

REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 2015

5:00 PM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item

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

1. Proclamation in recognition of Nicholas A. Shrope earning the Boy Scout Eagle Award.
2. Proclamation in recognition of Ryan Weiss earning the Boy Scout Eagle Award.
3. Proclamation in recognition of April as being 'Child Abuse Prevention Month' in the County of Sussex.

MOTION made by Freeholder Phoebus to approve these Proclamations, seconded by Freeholder George Graham and passed unanimously.

- B. Presentation

1. Acknowledging the retirement of Laura Camp, Special Probate Clerk, for the Surrogate's Office, who retired after 18 3/4 years with the County.

7. **PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR**

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

MOTION made at 5:05 p.m. by Freeholder Vohden to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Graham and passed unanimously.

Comment from Dennis McConnell, County Counsel

Mr. McConnell addressed the Board. He read from his letter dated March 25, 2015 which was addressed to the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mr. McConnell read the letter which was a response to Freeholder Graham's request that he resign his employment as County Counsel. Mr. McConnell took the opportunity to publicly and respectfully decline this request. He referenced the letter that Freeholder Graham sent him dated March 14, 2015 and commented on the letter.

Mr. McConnell said I have been asked, quite publicly, by Freeholder Graham to resign my employment as Sussex County Counsel. That public request directly, and unjustifiably, impugns my professional standing in the community. I therefore take this opportunity to publicly decline his request. Below is the Mr. McConnell's letter that he read.

In his March 14, 2015, letter, addressed to me, but simultaneously released to the press, Freeholder Graham:

- A. States that he suddenly lacks confidence in my abilities. This is surprising, because Freeholder Graham has never once during the entire prior course of the solar project, or otherwise during my time as County Counsel, expressed any objection to, or loss of confidence in, any advice or course of action undertaken by me on the County's behalf in this or in any other matter.
- B. Without mentioning any specifics, he expresses disappointment in the way the Sussex County Renewable Energy Program was handled from a legal and tactical perspective. In particular, he is critical of the recent settlement.
 - 1. I would remind Freeholder Graham that on October 22, 2014, he voted along every other Freeholder to unanimously approve a "term sheet" which fully set forth the financial aspects of the settlement between the County, MasTec and the Morris County Improvement Authority.
 - 2. Sussex benefitted from a clause in the "term sheet" that provided that if more favorable terms should be included in the agreements reached with Morris or Somerset Counties, Sussex would automatically receive those beneficial terms. Sussex attained a "most favored nation" status among the counties involved.
 - 3. All three Counties approved the settlement with MasTec and Sunlight entities after months of intensive negotiations.
 - 4. On February 25, 2015, after the settlement had been publicly presented to the Freeholder Board by special counsel, David Weinstein, Freeholder Graham stated that he recognized that a settlement was necessary. The minutes of that meeting reflect his comments that all who had voted had researched the issue and read all the materials, and that now the Board must move on and get the settlement implemented and "stand firm on that". He said that "anybody who throws criticism regarding transparency...those are unfounded".
 - 5. The alleged failure of the settlement to provide for accountability is a red herring. The settlement clause that prevents disparagement of the participants promotes, and does not hinder the ability of this settlement to go forward successfully as recognized by Freeholder Graham. The settlement does not preclude a factual examination, as has been recognized and acted upon by this Board already.
 - 6. Having had the benefit of special counsel, having voted to approve the substantive provisions of the settlement, and having publicly defended the transparency of the actions taken by the Freeholder Board, it is disingenuous for Freeholder Graham to publicly call for my resignation based solely upon unspecified criticism.

