAL) TO BE PERFORMED IN AND AROUND VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX (*this Contract will be an open-ended contract with a minimum expenditure of \$300.00 and a maximum Contract amount of \$100,000.00*)
3. RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR
145-2015 MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING TRADE SERVICES (CARPENTRY) TO BE PERFORMED IN AND AROUND VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX (*this Contract will be an open-ended contract with a minimum expenditure of \$500.00 and a maximum Contract amount of \$200,000.00*)

5. **RESOLUTION RE: 146-2015** AWARDING A CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMMISSARY SERVICES FOR THE KEOGH DWYER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (*Contract extension (year three of the five year contract) will be in effect from April 24, 2015 until April 23, 2016 with the County reserving the right to renew and extend Contract for two additional years*)

6. **RESOLUTION RE: 147-2015** AWARDING A CONTRACT THROUGH COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO PICKERING, CORTS & SUMMERSON, INC. TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF COUNTY BRIDGE C-17 CARRYING ROSEVILLE ROAD OVER THE LACKAWANNA CUTOFF IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM, NJ PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 (*the County Engineer recommends awarding a contract to Pickering, Corts & Summerson, Inc., for a total lump sum of \$221,400.95 pursuant to its response dated February 26, 2015 to the County's Request for Proposals*)

B. Change Orders

1. **RESOLUTION RE: 148-2015** AWARD OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND SALMON BROS., INC., FOR REPLACEMENT OF SUSSEX COUNTY BRIDGE S-28 CARRYING OLD TANNERY ROAD, TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER, SUSSEX COUNTY, NJ (*The approval of Change Order No. 1 will result in an adjusted Contract amount of \$323,129.50 or a 1.16% increase of the original Contract amount*)

4. **RESOLUTION RE: 149-2015** AWARD OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 - FINAL TO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND SCHIFANO CONSTRUCTION CORP. FOR THE "2013 SUSSEX COUNTY ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM (*The approval of Change Order No. 1 – Final will result in an adjusted Contract amount of \$4,969,112.32 or a total decrease of 5.64%*)

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

Freeholder Graham stated that he wanted to applaud Walter Cramp's Department; he said he has gone through a lot of Change Orders over the last couple of years and he is absolutely amazed how small these amounts are even though the numbers seem large when you are looking at them on their own; the percentages, the oversight on these projects are terrific and he applauded Mr. Cramp and his Department.

On Roll Call the vote was:

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

14. FINANCIAL

There were no Financial items for this meeting.

15. PERSONNEL

- A. Personnel Agenda

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

16. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- A. Other

Mr. Eskilson said going back to Freeholder Phoebus' earlier report about the advertising on the buses; he advised that he received an email late today from Steve Gruchacz, Human Services Director, inquiring about casino advertising. Mr. Eskilson said that the County does have some prohibitions including alcohol, tobacco and political ads; he said he was not asking the Board to make a decision tonight, but to please think about it because he would like to come back to that discussion at a later date and get the Board's thoughts on it.

There was a short discussion with the Board agreeing to vote on it this evening.

MOTION made by Freeholder Graham to allow the County Administrator to speak with the Human Services Director to proceed with acquiring casino ads for Skylands Ride buses, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

Freeholder Phoebus asked Mr. Eskilson what the County received for a bus when they wrap them.

Mr. Eskilson replied that there was a series of prices; from a panel to a full wrap to the number of buses and he would have to get that information for Freeholder Phoebus.

Freeholder Phoebus asked if the County was starting to bring in revenue.

Mr. Eskilson replied that, yes, the County was starting to take in revenue; the County gets 50% of the advertising fees generated. Mr. Eskilson told Freeholder Phoebus that he would get her the total fees generated to date plus the schedule; he didn't think the County had done any full wraps yet, just mostly panels, and there was also an option to do the inside of the buses which no one has decided to do yet.

