

QUESTIONS AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING **MAY 23, 2012**

On the pages below, the County has provided responses to questions raised at the May 23, 2012 public hearing regarding the sale of the Homestead nursing home. These questions were regarding substantive or factual matters involving the Homestead or the decision to pursue the sale of same. Several rhetorical questions were also posed by members of the public at the hearing. Since these questions would require opinions of individual Freeholders or speculation on the part of the Board, no specific responses are provided.

Selma Rooney of Branchville asked

What's the big hurry to sell the Homestead?

Discussions regarding the potential sale of the nursing home have been ongoing for almost a year with detailed discussions occurring for more than five months. The May 31, 2012 financial projections for the County nursing home indicate the County will need to subsidize the nursing home operation by approximately \$3.2 million in local tax dollars. The County is seeking to conclude the sale in the 2012 budget cycle to limit current losses and to avoid losses in the 2013 budget

Brenda White of Branchville, again, came forward; she stated that the residents, the volunteers and the staff went out to all the Town Council meetings were given letters to be on a referendum and then there were retractions in the paper, why is that? Did the Freeholders have something to do with that? Did the Board meet with them individually? She said she did not understand that these townships were behind them 100% that they wanted a referendum, why can't they have it?

To our knowledge, the only retraction on this issue was made by Hardyston Township. In this instance the Township Council sent lengthy correspondence to the Board of Chosen Freeholders outlining their concerns (again to our knowledge, the Hardyston Township Council never adopted a formal position on the nursing home by Resolution of the Council). The County, through the County Administrator, sent a response to the Township addressing, in detail, each of their concerns. Upon receipt of the County Administrator's correspondence, the Township Council indicated that their concerns had been satisfactorily addressed.

Tess Bolella asked the following questions

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Who will implement the stipulations?

The County of Sussex through the appropriate staff.

What kind of sanctions or penalties, if any, if they are violated?

The remedy will be enforcement of the conditions of sale.

How can you legally make these stipulations in an absolute sale of asset?

They will be conditions of sale and survive the closing.