

ATLANTIC COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
Mays Landing Government Complex
Old Historic Courthouse
5909 Main Street
Mays Landing, New Jersey

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Minutes of Meeting
July 29, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders was called to order by Chairman Joseph Silipena at 6:00 p.m., Daylight Savings Time, Eastern Standard Time, on the above date at the Mays Landing Government Complex, Mays Landing, NJ.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Statement of Open Public Meeting Compliance: Pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act, Chairman Joseph Silipena announced that adequate notice of this meeting, as required by said Act, has been provided to The Press and the Mainland Journal, posted on the bulletin boards at 1333 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City; the Stillwater Building, 201 Shore Road, Northfield and at the County Clerk's Office in Mays Landing.

PRAYER AND FLAG SALUTE

The prayer was led by Freeholder Frank Sutton followed by the flag salute led by Chairman Joseph Silipena.

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded: PRESENT: Cooper, Curcio, Dase, Garrett, Giordano, McDevitt, Russo, Sutton and Silipena.

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 17, 2008

Freeholder Sutton moved and Freeholder Giordano seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the June 17, 2008 minutes and approve them as presented.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call: AYES: Cooper, Curcio, Dase, Garrett, Giordano, McDevitt, Russo, Sutton and Silipena. NAYS: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 7 FINAL READING IMPROVEMENT OF ACIT

Freeholder Giordano moved and Freeholder Cooper seconded a motion to adopt a Bond Ordinance making an appropriation of \$40,000,000.00 for improvement of the Atlantic County Institute of Technology in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, and authorizing the issuance of \$40,000,000.00 Bonds or Notes of the County for financing such appropriation - Final Reading.

Chairman Silipena opened the meeting for public comments at 6:05 p.m.

Jim Schroeder (Port Republic resident), stated he was in favor of Bond Ordinance because the student population in the County is growing and schools are needed. Secondly, the current shared time program requires too much time in transporting students.

Manny Aponte (Yarborough Avenue, EHT) stated he was in favor of a public referendum. He was in support of the project. He questioned Freeholder Cooper about her vote.

Joe Massey (16 Tremont Avenue, Pleasantville) expressed that there is a need for a full-time technical school. He questioned the cost of operations once constructed. He stated the cost is minimal across the County and he was in support of the project.

Heather Frank (Smithville resident) stated there is no question on the merits of the project, she questioned the method by which the process was presented.

Tim Kreisher (former Ventnor Mayor) asked could the charge to each municipality be based on student usage. Appropriation by student versus property taxes.

Robert Boyce, III, Carpenters Union/Business Agent, clarified that the actual cost to the County is \$24 million not \$40 million. He stated any delays would increase the cost and he is in favor of the Ordinance.

Edward Chaden (242 Vienna Avenue) said ACIT needs a lot of work. it hasn't had much done in some years.

Charles Lukens (409 N. Suffolk Avenue, Ventnor) asked why doesn't the Board want to send this issue to referendum.

Ann Phillips (Brigantine resident) stated she was in support of the referendum. She questioned if the \$3.9 million that Steve Lonagan is blocking by lawsuit is relative.

Richard Motor (Mays Landing resident) stated he was in favor of the project and part-time vocational schools are diminishing.

Ron Brown (60 Lighthouse, Atlantic City) stated no more money should be expended to schools.

Mel Nathanson (Oakcrest Avenue, Northfield) stated the timing was bad for this project, not good for the taxpayer. He suggested fix it up for \$12 million.

Freeholder Chairman Silipena asked for any Freeholder comments:

Freeholder Alisa Cooper asked the Chairman to summarize what occurred at the July 1 and July 15 Meetings regarding Ordinance No. 7.

Freeholder Curcio responded.

Freeholder Joe McDevitt, stated that students deserve a top school but the people deserve the right to vote. He is in support of ACIT and a public referendum.

