

**CAMDEN COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS MEETING**  
**MAY 21, 2009 - 7:00 P.M.**  
**WATERFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**2131 AUBURN AVENUE, WATERFORD, NJ**

The meeting was called to order by Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli at 7:00 p.m. The Director asked the Clerk to call the roll and the following Freeholders answered to their name:

PRESENT: CREAM, GRECO, NASH, RIPA, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL,  
CAPPELLI

The Director stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

The Director asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Gabrielle Hamilton, a Waterford Township resident. The National Anthem was performed by Maria DiSciullo, Vocalist of American Legion Post #211.

The Director announced that if requested, the County has large print agendas for the visually impaired. He said if you require large print, please see the Clerk.

Director Cappelli welcomed everyone. He said we are very pleased tonight to be in Waterford. He said it is the usual practice of the Board of Freeholders to hold our meeting each month in one of the municipalities outside the County Seat of Camden so that all members of the public will have full access to the meetings of the Board.

**PRESENTATIONS**

The Director said as is our practice we are going to recognize the governing body of the municipality in which we are meeting. The Director called upon Township Committee Members Charles Hamilton, Ralph Condo and Pamela Finnerty to come forward for a presentation. He also called upon Freeholder Nash and Freeholder Rodriguez to come forward.

Director Cappelli said as Committeeman Hamilton mentioned before the meeting, Waterford was recently named one of the best communities in South Jersey - Number 15! The Director said certainly that is a credit to the leadership that each of you provide and to the great residents here in Waterford. It is a very unique community and a community that faces a lot of challenges that are being met in a very progressive way by the Committee and by the residents. The Director said one of the ways your residents have met the challenge is through the recycling efforts. He said last year residents of Waterford were able to recycle 2,242 tons of paper commingled glass, metal plastic bottles and cans and because of those efforts,

Freeholder Nash is able to award a recycling rebate check tonight in the amount of \$9,688.56.

Director Cappelli then said that Freeholder Rodriguez also has a presentation. He said she has this year's Community Development Block Grant Award in the amount of \$40,254.00 for the Township of Waterford.

### **GIFT DONATION**

The Director said as we go from town to town, we ask the governing body to give us the name of a non-profit organization in town that is doing outstanding work and deserving of a small donation from the Board of Freeholders and the governing body of Waterford has chosen the Waterford Township Civic and Events Association. He called upon David Dempsey, President of the Association to come forward. Director Cappelli said a few facts about the Waterford Township Civic Association. He said the purpose of this organization is to conduct community events throughout the year. Some of these events include Concerts in the Park, Waterford Township Days, Little Miss and Mr. Pageant, Miss Teen Pageant. The Association is a non-profit organization made up of representatives of non-profit community services clubs, churches, boards and committees. They welcome new members all the time and certainly bring civic pride and good works to the Township of Waterford. Director Cappelli said to Mr. Dempsey, it is an honor to present you with this recognition tonight.

Mr. Dempsey thanked the Freeholders for the donation and recognition.

Township Committeeman Condo thanked the Director and Freeholders for coming this evening. He said it is good to see our County government down here in Waterford and hope to have you back here soon. Thank you very much.

Township Committeewoman Finnerty thanked the Freeholders for coming and said we hope to continue our good relationship with the County.

### **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

Freeholder Cream welcomed everyone. Freeholder Cream said every month it is the Freeholders' opportunity to give an award to one of the employees who work under his/her jurisdiction. Freeholder Cream said I happen to have one that is very important to this County and also to all the constituents who live in the County. Freeholder Cream said she is very happy to announce tonight that the Employee of the Month for Buildings and Operations is James E. Johnson, who resides in Gloucester

City. Freeholder Cream called upon Mr. Johnson and his parents to come forward. They have played a big role in his life and we are very happy to acknowledge their presence. Freeholder Cream called Director of Buildings & Operations, Rob Mauriello, to come forward. Freeholder Cream said James Johnson resides in Gloucester City and is a laborer from the Department of Buildings & Operations in Lakeland. His immediate supervisor is James Olivo and Rob Mauriello is his supervisor and director. He has worked in Camden County for just 6 years and already he has made a wonderful name for himself. She said when she spoke to other people in the County letting them know that James was going to receive this award, they were thrilled. He has already started to make a wonderful name for himself. He enjoys spending time with his family. She said his parents have done a wonderful job and we thank them for that. She said he has two brothers, two nephews, and one niece. He enjoys helping younger athletes by encouraging them to stay out of trouble which is very important. Freeholder Cream said James enjoys golfing, fishing, softball and basketball. He works occasionally at another job part-time working at the Susquehanna Bank Center. Freeholder Cream congratulated James and said we hope you will be with this County for a long, long time. We hope you will have the opportunity to move up so you will be able to enjoy the wonderful fruits of working for Camden County in other kinds of occupations. Freeholder Cream then presented him with the County clock and a savings bond. Freeholder Cream then called upon Director Rob Mauriello to say a few words about Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Mauriello said when Jim started working for us he was the supervisor at Lakeland. Mr. Mauriello said from the start we had a good relationship. He does a great job; will do anything and everything you would ever ask for. He is a hard worker and comes from a good family. Mr. Mauriello congratulated Jim and said we hope you stay around for a long time.

Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for this honor.

Director Cappelli called upon Freeholder Rodriguez for the next presentation

#### **PROCLAMATION/CERTIFICATES**

Freeholder Rodriguez said today I have the privilege of honoring some very special young people that have done something very wonderful. Freeholder Rodriguez said one of her responsibilities is as liaison to the Office of Consumer Protection. She said over the past couple of years, the office has become very important because these are very difficult economic times. She said there are a lot of people out there who prey on people and victimize them. She said, in fact, her own cousin was an older person who was preyed upon. She said she became a victim of some very unethical behavior because as the times become more difficult people try to take advantage and

make an extra buck off of poor elderly people. She said this is why at the beginning of the year, she as a teacher, took her lunch period and ran over to the Consumer Bowl to address our young people and our contestants because it matters and is very important to her. Freeholder Rodriguez went on to explain the Consumer Bowl was developed in 1997 in an effort to encourage High School age students to be smart shoppers and not be tricked by fakes and frauds. She said the Consumer Bowl format is similar to old game-show like academics and college bowls. The competition matches teams of high school students against each other. First, in County events then in regional competition and ultimately the State finals which are held in Trenton. She said this year these students worked very hard. The teachers helped them outside the classes and after school hours to educate these children and prepare them for the competition. Likewise the students are dedicated and put lots of hours outside of the regular school hours to get prepared for these competitions. Freeholder Rodriguez said this year our winner after participating for three years in our County competition was Winslow Township. Freeholder Rodriguez then introduced Ms. Jenna Clark, who is the teacher and then introduced the winners, Tom Keppel, Nita Cahn, Katie Moran, Megan Donahue, Cody Coleman and Courtney Quinn. She then presented each of them with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of all the Freeholders. For the school, Freeholder Rodriguez presented Ms. Clark with a Proclamation and said she hopes it will hang in the school. Freeholder Rodriguez said to the winners that their names are on the Proclamation so they will be permanently remembered and it will remain also in the County record so everyone remembers your wonderful accomplishment. The Freeholder then read the Proclamation.

Ms. Clark thanked the Freeholders and said she would like to take a minute to say something about these wonderful students. She said sometimes her school receives some bad publicity but these students are great examples of some great things that are going on in Winslow Township. She said these students are all National Honor Society students. She said Nita is our lone Junior and has just recently been voted National Honor Society President for the upcoming school year and the other five students will be graduating and will be moving on to further their education. She said she is very proud of all of them. She said Tom Keppel will be attending Camden County College in the STARS Program; Courtney Quinn will be going to Rowan University; Megan Donahue will be attending Rutgers University in Camden; Katie Moran will be attending Philadelphia University and Codey Coleman, a great success story, has overcome great challenges in his life and has made great things out of himself even though it has been difficult every step of the way. He will be attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology on a scholarship. She said working with these great students has been an honor and she is very proud of each and every one of them. Thank you.

## COMMUNITY AWARD

Freeholder Ripa called upon Lieutenant Chris Sylvia and Waterford Township Fire Department members to come forward. Freeholder Ripa said these are the young people who dedicate themselves to saving lives and saving property. He said they get up all hours of the evening and answer all calls and many times jeopardize their own well-being in order to save your life. Freeholder Ripa said I would like to thank you all for what you do and what you have done in the past - thank you! Freeholder Ripa then read the Proclamation.

Lt. Sylvia said on behalf of all the members of the Waterford Township Fire Department I would like to say thank you to the Board of Chosen Freeholders. He said it is nice to know that our dedication and hard work get noticed. He said we will continue to protect our community as well as the surrounding communities. Thank you.

Director Cappelli said he would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Freeholder Ripa who was recently nominated by Governor Corzine to become the Clerk of Camden County. The Director announced that today about 4:00 p.m. the Senate of the State of New Jersey confirmed that Joe Ripa will be our next County Clerk! The Director said the bad news is Freeholder Ripa will no longer be with us as a Freeholder; the good news is Freeholder Ripa will no longer be with us - just kidding! The Director said Joe has done an outstanding job as a Freeholder. This will be his last meeting but we will certainly recognize him at the next meeting. The Director said I know I speak on behalf of all the Freeholders when I say that Joe is a very dedicated, hardworking individual who never forgets the values of the working class in Camden County. The Director said we appreciate all the work you have done for us.

The Director said I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize another public servant who has joined us and who works so hard day in and day out over the years and has dedicated so much of her personal time to make this town one of the top 15 towns in South Jersey and that is Mayor Maryann Merlino.

Director Cappelli said the next order of business is a resolution authorizing that the 2009 Camden County budget be read by Title only.

