

**TRADE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Art Ball, called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2006.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members present: Art Ball, Wayne Kraemer, Otilie Lucas, Tuan Linsinbigler and Tim Sharpe.

Staff present: Marty DeNero and Angela Termen

III. APPROVE MINUTES

All members were in favor of the minutes from June 14, 2006.

IV. OPEN ISSUES

a.) Update on Vehicles and Staff

Trade has received 3 new vehicles from NJ Transit and 2 of the vehicles have problems that need repair. Also, 2 other buses that we received a year and a half ago are waiting for repairs.

Six of our drivers have been out for injuries in the past few months. A new driver is due to start on Monday, August 28th. And we have one part-time driver position available.

b.) Ridership Update

Mr. DeNero said that our ridership is 17% above last year and 44% above the ridership during the first 6 months of 2004.

c.) Grant Application Status

Marty went over the status of 3 different grants.

The Freeholders will review and endorse the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program application to NJ Transit tomorrow and then it will be reviewed by the NJ Transit Citizen Advisory Council on August 28th.

NJ Transit would like Trade to submit an application for a Federal Rural Grant-5311, which would provide transportation to the general public in rural Mercer County, which would apply to Hopewell Township and Hopewell Boro. This grant would provide Trade with up to 2 new drivers.

The third grant that Marty discussed is a grant that would provide a shuttle for Ewing Township.

d.) Human Service Coordination Plan-Update

Mercer County has designated Mr. DeNero as the lead contact for Mercer County for the United We Ride Program and Otilie Lucas was appointed as the representative for the TRADE Advisory Council. Once the regulations are released we can start planning for this sometime in October of this year.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Deployment/Base for Vehicles

Mr. DeNero and Council decided to discuss this at the next meeting. This was an Item of Concern for Mr. Koushel, our guest and member of The Mercer County Council on Aging, who could not be present today to discuss this issue.

b.) Items of Concern

The only item of concern was from Tim Sharpe, NJ Transits representative who said he would like to see Council Members come to the NJ DOT on August 28th to support the review of the grant application to NJ Transit

VI. SET NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 4:45 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Art Ball made a motion to adjourn at 5:53 p.m.