

- 1 A Special Meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington was held in the Board Room, Burlington County Office Building, Mount Holly, New Jersey, on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was opened with the flag salute and prayer by the Board Clerk.

The Public Announcement was read in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

- 2 ROLL CALL.

On roll call those answering to their names were: Freeholders Christopher J. Brown, Joseph B. Donnelly, Mary Ann C. O'Brien, Mary Anne Reinhart and Freeholder Director Bruce D. Garganio.

- 3 OFFICIALS.

Officials in attendance were: County Solicitor Nelson, County Administrator Drayton, Chief Financial Officer Brock, Solid Waste Coordinator Sheehan, Warden Cox, Sheriff Stanfield, County Clerk Tyler, Economic Development Director Remsa, Acting County Engineer Wright, Resource Conservation Director Robbie, Human Resource Director Hornickel, Information Technology Director Behmke, Capital Projects Coordinator Smith, Supervising Administrative Analyst Stewart, and Public Information Officer Shrom and Clerk Wirth.

- 4 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS.

Director Garganio read a statement regarding the County Budget. Director Garganio stated that his goal is to reduce taxes and government and was tasked with finding \$15 million in the Budget and he is on record as to planning to offer an amendment to increase the tax cut in the Budget and give taxpayers more savings. Director Garganio continued that homeowners and small businesses are feeling the affect of tax and spending and loss of equity and in this current atmosphere "we need to draw the line in the sand".

- 5 **RESOLUTION NO. 230** by Director Garganio, YEAR 2010 BUDGET READ BY TITLE ONLY. The Resolution was read by Clerk of the Board Drayton. Motion was made by Freeholder Brown and seconded by Freeholder Donnelly. Director Garganio called for a roll call vote. Ayes: Freeholder Brown, Freeholder Donnelly, Freeholder O'Brien and Director Garganio. Nays: Freeholder Reinhart. Motion carried. Resolution No. 230 adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington, on March 24, 2010, introduced in writing and approved the annual budget of Burlington County; and

WHEREAS, two certified copies of the approved budget were transmitted to the Director of Local Government Services of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Burlington County fixed April 21, 2010, in the Burlington County Office Building, for the holding of a public hearing on the aforesaid budget; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid budget was advertised on April 8, 2010 in the approved newspaper; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid budget was posted in a public place where public notices are customarily posted in the County Office Building; and

WHEREAS, copies of said budget were made available to each person requesting the same during said week and are available for distribution at this public meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the aforesaid County Budget be read by its title only as provided for in N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8.

- 6 **PUBLIC HEARING – 2010 COUNTY BUDGET**

The hour having arrived, Director Garganio stated that this was the time and place for consideration of the 2010 County Budget.

Director Garganio then declared the public hearing on said Budget open to all officials and persons present and requested anyone desiring to speak for or against the adoption of the Budget to do so.

The following members of the public addressed the Board regarding the County Budget:

- 1) Senator Philip Haines, stated his observations of the Budget and spoke out in support of the Budget.
- 2) Howard Roun, Vice President, CWA Local 1036 spoke out against the Budget.
- 3) Bob Smythe, Riverton Borough, spoke in favor of the Budget and made other suggestions for cost saving measures to the Board and the Union representatives.
- 4) William Bott, Florence Township, addressed the Board and urged the Board and the Union to compromise and work together.
- 5) Ricky Metivier, Mt. Holly Township, addressed the Board regarding layoffs and spoke out in favor of wage freezes.

There being no further comments, Director Garganio closed the public hearing. It was moved by Freeholder Brown, seconded by Freeholder Reinhart to table the adoption of the 2010 County Budget. On roll call: Ayes – Freeholders Brown, Donnelly, O’Brien, Reinhart and Director Garganio. Nays – None. Motion carried. Adoption of the 2010 County Budget tabled.

*** Director Garganio made motion for an amendment to the 2010 County Budget and asked Board Clerk Drayton to read said amendment for the record, seconded by Freeholder O’Brien. Freeholder Reinhart raised several questions and issues regarding this amendment and a lengthy discussion ensued.

7 **RESOLUTION NO. 232** by Director Garganio, AMENDMENT TO THE 2010 COUNTY BUDGET, moved for adoption by Director Garganio, seconded by Freeholder O’Brien.

WHEREAS, the county budget for the year 2010 was approved on the 24th day of March, 2010, and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget, and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-9c no public hearing is required for said amendment

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington that the following amendments to the approved budget for 2010 be made:

	(Brown	(Abstained (
	(Donnelly	(
Recorded Vote Ayes	(O’Brien	Nays (Reinhart	
(Insert Last Names)	(Garganio	(Absent (
	((

	From	To
CURRENT FUND - GENERAL REVENUES		
GENERAL REVENUES		
1. Surplus	\$7,000,000.00	\$7,600,000.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenues Section - E: Prior Year Health Insurance Refunds	0.00	526,000.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenues: Total Section A: Local Revenues	14,801,398.00	15,327,398.00
5. Subtotal General Revenues (Items 1,2,3, and 4)	52,967,051.49	61,093,051.49
6. Amount to be Raised by Taxation County Purpose Tax	161,298,090.00	160,172,090.00
-7. Total General Revenues	221,265,141.49	221,265,141.49

DEDICATED REVENUES FROM SOLID WASTE UTILITY

State Subsidy	1,300,000.00	0.00
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Closure Fund	0.00	1,300,000.00
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services for his certification of the county budget so amended.