- h. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, THE 2009 CAMDEN COUNTY BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

The Director asked for a motion to adopt. Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion to adopt Resolution h with a second by Freeholder Cream and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

- i. PUBLIC HEARING -- RESOLUTION TO EXCEED THE COUNTY APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Director Cappelli opened the meeting to the public for discussion on this Resolution only. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion to close the public hearing with a second by Freeholder Nash and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

**MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION i**

Director Cappelli asked for a motion to adopt Resolution i. Freeholder Greco made a motion to adopt with a second by Freeholder Nash and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

- j. PUBLIC HEARING - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE 2009 CAMDEN COUNTY BUDGET

Director Cappelli opened the meeting to the public for discussion on the County Budget. Before doing so, Director Cappelli said he would like to say this is the third year in a row that this Board has reduced the level of spending here in Camden County. The Director said we have reduced spending by over \$6 million over the past three years and we have significantly reduced the tax rate throughout Camden County. He said we have done so in the face of increased fixed costs of \$60 million over the past three years. He said we have done so without lay-offs. We have done so with the cooperation and the partnership with the employees of Camden County who deserve all the credit for the achievement that we are accomplishing here tonight. The Director then thanked Administrator Ross Angilella, David McPeak and Deputy County Administrators, Jim Rhodes, Dominic Vesper, Cathy Gavin and all the Department Heads who have worked so hard over the past three years to bring relief to the taxpayers of Camden County. The Director said this matter is still open to the public.

**Mr. Irani** of Winslow Township addressed the Freeholders. Mr. Irani said the reason I am here is that I am very thankful to you for keeping the budget within limits. He said I am very happy to see that there is some entity that is not asking for an increase in property taxes. He said there are a lot of people who are seniors like himself and a lot of people who are laid off and it is very important for them to keep their expenses under control so they can buy their next meal. Personally, he said, in his case, we had an option whether we should have lay-offs or whether we should have reduced work week and he said he and his partner decided together that it was better to have less working days than laying off everybody. He said it was better for us to share our total income which had gone down by two-thirds from last year but we are still

managing and we are still there. We are trying to keep our costs as low as possible but at the same time, everybody has to sacrifice just as the whole country has to sacrifice. He said he personally thinks that property taxes already are very high. He said about 15 years ago his property taxes were \$1,500.00 per year, today they are a little bit more than \$10,000.00 a year. He said that is a lot of money and don't know where the money is going - it is going somewhere and it is such a shame that it puts a lot of people in a situation where they have to move out of the State and go somewhere else to be able to save any money. That being the case, he said he thinks it is very important that everybody should share in this type of sacrifice. It is not only the people who are seniors or the people who are laid off and also the people in the government, judges, mayors and police and firemen and educators. Everybody has to share in this time - that is the only way that the country can solve any situation. He said now everyone is at everyone throats and that is not the way it is supposed to be. He said we are all part of one community and we must learn how to live together and support one another. Thank you.

Director Cappelli thanked him for his comments.

**Tom Yarnall** of Cherry Hill addressed the Freeholders. He said he too would like to add his thanks. He said usually he goes to meetings to complain about the increases and this is one time that it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to say, "Thank you" for thinking about us. He said when he was working 13 years ago when he retired, he didn't mind the property tax increases. He was able to do it because he was getting increases in pay. Social security goes up a little bit but not as fast as property taxes. He said so I really sincerely thank you!

Seeing no other members of the public wishing to speak, Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion to close the public hearing with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

#### **MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION j - 2009 CAMDEN COUNTY BUDGET**

The Director asked for a motion to adopt Resolution j. Freeholder Nash made a motion to adopt the 2009 Camden County Budget with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

Director Nash interjected and said he would like to extend his congratulations as well to the Director, Ed McDonnell and especially administration, the directors and the employees. He said it is very easy in this very difficult economic times to do what some other jurisdictions have done and that is to just raise taxes or at the other end to what they call slash and burn to lay-off 500 employees at one time because there is not the revenues to pay. Freeholder Nash said the hard part is to

provide the quality of life that our residents have come to know and enjoy and still not raise taxes and that is what the Director has done. He said three years ago you made a decision to work with the employees to have an early retirement plan that has been very successful that has saved money but the hard part was to call upon the employees to fill the void and not replace those employees that have been here for a long time. Freeholder Nash congratulated and thanked all the employees who are doing a lot more with less. It is very difficult times and we have been able to accomplish what no other county in this State has been able to do. So proudly, I vote yes for the 2009 Camden County Budget.

Director Cappelli congratulated the entire Board but especially congratulations to Deputy Director McDonnell who has given so much of his time over the past couple of years, day in and day out, paying attention to the budget making sure we stay within our means and we meet our objectives. The Director said, Ed, your hard work continues to pay off. On behalf of all the residents of Camden County, thank you.

- k. FIRST READING - RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN NEW JERSEY CANCELING AN UNFUNDED APPROPRIATION BALANCE TOTALLING \$12,500,000 HERETOFORE APPROPRIATED AND AUTHORIZED IN A BOND ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS  
(PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON JUNE 18, 2009, 7:00 P.M., HARRY WILLIAMS BUILDING, BROADWAY & BLACKHORSE PIKE, RUNNEMEDE, NEW JERSEY)

#### **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION k - FIRST READING**

Director Cappelli asked for a motion to adopt Resolution k on first reading. Freeholder Greco made a motion to adopt on first reading with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

#### **MINUTES**

The Director said the next order of business is the Minutes of our previous meeting and asked for a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion to adopt the Minutes with a second by Freeholder Cream and on roll call:

AYE: CREAM, NASH, RIPA, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL, CAPPELLI  
ABSTAIN: GRECO

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Director then asked the Clerk of the Board if there was any correspondence. The Clerk answered that there was

correspondence. The Clerk read an email that was sent to Freeholder Greco from a teacher about the County's Drunk Driving Awareness Program. The email read as follows:

"Dear Mr. Greco,

My name is Lois DeSantis and I am a health teacher at Cherry Hill High School West. Back in February I got in contact with Officer Vespe of the Camden County Park Police in an attempt to arrange a date for your Drunk Driving Awareness Program to come to our school. We had it last year and the students loved it. The weather wasn't totally cooperative but in any event came in mid-April just before the Junior Prom. I want to take this opportunity to express to you the wonderful presentation Officer Robert Vespe and Officer Rick Burns gave to our Junior Health Class. The response from the students was very positive. They all thought it was very informative and fun at the same time. They mentioned that those Officers offered valuable information and driving the golf cart while wearing the goggles was an eye opening experience. I am looking forward to scheduling them again next year. The program was featured on our school's broadcasting station and we are going to have an article in our school newspaper. I am hoping to have a larger media presence next year. Thank you again for this wonderful program and the very student-friendly Officers.

Sincerely,  
Lois DeSantis

**COMPTROLLER**

The Director asked for a motion to adopt the Comptroller's Report. Freeholder Cream made a motion to adopt the Comptroller's Report with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

The Director announced that the next portion of this meeting is open to the public for discussion on the Resolutions that the Freeholders are going to be acting upon this evening. He said there will be another public session after the meeting, at which time the public can ask any questions they want regarding the business of the County or anything else they wish to talk about. The Director said that he asks that this portion of the public hearing be limited to the Resolutions that the Freeholders are going to be voting on.

The Director then declared the public hearing open.

**Dawn Renquist Drear**, of Lindenwold addressed the Freeholders regarding Resolution 22 and asked for an explanation about what is being done with Blueberry Hill. Freeholder Nash said that is the open space purchase. The Freeholder said the County has an Open Space Advisory Committee that utilizes the open space fund to purchase property that preserves the land for eternity. What the Township did along with the State's Green

Acres Fund, we purchased this property which will remain open space forever.

Ms. Renquist Drear asked about the people who drive their quads back there and if someone gets hurt who is responsible. She said she was lost back there for two and a half hours it was very scary back there. The guys on their quads were driving crazy back there. Jack Sworaski responded and said that the Borough of Gibbsboro would be responsible. He said they will have ownership of the property. She said anyone who is hurt on the quads, they will have to take care of that and do they know that? Mr. Sworaski said they do know that. Freeholder Nash said most of the larger properties we are buying we don't do it by ourselves. We partner it with the towns and the State's Green Acres funds or Farm Preservation to preserve the property. For our County, we like to have the property part of the Greenway which runs from Camden to the most southern end of the County. Ms. Renquist Drear asked if Freeholder Nash has gone back in this area. The Freeholder responded that he did not. She asked if there is going to be any type of dividing fence line or anything else because she said she would recommend it. The Freeholder said we always take recommendations on properties. We are not going to own this particular property. She urged the Freeholders to take a look at this area and said don't forget your cell phone if you go back there. Freeholder Nash asked her to speak with Mr. Sworaski and give him her information.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, the Director asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion to close the public portion with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and all Freeholders present voted aye.

The Director said that at our Caucus on Tuesday evening, the Board of Freeholders reviewed the resolutions to be acted upon tonight. He said it was at that time that the Board discussed items to be voted on and we will be voting on resolutions in blocks based on unanimous consent of the Freeholders.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolutions 1 through 11** were adopted upon motion by Freeholder Greco with a second by Freeholder Ripa and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

1. Resolution establishing the 2009 Tax Assessment for the Camden County Library Commission.
2. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the Municipal Courtroom Construction project in the amount of \$58,800.00.

