



JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

COUNTY OF MERCER
McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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LISA M. VENA
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

FORMAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2016

MINUTES

Chair Cannon called the Agenda Meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. on February 11, 2016, in Room 211 of the Joyce L. McDade Administration Building, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board answered the Roll Call of the Clerk to the Board:

Present - Freeholders Carabelli, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Walter, and Cannon
Absent – Freeholder Frisby

The Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

Chair Cannon called the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.

The Clerk to the Board announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, notice of this Formal Meeting had been mailed to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian and The Princeton Packet newspapers as well as having been posted in both the County Administration Building and Courthouse at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

2016 MERCER COUNTY BUDGET ADDRESS

County Executive Brian M. Hughes presented the Freeholder Board with the 2016 budget message. County Executive Hughes stated that since he has been County Executive the budget proposals have been marked by austerity and balance, and this year again represents the Administration's efforts to provide the best possible government to taxpayers in Mercer County.

County Executive Hughes also announced a pending agreement to send inmates housed at the Mercer County Correction Center to Hudson County. He spoke about the aging jail complex in Hopewell Township and Hudson County's impressive and progressive range of programs and medical services offered to inmates. **(See Schedule A, attached hereto, and made a part hereof)**

The Freeholders collectively requested further information regarding the possible closure of the Mercer County Correction Center.

County Executive Hughes offered the Board the opportunity to tour the jail facility located in Hudson County.

At this time, Chair Cannon invited the members of the public to comment on any item listed on the Agenda.

The following individuals expressed their concerns regarding the possible closure of the Mercer County Correction Center, the proposed Salary Ordinance and increasing tax-rates.

Vincent Capodanno
Ira Marks
Lisa Richford
Andrew Curcio
Dave Beckett
Charles Peters

Gloria Anderson
Antonio Gambino
Kelly Ottobre
Ray Peterson
Stuart Altermann
Brian Mitchell

COMMUNICATIONS

Freeholder Walter had a question regarding the following proposed communication received from Andrew A. Mair, County Administrator, dated February 11, 2016, RE: Questions from Freeholder Meeting of February 9, 2016. She referenced the response to R-16 regarding the Award of Bid for Janitorial Services at various County buildings. Freeholder Walter asked if Extension Services was included in the bid.

Mr. Andrew Mair, County Administrator, explained there was a change in service and Extension Services was not included in this particular bid.

A communication was received from Marcella Covello, Purchasing Agent, dated January 22, 2016, RE: Minutes and Bid Results for the Week of December 14, 2015.

A communication was received from Marcella Covello, Purchasing Agent, dated February 2, 2016, RE: Minutes and Bid Results from the Week of January 18, 2016.

A communication was received from Marcella Covello, Purchasing Agent, dated January 22, 2016, RE: Minutes and Bid Results from the Week of December 28, 2015.

A communication was received from Marcella Covello, Purchasing Agent, dated January 22, 2016, RE: Minutes and Bid Results for the Week of January 4, 2016.

A communication was received from Tonya D. Carter, Acting Municipal Clerk, dated January 26, 2016, RE: Resolution No. 27-16, Regarding the PennEast Pipeline, the Crestwood Marc II Pipeline, the Garden State Expansion Project and the Southern Reliability Link Project.

A communication was received from Brian M Hughes, County Executive, dated January 29, 2016, RE: Appointments Requiring Freeholder Advise and Consent.

A communication was received from Andrew A. Mair, County Administrator, dated February 11, 2016, RE: Questions from Freeholder Meeting of February 9, 2016.

RESOLUTIONS

Chair Cannon called for a Motion to add the following proposed Resolutions to the Agenda.

Freeholder Koontz offered the following Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Colavita:

RESOLUTION TO EXCEED THE COUNTY BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A
CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

And,

INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF
THE 2016 BUDGET **“ADDED TO THE AGENDA”**

VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes -6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 1.

Ayes – Freeholders Carabelli, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Walter and Cannon

Absent – Freeholder Frisby

The Clerk to the Board called for a Motion to Vote in Block on the following Resolutions listed on the Agenda.

Freeholder Cimino moved, seconded by Freeholder Walter, that:

**RESOLUTIONS NO. R-1 THROUGH R-22, ON THE AGENDA BE VOTED ON
IN BLOCK**

VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes - 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -1.