17. COUNTY COUNSEL

Mr. McConnell said he had nothing for this meeting.

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

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Freeholder Vohden reported that property values are on the rise in Sussex County which is a good thing; he provided the Board with handouts and statistics regarding lis pendens in Sussex County. Freeholder Vohden updated that Board with organizations within Sussex County that are available to aid families that are facing foreclosure.

Freeholder Vohden also spoke to former Freeholder Susan Zellman who is the former Executive Director of the Housing Partnership of North Jersey and she advised him to call the Housing Partnership about its services to avoid foreclosure; he mentioned that the Housing Partnership is looking for a volunteer from Sussex County to serve as the Sussex County representative to a Task Force Committee. Freeholder Vohden also spoke to a representative from HUD.

Freeholder Vohden then spoke about the Sussex County Department of Human Services whose mission is to improve the quality of life of Sussex County residents through an integrated approach to comprehensive services that meets the needs of individuals, families and communities.

Freeholder Vohden said that as Freeholders, they are responsible for setting County policy and in that light, he suggested that the Board instruct the County Administrator, John Eskilson, to meet with Human Services Administrator, Steve Gruchacz, and take the steps necessary to establish a policy to bring together the homeowners in need of assistance and the organizations that provide that assistance and to search for grant opportunities and applications to help with that program.

Freeholder Phoebus replied that she felt that the County would have to hire more personnel in Human Services since right now they are running short on personnel and it's a very stressful situation especially over in Social Services and the Transitional Health Care is running very tight right now, so to ask that of Human Services you would have to agree to hire more employees.

Mr. Eskilson asked the Board if he should approach Steve Gruchacz, Administrator of Human Services, to have him do an analysis of impact on staff and potential cost of this. The Board agreed.

19. NEW BUSINESS

Freeholder Phoebus brought up the Transportation Trust Fund saying there have been studies that New Jersey is spending up to 12 times the National Average to build and maintain our State highways; Senator Mike Doherty from Warren County has introduced legislation to study why it is so expensive to build roads in New Jersey.

Freeholder Graham reported that as the liaison to the Economic Development Partnership he attended that last meeting with John Eskilson and he also had a meeting with Tammie Horsfield, Sussex County Chamber of Commerce and reported that there was some good news in Sussex County; he gave an update of some of the positive things taking place in the County.

There was a short discussion.

Mr. McConnell said going back to Freeholder Phoebus' comments about the Transportation Trust Fund, was there a directive for him from the Board. Freeholder Crabb replied that, yes, there was. Mr. McConnell confirmed that the Board wanted to give him, County Counsel, direction to prepare a Resolution supporting Senator Doherty's Bill in the Senate; however, he wanted to review the Bill first. Freeholder Phoebus said she would forward Mr. Eskilson the Bill for review.

Freeholder Crabb then said that with regards to the State Comptroller Resolution he would like to have County Counsel read it into the record without objection from the Board. There was no objection.

Mr. McConnell read the following Resolution into the record:

**RESOLUTION RE: REQUESTING THE STATE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE TO
150-2015 CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY SOLAR**

PROJECT FINANCED THROUGH THE MORRIS COUNTY
IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Morris County Improvement Authority (“MCIA”) has previously issued \$26,715,000.00 aggregate principal amount of Renewable Energy Program Lease Revenue Bonds, the principal and interest of which is guaranteed by the County of Sussex (the County), to fund what is commonly known as the Sussex Solar Project at various local units within the County; and

WHEREAS, since the County has experienced significant issues and financial liabilities due to energy market conditions, and unforeseen issues amongst developers and their contractor, the County believes an independent evaluation of the Sussex Solar Projects by an unrelated third party is warranted; and

WHEREAS, the State Comptroller’s office, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:15C-10 has a “duty to audit and monitor the process of soliciting proposals for the process of awarding contracts by contracting units which contracts involve a significant consideration or expenditure of funds”; and