- C. Freeholder Graham requests that special counsel be appointed to handle the solar issues. However, the County has had the benefit of special counsel since September, 2014. On September 24, 2014, Freeholder Graham voted along with the other Freeholders to unanimously appoint the law firm of Archer & Greiner to handle solar project issues including litigation and settlement negotiations. That firm has been acting effectively in that position ever since.
- D. Freeholder Graham has also criticized my role in the initial transaction without knowing exactly what that role was.
1. On February 23, 2011, the Freeholders authorized a Shared Service Agreement with the Morris County Improvement Authority in connection with the Sussex County Renewable Energy program.
 2. That agreement gave Sussex County the opportunity to retain the professional services of a financial advisor, energy consultant, engineer or any other professional that the Freeholder Board should deem necessary to promote the County's interests. If the Sussex Freeholders should determine not to hire its own consultants to solely represent Sussex County, then the consultants retained by Morris County would be deemed to represent Sussex County's interests.
 3. The Morris County Improvement Authority represented that they had retained "experienced legal, engineering, energy consulting, and financial advisory consultants, consisting of Birdsall Services Group and Gabel Associates, Inglesion, Pearlman, Wyciskala & Taylor LLC and the NW Financial Group LLC.
 4. The decision to retain independent financial, engineering or other advisors or to utilize those services retained by MCIA was solely that of the Freeholder Board at the time. They had the opportunity to go out and hire additional staff for this complicated matter or use Morris County. The Board at that time made the decision to use the representatives of Morris County because they have been involved in four previous projects; two in Morris and two in Somerset.
 5. My role in the Sussex County Renewable Energy program, as in any other County project, is to provide thoughtful, cogent legal counsel. I am solely a counselor. I do not have the authority to control the decisions made by the five Board members that make up the Freeholder Board at any given time. While I can guide and suggest, I don't vote, nor can I prohibit the Board or any member from voting for or against any particular project.
 6. Freeholder Graham indicates that many residents of Sussex County are disappointed in the solar project. Clearly, anyone involved in it in any capacity is "disappointed". Be that as it may, the Board that was in office in 2011 made informed decisions based on the facts and materials presented to them. Those Board Members chose to make decisions that they believed to be in the best interests of the residents, just as the current Board did in approving the present settlement.

Freeholder Graham fully understands that the County Renewable Energy program is not "my" project. Yet he has translated his disappointment with the solar project into a loss of confidence in my ability as the attorney for the County. Without giving a single specific example he has publicly stated that my advice has been so bad that I should resign. I will not do so. I have served as Sussex County Counsel since 1989. For the past twenty-six years it has been a constant honor and privilege to serve the residents of Sussex County. Over that period I have earned the respect of my peers, former Freeholders, and my County co-workers.

I believe that the residents of Sussex County will continue to benefit from my experience and abilities as County Counsel. Further, it is not in my nature to acquiesce to unfounded innuendo or criticism. Therefore, I respectfully decline Freeholder Graham's request.

Comment from Skip Danielson, Hunter Lane, Byram, NJ

Mr. Danielson came forward: He thanked the Board in advance for their positive action on the Resolution that is on the Agenda today in regards to the supporting steps by New Jersey Officials to protect and support Federal Military Bases located in the State of New Jersey. He stated getting ahead of the curve is essential. He stated he has been working as a volunteer over the past 40 years with the employers of the Supporters of the Guard Reserve in New Jersey and he thinks it is very important that we stay ahead of what the administration of the executive branch of government in Washington is doing to prevent the bases from being closed.

MOTION made at 5:16 p.m. by Freehold Phoebus to close the public session, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

8. **FREEHOLDERS' COMMENTS**

Comments by Freeholder Vohden

- **Daughters of the American Revolution**

Freeholder Vohden attended The Daughters of the American Revolution Annual Awards Luncheon. The four certificates of recognition that were approved at the last Board of Chosen Freeholders' meeting were presented to the recipients along proclamations to the same four individuals from Congressman Scott Garrett. Recipient John Harrigon thanked the Freeholder Board for their assistance with his projects to help the veterans in Sussex County.

- **Korean War Veteran Tribute**

Freeholder Vohden attended a Korean War Veteran tribute sponsored by the Sussex Elks Lodge at the Homer Restaurant in Sparta. Each of the veterans was presented with a personalized dog tag and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Elks and a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congressman Scott Garrett.

- **NJ Secretary of Agriculture**

Freeholder Vohden joined NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Doug Fisher and a group of State Park employees and elected officials on a very informative tour of the sugaring operation of Lusscroft Farm. There was a Maple Sugaring open house at the Farm. Mr. Vohden stated it was another great opportunity to promote Eco Agro-tourism in the County.