Ayes – Freeholders Carabelli, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Walter, and Cannon

Absent – Freeholder Frisby

- NO. 2016-84** AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2015-274, ADOPTED MAY 28, 2015 AND AUTHORIZE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE HOMELESS (SSH); AMEND RESOLUTION TO REFLECT THE ADDITION ON INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT (ICM) SERVICE DOLLARS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$61,000.00, RESULTING IN A NEW CONTRACT TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$779,728.00. PERIOD REMAINS JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016
- NO. 2016-85** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD ACCEPT A GRANT RENEWAL AWARD FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES FOR THE 2016 MERCER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE SERVICES FOR MERCER COUNTY RESIDENTS. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. AMOUNT: \$901,049.00 [\$799,961.00 (STATE FUNDS); \$101,088.00 (COUNTY MATCH FUNDS)]
- NO. 2016-86** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH DELAWARE VALLEY PEDIATRICS ASSOCIATES, P.A. TO PROVIDE ROUTINE MEDICAL SERVICES TO YOUTH RESIDING AT ANCHOR HOUSE AND MERCER HOUSE. PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2016. AMOUNT: \$25,000.00 (COUNTY FUNDS)

- NO. 2016-87** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOR THE CULTURAL AND HERITAGE DIVISION TO PROVIDE GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MERCER COUNTY REGION. AMOUNT: \$11,096.00. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016
- NO. 2016-88** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A MUTUAL AID AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MERCER OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND JURISDICTIONS WITHIN MERCER COUNTY IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION OR A FORMAL DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY. PERIOD: DECEMBER 31, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020
- NO. 2016-89** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT THE 2014 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (EMAA) GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE SUB-GRANT AWARD WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY. FEDERAL AWARD: \$55,000.00; COUNTY IN-KIND MATCH: \$55,000.00; ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AWARD: \$25,000.00; MUNICIPAL IN-KIND MATCH: \$25,000.00. TOTAL AWARD: \$160,000.00. PERIOD: JULY 1, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015

- NO. 2016-90** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND STONY BROOK-MILLSTONE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE ACQUISITION OF THE HOPEWELL VETERINARY PROPERTY, KNOWN AS BLOCK 18, LOT 66 IN HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY. COUNTY COST NOT TO EXCEED: \$194,750.00
- NO. 2016-91** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO SUBMIT A PETITION OF DISSOLUTION TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE I95/295 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (TDD)
- NO. 2016-92** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A DEED, A CULVERT ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS WITH ARISTA OF EWING, LLC, RELATED TO THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 118, P/O LOT 2, EWING TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY (NORTH OLDEN AVENUE/PARKSIDE AVENUE)
- NO. 2016-93** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A TERMINATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MERCER AND EWING SHOPPING CENTER ASSOCIATES, LLC, REGARDING A PORTION OF LOT 2, BLOCK 118, EWING TOWNSHIP, MERCER COUNTY (N. OLDEN AVENUE/PARKSIDE AVENUE)

- NO. 2016-94** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT (AWARDED THROUGH A NON-FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS) WITH SAPHIRE AND ALBARRAN, ARCHITECTURE LLC, TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$100,000.00. PERIOD: FEBRUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2017
- NO. 2016-95** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A RENTAL CAR OPERATOR GROUND TRANSPORTATION PERMIT AGREEMENT WITH AVIS/BUDGET CAR RENTAL, LLC TO PROVIDE GROUND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AT THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT. PERIOD: JANUARY 28, 2016 THROUGH JANUARY 27, 2017
- NO. 2016-96** COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO "EXERCISE AN OPTION TO EXTEND" THE AWARD OF BID CONTRACT WITH VITAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR FURNISHING AND DELIVERING DATA SERVICE ON TAX RECORDS AND REPORTS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION. PERIOD: MARCH 28, 2016 TO MARCH 27, 2018. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$110,313.39 (AB2013-65B)