3. Resolution authorizing payment, by the County of Camden (Department of Buildings & Operations) to Amsan, LLC for the provision of janitorial supplies and related equipment, in an amount not to exceed \$1,303.84 - CAF #'s 9900145462, 9900146408.
4. Resolution ratifying payment to and authorizing the award of an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Buildings & Operations) and Verizon, New Jersey Inc., pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(f), for the provision of Centrex Service at a cost of \$31,800.20 per month for a period of 36 months.
5. Resolution authorizing payment, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:33-8.1 for the Camden County Library System to Verizon for data access lines and related services, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(f), at a cost of \$4,200.00 per month for a period of 36 months - CAF #9900145868.
6. Resolution appointing a member to the Camden County Library Commission.
7. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Freeholder Cream.
8. Resolution amending the 2006 & 2007 County Aid Program.
9. Resolution amending the contract by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Kupper, LLC for additional services related to the reconstruction of the Broadway Bridge (CR551), in the Borough of Brooklawn and the City of Gloucester, in an amount not to exceed \$19,000.00 - CAF #9900146739.
10. Resolution authorizing an award of contract (Bid B-3), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and Highway Safety Systems, Inc., for provision of reconstruction and/or repairs to beam guide rails at various locations throughout Camden County, in an amount not to exceed \$161,850.00 - CAF #9900146565.
11. Resolution authorizing an award of contract (Bid B-4), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and American Asphalt Co., Inc., for the milling and resurfacing of Kendall Blvd., (CR650) in the Borough of Oaklyn, in an amount not to exceed \$427,494.20 - CAF #9900146566.

**Resolutions 12 through 14** were adopted upon motion by Deputy Director McDonnell with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call:

12. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) for the Supportive Regional Planning Program, Project No. 10-61-020, in an amount not to exceed \$39,558.00.
13. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) for the Transit Support Program , Project No. 10-63-021 in an amount not to exceed \$46,541.00.
14. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Works) and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) for acceptance of the Camden County Share of the Approved Planning Work Program, in an amount not to exceed \$32,211.00. Funding is available in the 2009 reserve fund.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, NASH, RIPA, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL  
ABSTAIN: CAPPELLI

**Resolutions 15 through 39** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Greco with a second by Freeholder Cream and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

15. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Freeholder Greco.
16. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the budget for the Camden County Bench Donation Program (Hoffman), in the amount of \$791.00.
17. Resolution authorizing the Open Space, Recreation and Farmland, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Tax.
18. Resolution adopting the Camden County Golf Academy Fee Schedule.
19. Resolution authorizing the creation of a pool of qualified caterers to service events at the Camden County Boathouse and the Camden County Emergency Training Center for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.
20. Resolution authorizing Change Order #1 (Bid A-43-2008), by and between the County of Camden (Department of Parks) and Command Co., Inc., for miscellaneous modifications and changes related to improvements in Timber Creek Park, in the amount of \$51,380.00 - CAF #9900146736.
21. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the recommendation of the Open Space Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Committee to preserve the *4S Investors Property*, (Block 1603, Lot

25.01), in the Twp. of Winslow, in an amount not to exceed \$365,338.00 - CAF #9900146089.

22. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the recommendation of the Open Space Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Committee and authorizing funding in the amount of \$6,500,000.00, which includes a County loan of \$4,122,467.00 to the Borough of Gibbsboro for the purchase of the Blueberry Hill property. CAF #9900146527.
23. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Environmental Affairs) and the Camden County Improvement Authority for the preparation of Phase II of Camden County's Regional Bicycle and Multi-use Trail Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$32,750.00 - CAF #9900146647.
24. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Freeholder Nash.
25. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the budget for the Camden County Prosecutor's Office DWI Enforcement/Sobriety Checkpoint Project, in the amount of \$20,000.00.
26. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the budget for the Camden County Prosecutor's Megan's Law & Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant, in the amount of \$21,820.00.
27. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the budget for the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Project Safe Neighborhood Grant Program, in the amount of \$40,483.00.
28. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the budget for the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Victim & Witness Advocacy Fund Supplemental Grant Program, in the amount of \$106,320.00.
29. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 Funds into the budget for the Camden County Prosecutor's Office Insurance Fraud Reimbursement Program, in the amount of \$250,000.00.
30. Resolution authorizing an award of contract, pursuant to the Solicitation of Quotations, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Corrections) and AmSan for the purchase of a floor cleaning machine, in an amount not to exceed \$725.00 - CAF #9900146246.
31. Resolution ratifying the grant Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) and the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice for the 2008 Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund in the amount of \$52,340.00.

32. Resolution authorizing an extension of a month-to-month Lease Agreement, by the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) and Rutgers University beginning January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$16,200.00 - CAF #9900146318.
33. Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application, by the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) to the U.S. Department of Justice for the 2009 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program in the amount of \$11,966.00.
34. Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application, by the County of Camden (Office of the Prosecutor) to the New Jersey Department of State, Office of Faith Based Initiatives for the Truancy Prevention Initiative Program in the amount of \$15,000.00.
35. Resolution authorizing a reimbursement, by the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) to D'Astuto Construction, Inc., (Bid A-69) for funds paid out to PSE&G for the relocation of a utility pole at the Camden County Emergency Training Facility, in the amount of \$25,426.00 - CAF #9900146506.
36. Resolution authorizing a reimbursement, by the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) to D'Astuto Construction, Inc., (Bid A-69) for funds paid out to Verizon for the relocation of overhead wires and the removal of a utility pole at the Camden County Emergency Training Facility, in the amount of \$23,200.00 - CAF #9900146508.
37. Resolution rejecting Bid A-25 for Automatic Gate and Access Control for the County of Camden Department of Public Safety due to substantial revision of bid specifications.
38. Resolution authorizing an award of contract, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and Jan Communication (State Contract A-53803), for the purchase and installation of radio equipment at the Communication Center, in an amount not to exceed \$134,753.15 - CAF #' 9900146466, 9900146482.
39. Resolution authorizing an award of contract, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and Motorola (State Contract A-53804), for the purchase and installation of radio equipment at the Communication Center, in an amount not to exceed \$292,162.88 - CAF #'s 9900146485, 9900146486.

**Resolution 40** was adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Ripa with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call:

40. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), for use and repair of DRPA 450MHz range radio repeaters for use as back-up communications.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, RIPA, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL,  
CAPPELLI

ABSTAIN: NASH

**Resolutions 41 through 48** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Ripa with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

41. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Public Safety) and the Township of Voorhees for the provision of police dispatch for the Township of Voorhees.
42. Resolution authorizing Competitive Contracting for the procurement of a Comprehensive Medical and Psychiatric Health Care Services program for the juvenile detainees at the Camden County Youth Center.
43. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Freeholder Ripa.
44. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the '08 - '09 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$4,000.00.
45. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the '08 - '09 Women, Infants & Children Grant in the amount of \$81,000.00.
46. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the '07 - '08 Child Care Resource & Referral Grant in the amount of \$277,180.00.
47. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the '08 - '09 Child Care Resource & Referral Grant in the amount of \$4,636.00.
48. Resolution amending Resolution #53, adopted April 23, 2009, to include the Senior Nutrition Program award to Senior Citizens United Community Services, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 - CAF #9900146364.

**Resolution 49** was adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Nash with a second by Deputy Director McDonnell and on roll call:

49. Resolution authorizing an award of contract, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request For Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Department of Health & Human Services) and Union Organization for Social Services for the provision of volunteer program services, in an amount not to exceed \$26,000.00 - CAF #9900144623.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, NASH, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL,  
CAPPELLI

ABSTAIN: RIPA

**Resolutions 50 through 78** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Ripa with a second by Freeholder Cream and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

50. Resolution authorizing the CEHA (County Environmental Health Act) contract for the period 1/1/09 to 12/31/09 in the amount of \$280,607.00.
51. Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application, by the County of Camden (Department of Health & Human Services) to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for the Tuberculosis Control Health Service Grant in the amount of \$256,325.00.
52. Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application, by the County of Camden (Department of Health & Human Services) to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for the Special Child Health Services Grant in the amount of \$287,007.00.
53. Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application, by the County of Camden (Department of Health & Human Services) to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Grant in the amount of \$1,332,500.00.
54. Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application, by the County of Camden (Department of Health & Human Services) to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for the STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) Prevention Grant in the amount of \$73,800.00.
55. Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application, by the County of Camden (Division of Senior & Disabled Services) to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 2009 funding, in the amount of \$150,349.00.
56. Resolution authorizing Camden County to be a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding for the transfer of the Probation Residential and Education Program (PREP) from

the Administrative Office of the Courts to the Juvenile Justice Commission.

57. Resolution amending Resolution #44, adopted January 22, 2009, authorizing a pilot program for minors under the Project Lifesaver Program, to change the effective date and to add a signatory for Agreements between the County of Camden and various participants.
58. Resolution reappointing a member to the Camden County Board of Social Services.
59. Resolution reappointing members to the Camden County Health Services Center Board of Managers.
60. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Freeholder Rodriguez.
61. Resolution of the County of Camden in the State of New Jersey authorizing the execution and delivery of an Agreement, with the Camden County Improvement Authority, in connection with the issuance by the Authority of its Bonds or Notes for Camden County's 2009 Capital Budget.
62. Resolution authorizing payment to SunGuard Public Sector, Inc., pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:115(1)(dd), for the provision of maintenance and technical support relative to the County's Finance System, in an amount not to exceed \$26,474.72 - CAF #'s 9900146614, 9900146616.
63. Resolution authorizing an award of contract, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Insurance), and Willis of New Jersey, Inc., for the provision of Marine Owners Legal Liability and Excess Liability Insurance for Wiggins Park Marina, in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 - CAF #9900146635.
64. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request For Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Insurance) and Compservices Inc., for the provision of insurance administrative services for auto, general, public official and self-funded worker's compensation claims for the County of Camden, in an amount no to exceed \$217,500.00 - CAF #9900146725.
65. Resolution authorizing the purchase of WSCA Data Communications Equipment/Network from various authorized State Contract vendors.
66. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the American Reemployment and Reinvestment Act '08-'09 program in the amount of \$3,380,653.00.

67. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the Summer Heat '09 program in the amount of \$32,600.00.
68. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the Summer Heat Transportation '09 program in the amount of \$70,000.00.
69. Resolution inserting Chapter 159 funds into the budget for the Special Initiative and Transportation '09 -'10 program in the amount of \$1,196,561.00.
70. Resolution deleting Camden County Policy and Procedure No. 39.1 "Health Benefits - Health Maintenance Organization".
71. Resolution amending Camden County Policy and Procedure No. 45.0 "Incident Reporting Policy".
72. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden and the Camden County Improvement Authority for professional project management, facilities management, and related construction services.
73. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden and the Camden County Improvement Authority authorizing the Authority to act on behalf of the County, to apply for and administer the U.S. Department of Energy's "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program" and revolving loan fund in the amount of \$350,000.00.
74. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden, and the Camden County Improvement Authority, and the Pollution Control Finance Authority for the provision of payroll services.
75. Resolution amending Resolution #93, adopted June 19, 2008, authorizing Shared Services Agreements, by and between the County of Camden and the Camden County Technical School and the Gloucester City Board of Education for the provision of a feasibility study for VoIP solution to include all County Agencies and Authorities.
76. Resolution amending a Shared Services Agreement authorized November 15, 2007 and amended on April 17, 2008, by and between the County of Camden and the Sterling High School Board of Education (South Jersey Technical Partnership) for the provision of consulting services related to County voice and data technical services.

77. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement by and between the County of Camden and each County Agency and Authority for the provision of a third party cost containment analysis.
78. Resolution authorizing an agreement pursuant to a publicly advertised request for proposals by and between the County of Camden and Berkshire Group for the provision of professional consulting services for a third party cost containment analysis.

**Resolution 79** was adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Rodriguez with a second by Freeholder Greco and on roll call:

79. Resolution amending a Shared Services Agreement, authorized December 20, 2007, by and between the County of Camden and the South Jersey Transportation Authority, to accurately reflect the method of payment for services rendered.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL  
ABSTAIN: NASH, RIPA, CAPPELLI

**Resolution 80** was adopted upon motion made by Deputy Director McDonnell with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

80. Resolution authorizing payment, by the County of Camden (Office of the Clerk) to Dynamic Imaging Systems, Inc., for the database migration, testing, and verification of the PictureLink/ID Card system, in an amount not to exceed \$1,200.00 - CAF #9900146619.

**Resolution 81** was adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Rodriguez with a second by Freeholder Cream and on roll call:

81. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, by and between the County of Camden and South Jersey Tourism Corporation for the purpose of developing a podcast series highlighting historically significant sites in Camden County, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 - CAF #9900146697.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, RIPA RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL  
ABSTAIN: NASH, CAPPELLI

**Resolutions 82 and 83** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Ripa with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

82. Resolution authorizing an award of contract, by and between the County of Camden (Division of Information Technology) and New Jersey Business Systems for NJ WSCA Contract #70264 for Websense Licenses One Year

Subscription, in the amount of \$19,460.00 - CAF #9900146613.

- 83.** Resolution authorizing an award of contract (3<sup>rd</sup> Yr. option - Bid A-8), by and between the County of Camden (Division of Information Technology) and Professional Implementation Consulting Services, Inc., (PICS) for the provision of Internet services, in an amount not to exceed \$87,120.00 - CAF #9900146769 for \$12,705.00. Balance of funding is contingent upon the availability and appropriation of funds in the 2010 temporary and/or permanent budgets.

**Resolution 84** was adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Ripa with a second by Freeholder Cream and on roll call:

- 84.** Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden and Camden County College for the provision of Microsoft Office training classes for Camden County Employees, in an amount not to exceed \$27,600.00 - CAF #9900146796 for \$12,000.00. Balance of funding is contingent upon the availability and appropriation of funds in the 2009 permanent budget.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, NASH, RIPA, RODRIGUEZ, CAPPELLI  
ABSTAIN: MCDONNELL

**Resolutions 85 through 88** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Cream with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

- 85.** Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application, by the County of Camden (Office of Community Development) to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development for the FY' 09 Consolidated Strategy and Action Plan Program in the amount of \$4,080,726.00.
- 86.** Resolution authorizing an award of contract (2<sup>nd</sup> Yr. option - Bid A-27), by and between the County of Camden (Division of Special Events) and Tri State Erection, Inc., for the lease and installation of mobile stages, in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.00 - CAF #9900146100 for \$50,000.00. Balance of funding is contingent upon the availability and appropriation of funds in the 2009 permanent budget.
- 87.** Resolution authorizing an award of contract, pursuant to the Solicitation of Quotations, by the County of Camden (One Stop) to The Institute for Life Coping Skills for the purchase of Adkins Training Booklets for Summer Youth Programs, in an amount not to exceed 20,766.00 - CAF #9900146103.

88. Resolution amending the contract (Resolution #106, adopted June 19, 2008), by and between the County of Camden (One Stop) and Genesis School of Business for the purpose of increasing slots and increasing the contract amount awarded, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 - CAF #9900146519.

**Resolution 89** was adopted upon motion made by Deputy Director McDonnell with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call:

89. Resolution authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request For Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (One Stop) and approved non-profit community based organizations for the provision of Summer Youth Employment Program Worksites.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, NASH, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL,  
CAPPELLI  
ABSTAIN: RIPA

**Resolutions 90 and 91** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Ripa with a second by Freeholder Cream and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

90. Resolution authorizing Shared Services Agreements, by and between the County of Camden (One Stop) and approved government agencies for the provision of Summer Youth Employment Program worksites.

91. Resolution amending the Shared Services Agreement (Resolution #83, adopted October 16, 2008), by and between the County of Camden (One Stop) and the Camden County Board of Social Services for increased Early Employment initiative Program services in an amount not to exceed \$15,422.00 - CAF #9900146537.

**Resolution 92** was adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Cream with a second by Freeholder Greco and on roll call:

92. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement, by and between the County of Camden (One Stop) and the South Jersey Transportation Authority for the provision of a comprehensive transportation system for eligible Camden County residents.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL  
ABSTAIN: NASH, RIPA, CAPPELLI

**Resolutions 93 and 94** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Rodriguez with a second by Freeholder Greco and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye.

93. Resolution authorizing the approval and execution of Modification #1, of the Special Initiative and Transportation Contract - July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 with the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development.
94. Resolution opposing proposed cuts in State funding to the Counties for the maintenance of patients in psychiatric facilities.

**Resolutions 95 and 96** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Ripa with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and on roll call:

95. Resolution authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request For Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Office of County Counsel) and various law firms for the provision of special labor counsel services.
96. Resolution authorizing Agreements, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request For Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Office of County Counsel) and various law firms for the provision of workers compensation counsel services.

AYE: CREAM, GRECO, RIPA, RODRIGUEZ, MCDONNELL,  
CAPPELLI  
ABSTAIN: NASH

**Resolutions 97 through 103** were adopted upon motion made by Freeholder Greco with a second by Freeholder Cream and on roll call, all Freeholders present voted aye

97. Resolution authorizing an Agreement, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request For Proposals, by and between the County of Camden (Office of County Counsel) and McCarter and English for the provision of general bond counsel services.
98. Resolution authorizing General/Auto Liability Settlements.
99. Resolution authorizing Workers Compensation Settlements.
100. Resolution authorizing settlement of the matter known as Vodges v. New Jersey Transit, et al.
101. Resolution authorizing the approval of the By-Laws of the Camden County Human Relations Commission.
102. Resolution appointing a member to the Camden County Workforce Investment Board.

103. Resolution approving personnel actions requested by or on behalf of Freeholder Director Cappelli.

**Resolution 104** - no motion made - Resolution fails.

104. Resolution acknowledging personnel actions requested by or on behalf of constitutional or statutory offices. **No Motion - Fails.**

The Director said that concludes the Resolutions. He then opened the meeting to the public for discussion on any issues.

**John Martin** identified himself as a retired teacher; taxpayer and a voter, residing in Cherry Hill addressed the Freeholders. Mr. Martin said there is no need for him to address the worst economic crisis we have faced since the Great Depression. There are many causes for this crisis and they have been addressed in the media. He said what he would like to address is the County Freeholders' open position that we, the school employees are somehow responsible for the economic woes that we face. He said he studied in New Jersey Schools and attained his Masters Degree, he found no mention of County government's role in the operation of funding of public schools. There is however mention of the authority given to local municipalities, the state government, the State Board of Education and the Chief State School Officer, along with the current responsibility of funding school operations.

Nonetheless, he said he finds that the Freeholders have chosen to insert themselves into the process. He said what he finds ironic in their position is the fact that tonight he has come to find out that several of the Freeholders are either directly involved in education or your family members are. Specifically, however, you have proposed that the local school districts - 1) eliminate steps on the salary guide - eliminate longevity; 2) eliminate the sell-back of unused sick leave; 3) reduce the number of paid holidays; 4) reduce overtime; 5) increase employee contribution to health benefits. He said the list goes on. Mr. Martin said back in 1971 when he first became involved in the collective bargaining process and at that time the Federal Government contributed 8 to 12 percent of the cost of operating our schools. The State contributed 65 to 75 percent back in the early 70's, leaving approximately 20 percent to the local municipalities. Today, the Federal Government contributes two to three percent of a much larger number. He said the State government has dropped to 35 to 40 percent and less in some of the wealthier communities and the local district has to share the burden by having to pay 55 to 60 percent and more in some of the wealthier communities. He said these early years reflected an attitude that was exhibited by government officials at that time - that being that education was the right of our youth and the responsibility of the government to supply it. Readily, however, today, you choose to look upon education as a burden. You point the finger at us, the school employees, as being somewhat responsible for our current economic dilemma. He said

let me remind you that we don't spend public monies, we earn them. In closing, he said he would like to paraphrase, not quote, Ronald Reagan in his Inauguration Speech of January 1981, where he said a little differently, "The Freeholders are not going to fix the problem, perhaps the Freeholders are the problem".