- **Warren County Board of Agriculture Annual Dinner**

Freeholder Vohden attended the Warren County Board of Agriculture annual dinner meeting. He stated there were six questions on their agenda and it confirmed that we have the same issues in Sussex County as they do in Warren County. Senator Steve Oroho, Mike Dougherty along with other elected officials did a great job answering questions. There was a discussion on the importance of farms throughout state and the importance to work with our farmers around the State, not only to preserve farmland but also to protect the farmers. Mr. Vohden stated: from the latest Farm Census there are 885 farms in Sussex County. 443, almost half of the farms, have gross sales less than \$2500 and only 46 farms in the County gross more than \$100,000. He stated we don't want to lose our farmers.

- **Sussex County Board Agriculture**

Freeholder Vohden stated at the Sussex County Board of Agriculture meeting this past Monday night it was reported there will be a meeting on the upcoming changes to the Farmland Assessment Law. The 885 farms will be impacted by this Law, especially the smaller farms. A meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tranquility Methodist Church in Green at the corner of Rt. 611 and Rt. 517. It is \$20.00 for Non-members of the Farm Bureau; Members are free. This is a very important meeting for our farmers.

Comments by Freeholder Mudrick

- **Read Across America**

Freeholder Mudrick stated the last two Mondays in March are celebrated as the Read Across America Days of the Week. He stated he had an opportunity to read to some children at the Dennis Library on Monday, March 16.

- **Project Self-Sufficiency**

Freeholder Mudrick attended Project Self-Sufficiency's program for Little Sprouts, and read to some 3 and 5 year olds.

- **911 Center Open House**

Freeholder Mudrick visited the 911 Center's Open House and got some great feedback. As the liaison to Sheriff Strada, Freeholder Mudrick read an email from Mike Strada thanking his team for their hard work at the Open House. He stated there was a lot of positive feedback.

- **Jail Study Working Group Meeting**

Freeholder Mudrick and Freeholder Graham attended a Jail Study Working Group meeting. He mentioned it was the second one since Freeholder Crabb had asked appointed Freeholder Graham and Freeholder Mudrick to be a part of that group. The first one they attended was on February 17. A power point presentation was made by Joe Biuso. The one thing that was made very clear and was unanimous was that the position for a jail population manager. This is definitely something that is going to be essential going forward.

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

Freeholder Mudrick attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He stated it was a very positive and well-attended event. He thanks the Mayor and Newton Counsel for their help.

- **Recent Retiree**

Freeholder Mudrick congratulated Lynn Valos, Senior Library Assistant, on her recent retirement as of February 28, 2015.

Comments by Freeholder Phoebus

- **Lackawanna Cutoff**

Freeholder Phoebus said the permits for DEP will be rolling out within the next month. She said that will be all the permits and that means it is a go. They will be going out to bid to complete it. She said this will be wonderful for Sussex County.

- **911 Open House**

Freeholder Phoebus attended the 911 Open House and she said it was extremely impressive to see all the screens on. They did a wonderful job.

- **Title of the Cemetery**

Freeholder Phoebus said she was asked by a veteran to ask a question to John Eskilson and Dennis McConnell regarding the title of the cemetery. Mr. Eskilson mentioned there is a problem with the right-of-way or the right-to-cross our right-of-away, which is an old railroad right-of-way which will be conveyed to the State of New Jersey as a trail. He said this is the last piece that needs to be worked out so we need some form of description or map that identifies the right-to-cross that because there are some graves on the back side. Mr. Eskilson said he has corresponded with John Harrigon regarding this and suggested he get in touch with his people. Mr. Eskilson said to my understanding that is the only issue that remains.

Mr. McConnell commented that they are working with their surveyor to get that description. If we conveyed that the Deeds are ready to be signed before the surveyors look at it they would be land locked. They need to get the surveyor to get the crossing lined up for them.

Freehold Phoebus said that it would be a good idea to convey that to them.