- NO. 2016-97** AWARD OF BID RECEIVED NOVEMBER 6, 2015 TO ALL CLEAN BUILDING SERVICES, INC., FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES AT VARIOUS BUILDINGS IN MERCER COUNTY, 612 AND 640 SOUTH BROAD STREET, (MCDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING), 175 SOUTH BROAD STREET, 400 WARREN STREET, (MERCER COUNTY CRIMINAL AND CIVIL COURTHOUSES) AND 930 SPRUCE STREET (MERCER COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICES), IN MERCER COUNTY. PERIOD: FEBRUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2018. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED: \$1,089,444.16. (AB2015-29)
- NO. 2016-98** REJECTION OF BIDS RECEIVED JANUARY 5, 2016 FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE EXISTING PROPANE FIRE TRAINING PROP AND RENOVATIONS TO THE DRILL TOWER BUILDING AND BURN BUILDING, THE LOW BID EXCEEDS THE BUDGET ALLOCATION AND THE ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE. SPECIFICATIONS SHALL BE REVISED WITH ALTERNATES (AB2015-15)
- NO. 2016-99** APPOINTMENT OF WALTER BROWN TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE MERCER COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
- NO. 2016-100** MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS RECOGNIZES FEBRUARY 5TH 2016 AS WEAR RED DAY IN MERCER COUNTY

- NO. 2016-101** AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 2012-573, ADOPTED NOVEMBER 29, 2012, AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CLERK TO THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE GRANT AGREEMENT (NO. 2205508) WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FUNDING TO ACQUIRE AND INSTALL SECURITY FENCE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE TRENTON-MERCER AIRPORT – AMEND RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT. PERIOD THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016. NO CHANGE IN FUNDING LEVELS
- NO. 2016-102** RESOLUTION TO EXCEED THE COUNTY BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)
- NO. 2016-103** INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF FIRST READING OF THE 2016 BUDGET

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS:

Ayes - 6. Nays -0. Abstain - 0. Absent -1.

Ayes – Freeholders Carabelli, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Walter and Cannon

Absent – Freeholder Frisby

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING AND ADOPTIONS

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR 2015 OF THE MERCER COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MERCER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR, MERCER COUNTY CLERK, MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF, MERCER COUNTY SURROGATE, MERCER COUNTY FREEHOLDER CHAIR, AND MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

The Clerk to the Board acknowledged receipt of a memorandum from County Executive Brian M. Hughes, dated February 10, 2016, whereby he indicated that he had reviewed the above named Ordinance and found no negative overriding implications, and therefore, he recommended adoption of the Ordinance.

The Clerk to the Board announced that said Ordinance had been properly advertised in accordance with the State Statute, and all requirements had been complied with.

Chair Cannon announced the opening of the Public Hearing on said Ordinance.

Hearing no comments or questions, he called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Freeholder Colavita moved, **“To Close the Public Hearing”**, seconded by Freeholder Cimino.

VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes - 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 1.

Ayes – Freeholders Carabelli, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Walter and Cannon

Absent – Freeholder Frisby

Freeholder Colavita offered the following Ordinance, seconded by Freeholder Cimino:

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-1

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR 2015 OF THE MERCER COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MERCER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR, MERCER COUNTY CLERK, MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF, MERCER COUNTY SURROGATE, MERCER COUNTY FREEHOLDER CHAIR, AND MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

VOTE ON ORDINANCE

Ayes - 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -1.

Ayes – Freeholders Carabelli, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Walter and Cannon

Absent – Freeholder Frisby

At this time, Chair Cannon invited the members of the public to comment on any item listed on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the Formal Meeting was offered by Freeholder Carabelli and seconded by Freeholder Colavita, which was adopted by the unanimous vote of the members of the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

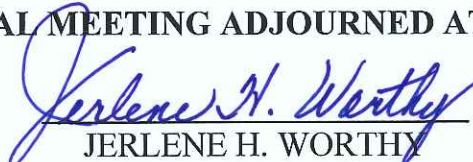
VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes – 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -1.

Ayes – Freeholders Carabelli, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Walter, and Cannon

Absent – Freeholder Frisby

FORMAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 PM



JERLENE H. WORTHY
CLERK TO THE BOARD

2016 Budget Address
Brian M. Hughes, County Executive
Mercer County, New Jersey
Presented before the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Thursday, February 11, 2016

Chairwoman Cannon, esteemed freeholders, and guests; it is my pleasure to be before you this evening. Tonight I present to you my proposed 2016 budget for Mercer County.

I am exceptionally proud of our track record of presenting a responsible, prudent budget -- on time -- each and every year. I would like to thank this board for its thoughtful consideration of this and every budget I've brought before you.