On roll call: Ayes – Freeholders Brown, Donnelly, O'Brien, and Director Garganio. Nays – Freeholder Reinhart. Motion carried. Resolution No. 232 adopted.

*** It was moved by Freeholder Donnelly, seconded by Freeholder O'Brien to approve the following agenda item. Freeholder Reinhart asked for an explanation regarding this agenda item and a lengthy discussion ensued.

8 **RESOLUTION NO. 231** by Director Garganio, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE BURLINGTON COUNTY BRIDGE COMMISSION FOR A CONTRIBUTION OF \$2,000,000.00, moved for adoption by Freeholder Donnelly, seconded by Freeholder O'Brien.

WHEREAS, the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders (the "Board") and the Burlington County Bridge Commission (the "Commission") have had significant discussions regarding contribution by the Commission for the 2010 Budget Year for costs incurred by or to be incurred by the County for the maintenance of feeder roadways and approaches to those bridges which are under the jurisdiction of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide for this contribution and shared services initiative, the Board and the Commission intend to enter into a memorandum of understanding between the Board and the Commission regarding contribution for these costs; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Commission concur that an appropriate and reasonable amount of contribution for the ongoing maintenance of feeder roadways is \$2,000,000; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders that a Memorandum of Understanding with the Burlington County Bridge Commission will be executed in such form as approved by the County Solicitor to memorialize this understanding; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Agreement shall be executed and sealed in accordance with the Rules of the Board; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, County Treasurer and County Solicitor are authorized to take any action necessary to complete the Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with the Rules of the Board.

On roll call: Ayes – Freeholders Brown, Donnelly, O'Brien and Director Garganio. Nays – Freeholder Reinhart. Resolution No. 231 adopted.

9 PUBLIC COMMENTS.

The following members of the public addressed the Board:

- 1) Madelyn Murry, questioned the Board regarding early retirement.
- 2) Fred Byran, Springfield Township, addressed the Board regarding respect and working together.
- 3) William Bott, Florence Township, addressed the Board regarding respect and working for the taxpayer.
- 4) Linda McCann, Mansfield Township, addressed the Board regarding comments made by the prior two gentlemen regarding respect, and questioned moving the meetings to a larger room to accommodate the public. Ms. McCann also addressed Freeholder Brown regarding his party affiliation.
- 5) Adam Liebttag, President CWA Local 1036 addressed the Board regarding the Budget and layoffs and how that will affect Union members. Mr. Liebttag stated that there was no commitment from the Board that concessions from the Union would save jobs and stated ways the Union thought the County could save money and save jobs.

10 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

1) Danielle Camilli, Burlington County Times, questioned the Board on what the next step would be since they tabled the adoption of the Budget and whether there was time for the Union and the County to meet and look into saving jobs and questioned if a meeting had been scheduled. Ms. Camilli further questioned the time frame for the adoption of the Budget.

2) Carole Comegano, Courier Post, questioned the Board regarding the \$1,100,000.00 and when it was known and if it was discussed at the last conference meeting and the reason for the article in the paper.

11 COMMENTS BY FREEHOLDERS.

1) Freeholder Reinhart thanked everyone for coming this evening and apologized for offending anyone and her intent is not to be disrespectful, but she needs to be defensive because of issues that continually arise by other members of the Board. Freeholder Reinhart made the following statements concerning the Budget. Freeholder Reinhart stated she was deeply saddened by the way the Director crafted the Budget and wished it was done in an open and transparent fashion, fair to the public and taxpayers. Freeholder Reinhart stated she had made many recommendations for this Budget last year and with other issues as well, there is a lack of discussion and everyone has a different understanding of what we are trying to achieve. Freeholder Reinhart expressed her dismay with the article in the paper and having to read about finding additional money before she was informed and stated it is another example of the break down in communication and referenced the same thing happened last year, and felt that it was being insensitive to the people receiving layoff notices and their families. Freeholder Reinhart also questioned why the Board could not work at sustaining these jobs since the country is working to grow jobs. Freeholder Reinhart stated she was in contact with the Chief Financial Officer and asked for information regarding the past three years tax levy, surplus fund, and tax savings to the average homeowner. Freeholder Reinhart stated her request to have electronically recorded minutes of the conference meeting and the public meeting since the tapes are sometimes not audible, and also asked for a headset and interpreter for anyone who is hearing or speaking impaired and stated that the sound system needs to be replaced. Freeholder Reinhart also spoke about being self-insured and a Joint Insurance Fund and had requested the County look into this type of fund in an effort to save money and requested that the ethics policy and pay to play policy be looked at again to craft policies that everyone understands. Freeholder Reinhart mentioned Victims Crime week and stated she and Freeholder Brown had attended a breakfast in recognition of this week and asked that everyone have respect and compassion to those who have been a victim of crime.