Director Cappelli responded to Mr. Martin and said he has a couple of questions for him. The Director said you made a couple of statements, saying the Board of Freeholders have blamed the school as being the cause of economic crisis. The Director asked where the Board has done that. Mr. Martin said he wished he had the letter with him but it was a letter put out to the public. The Director said my question to you is this, Sir. We as a Board of Freeholders have done our best to reduce the County tax burden in Camden County Property Taxes. The Director said we cannot do it alone. We need the assistance of the municipalities and school boards. He said what we have done and what I have done specifically in a letter you reference is ask all taxing entities in Camden County to join us in trying to reduce the tax burden on the residents of Camden County. He said we have not said eliminate cause "x y z", what we did is say we negotiated very hard on those issues and we are hoping that school board, municipalities and fire districts will follow our lead in trying to reduce spending. The Director said we have not picked on teachers or the education system in particular. We asked all governing bodies to do what we are doing and that is to reduce spending to the best of their ability. He said that is exactly what we have done, we have done nothing more than that and if you sit here and truly believe that this Board of Freeholders has influence over a single Board of Education to tell them what to negotiate and how, Sir, you are living in a dream world.

Mr. Martin responded and said you will be hearing more from us but he said he would like to urge the Director also to look at something he addressed at a Cherry Hill meeting and that is when you take a look at all 21 counties in the State of New Jersey and you compare what taxpayers pay in their municipal taxes compared to the County taxes and he said he did, he said you will see that Camden County is just about double the average rate across the State for County taxes. He said when I asked you that question you said you should compare it to Edison because of cities. Director Cappelli said if you want to compare County to County be fair about it. You can't compare Camden to Warren; you have to compare Camden to Hudson, Essex and other counties with urban centers. He said that is a fair comparison not the comparison you just made. Thank you.

**Sharon Long** of Lawnside identified herself as President of the 12,000 member Camden County Education Association addressed the Freeholders. Ms. Long said to Director Cappelli that since he has been referring to her by name in many communications, I would like to speak directly to you this evening. Ms. Long said

look around at these educators, we aren't millionaires, and we aren't County College executives making six figure salaries. She said we aren't elected officials making \$24,000.00 a year on the side. She said, in fact, some of her ESP (Education Support Professionals) don't even make \$24,000.00 a year. She said we are teachers, bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, para-professionals and others who go to work every day to get a paycheck. She said we work hard and we contribute a great deal to the quality of life in Camden County. We are the reason that many people move here for our schools. We are the reason that our children go to such lengths and earn incredible success. She said we are middle class, taxpayers and voters. Those salaries we earn they help to support local businesses. They pay our property taxes; they help our families get through when times are tough like they are now. You call us a special interest - well if you are talking about me, you are right because I do have a special interest, in fact, I have a few of them. I have a special interest in my family. I have a special interest in my job and I have special interest in my elected representatives treating me like a taxpayer not a target. Call us what you want, justify it as you like but when you come after our salaries and benefits, you are attacking our livelihood, our security in shaky times and our families. Don't think you can attack one group of middle class taxpayers to please another group of middle class taxpayers. If you do, don't think we're going to let it pass. That's the kind of crass politics and diversity that voters around this country and in this County have rejected. We are not asking for special treatment and we shouldn't be singled out with a kind of unfair, untrue criticism that you have been aiming at us. To the rest of the Board, Mr. Cappelli has been very vocal on his attacks on us. He has been putting out letters and emails on Freeholder letterhead. We are still waiting to see if he speaks for himself or he speaks for the entire Board. My members are good people we're the kind of hard working taxpaying citizens who make up the backbone of a healthy community. We don't deserve to be targeted as Mr. Cappelli has targeted us and we hope he does not speak for each of you as well. We want to be part of the solution of Camden County that is why we work so hard to keep our schools strong because good schools are the foundation of a great economy. We want to be partners but we refuse to be victims or scapegoats. What do you want? Thank you.

Director Cappelli said, "Thank you".

**Bob Boricki** of Stratford addressed the Freeholders and said he is a teacher at Collingswood High School and is the President of the Collingswood Education Association. Mr. Boricki said I have to tell you I wouldn't be here tonight if it wasn't for this letter. When I got a copy of this letter, I was very upset. First, and I quote, "Neither the NJEA or local education unions are unaware that our families are being hit hard" - so is mine, so is everybody in our Association - that doesn't make any sense. The thing that really put me over the top was the fact

that you said, "Teachers refuse to share in the sacrifice". He said I am going to tell you and some people here know this. Last year was not a negotiation year for us and the School Board asked us if we would take a different health plan - we said yes and they would save half a million dollars. We said roll back what we pay, we can't do that - it would cost \$65,000.00. This year we can save \$750,000.00 another roll back \$75,000.00. Ladies and Gentlemen, that would save our taxpayers over a million dollars and we tried to do this. Don't say that unions are not trying; we are trying. He said I can tell you that I teach in an outstanding district - these gentlemen know that - we have great kids, we have great parents. I have been there since 1980 - one budget went down - one! I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for this letter. That really upset me that you say none of the unions are trying because I know we are! I know that the letters that went out to all the towns has an affect on what goes on here and we know why. We will leave it out that - we know why but here's the situation. If I wasn't a member of the CEA with the letter that was sent out to all the taxpayers, it doesn't tell them where the meeting is or when and I would really be upset as a taxpayer if I didn't know if I wanted to be at this meeting. It's not even on the letter. I honestly believe that all the Associations are doing something and trying and by you saying all the Associations are not doing anything, that is definitely not fair. Thank you.

**Dawn Renquist Drear** said speaking of letters, I sent you one and never heard back from you so I am going to read it to you now.

"Dear Lou,

Hey, buddy, a big mistake has been made. Many are angry. Please rethink this idea of interfering with the educators' salary and benefits. My personal circumstance is as follows. I am an instructional teacher's assistant in special education. I have worked for 18 years at Lindenwold #4 School. Lou, my salary is only \$15,595.00 before taxes. If anything, all of the Freeholders should be extremely thankful for people like me that are willing to work for such a small amount. Yes, we in Lindenwold are lucky to have benefits. You know darn well that I need them with my health situation. If you were to go to Tatem School, Collingswood Junior High or Collingswood High School right now, would they be thrilled to see you? I feel that educational employees deserve to be respected. This is a campaign that is a smack in the face. I am not happy about it. I understand that you are trying to come up with ideas to raise funds. I gave you one last year that would give huge capital. I said I was looking for a response from you.

Yours truly,  
Dawn Renquist Drear"

She said she never heard back and handed the Director this letter personally.

**Michael Ritzias**, President of Cam-Voc Association, Camden County Technical Schools addressed the Freeholders. Mr. Ritzias said as we are all aware Director Cappelli sent an email out stating that teachers and educational professionals do not care about the plight of the community in these economic times. He said here are the facts. We, educators, are the members of the community. We feel the pain that the economic crisis as acutely as anyone else. Some of our spouses lost jobs we struggle to pay for mortgages, car loans, and tuition for our children to attend college. We are the members of Camden County - we are the community. We shop in Camden County grocery stores, spend our modest paychecks in Camden County businesses. He said I guarantee much of what we earn teaching the children of this community is spent right here in Camden County. Instead of painting my colleagues and me as the problem, you should see us as the solution. We teach children in the County skills that can be used immediately in the workplace. Many employers hire our students of Camden County Technical Schools even before they graduate through our work-study program. We create opportunities for these kids. Not only do we contribute to the tax base directly in Camden County but we also enable others to do so. In fact, we honored some of our alumni here tonight. He said my colleagues and I sacrifice a great deal for the privilege of working with young people of this County. We left careers as successful plumbers, carpenters, welders, nurses, even lawyers and medical doctors. Some of us have taken pay cuts of upwards of 75% to work for the greater good in Camden County. He said he is trained as an electro-biologist and am roughly making one-third as a teacher of what I was making in the private sector. If I had to do it again, I wouldn't change a thing. We don't have the luxury that you Freeholders have to make \$24,000.00 on the side which would be more than 50% raise for him and most of his colleagues. He said some of the people who he represents and as Sharon said would be more than they make in a year. It is evident that we do not do what we do for the money. We understand the meaning of sacrifice. Why are you still asking us to give and give and contribute more than we already have? We are not the problem!

**Tom Yarnall** of Cherry Hill addressed the Board once again.

He said I am not a teacher. I was a teacher in the private sector instead of the public sector. I ran a training department for a corporation so I do know something about teaching. He said he knows something about lesson plans. I know a lot about IDEA and I haven't seen much effort on the part of anyone in any of the unions or any of the administrators trying to get changes made to make the funding come the way it was promised back in 1975. Two years ago, he said he met with Rob Andrews. He said I took a group from the Board of Education and I took some people from the Special Ed Parents Association. Nothing happened. Mr. Andrews said it would take about two

years. He said he also recently asked Chris Myers, John Adler and others. I have written to the Senators. He said he thinks the gentleman that spoke tonight talked about some percentages and the Federal lift is down to 2 to 4 percent. The Federal Band-Aid passed in 1975 by Senator Williams who was from New Jersey has been Special Education. I would like everyone in this room to pay attention to the situation and get the proper funding into the localities that take care of these children instead of burning us, especially retired citizens. I want to tell you one fact, when I was working I paid 5 to 7 percent of my gross income in property taxes. I am now paying 22 percent.