Despite downturns in revenue, our long-term fiscal prudence has enabled us to maintain services while keeping expenditure growth within the State-mandated cap. Once again, this year's proposed budget is within the 2 percent cap. In addition to the innumerable programs and services that we provide for our residents, Mercer County has established a tax rate that is not overly burdensome to our community, and just this week was cited among the top three counties in the state when it comes to tax stability. With this in mind, Mercer County has aggressively sought state and federal funding to offset many of our expenditures.

As you know, Mercer County boasts some of the finest park facilities in New Jersey. Our fantastic park system and our vast open space acquisitions are assets that we can highlight when attracting and retaining business to our county. We've seen significant economic development activity over the last five years and weathered the deep recession that impacted our country. The quality of life enjoyed here is instrumental in attracting new businesses and families, keeping our employment rate steady, and helping us stay ahead of future economic downturns. We were recently recognized for having the strongest job growth of all the largest counties in New Jersey. As of November, unemployment in Mercer County was down to 4.2 percent, 5th in the state, and our bond rating has remained a healthy AA+. Despite a recession, one particular development of note, the Amazon fulfillment center in Robbinsville, hired 4,000 full-time employees with seasonal spikes to 6,000. This project along with a strong pipeline of economic development activity for 2016 will fuel a continued healthy economy.

The project I'm most excited to advance is a new passenger terminal at Trenton-Mercer Airport. My administration has been extremely conservative in handling the gradual expansion of Frontier Airlines at Trenton-Mercer Airport. Frontier began service here in late 2012, and has proven to be a strong figure in the airline industry, nimbly adapting to the desires of the traveling public. As I discussed a few weeks ago in my annual address, our outdated terminal is inadequate to handle the nearly 1 million passengers that travel in and out of our terminal each year, and our investments in terminal improvements and parking lots have already been recovered through airport revenue, without a penny coming from taxes. Under the leadership of Deputy Administrator Aaron T. Watson, we've begun deliberations with our consultant, Urban Engineers, and look forward to working with the freeholder board on this exciting project. This new passenger terminal will be one of the most significant infrastructure investments by the county in a long time.

I would also like to address here tonight my administration's plan for the future of the Mercer County Correction Center. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, more than 10,000 ex-offenders are released from prison every week and arrive on the doorsteps of our communities. Studies show that about two-thirds will be arrested again within three years of release. There has

been a national shift in our way of thinking when it comes to preparing inmates for successful re-entry into our communities. With no job, no money, no place to live, and often addicted to drugs or struggling with mental illness, our prisoners face the same hurdles that landed them in jail in the first place.

Our Mercer County Correction Center houses about 700 inmates each and every day. It's an aging facility, with segments dating back to 1892. The facility we have today is one that was cobbled together over the past 100-plus years and frankly was not designed to handle the numbers and types of offenders we see today. We have no capacity or space to offer the therapeutic programs that can help prepare the men and women in our custody to re-enter society with the skills necessary to become productive members of society. We are severely constrained from further build-out at the Hopewell facility because there are no sewer lines and we are at maximum capacity for water usage. My administration has explored the possibility of building a new correction center in Mercer County but the estimated cost would be prohibitive, at about 400 million to 500 million dollars, an amount that would trigger a staggering tax increase – the tax increase just on the debt service would be between 20 million and 30 million dollars a year, to give you an idea.

My administration and I have decided to enter into an agreement with Hudson County to house Mercer County inmates there. The reason Mercer is going with Hudson is that Hudson County offers an impressive and progressive array of programs and medical services that I believe will make a significant difference in the outcomes for our Mercer County inmates when they return to their homes in our Mercer communities.

Data from our Human Services Office indicate that of the 1,800 Mercer residents admitted for addiction treatment in 2014, more than 30 percent were involved in the legal system. We also observed that in our jail, more than 60 percent of those incarcerated have an addiction or mental health problem. We need to do a better job of helping ex-offenders re-enter society, and we believe Hudson County is far better equipped to help us achieve our goal.

Services offered by Hudson County include comprehensive mental health services including substance abuse treatment; pre-release services including GED provisions, and life skills and literacy classes, career testing, vocational training and computer skills classes. Hudson also offers Comprehensive Community Reintegration Programming including behavioral training and anger management counseling; and post-release services, such as transitional housing placement and connections through the local career center.

