

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
FEBRUARY 1, 2012 MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Director Acton: Freeholder Laury offered the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Acton stated there are a couple thoughts that I have had on my mind and in this room we can agree to disagree but again I want to reiterate we need to do it with respect to one another. In the Governor's message she said that we need to work together for the betterment of Salem County that's why the people elected us not as party members but as team members. Each one of us brings something to the table and I think collectively we can do a lot, a lot of good for this County especially in these challenging times we need your talent. We need to be able to work together. We need to stop the gotcha politics. We are not North Jersey we're not just South Jersey we are Salem County and Salem County residents deserve more than what we've been giving them.

Director Acton stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting.

On Roll Call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Laury, Freeholders Cross, Vanderslice, Ware, Bobbitt, Timberman and Acton.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Laury to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 7, 2012 Budget Meeting, January 18, 2012 regular and Workshop meeting and January 21st Special Meeting. Minutes to be received, approved and recorded in the Minute Book, seconded by Freeholder Timberman, and carried 7/0.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Laury that the Rules of the Board be temporarily waived for resolution number 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9 on tonight's agenda. Freeholder Cross seconded his motion, which carried a hand vote of 7/0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Fire Academy I on behalf of Director Leroy Pierce and the Fire Academy he asked me to come out tonight because he is starting Fire Fighter I class this evening and is not able to attend but specifically he wanted me to address the dealing of the Fire Academy and the Vocational School. This evening you will be voting on a shared services agreement between the Vocational School and the Fire Academy that allows us to teach Fire Firefighter I for the second year in a row to the students at the Vocational School as a part of their Emergency Services Preparedness Program. This program we found in the past and hopefully into the future to be a benefit to the emergency services providers of the County and we are hoping that we will be able to continue moving forward and making it a more successful program in the following years. Along with the Firefighter I Program that we are actually working on we are also happy to discuss the fact that through a cooperative agreement with the Vocational School we have training props that are a benefit to County Firefighters as well to the Vocational students who are able to repair the props for us and through that gain skills in their building trades. As well as the building trades program, we have a relationship with the graphics arts department at the vocational school who will be doing some lettering on some of our vehicles and as well have designed and will be a big part of implementing our 911 Memorial that we will be building in front of our office later this year we hope. Again you guys have a letter that gives all the details in Leory's fine and eloquent words but I just wanted to bring that up on his behalf and say thank you.

Director Acton stated thank you I think that's a tremendous partnership with the students who are able to earn their college credits through this program so thank you guys for taking the initiative to do this.

Director Acton stated there is a student here and I know this is a school night and he asked if it could be under new business but if you are all in agreement I would like to bring up Jackson Danner who will be attending the Congressional Junior League Conference in Washington, DC and he is going to tell us

a little bit about the program since we're all political, kind of political junkies, I think this is something that we're interested in.

Good evening my name is Jackson Danner I am enrolled in the seventh grade in Woodstown Middle School and maintain a 3.9 grade point average. I am planning to attend the Junior National Young Leaders Conference over the summer. This program helps scholars develop leadership skills and helps kids become community leaders. My parents are good examples of this and I would truly love to learn to be like them. Although a great honor this program's tuition is \$2,000. Donations would be extremely helpful and would help me get to this event. The Junior National Young Leaders Conference will contain many speeches and trips throughout Washington, DC our nation's capital. Thank you for your time and all your support.

Director Acton stated thank you Jackson. There was a car that went by when he said the tuition amount was \$2,000 just as a FYI. He has some information here in case anyone would like to donate or contribute to his cause.

Deputy Director Laury stated Jackson future freeholder right?

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Deputy Director Laury presented Doug Wright, Joann Mathis, Judy Ambruster, and Dianne Thompson with certificates for the exceptional job they did in discovering and containing theft of county funds when the treasury office computers were hacked.