- **Human Service Advisory Council Planning Subcommittee**

Freehold Phoebus reported the Human Service Advisory Council Planning Subcommittee has held two meetings to create a community survey for 2015 Needs Assessment. The Division of Community and Youth Services, Senior Services, Health Department and Atlantic Health Care Systems are all collaborating in this effort. The Sussex County Mental Health Board is low on actual voting members. She said there needs to be certain classification for members. If anyone would like to apply for membership see Department Head Steve Gruchacz.

- **Social Services**

Freeholder Phoebus said Senior Services held it first focus group for the needs assessment in Vernon on March 18, 2015. A newly created state system process called SNAP Track will be implemented in Social Services to improve the SNAP food stamp timeliness so they can get to the citizens quicker than what is being done currently.

- **Social Services**

Freeholder Phoebus said the Sparta High School students have been collecting donations during their participation in the Champions for Charity Initiatives to benefit social services food pantry. Skylands Ride Bus is scheduled to pick up the donations on Thursday, April 2. Social Services were awarded a grant in the amount of \$500 from the Ronetco Family of Shoprite. This grant will help stock pantry shelves through the year. Freeholder Phoebus commented that they are very busy over there.

- **Bases in New Jersey**

Freeholder Phoebus commended on Skip's comment that Assemblywoman Allison McHose and Assemblyman Parker Space are writing a Bill to support and keep these bases from closing and there is one being done in the Senate. This is very concerning to all of us, especially with Picatinny Arsenal.

- **Woman in Municipalities**

Freeholder Phoebus attended a brunch on Women in Municipalities. It is once a year and this one was in Sparta. The guest speaker was Betty Lou De Croce. She said it was very interesting.

- **Farmland Assessment**

Freeholder Phoebus said there is going to be a meeting on upcoming changes to the Farmland Assessment Law. The 885 farms will be impacted by this change in Law. The meeting will be Thursday, April 9, at 7 p.m. at the Tranquility Church in Green at the corner at 611 and 517. The fee is \$20.00 for non-members of the Fair Boro. Members are free.

Comments made by Freeholder Graham

- **Clean Community's**

Freeholder Graham attended the Clean Community's gathering at Waterloo Village. He reported there were about 500 to 700 students from all over the State. He said Freeholder Phoebus and Senator Oroho were in attendance. Freeholder Graham put out a very strong Thank You to ToniLou Martin from Montague. He said ToniLou is the assistant CFO at Andover Township. She coordinated the event and she did a wonderful job. Freeholder Graham mentioned he would like to get a proclamation for the Clean Communities.

- **Jail Capital Projects**

Freeholder Graham stated that Freeholder Mudrick and he did attend the jail capital projects. He strongly agrees with a population manager. He said the population manager pay dividends because it allows us ahead of time to know what is coming down the pike in lieu of suddenly we have 200 in our population and we don't know how it happened.

- **Capital Projects**

Freehold Graham mentioned they are very close to done. We are coming in at \$10,400,000 on capital projects and roughly \$400,000 plus for cash down payments. He said this puts our strong support with the roads. He thinks people in the County should know that we watched everything very closely and we review things more than once. He stated he was very proud to serve on this.

- **911 Open House and Parades.**

Freeholder Graham said he also attended the 911 Open House and parade

Comments made by Freeholder Crabb

- **Capital Projects**

Freeholder Crabb thanked the capital projects committee. He thought they did a really good job as far as the difficult decisions with regards to prioritization. The hurdle bar was very high. It put us in a good position to still have traction for years going forward. Freeholder Crabb said he brought this up because he wanted to congratulate the staff working there. He said everything is working seamlessly.

- **Board of School Estimate Meeting**

Freeholder Crabb mentioned they had the Board of School Estimate meetings for both the County College and the Vocational school. He thanked them both for their hard work. He said the thing he is most proud of from both those organizations is how they have dovetailed the scope of what they can offer and the synergies between the Vocation school and the County College. There is declining enrollment at the college and the way they are handling it by increasing the scope of what they can offer is going to be something that will give them traction going forward. The students at the vocational school are there because they want to be. The pride we are seeing coming out of there on so many levels is wonderful. He said they have good leadership and a great staff and he congratulates them.