I am doing without medications. I think you have to take some action and you've got to talk to Rob Andrews, John Adler, Menendez, Lautenberg and each other. Stop arguing with each other and get on it - come to a solution!

**Stuart Alterman**, identified himself as an Attorney who represents PBA Local Policemen's Benevolent Association 351 addressed the Freeholders. He said first he would like to thank the Freeholder Board for resolving difficult issues very recently being the residency matter. He said about 14 months ago I stood before you requesting that we sit down and discuss and I give kudos to Mr. Brennan for resolving it with us. Mr. Alterman said the business at hand PBA Local 351 understands that you are looking at the privatization which would call for the elimination of our jobs - 343 jobs that take care of the Camden County Jail. Those jobs take care of 343 families and extended families. There are 60 other individuals that work in that jail that are civilians. He said there are over 400 people working in that particular facility. We are trained professional law enforcement officers. We come to work every day under adverse circumstances working with individuals who are incarcerated who are not the happiest of persons. However, we perform our duties each and every day. The purpose of government is to protect and provide for the general welfare. The public function that of law enforcement, that of Corrections. We members of the public want to feel protected that when individuals necessitate incarceration they will remain incarcerated. That doesn't happen in the private sector. We the members of the taxpaying public want to know that those individuals who have to be incarcerated will be taken care of, watched over in a caring, professional atmosphere. That occurs today but would not occur in a privatization mode or modality. We are here to impress upon you, members of the Freeholder Board, that we stand together; that we are willing to fight for our jobs, that we are going to do what we need to do, to walk where we need to walk, to run where we need to run in order to preserve and protect our livelihoods and to continue to serve as law enforcement officers. Mr. Alterman asked Director Cappelli, are you supporting privatization for the Camden County Jail and the law enforcement function that it serves.

Director Cappelli responded and said as you know we are currently in a lawsuit that is a Federal Class Action lawsuit in

which Camden County has been named because of the conditions of our jail. As a result of that lawsuit, plaintiffs had an expert report prepared which has been supplied to us which outlines some difficulties that exist in the jail. The Director said it is not because of anything your men/women are doing but because of the overcrowding and because of the condition of the jail that is 25 years old. As a result of that finding, we went out with a request for proposals to hire a firm that will help us try to solve the problems that have been identified in that plaintiff's report. We are obligated to do so under the Law because the lawsuit is a difficult one that could wind up costing the taxpayers a lot of money so we are trying to find a solution. We went out with the RFP and the firm has been hired and we are sending a contract to Pulitzer Bogart Association. We have not said to them go out and privatize the jail. He said they had performed the first study of the jail after the Plaintiff's expert report. What we said to them is you have identified these problems, now try to help us solve those problems. He said we don't know what their recommendations will be. We are waiting to hear. What we do know is this. Status quo at the jail is unacceptable for your men and women because of safety conditions and problems with safety caused by the overcrowding and because of the condition of the jail and also, because of the fact that it does cost the taxpayers over \$60 million per year about 20% of our budget to operate the jail. He said we all know that status quo is not acceptable. What the recommendations will be from the firm we hired we do not know yet. He said what I strongly recommend is that we continue to engage in communications - we begin immediately so we can try to be on the same page and try to solve this problem together. The Director said what I am saying to you is that we are going to rely heavily I presume on that report that comes back from our firm and the Judge is expecting us to do this in our Federal case. That is where we are - we are not out seeking privatization, we don't know what the report is going to say - what we know is that we have to make some changes. We don't know what those changes will be.

Mr. Alterman said everybody has to change. As a public we grow but we do live in the State of New Jersey and we live in a place where we provide public services. Alternatively, we could live in a place such as Arkansas where they provide services. When you live in a place such as Arkansas, you have a very nice home but when you open the front door it's still Arkansas. Here we open our front door and we see New Jersey. We have the finest education, we have the finest standard of living and yes, does it cost us money, yes it does but we also maintain a standard of living and quality of life here. It does cost money. He said I am all for lowering property taxes and keeping property taxes at a reasonable level - God knows I pay my share, however, I think what we need to do is to communicate and we do need to be on the same page. We also have a situation within that particular jail that involves capital improvements. He said that he knows capital improvements are funded on a yearly basis but I don't know where the money is going because I don't

see it being spent. It is an issue that I would like to sit down and discuss with you. Again, I look forward to meeting with you personally across the table on a good faith basis to resolve these issues. Thank you very much.

**Shirley Prince** identified herself as teaching in Voorhees Township addressed the Freeholders. Ms. Prince said she heard you saved the taxpayers \$6 million and I thought you should know even after your letter in our township alone we saved over \$1 million just the teachers changing our insurance. So I thought that was pretty wonderful and I am sure that every teacher in this room has had money come out of their own pocket to benefit the children. Has anyone here not taken money out of your own pocket to benefit our children to buy things for the school to buy things for the children and for you to attack us, we take it personally. Thank you.

**Priscilla Daruchi** of Voorhees Township addressed the Freeholders and said this is her 34<sup>th</sup> year teaching. She said she absolutely loves it. Ms Daruchi said in all of the discussion we heard tonight one thing seems to have been eliminated and that is the young people in this Township who need our services. They need good teachers. She said do you have any idea of how many students attend our schools, ride our buses have special needs, special concerns and how they are being addressed? When was the last time that you visited a school to see how all this is done. She said she thinks instead of putting pressure on the teachers, you need to put pressure on the President and tell him to get it right and stop wasting money. She said she sincerely means that. She said there was a situation in 2005 that she read about on the Internet and said she doesn't have all the facts but it said that \$1 million was used to cover up a harassment charge and it was discovered by a secret meeting that you decided to hold. She handed the article to the Director. She said she couldn't read it but said there was a part where in particular Mr. Cappelli agreed to have a secretive meeting and pay \$1 million for harassment charges. She said you chose a secretive meeting, you chose to keep it out of the public eye. The Director urged her to let him see the document and said this is news to him. He looked at the letter which he characterized as political propoganda from the Republican Party.

**Christine Webster** of Camden County College addressed the Freeholders. She said she is an educator and a member of New Jersey Education Association and she too like many other teachers in this room have taken offense to some recent comments that you made about our alleged unwillingness to make sacrifices to help you reduce government spending. She said from her personal experience that she has on many occasions tutored her students on Saturdays, on Sundays, evenings after night classes until 9:30 p.m. She said she works between 12 and 18 hours a day on Saturdays and Sundays. She said she has swollen glands right now and has a doctor's note to prove it and it is caused

from working so many hours. She said her point is that to be told that I am not making a sacrifice is very offensive. She said we need to be recognized for the amount of work that we do put in. She said her union is also in negotiations and have reached an impasse. She said she is very upset that we have been told that we should get a 0% raise. I don't know what to say and I recognize that there is a movement in many towns in many schools districts in many schools stemming from the bad economy but I think maybe what we need to do is recognize other areas for allocating money for making changes for making reductions and maybe not in the field of education. When we're trying to help our people to become leaders for tomorrow, if we want an efficient well-run society then I don't think we should be making cutbacks in education. Let's try elsewhere.

**Bonnie Shelfont**, President of Gloucester Township Support Professionals, addressed the Freeholders. Ms. Shelfont said that she is one of the bus drivers who Sharon Long referred to earlier. She said my fellow bus drivers have driven your children to and from school. She said my cafeteria managers, food workers, security guards and maintenance men have kept your schools clean. You are asking us to take cuts? She said we have just saved the district over a million dollars in taking the health benefits. Don't ask my members that make \$6,000.00 to feed your children in the schools and to drive your kids to and from school safely - what more do you want from us. We are doing everything that we can but yet you are taking away our health benefits our bargaining rights and that is not right. We do not have half of what you make just from being on this Board and I find that appalling. Thank you.

**Joseph Petadamange** of Voorhees addressed the Freeholders and thanked them for having a meeting. He said we had a meeting earlier in the year and you attended our school, Osage. He said he has a couple of concerns. He said he understands the economic climate we are in - being a parent, taxpayer and an educator. The concern I have had over the years is that something has to be done about property taxes without a doubt. He said he always looks back to where part of the problem started, which was under-funding the pensions. His biggest concern has always been as we take concessions, who is to say the problem doesn't start again. We had property taxes lowered that is because the pension wasn't funded and in fact the money was taken. As a taxpayer, it hurts me to trust other people to fix the problem when I think the problem is created from the government's partial part of it. He said he knows cuts have to be made - we also switched our healthcare plan. We already have our contract and we did it to save our taxpayers money because I also live in the town that I work in. We actually decreased our taxes by \$39.00. It alarms me that I have taken concessions over the years and I ask people to take a look to see what everyone has to do not just "the teachers". He asked everyone on the Board to sit down and ask themselves how are you going to get a union to trust you when really it goes back to several

years ago where that missing money wasn't taken, it just wasn't contributed that really created this problem and we never dug ourselves out. Thank you.

**Janet Myers** of Gloucester Township addressed the Freeholders. Ms. Myers said she is a school bus driver. She said the amount of money that she makes for driving a school bus is enough to pay my property taxes - \$9,000 a year. So, if you want to cut back my benefits which I rely on and which is really why I am driving the bus, maybe you could reduce my property taxes so we can make it even or something because it is really tough! Thank you.

**Angel McDermott** of Blackwood identified herself as the President of the Gloucester Township Education Association and also consultant with the NJEA. She said her full time job is as a speech therapist in Gloucester Township where Rod Greco also works. She said I am happy to say that we were on the winning end of negotiations and we settled a very nice contract which Mr. Greco will also benefit from. As of right now we do not pay for our benefits and we had a decent raise. She said she wants to know if the Freeholders are willing to give up their benefits because she said she believes that most of you or quite a few of you at one point or another were part of the NJEA or were in education at some point. She said she would like to know from the other Freeholders if they support Mr. Cappelli's stand. She said she has been told that you do not, Mr. Greco, but I have yet to hear you say it publicly. Thank you.