Freeholder Frank Sutton expressed the Board is entrusted to make decisions. He has been entrusted to made decisions for the past 12 years. Now is the time to complete the project.

Freeholder Frank Giordano stated the children in Atlantic County deserved a first rate trade school and he was in full support.

Freeholder Richard Dase stated he supported the ACIT from the very beginning. Dr. Guenther has done a great job. He had hoped that the Bond issue would be passed after the public referendum.

Freeholder Charles Garrett express he was 100% in favor of this bond. He stated as a freshman Freeholder he believed his duty was to make a decision.

Freeholder Alisa Cooper thanked Freeholder Curcio for explaining the votes regarding Bond Ordinance No. 7. Personally, she would have preferred the issue go to referendum. However, it didn't.

Tom Russo stated the worthiness of this project is true. However, given the economy right now it may be less. We vote on capital projects every year, not in the category of a necessity.

James Curcio thanked everyone for attending. He supported the referendum in the past. He was inclined to support the referendum early in the year. However, this project is not well suited for a referendum. We already own the school, we need to spend half the amount for improvements. We will receive \$16 million and not risk losing the money. He feels it is a necessity. Counties around us have improved their facilities. He has faith this project will be managed properly and minimize the impact. When the County retires debt we assume new debt. Phase debt in a number of years. Real learning going on in the school. Pressure taken off schools that are bursting at the seams. Voting yes, taking into consideration public opinion.

Chairman Silipena stated he cannot change anyone's mind. He listed a number of businesses, governmental agencies as school boards that endorsed the project. Important how this will work - Atlantic County has checks and balances -- Votech has to come back to the Board of School Estimates and Board of Freeholders.

Don Englehart, Mays Landing said he is in favor of the Bond. He stated students need a high school. Students loose time traveling.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Cooper, Curcio, Garrett, Giordano, Sutton and Silipena.
NAYS: Dase, McDevitt and Russo. ABSTENTIONS: None.

There being no further comments, Chairman Silipena closed the public portion at 7: 55 p.m.

**ORDINANCE NO. 10
FIRST READING
INTERSECTION
IMPROVEMENT
PLANS**

Freeholder Russo moved and Freeholder Dase seconded a motion for an Ordinance of the County of Atlantic authorizing property and right-of-way acquisitions by agreement or condemnation in connection with intersection improvement plans for Jimmie Leeds Road & Sixth Avenue in Galloway Township, Atlantic County, New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 ET SEQ., and N.J.S.A. 20:3-1 ET SEQ.; said parcels of property being Block 982, P/O Lots 15 and 16, Block 981.01, P/O (Lots 18.02 and 17: and Block 985, P/O Lots 13-16; on the tax map of Galloway Township - First Reading.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Cooper, Curcio, Dase, Garrett, Giordano, McDevitt, Russo, Sutton and Silipena. NAYS: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 408
JOB SKILLS
TRAINING**

Freeholder Curcio moved and Freeholder Giordano seconded a motion to enter into a contract with Jersey Cape Diagnostic Training and Opportunity Center, Inc. for post employment retention (29,347.00) job skills training (\$42,393.00), Cape May County Early Employment Initiative (\$88,112.00) and Cape May County Job Readiness Program \$63,524.00 total amount not to exceed (\$223,376.00).

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Cooper, Curcio, Dase, Garrett, Giordano, McDevitt, Russo, Sutton and Silipena. NAYS: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 409
JOB READINESS
PROGRAM**

Freeholder Sutton moved and Freeholder Curcio seconded a motion to enter into a contract with Community Quest, Inc. for the Atlantic County Job Readiness Program for \$155,657.00 and the Atlantic County Post Employment Retention Program for \$153,925.00 total amount not to exceed \$309,582.00.

The above-mentioned motion was adopted by the following roll call:
AYES: Cooper, Curcio, Dase, Garrett, Giordano, McDevitt, Russo, Sutton and Silipena. NAYS: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.