CORRESPONDENCE

GENERAL

James E. Scull, Transportation Director, FY 2010/2011 Community Bus Service Audit

Louis C. Joyce, AICP/PP, Planning Director, carbon copy of letter to Vince Lanzilotti Delaware River Port Authority regarding West Jersey Short Line Railroad payment voucher #8

Louis C. Joyce, AICP/PP, Planning Director, carbon copy of letter to Lisa Kmiec, Esq., Delaware River Port Authority request to extend contract terms to run through June 30, 2012 for Phase IV Salem Branch Railroad Project

Theodore Wilkinson, P.E., Federici & Akin, P.A., carbon copy of letter to Diana Ford enclosing copies of SAGE FY 2012 documents

Joseph P. Federici, Jr., County Engineer, carbon copy of letter to Robert L. Baccala, R.E. Pierson Construction Company regarding contracts requiring execution for emergency scour repairs to Quinton-Hancock's Bridge Road in Lower Alloways Creek Township

Joseph P. Federici, Jr., County Engineer, carbon copy of letter to Robert L. Baccala, R.E. Pierson Construction Company regarding contracts requiring execution for emergency scour repairs to Hungry Hill Bridge and Oliphants Bridge in Pilesgrove Township

Joseph P. Federici, Jr., County Engineer, carbon copy of letter to Robert L. Baccala, R.E. Pierson Construction Company regarding contracts requiring execution for emergency repairs Avis Mill Road in Pilesgrove Township

Joseph P. Federici, Jr., County Engineer, carbon copy of letter to A.P. Construction, Inc. regarding contracts requiring execution for emergency repairs in the area of Ballingers Mill Pond Dam in Pilesgrove Township

Joseph Picciano, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, status of process in completing FY 07, 08, 09, 10 or 11 homeland security projects from federal funding streams

Stephen Lingle, Senior Associate, Triad Associates, FY2001 Small Cities Public Facilities Quarterly Report (2011-0378)

Margaret E. Maxwell-Mood, Ed.d, Maxwell-Mood Associates, LLC, offering up \$10,000 in consulting services to be used toward the \$200,000 goal of the Health & Wellness Foundation for the Emergency Medical Service

Beverly S. Richards, Elmer Borough Clerk, Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council nominee
Cynthia L. Nolan

Ronald L. Campbell, Sr. Lower Alloways Clerk Township, Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council nominee
Lewis Fogg

Esther A. Mitchell, Mannington Township Clerk, Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council nominee
Deputy Mayor, Ernest F. Tark, Jr.

Melinda Taylor, Acting Municipal Clerk Oldmans Township, Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council nominee
Thomas B. Holmes (Brad)

Angela N. Foote, Township of Pennsville, Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council nominee
Robert E. McDade

Sharon R. Williams, Municipal Clerk, Borough of Penns Grove, Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council nominee
Bertha Burl

Marty R. Uzdanovics, Municipal Clerk, Township of Quinton, Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council nominee
Carl Schrier

Don Dietrich, Mayor, Borough of Woodstown Salem County Advisory Solid Waste Council nominee
John Hall

James E. Scull, Sr., Community Bus Services, emergency repairs needed on the County Shortline Rail due to a sinkhole under the rail be

Kevin Foley, thank you for opportunity to work for the County now able to stop receiving unemployment benefits

Charles A. Richman, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs, Small Cities CDBG 2008 Grant has been revised to modify the grant/loan award period of the Agreement

Charles B. McKenna, Director Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, FYII Addendum to Grant Agreement – new policy for FYII subgrantee's

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MINUTES

Salem County Board of Social Services – September 28, 2011 & November 30, 2011

Salem County Construction Board of Appeals – January 10, 2012

Motion was made by Deputy Director Laury to accept and file the correspondence, and the committee and commission reports and that they be made a part of the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Cross. Motion was carried by a hand vote of 7/0.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Laury that all Bills and Claims, when properly signed and audited, be paid and charged to their respective accounts. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Cross. The motion was carried by a hand vote of 7/0.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Laury to have the resolutions read in bulk. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Cross. The motion was carried by a hand vote of 7/0.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – Acton, Vanderslice, Ware

R. 2012-111

ADMINISTRATIVE

FINANCE RESOLUTION REQUESTING TRANSFER OF FUNDS (WAIVER REQUIRED)

R. 2012-112

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASES FROM STATE CONTACT VENDORS