Freeholder Greco interjected and said that Director Cappelli will give me an opportunity to speak and I will answer you at the proper time. Count on an answer to your question.

Seeing no other members from the public wishing to speak, Deputy Director McDonnell made a motion to close the public portion with a second by Freeholder Rodriguez and all Freeholders present voted aye.

The Director then called upon the Freeholders for their comments.

**Freeholder Cream** said I think that most of you know and if my Director doesn't mind my saying this, I was an educator for 37 years and 8 months. I am very sorry that it has gotten to this adversarial position where teachers think that we, as Freeholder Board members, would be against you. That really makes me feel very bad and you might say, well why. She said I am 82 years of age. I wanted to be a teacher when I was 12 years old. Teachers at my school were the ones who helped to nurture me to make me want to be an educator. She said I looked at them and always wanted to dress like them, to look like them. So, I went into education on an elementary level, moved to the high school level, did some adjunct work on the college level at Rutgers and Rowan and loved what I did, retired after 37 years

and 8 months. So, to me teaching has always been an honorable profession. I started making \$200.00 a month teaching - getting paid once a month. At that time, you say that was 900 years ago, but anyway to me it was really a lot of money and I was able to do the things that I did. So, for me to sit here tonight and hear this kind of adversarial back and forth about what Freeholders are doing and teachers not liking it, is very sad to me. I didn't think that we had the right to engage in anything as it relates to your negotiations. My Director, Lou Cappelli, has always been a staunch supporter of teachers. We have other people on this Board, as you have mentioned, who are educators. Carmen Rodriguez taught at Woodrow Wilson, taught in Audubon and now teaches at the Leap Academy. She has four children of her own. She too is very concerned about education in our County and in our nation. You know what is going on in our country today. You know that our taxes are, yours mine and everybody else, we pay more property taxes than any other State in the United States. That happens right here in New Jersey. You know, teachers read the papers, teachers look at television, you know too the state of our country. You know what our President of the United States has told all of us to do - to try to deal with less and still do wonderful things. You've always done it teachers have always been at the bottom of the totem pole. I know it. You should be making much more than you're making - there is no question about that. People make millions of dollars doing nothing but singing a few songs, which we hate. No one is ever saying that you should not have more money. This country after all this recession is over and I will walk with you later to do something nationally to bring teachers where they are supposed to be. We are not saying that - something has been misconstrued. I know that our Director is a caring Director. He has five children in the public schools - he is not going to be a non-supporter of the public schools - I don't think so! Please, if we could get together in a positive way to talk about what problems you are having, what we can do to help you if we can. We're responsible to all constituents in this County about 500,000 of them. They too look to us as a government entity to do things to bring their property rates down. It's not against you as teachers, all of us pay taxes. Let's not get things mixed up here. We pay taxes we are for you, our wonderful teachers. No, you don't get paid enough. Please don't blame us for the terrible conditions. Yes, we will work with you, go to Trenton, and go to Washington in time to help you do this. I just wanted to say that to let you know that these people on this Board, I know are in tune to educators. I wouldn't be sitting here and I feel so bad that you would think that I along with my other supporters here would do something wrong for teachers in this County. It is not right. I don't want you to think that, I don't want you to believe that. This money that we get - if you think it is a lot - I do this because I care. I give \$4,000 to students every year for their scholarship - \$1,000 to four students to the four high schools in the City of Camden. Please don't have me talk off on some tangent saying that I don't care for teachers. I

do, I do care and I go to schools and I visit them. So, I do care - we care on this Board. Please pardon the little anxiety that I expressed but I want you to know - I had to say it. WE care about you, WE - NOT JUST ME! Please try to work with us and find out where we can do better and where you can do better. Thank you for listening.

**Freeholder Nash** said he doesn't want to reiterate everything that Riletta said but I do agree. It was never the intent of this Board to attack the teachers or their direct negotiations with the district. He said as the gentleman who spoke earlier relating to this budget stated and what we are hearing at every corner of the County that people are really hurting. He said his officemate lost his job yesterday. He has a family of two children and he doesn't know how he is going to make the mortgage payment. People are hurting - your neighbors are hurting. I am not telling you something you don't already know. It was my understanding of the letter and I have read the letter. It was my take on the letter that this was an effort by this Board to show some leadership across the Board - not just at the Board of Education level; not just in your district, Voorhees, Gloucester Township or any specific district or any union or any bus driver or any specific negotiation or collective bargaining agreement. It was a general letter that tells every municipality and every school district that we need to come together to find solutions to the problem that the gentleman expressed earlier; that my officemate expressed to me today and that people are talking about all across this State. It was never an attack on the teachers! That was my take of that letter and I will stand by the Director because I believe that was his take as well. Freeholder Nash said I do have to say one more thing to my colleague, Joe Ripa, because this is his last meeting. He said I have worked with many people in public office over the years. I have served with many different people on this Freeholder Board. I think there is no one who is more caring and giving on a personal level than my friend, Joe Ripa. He does things anonymously that he doesn't want me to talk about and I won't but he has given so much of himself for the people he interacts with especially the seniors that he helps. Freeholder Nash said he wants to thank Joe on behalf of all of the residents and it has been an honor to serve with you.

**Freeholder Ripa** thanked all the residents of Waterford Township for allowing the Freeholders to use their facility on this occasion of my last Freeholder meeting as a Freeholder. He said I will be here but not acting as a Freeholder. Mr. Ripa said I think I say a number of things a lot of times and I want it to be taken in the right context. I always say to a lot of my constituents that I speak to and say it is far less expensive for us to educate a child than it is to incarcerate that child. Think about that! He said he knows the problems that you face. They are not just here they're across the nation. We are all facing difficult times. I think for us to throw darts at one another, it would not accomplish one single thing. He said he

forgets who the person was that said, "Money spent in education pays the highest dividends". The Freeholder said I think you know how I feel or you should know how I feel as a person and as an individual, I come from organized labor. He said he has been a business agent and understands the problems that you face but please don't think we are adversarial. Again, I thank you for your intention and thanked all his colleagues on the Board. They have given me a tremendous education and I will forever appreciate it. Thank you.

**Freeholder Rodriguez** said miscommunication, misunderstanding, misinterpretation, whatever it is that you want to call it. We have a lot of intelligent people here. She said honestly she thinks that is what happened. We, meaning the Freeholders, many of us represent the field of education just like you. What we know is that when you listen to a voice that doesn't mean that you take everything that they say and implement what is said, but when you listen and you work together you can find answers to problems - employees and employers talking together. There have been wonderful examples from the union leaders of that happening. Layoffs, I adamantly oppose layoffs. I don't want to see it ever! Ms. Long, you want to be part of the solution that's all that we are asking - be part of the solution! Talk and share and make sure that you are heard. We're asking government agencies to listen and to be part of the solution to work together not against each other. The call is for government entities to work with their employees. If property taxes keep going up and up all we are going to end up with are home foreclosures - lots of them. That's where the property taxes come from the homes. How do you pay for the schools? Where's the answer. Sadly, what I see is a lot of misunderstanding. We're not targeting one entity or another. We are just asking people to sit down to look at what's there; to listen. I am a teacher - I sit in my classroom and I see how money gets spent. I know I deserve more than what I'm making just like all of you but I also know I have some ideas of how that money can be saved. I am not listened to - not always and I know many of you feel that way. All that we are really asking is for government agencies to work together to work with their employees to find solutions because there are solutions. You can't expect the ideas to come from just a few people. The ideas really need to come from everyone. That is all that we are asking and that is really what the communication was meant to share with everyone. That press release is really what was meant to say. Everyone needs to come together because the Camden County Freeholders - Camden County government reducing property taxes means nothing if every other government entity is increasing. It means nothing. We all have to work together and yes, we have to spend money. The education of our children by and large is the most important because that is our future. I strongly support it but we have to work together. She said I know that in your minds there are answers to many of these problems. When our unions work together, we are not saying that they don't, you've given examples of when they do.

The reason the Board of Freeholders has been able to lower these property taxes is because we have been working with the unions and the unions are working with us. She said in some school districts this has been working more successfully than others and you see it in other government entities more successfully than others. She said there are a lot of government entities. She thanked everyone for coming and listening. She said she really wished we were in a bigger room so everyone could have shared. Freeholder Cream made that comment earlier and she is right. We do need to communicate we do need to listen to each other. She thanked everyone for coming and sharing. Freeholder Rodriguez then extended her congratulations to Freeholder Ripa.

**Freeholder Greco** thanked the Township of Waterford for hosting the meeting this evening. He congratulated the County Employee of the Month and to the Winslow Township High School's Consumer Bowl Winners, he said he was a judge at that contest and said he learned a lot from that Consumer Bowl and some of the fraud situations that take place in the world there. He congratulated Joseph Ripa who has done a wonderful job on this Freeholder Board and will be sorely missed.