- **Safe Routes to School Grant**

Freeholder Crabb thanked his home town and through the efforts of Senator Oroho they have received a \$300,000 Safe Routes to School Grant to complete sidewalks. This will allow them to dovetail off the via duct to have a real gateway into Franklin Borough which is how it used to be.

John Eskilson stated that there was an agreement that was authorized a while back to make a contribution for the portion of the sidewalk that will connect to the via duct so that we do not do a \$30,000 sidewalk when it appeared they might have funds coming down the pike so that is already done.

Freeholder Crabb mentioned that Franklin has been waiting a very long time for this and they will be very proud of it.

9. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. RESOLUTION RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS
152-2015
- B. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE
153-2015 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
- C. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY
154-2015 APPROPRIATIONS OF 2015 OPERATING BUDGET FOR
THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX
- D. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS
155-2015 OF 2015 OPERATING BUDGETS OF THE LIBRARY, HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS FOR THE COUNTY OF
SUSSEX
- E. RESOLUTION RE: TRANSFER OF 2014 APPROPRIATION RESERVES
156-2015
- F. RESOLUTION RE: RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH DELTA DENTAL PLAN
157-2015 NEW JERSEY, INC., FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
COUNTY OF SUSSEX EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE
APRIL 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015
- G. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX TO ENTER
158-2015 INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR TEMPORARY ACCESS TO PROPERTY WITHIN THE "LACKAWANNA CUTOFF" TO PERFORM DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE C-17 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 ET SEQ. *(The Agreement requires the County and its Vendor's indemnify, defend and hold harmless NJDOT and NJ Transit from any liability and to procure Commercial General Liability Insurance with NJDOT named as additional insured in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence with excess or umbrella coverage such that the primary or excess coverage together equals \$2,000,000.00 as well as Errors and Omissions, Professional Liability Insurance and/or Professional Liability Malpractice Insurance with a minimum liability of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence)*

- H. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR AND BOARD CLERK TO APPROVE A REVISED APPLICATION FOR 2013 LOCAL BRIDGES FUTURE NEEDS FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE O-07, BOROUGH OF OGDENSBURG, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY *(This request was made because delays in right of way acquisition for the rehabilitation of Bridge X-09, required prior to award of a construction contract, made it unlikely the project could be awarded before the December 23, 2015 NJDOT construction award deadline)*

- I. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSTALLATION, TRAINING AND PURCHASE OF NEW COMPUTER SOFTWARE EQUIPMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX *(The purchase of the new computer software equipment is to upgrade the network firewalls, internet filter and server from the standard edition of WMWare software to enterprise edition)*

- J. RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION OF PLANS ENTITLED "PROPOSED STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE III TO COUNTY ROUTE 560, VILLAGE OF LAYTON, SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP" DATED NOVEMBER 2014 DEVELOPED BY HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOCIATES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SANDYSTON

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 these Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus.

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 Regular Meeting February 25, 2015

MOTION made by Freeholder Mudrick to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2015, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

11. APPOINTMENTS AND/OR RESIGNATIONS

There were no Appointments and/or Resignations.

12. RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORTING STEPS BY NEW JERSEY OFFICIALS TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT FEDERAL MILITARY BASES LOCATED IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
162-2015

MOTION made by Freeholder Vohden to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

Freeholder Vohden stated: This is very important that we stand behind our bases. Picatinny Arsenal is our sixth largest employer of people from Sussex County. Over 700 residents from Sussex County have good paying jobs with Picatinny Arsenal. It is very important for our economy that we keep these bases open.