We believe Hudson County can offer Mercer County inmates the types of services we currently cannot provide, at a substantially lower cost than we currently pay for our existing facility and services. This regionalization will allow us to contract with a county that has excess capacity as we continue to explore the future of our facility and as we learn the ramifications of the mandated bail and speedy trial reforms.

We will not completely shutter our correction center. In fact, we will receive and process all inmates at the Hopewell facility, and our community cleanup program, known as SLAP, will continue to operate, as will the Annex. Our plan is to retain somewhere around 80 employees, and there will be opportunities for qualified employees to apply for positions with Hudson County. But we will be reducing our workforce, through attrition and through separation. Our office of employee relations will be conducting information sessions over the next several months to explain how employees might be affected. The guiding principles of this effort have been to

provide a modern and human corrections environment with the goal of ending “revolving door” justice.

As I stated earlier, our budget proposals since I’ve been County Executive have been marked by austerity and balance, and this year again represents our effort to provide the best possible government to our constituents in the most cost-effective manner to the taxpayer.

Consistently, about 70 percent of our costs are fixed and will go to salary, wages and benefits for our employees; and more than 50 percent of our overall budget goes toward public safety.

The past few years have seen an upswing in business development throughout Mercer County. That upswing does not have us at pre-recession levels, but we continue to see new development, especially in the City of Trenton.

But while that economic activity is positive news and a ray of hope, it doesn’t yet represent revenue that will support our budget. The bulk of our revenue comes from property taxes and we anticipate that the ratable growth will continue to lag behind business recovery.

Tonight I present to you a proposed operating budget for 2016 in the amount of \$302 million that is well under the state-mandated cap. For this year’s budget plan, I am proposing we utilize \$9.9 million – or roughly half of our surplus – about the same percentage we used last year, and leaving a \$10 million balance.

Of this total budget, \$255 million will be collected locally through property tax. This represents a 2% increase in the levy over last year and is less than a penny increase on the tax rate.

Law enforcement costs continue to rise and more than 50 percent of the proposed 2016 budget will go toward public safety, including the Prosecutor’s Office, Sheriff’s Office, Police Academy and Corrections. The Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS) saw an increase of more than \$1.5 million, and our unfunded mandate to provide mental health services to inmates is also up by about \$1 million. I want to note that once again, we are paying our full share of our pension costs, something the state has rarely done over the past several years.

Costs at our 911 Call Center have also increased by about \$1 million as a result of costs associated with expanded services – costs that we could pass along to the municipalities but instead are taking on at the county level and thereby offering relief to our towns. Some of these increases will be offset by decreases to our health benefits costs, which are down about \$1 million, and our gasoline costs, which have dropped by about 50 percent, saving us \$648,000.

Our job is to provide a government that understands its limits and avoids the wild fluctuations seen in other counties around the state. It is important to me that the citizens of this county know that we work hard to keep the ship steady. I and the rest of my administration look forward to working together with this freeholder board to come to a final budget that is fiscally responsible and representative of good, efficient government.

Thank you very much for your time.



JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

COUNTY OF MERCER
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LISA M. VENA
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

INFORMAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2016

MINUTES

Freeholder Board Chair Cannon called the Agenda Meeting to order at 6:07 P.M. on February 9, 2016, in Room 211 of the Joyce L. McDade Administration Building, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board answered the Roll Call of the Clerk to the Board:

Present - Freeholders Carabelli, Cimino, Koontz, Walter, and Cannon
Absent – Freeholders Colavita and Frisby

Chair Cannon led the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW

The Clerk to the Board announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, notice of this Informal Meeting had been mailed to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian and The Princeton Packet newspapers as well as having been posted in both the County Administration Building and Courthouse at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

Chair Cannon requested a moment of silence for the recent passing of John Willmot, brother of Julie Willmot, Director of Communications and Policy, and Mayor Eric Jackson's mother Ms. Gladys Walker Jackson.

At this time, Chair Cannon invited the members of the public to comment on any item listed on the Agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS

Six (6) communications were discussed and approved for placement on the Agenda for the Formal Meeting of February 11, 2016.

RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-two (22) proposed Resolutions were discussed and approved for placement on the agenda for the Formal Meeting of March 22, 2016.