WHEREAS, a review by the State Comptroller’s office is consistent with its “duty to audit and monitor contracts”; and

WHEREAS, if, as a result of the State Comptroller audit and review, wrong doing is discovered, the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office is to be notified to commence an investigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholder of the County of Sussex in the State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The County of Sussex requests the State Comptroller’s office to review the Sussex Solar Projects and, if, it determines in its own discretion, to audit the Solar Project and advise the County of procedures, safeguards, and revisions it recommends to any of the future procurements by the County.
2. The within Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. McConnell suggested having this Resolution forwarded to the State Comptroller, the MCIA, Morris County, Somerset County and the Somerset County Improvement Authority as well.

Freeholder Mudrick advised that while Mr. McConnell was reading, he mentioned Morris County and asked Mr. McConnell if that should have been Sussex County. Mr. McConnell said, yes, it should read Sussex County.

MOTION made by Freeholder Graham to adopt the Resolution that was just read into the Record by Mr. McConnell, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

Freeholder Vohden referred back to Freeholder Phoebus’ request for a Resolution supporting Senator Doherty’s Bill and asked for a copy of the Bill. Freeholder Phoebus said she had a copy in front of her and would forward the Bill number to Mr. Eskilson.

Freeholder Vohden reported that at the last North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, this past Monday, Assemblyman Wisniewski, who’s chairman of the Legislative Committee on Transportation gave a half hour report and did mention that they are looking closely at the high cost of building and maintaining roads in New Jersey.

There was a short discussion.

Freeholder Crabb suggested, without objection, that the Board ask County Counsel to put together a Resolution with regards to the ongoing monitoring of the Sussex County

Renewable Energy Program Restart and report back to the Board on the particulars as they come out and asked that the Resolution be ready for the next Meeting

Freeholder Vohden and Freeholder Graham agreed with this directive, but just wanted to make sure that they were not going to bring in another government agency that is going to interfere nor be involved in any decisions and they need to bring any issues to the attention of the Board.

Mr. McConnell said this is already in draft form and has a County representative mentioned therein so they would fulfill that role and if anyone wants to see the draft so far it's only a template and you'll see what the provisions are and that it is a monitor and report.

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

MOTION made at 6:42 p.m. by Freeholder Graham to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

Comment by Harry Dunleavy

Harry Dunleavy came forward; he stated that he had to disagree with Freeholder Vohden's statement about what great schools the County had and provided statistics on what it costs the County and State to have local school boards.

Comment by Michael Lensak

Michael Lensak of Andover Township came forward; he explained the reasons behind Andover Township calling for the resignation or termination of the person or persons that are responsible for the Sussex County taxpayers being responsible for the money owed to the legal teams handling the solar issue.

Comment by Kurt Gewecke

Kurt Gewecke came forward; he quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. saying the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at the time of challenge and controversy and even though this Board is divided he sees an impassioned response from both sides. He said that he feels that each side is trying to do the best thing in their minds for their constituents; however, there are provisions in the settlement agreement for all of you to mitigate and I would encourage the Freeholder Board to explore those to their fullest.

Comment by Tom Walsh

Tom Walsh of Andover Township came forward; he stated that we are all politicians, we all make mistakes, but we all try to do the right thing; no one is saying who is right and who is wrong, you are all voting with your conscience, but there is accountability and the person or persons responsible should be terminated or they should resign.

MOTION made at 6:56 p.m. by Freeholder Mudrick to close the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Handled earlier in the meeting.

RESOLUTION RE: REQUESTING EXECUTIVE SESSION
151-2015

- A. Personnel
- B. Contract

- C. Litigation
- D. Other Matters

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

22. REMINDERS

Wednesday March 25, 2015 Regular Meeting – 5:00 PM

23. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made at 6:55 p.m. by Freeholder Mudrick to adjourn, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

John H. Eskilson, Clerk

DATED: MARCH 11, 2015