13. AWARDS OF CONTRACTS/CHANGE ORDERS/BIDS

A. Awards of Contracts

1. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING TRADE SERVICES (PLUMBING) TO BE PERFORMED IN AND AROUND VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX**
163-2015
(the bid specifications allow for a Contract ending March 31, 2016 with the County reserving the right to renew and extend the Contract for a second consecutive one year period at the rates proposed in the bid proposal; this Contract will be an open-ended contract with a minimum expenditure of \$500.00 and a maximum Contract amount of \$75,000.00)
2. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING TRADE SERVICES (ROOFING) TO BE PERFORMED IN AND AROUND VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY BUILDINGS FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX**
164-2015
(the bid specifications allow for a Contract ending March 31, 2016 with the County reserving the right to renew and extend the Contract for a second consecutive one year period at the rates proposed in the bid proposal; this Contract will be an open-ended contract with a minimum expenditure of \$500.00 and a maximum Contract amount of \$200,000.00)
3. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO AHS HOSPITAL CORPORATION / NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER FOR ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES**
165-2015
(AHS Hospital Corporation/Newton Medical Center receive a total of \$8,010.00 in funding in order to provide adult substance abuse treatment services)
4. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS TO CENTER FOR PREVENTION AND COUNSELING FOR ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES**
166-2015
(Center for Prevention and Counseling receive a total of \$50,256.00 in funding in order to provide adult substance abuse treatment services)
5. **RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT EXTENSION THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING**
167-2015

PROCESS TO FREEDOM HOUSE INC. FOR ADULT
SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES
(Freedom House Inc. receive a total of \$45,000.00 in funding in order to
provide adult substance abuse treatment services pursuant to the
terms)

6. RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT EXTENSION
168-2015 THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING
PROCESS TO CAPITOL CARE, INC. FOR ADULT
SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES (*Capitol
Care, Inc. receive a total of \$14,253.00 in funding in order to provide
adult substance abuse treatment services pursuant to the terms*)
7. RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING A CONTRACT EXTENSION
169-2015 THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING
PROCESS TO SUNRISE HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC
FOR ADULT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT
SERVICES(*Sunrise House Foundation, Inc. receive a total of
\$155,843.00 in funding in order to provide
adult substance abuse treatment services pursuant to the terms*)

MOTION made by Freehold Vohden to adopt these Resolutions, and seconded by
Freeholder Mudrick.

DISCUSSION

Freeholder Phoebus stated that substance abuse is very near and dear to her heart. She
said she is voting yes on this but she wanted to make this comment. New Jersey is being hit
hardest with heroin. When you see how much money is going into this you just pray that the
people going into these programs get the help they need and start living active lives again.

On Roll call the vote was:

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

14. FINANCIAL

Nothing to report.

15. PERSONNEL

A. Personnel Agenda

MOTION to approve the personnel Agenda made by Freeholder Graham, seconded by
Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

16. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. Other

Administrator Eskilson stated that Freeholder Phoebus asked if he could supplement Freeholder Graham's report on the Capital Projects discussions. Included in those projects earlier described was a \$132,000 for a GIS 911 address update for the 911 system. That will provide us with very detailed information on every property within the 10 towns that we currently serve. It will describe things such as if you have a common address like a strip mall, it will include common names, Ross's Corner. As part of the overall plans attached to it is a Spillman software update that will address a lot of the issues that were raised a couple of years ago. I understand this will put us far in advance than any other dispatch operation in the County. We will be moving forward hopefully this makes it through. The Capital Project committee's recommendations are taken up by the budget committee and will get moving on that as soon as the budget is adopted.

Administrator Eskilson stated there is one item to follow up on with County Counsel's remarks and that is I also will not be resigning. Despite the lone cry of the Andover Township Committee who saw fit to try us in abstention, to convict us of charges that were not specified, I guess they were prepared from Newspaper reports, we were sentenced to termination now we are demanded to appear in front of some circus court held by those who have condemned us. I for one am not resigning. I am so glad I will be spending the rest of my career with Dennis McConnell my friend, colleague, mentor in a way that we choose. We will go out and sail into the sunset together in a method of our choosing as we deserve after 30 years or more of public service to this County and State. I appreciate your comments Counsel and I look forward to seeing it out with you.

17. COUNTY COUNSEL

Mr. McConnell said he has nothing except to advise as far as the settlement agreement with MasTec and Sunlight goes they have contacted with a proposed new sub-contractor. Vanguard is being reviewed presently by Sunlight as to those terms and conditions. We will keep you updated on that. There was an opportunity to place in that contract Genesis Engineering as an Owner's Representative but they saw the terms and conditions that an owner representative would have to comply with and it was a bit more than what they wanted to take on. They will be able to advise us by a separate agreement they are working on and have another set of independent eyes, but the Owner's Representative will be taking the place of Sunlight so that Sunlight does not slow up this process and we can get these projects done. We have input on whom the owner rep. will be. We have a couple of names provided by Genesis and our staff and also one from Morris County Improvement Authorities. We have some feelers out for some people that can take on that roll as an Owner Representative but we still have Genesis as our local people looking at the project as well. This will probably be brought to you next meeting.