R. 2012-113

ADMINISTRATIVE

AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

R. 2012-114

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL LABOR AND LITIGATION COUNSEL FOR EMPLOYMENT MATTERS AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (\$175 PER BILLABLE HOUR – GILMORE & MONAHAN)

R. 2012-115

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR GRANT WRITER SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM (\$20,000 – TRIAD ASSOCIATES)

R. 2012-116

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE RAILROAD AND AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR REPAIR FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM (\$24,380 – TRAC, INC.) (WAIVER REQUIRED)

R. 2012-117

ADMINISTRATIVE

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY RESOLUTION PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF BUDGET COUNTY OF SALEM (WAIVER REQUIRED)

R. 2012-118

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RE-ASSIGNMENT OF A CONTRACT FOR OPERATING THE SALEM COUNTY RAILROAD BRANCH LINE FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM (SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY) (WAIVER REQUIRED)

R. 2012-119

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION REJECTING PROPOSALS FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL – LITIGATION (WAIVER REQUIRED)

R. 2012-9

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR EMPLOYMENT RELATED
MATTERS AND AWARDED CONTRACT FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
(TABLED AT THE JANUARY 4, 2012 MEETING)

Deputy Director Laury a motion to bring resolution number 10 off the table, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion carried a hand vote of 7/0.

Deputy Director Laury a motion to withdraw resolution number 10, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion carried a hand vote of 7/0.

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of resolutions R. 2012-111 thru R. 2012-119, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion.

Freeholder Bobbitt stated I just wanted to know why we are rejecting resolution number 9.

Director Acton stated because we are combining the two the Special Counsel Employment and the Labor and Litigation into one resolution. Instead of paying them separately and having two different, for example, now currently or formerly we had Dave Puma for Special Counsel Employment and we had Ruderman and Glickman for the Labor and Litigation.

Freeholder Bobbitt stated so this is combining the two? That's what the resolution is?

Director Acton stated yes.

Freeholder Bobbitt stated it's not selecting someone.

Freeholder Cross stated its revising the bid.

Director Acton stated revising the bid and putting it into combining them instead of having the two resolutions we are combining them into one.

Freeholder Bobbitt stated so what is it rejecting what are we rejecting?

Director Acton stated went out for RRP's RFQ's so we are rejecting them.

Ross Levitsky stated they went out for RFPs' they got in I believe eight. They are going to reject them all and redo the bid we've done that in the past we are going to add something to that they didn't have the first time. We are going to have the person that's going to submit also have some expertise in workers compensation so they rejected it they are going to rebid it. It's not an awarding of anything.

Freeholder Cross stated Madam Director you will see several resolutions that are dealing with the railroad. Freeholder Timberman myself and Clerk of the Board and the Administrator had the opportunity we had an incident that occurred in Woodstown near the High School where we had a sink hole that developed. It's was a dangerous situation they recognized it immediately corded off the area we went down and gave it an initial look they had the rail repair folks come the next day to evaluate and excavate and see the extent of the damage it went from one side of the drainage pipe to the other. There was a lot more damage than what you could see actually through the hole so they came over evaluated we had it fixed yesterday. It is compacted and up to the surface they had a train go over so that our customers could be served but that is the reason why you see the emergency resources being transferred.

Director Acton stated to do you think that was caused by the hurricane? So would we be able to get FEMA money.

Freeholder Cross stated I think it was the evaluation that everybody attributed that this could be attributed to the hurricane. Again you never quite know what Mother Nature has done until she shows herself a

little bit later and with the caving in on the opposite side we are going to put in to have it reimbursed by FEMA. It will be up for their evaluation and hopefully we can get 75 percent of those funds returned.

As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – Timberman, Bobbitt, Laury

R. 2012-120

SOCIAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF \$110,395 IN 2012 FUNDS UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM, SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS, THE TANF HOMELESS INITIATIVE, AND FEES FOR THE HMIS REPORTING SYSTEM

Freeholder Timberman moved for the adoption of this resolution, with Deputy Director Laury seconding her motion.

Director Acton stated I will be abstaining from this because I am the treasure for Family Promise of Salem County and I don't want any conflict.