Freeholder Ripa said to most of the people in the audience I have a confession to make and to my fellow Freeholders, I have been sleeping with an NJEA member for the last 36 years. My wife teaches and she taught today at the Whittier School as she does every day in the City of Camden. She has been teaching in the City of Camden for the last 36 years. She is a good friend of Sharon Long's and I consider myself a good friend of Sharon Long's. He said Sharon and I have had many conversations about what we are talking about right now - private conversations and Sharon has an idea of my point of view and position on this. Freeholder Greco said he would like to give a little history and some of this may be interesting for all of you including my fellow Freeholders. He started teaching in Gloucester Township Public Schools in 1973 and made \$8,300 a year. He said his brother-in-law graduated the same time he did and was making about \$15,000 a year working as an accountant and laughed at the fact that I was making half of what he was making but I told him I enjoyed working with children and I had the summers off. That's what I did. I went into the profession for that. I really didn't end up having the summers off because I ended up tutoring children in the summer - finding odd jobs and supplementing the income. His wife started teaching in 1973 also and in 1978 she was teaching for the City of Camden and they went on strike. We lost 18 days pay - that was a lot of money for us and it took years to recover the money that we lost. He said at the time, he was the Vice-President of the Gloucester Township Education Association. I marched with the Camden Teachers, I supported the Camden Teachers. The people who negotiated the contract for the Camden Teachers went to jail. A lot of you new teachers in this room probably haven't seen a strike in a long time but that one existed and I was part of it. During that period of time, I happened to be at a

restaurant when Mayor Angelo Errichetti happened to be at the same restaurant. At the time, the Mayor was attempting to get involved in the negotiation process between the Camden Board of Education and the Camden Teaching Association. He was interfering and Mr. Greco said I confronted him personally about interfering with that process. He said I was escorted out of Chez Robert by the Mayor's two body guards because I confronted him. It wasn't my school district, it was my wife's school district and I knew the pain and what it was like what we were going through and it was compounded by the fact that my wife had experienced a miscarriage and it just made it more hurtful being out to dinner and the Mayor walking in -- I had to be taken out by two body guards pulling me up to take me out of the restaurant. He said this is a true story. Also in 1985, he said he worked hard for what at the time was the minimum starting teacher's salary at \$8,500 and I wrote letters and worked with State Legislators to push for that as a leader in the Gloucester Township Education Association. Today, I am no longer a member of the NJEA, I am a member of the PSA, Principals and Supervisors Association. I have a collective bargaining unit that I am a member of myself. He said his wife is still a member of the collective bargaining unit. He said if this Freeholder Board had taken a vote on all the things that you are concerned about, I would have to abstain because my wife is a member of a bargaining unit and I am also a member of a bargaining unit. The letter that Mr. Cappelli wrote, again he wrote on behalf of all of the residents of Camden County, everybody inclusive. When he wrote the letter, Freeholder Greco said I called him up and said, "Lou, what are you doing to me - you're talking about me in this letter". Freeholder Greco said that the Director said, "We are not getting involved in negotiations". Freeholder Greco said he responded and said, "It sounds like that to me". Freeholder Greco said in reality we have no jurisdiction. Mr. Greco said he knows all the teachers know that. What Mr. Cappelli did is to present a position that represents the total taxpayers in Camden County, as Freeholder Nash told you. I have a good friend who works at Stockton College, he was pulled into the office last week and told that he had to take a 26% pay cut if he wants to remain working. He said his wife's cousin who works for a car dealership was just told that she has to take a 10% pay cut and she had to lay off nine people. He said those are the realities of what we are dealing with here and that's the constant pressure and concerns that the governing body like this has. He said to Angel McDermott, we have known each other for a number of years, if the Freeholder Board is going to sit at the negotiations table; I have to sit on the other side because I am a member of a collective bargaining unit. That would make sense but this Freeholder Board is not doing that. I don't believe they are doing that. I believe they are trying to look out for the total taxpayer who we all are and I believe that it is a philosophical point of view and it needs to be tweaked. That's my position.

**Deputy Director McDonnell** said he doesn't want to prolong this too much longer. He said he would like to make a couple of comments about the work we have done in Camden County and to what Director Cappelli is referring to. He said we, like school districts, fire districts and municipalities face increasing costs and rising taxes and are trying to control that. Since January 2005, in Camden County we have reduced the work force by 600 people and we have not in that time period laid off a single person. We have not reduced a single salary. We have not taken away benefits. What we are trying to do though and what Lou's intention in the letter to the school district, fire district and the municipalities is let's look at everything we do. Let's look and see if we can share snow removal among districts instead of everybody doing their own. Let's see if we can share some of the administration so that not every single town, every single school district having all those services. Let's see if we can do things like that and yes, let's look at contracts. He said what he has heard from several teachers here is what we have done in Camden County. We talked to our unions, we've worked together and several people came up tonight and said we've changed our insurance plan in order to save taxpayers' money. Well, we did that in Camden County too and that is a great thing and that's the kind of stuff that Lou and the rest of the Freeholder Board are talking about. We are not saying cut anyone's salary; we're not saying to do any draconian things to people. What we are saying to school boards and municipalities is please look at everything you do, see if there are some opportunities. You heard some of them tonight - a million dollars saved by one district - half a million dollars saved by another district. No teacher had their salary reduced or anything taken away. Just look at everything we do because it is amazing when you look structurally at things that we do that there are opportunities to save money. It doesn't mean doing horrible things to teachers or to any other employees. The Deputy Director said in Camden County we reduced our workforce by 600 people and never laid-off a person and we are in negotiations now with our County employees. He said it can be difficult but part of the message is we worked together with our County employees for the last number of years. Look at other County governments, State government laying off people or doing mandatory furloughs. In Camden County we are not doing any of that and that is because we have been able to reduce the workforce without affecting people's lives dramatically and then secondly we've looked structurally at contracts to see where there are opportunities to save. He said when we moved our health insurance program in Camden County no one lost anything. The health insurance our employees have is just as good as what they had before but we found a way to do it cheaper just as it sounds like some of the school districts have done already. That is what we are talking about. He said when Lou sent his letter we have had a lot of success over the past five years doing these things and all we are asking is that the school boards, municipalities, etc. also look at that - see if you can

find ways too. That was always and only the intent. He then congratulated Joe Ripa on his appointment as County Clerk.

**Director Cappelli** said I would like to go over the history of how we got here today because I am absolutely certain that very few of you know what brought us to this point today. The Director said back on March 4, 2009, I sent a letter out to every elected official in Camden County. He said he would like to read certain parts of that letter:

"Dear Elected Official,

Recently you received a letter from the Freeholder Board that outlines actions that we are taking to hold the line on County taxes. There are particulars in that letter that outline strategies we are currently taking to negotiate contracts with union represented employees. After receiving feedback from many of you, I decided to schedule a panel discussion that would review the moves the County has made over the past five years to reduce the County tax levy as well to discuss the negotiation strategies that you can use for your union employees and we hope that you will follow our lead. The panel discussion will also have a question and answer portion."

Director Cappelli said that letter went out to every single elected official in Camden County. This particular letter drew the ire of the NJEA. When I say that, I don't mean each and every one of you - I mean the NJEA leadership. He said he met with the NJEA leadership at their request some time in April and they brought this letter to my attention and I said to them that I would not apologize for this letter and I will not apologize for this letter today. The intent of the letter was just what Deputy Director McDonnell said and that was to bring together other taxing entities in Camden County to work on reducing property taxes for everybody. We can't do it alone. We all sit up here and say we know what the current economic conditions are - they are a lot worse than many of us ever believe they are right now. We receive letters, communications everyday from people losing their homes, people looking for work. These are the worst economic conditions that have existed since the Great Depression. He said as an elected official in this County and this State in this Nation, your number one obligation has to be to make living in this County, this Nation, this State more affordable. Does that mean that you cut and burn and slash, is that mentioned anywhere in this letter? Frankly, it is not. The Director said when he left the meeting with representatives of the NJEA; he thought they had a mutual understanding that that would be that. Soon thereafter all the Freeholders received approximately 1,500 emails based on the misrepresentation that was made from the leadership of NJEA to all of you because in that discussion with NJEA, we talked about some of the issues you raised tonight. The Director said he specifically stated we are not here to cut and burn; we are not here to layoff. He said in fact let's talk about ways we can

avoid layoffs. He said we also talked about ways we can save taxpayers' money. There were never any malicious allegations that you are making tonight. He said he knows that they have received false information from their leadership and he said he thinks that is a disservice to the membership of NJEA and it is a disservice to the residents of this County. All we ever talked about was trying to create a more affordable environment in Camden County. The Director said he will continue to do that. He said he has urged school boards to do it, urged municipalities to do it and fire districts to do it and I will still continue to do it - all the time as he mentioned to NJEA leadership that day respecting the collective bargaining process. These are difficult times. He said there was a time when he served on the Collingswood Board of Commissioners when our starting teachers' salary was low and hurting our ability to attract good teachers, back when times were good. He said he helped promote the higher teachers' salary in Collingswood. Times have changed - policemen are contributing to their health benefits; firemen are contributing to their health benefits, County workers and municipal workers are - these are the types of things we are talking about. We are not looking to put anyone out on the street. We are not saying you are doing a bad job or you don't earn the wages you are earning. I know who you are. I come from a family of educators. I know how hard you work. I respect the job you do. Frankly, my five children are benefiting from the efforts of the teachers in Collingswood. The Director said to be a responsible elected official today we have to talk about the items that are difficult and that means sacrifice. That is all the February letter was intended to do. I know that was not the way it was communicated to you; I know from your emails, from your letters and from your phone calls that each of you were given misinformation by the leadership of NJEA. The Director said I was at the meeting, I know what had been discussed and I know what's been reported to each of you - it is misrepresentation by your leadership. That is what brought you here today. He said he will not apologize for trying to save the taxpayers money. I respect the job that each and every one of you does. I respect education and this Board has a long history of supporting education going back to TECH 2000 where we put a computer in every classroom. Times are difficult - difficult decisions have to be made and we are all going to have to try and get through it. That was the intent of the letter - sorry if it has been misinterpreted but I am not sorry for trying to protect the taxpayers of Camden County.

There being no further business, the Director asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Freeholder Greco made a motion to adjourn with a second by Freeholder Nash at 9:05 p.m. and all Freeholders present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Szczesniwski*

Linda Szczesniwski  
Clerk of the Board

mmd