2) Freeholder Brown apologized for being emotional with regard to the Budget but stated there are efficiencies in this Budget that are long overdue and these efficiencies will provide for better security for the jobs that remain in the County. Freeholder Brown stated that there are jobs that can be mitigated through negotiation and with concessions from the Union and addressed Mr. Liebttag stating "when people get together, things happen for the good" and encouraged the Union to meet with him. Freeholder Brown stated he was hoping the Union would come to the table and start making real concessions and real negotiation points in order to save the jobs that could be saved. In regard to the reimbursement of insurance money, Freeholder Brown stated that with the exception of the two new Freeholders, the rest of the Board was aware of an allocation to the insurance fund at the end of last year and did anticipate at some point there would be a reimbursement but the amount and when that would be received was unknown. Freeholder Brown expressed his concern regarding the surplus fund and that it was hit heavily in the last 3 – 4 years and is getting dangerously low and every class he attended regarding municipal budgets and county budgets encourages a surplus of around 3%, and the County is hovering just under 3% and this could effect the County's bond rating and interest costs. Freeholder Brown stated he was looking for solutions and he is willing to sit down with the Union and come up with concessions that would save some of the jobs slated for layoff. Freeholder Brown addressed Linda McCann's comments regarding his party affiliation and the questioning of his integrity and responded by stating that he is the same person with the same philosophy as last year and what he campaigned for is to find greater efficiencies in County government, to sustain the jobs the County currently has and to give better increases to the employees that are still with the County. Freeholder Brown thanked everyone for coming out this evening and apologized to Mr. Liebttag.

3) Freeholder O'Brien stated her concern for something that she heard this evening and was disturbing to her which is the comments made regarding the Budget and stated that this process has been ongoing since July of last year. Freeholder O'Brien commented that the Union has been asked to consider three possibilities; a wage freeze, a contribution to healthcare, and a give back of three holidays. Freeholder O'Brien stated

that the Board has heard from Mr. Liebtag on several occasions and he reiterates what the County could do to make cuts in the Budget, however the Board has been looking at all options and this has been a long process, at every meeting there have been more cuts, re-alignments, but she has not heard from the Union regarding their position on a wage freeze, a contribution to healthcare or the give back of three holidays and pointed out that currently the employees pay nothing towards their healthcare. Freeholder O'Brien further stated that the Union has been asked on numerous occasions for concessions and urged them to "help us help you". Freeholder O'Brien commented on the gentleman in the Union, Rick, who said he favored a wage freeze, and questioned the Union's position on that issue. Freeholder O'Brien further stated what it comes down to is pennies a day, however that is an argument that could be made to rationalize anything. Freeholder O'Brien stated the Board has a responsibility to the taxpayers and there are people that can't afford to live in the County and taxes must be reduced and commented on the recent school elections and 34 out of 39 districts voted down the budgets because they do not want higher taxes and it is imperative to cut taxes and the Board is tasked with that effort. Freeholder O'Brien urged the Union members to speak to their leadership and for Union members "to use some of your own pennies per day" to help save fellow member's jobs through either a wage freeze, contributions to healthcare and giving up three holidays.

4) Freeholder Donnelly commented a lot has been said tonight and a couple of things grabs a great headline for the press and that is the comment made that it is only \$.60 a household, that is one number, however in talking to folks the Finance Department, and working on an equalization table, for example in Shamong the number would be \$45.00 in reduction per household. Freeholder Donnelly further stated that 29 out of 40 municipalities will see a tax break, a tax levy reduction, some will see more than others. Freeholder Donnelly made it clear when running for office that he wanted to reduce taxes and the tax burden in the County, however, not foreseeing the current economic climate, and revenue decreases in every aspect of County government, including our surplus. Freeholder Donnelly expressed in order to keep Burlington County affordable, the Board has an obligation to reduce the size of government, reduce spending and reiterated his commitment to do so.

5) Director Garganio stated he would make his comments short and commented that he believed in smaller government and lower taxes and that is not just politics but something he has worked for throughout his career. Director Garganio further stated that any savings adds up, and its not just property taxes, its gas tax, municipal tax, school tax, fire tax, etc., so when you add a dollar here and a dollar there year after year we end up with where New Jersey is today, broke and not able to function, and that's what people need to look at and take into consideration. Director Garganio urged everyone to look at the history and how we got to where we are as a State, adding and adding, which is the reason we are the most taxed State in the nation. Director Garganio stated that he would sit down with the Union at any time to work something out, if that can be done in a weeks time, he expressed his willingness to do so. Director Garganio also stated that he agreed with Freeholder Reinhart's request to start immediately working with the Union and not waiting till next year and there are things that could be done now to make a difference and that the best resource the County has is the eyes and ears of the folks doing the job and encouraged the Union to continue to open up that dialogue to keep moving forward. Director Garganio reiterated his commitment to smaller government and lower taxes and stated that this is not just politics but what he believes in.

64 ADJOURNMENT.

It was moved by Freeholder Donnelly, seconded by Freeholder O'Brien, that the meeting be adjourned. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Drayton
Board Clerk