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Freeholder Vohden said over the last few meeting we have been discussing foreclosure rates in Sussex County. Since March 1st, it has gone up to 78; that is 3 additional foreclosures a day. It is a crisis. At the last meeting we instructed County Administrator Eskilson to ask Human Services Administrator, Steve Gruchacz to take the steps necessary to establish a policy to bring together the homeowners in need of assistance with the organizations that provide that assistance. Steve Gruchacz has arranged for Chris Brogan from the Housing Partnership down in Dover to attend and speak at the April 22 meeting at the Sussex County Human Services Advisory Committee. Each county in New Jersey is mandated by the State to appoint this committee to review county level human services activities and to serve as the primary vehicle for making local recommendations to assist in programs to meet these needs. Mr. Brogan will be speaking about the services that they have available and the information they provide to homeowners with financial problems and how they can move forward with public outreach and education to these families. For the month of May they will be setting up seminars on foreclosures and assistance to the homeowners in trouble. We will be in a position to help these people. It is so important that they get help. 9,100 families are in foreclosure. This is a serious issue.

Freeholder Director Crabb reported that we approved \$300,000 in support of the Sussex County Fire Academy. As Skip knows, Sussex County is the last county in the whole

state that is completely volunteer service for their fire and ambulance. When I used to speak to my Town Counsel before I became political with regards to my firehouse budget I suggested to them that that is the only part of their budget where they are probably getting a 40 to 50 fold return. If any of these towns had to hire a professional fire fighter or rescue person full time, it would blow out their entire budget. This is something that this Board has maintained that \$300,000 level even through the roughest years. Even through 2009 and 2010 we have maintained the \$300,000 because we see it as something we can provide our volunteers to help them along.

19. NEW BUSINESS

None to report.

20. PUBLIC SESSION FROM THE FLOOR

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

MOTION made at 6:52 p.m. by Freeholder Phoebus to open the meeting to the Public, seconded by Freeholder Vohden and passed unanimously.

Comment by Mr. Kimble

Mr. Kimble came forward and had a request and asked to the extent that you can participate in this to keep the station that I understand will be at Roosevelt Road and turn it into the Christmas tree at Howard Blvd that there are tons of lights on that tree. If you could participate at the County level to get the lights shielded some way. If it is like the one in Mt. Arlington, Sussex and Nature are wonderful together except for the light pollution.

Freeholder Phoebus said the design of it actually went through Andover Township's Committee and she thought it was shown to Andover's Township's Planning Board. This was after I left Andover Township. It is a scaled down version but you might want to talk to Vita Thompson because they had them involved in the artwork for it. They are listening to what the Township's needs are. I know that the parking lot got approved for 125 parking spaces but they are only going to build for 50 to 75 cars right now. Freeholder Phoebus said he should talk to Vita Thompson because she is very much involved.

Mr. Kimble said it is a personal interest. It is going to light up the night skies.

MOTION made at 5:55 p.m. by Freeholder Vohden to close the public session, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no items for Executive Session.

RESOLUTION RE: REQUESTING EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

22. REMINDERS

Friday
Wednesday

April 3, 2015
April 8, 2015

Holiday – Good Friday
Regular Meeting – 5:00 PM

County Administrator Eskilson said he wanted to bring the Board up to date with audio recordings. We with Thor Carlson have been working on that issue since earlier this year. He is looking into working with Sound Cloud or an option through CitiNet. This is in process and it is in expensive. If you go to the Morris County website you can see what it looks like.

23. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made at 5:56 p.m. by Freeholder Murdick to adjourn, seconded by Freeholder Phoebus and passed unanimously.

John H. Eskilson, Clerk

DATED: March 25, 2015