Ms. Jerlene H. Worthy, Clerk to the Board, informed the Freeholders that there was an issue with the following proposed Resolution regarding Amendment No. 1 to the Grant Agreement (No. 2205508) with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Funding to acquire and install security fence improvements at the Trenton-Mercer Airport – Amend the Contract Period through June 30, 2016. No change in funding levels. She stated that County Counsel would explain the matter further.

Paul Adezio, Esq., Deputy County Counsel, stated that the Resolution was originally adopted by the Board in 2012 with a projected completion date of March 2014. Mr. Adezio explained that the project was still not completed to date and the contract period needed to be extended until June 2016 for final completion. He explained this Amendment would not change funding but only the time period.

Freeholder Walter asked if there was a completion date listed in the original contract.

Mr. Adezio said he was unaware of the date but would inform the Board.

Freeholder Cimino asked why the project was delayed.

Mr. Adezio explained the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration requirements delayed the completion of the project.

David Miller, County Treasurer, made reference to the following proposed Resolution authorizing to execute a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the County of Mercer Office of Emergency Management to provide services to Municipalities and Jurisdictions within Mercer County in the event of an Emergency Situation or a Formal Declaration of an Emergency. Mr. Miller explained that this Resolution was highly recommended by the Fire Chiefs Association.

Freeholder Koontz explained that in previous years individual municipalities would make individual agreements with aid or assistance to their towns. He asked if this Resolution would supersede all the Agreements already in place with municipalities.

Mr. Miller stated that particular counties may not provide mutual aid or assistance to other county entities. He stated that he would provide further information to the Board.

Freeholder Walter stated the time period contained in the Resolution was until the year 2020. She asked if that time period was determined by the State law that governs mutual aid agreements.

Mr. Miller concurred.

Freeholder Cimino made reference to the following proposed Resolution authorizing to execute a contract with Sapphire and Albarran Architecture LLC, to provide Architectural and Engineering Services for anticipated construction projects. He asked the specificity of the project that was anticipated.

Mr. Andrew Mair, County Administrator, stated that he would look into the matter further and inform the Board of the intended project.

Freeholder Cimino requested further information regarding the project.

Freeholder Walter stated that she was unfamiliar with the firm and requested their background expertise on construction projects they have completed.

Freeholder Koontz discussed the process that determined the amount of vendors that could maintain space at the Trenton-Mercer Airport. He made reference to the following proposed Resolution authorizing a Rental Car Operator Ground Transportation Permit Agreement with Avis/Budget Car Rental, LLC to provide Ground Transportation Services at the Trenton-Mercer Airport.

Freeholder Walter made reference to the following proposed Resolution authorizing to submit a Petition of Dissolution to the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Dissolution of the I95/295 Transportation Development District (TDD). She stated that she had no problem with the Resolution except for the language contained in third whereas. Freeholder Walter stated that an Ordinance was never formally adopted by the Freeholder Board amending the TDD.

Ms. Leslie Floyd, Planning Director, explained that the amended area was contained in the Resolution. She stated that she would be happy to amend the language if it were acceptable to the Board to accomplish the goal of dissolving the TDD.

Mr. Mair explained that the language change would be a di minimis change.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING AND ADOPTIONS

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARY FOR 2015 OF THE MERCER COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MERCER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR, MERCER COUNTY CLERK, MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF, MERCER COUNTY SURROGATE, MERCER COUNTY FREEHOLDER CHAIR, AND MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

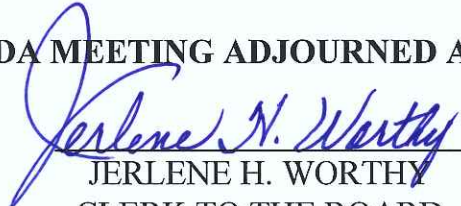
1. The Clerk to the Board acknowledged receipt of a memorandum from County Executive Brian M. Hughes dated February 10, 2016, whereby he indicated that he had reviewed the above named Ordinance and found no negative overriding implications; therefore, he recommended adoption of the Ordinance.
 2. The Clerk to the Board announced that said Ordinance had been properly advertised in accordance with the State Statute and all requirements have been complied with.
 3. The Chair of the Board announced the opening of the Public Hearing on said Ordinance.
 4. MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING
 5. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE
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PUBLIC SECTION

At this time, Chair Cannon invited the members of the public to comment on any item listed on the agenda.

There were no comments.

AGENDA MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:43 PM


JERLENE H. WORTHY
CLERK TO THE BOARD

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