As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 6/0.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Cross, Vanderslice, Timberman

R. 2012-121

PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS EXECUTING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE FRAUD PROSECUTOR FOR THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S INSURANCE FRAUD REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

R. 2012-122

PUBLIC SAFETY

RESOLUTION REJECTING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) PRE-OWNED AMBULANCES FOR THE SALEM COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Freeholder Cross moved for the adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion.

Freeholder Timberman stated why are we rejecting a contract for the Salem County Emergency Management Services.

Freeholder Laury stated basically procedure vote two months ago we accepted the bids we could not purchase the ambulances as that time because there was no money in the budget for the purchases. We are hoping for the money to come in from some non profit as you know Salem County Salem Health and Wellness has committed to \$200,000 in matching funds but not available until May when we get the match. We've had a couple, multiple, people match to date. We are going to try to get to that \$200,000. Hopefully we can do that. At this time we just can't spend that money in the budget. We will submit for additional bids for additional ambulances down the road. This is a project that is near and dear to my heart as it is to yours and we expect this project at sometime be fulfilled just not at this time. Procedurally we have to eliminate the bid right now.

Freeholder Timberman stated so there is no money in the budget right now is what you are saying.

Deputy Director Laury stated currently there is not.

Freeholder Timberman stated but we still will be able to get the Salem Health and Wellness funding when we get our money.

Deputy Director Laury stated when and if we get the match to it we have multiple contributors right now to the match so we are working on that currently right now the committee is working on that. Scotts working diligently trying to come up with that meeting with different private owners. One of the conditions of the match is that it not use taxpayer money which is a good condition and we are not going to be using taxpayer money to get that match. When we get that \$200,000 and the other \$200,000 in match this will be back on the table.

As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a hand vote of 7/0.

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM, & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE – Ware, Timberman, Laury

R. 2012-123

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM & AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION FOR 2012 NJDEP RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDING FOR FENWICK GROVE TRAIL RESTORATION PROJECT

R. 2012-124

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM & AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRIBUTION OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A QUALIFIED TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CONSULTANT

R. 2012-125

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM & AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION OF FINAL APPROVAL LOUIS SCHMIDT FARM PILESGROVE TOWNSHIP, SALEM COUNTY PLANNING INCENTIVE GRANT

R. 2012-126

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM & AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR A GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS STRATEGY CONSULTANT FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM (\$36,000 – PRINCETON PUBLIC AFFAIRS GROUP)

Freeholder Ware moved for the adoption of these four resolutions, with Deputy Director Laury seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a hand vote of 7/0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Laury, Ware, Cross

R. 2012-127

Public Works

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR PROVIDING HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM (\$61,905 – MULTI-TEMP MECHANICAL, INCORPORATED)

R. 2012-128

PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM (\$36,000 – ANNUAL RETAINER; \$100,000 – APPROVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; \$104,823.00 – ANNUAL COUNTY AID – DESIGN AND PERMITTING; \$50,000 – ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – ALAIMO GROUP)

R. 2012-129

PUBLIC WORKS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE A FIRE FIGHTER ONE PROGRAM TO THE SALEM COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Deputy Director Laury moved for the adoption of these four resolutions, with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion.

Freeholder Bobbitt stated a question for Ross there isn't any conflict with the Alaimo Group being they work for Pilesgrove Township.

Director Acton stated thank you for asking and we had discussed this prior.

Mr. Levitsky stated I looked at that the Director ask me to check into that and I did research that and it turns out that that is not, in my opinion, that is not a conflict of interest.

Director Acton stated and this is just a sure sign that we should all do our due diligence and make sure everything's above board.

Deputy Director Laury stated I know we are changing engineers here I want to thank Joe Federici for the work he's done this year through the storms it's been exceptional. He's to be commended the work he's done in the county I expect the Alaimo Group to take over and increase and do as good if not better job that they will be doing we've been in capable hands we expect to be in hands that will also take care of us with Dick and Jim McKelvey. Thank you guys and we look forward to a great relationship also with you.

As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a hand vote of 7/0.

Director Acton stated Mr. Alaimo and Mr. McKelvey is here tonight.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Freeholder Ware stated through the chair we need to clear up this waiver and non waiver resolution. Could we have the Clerk of the Board lead us through this what transpired because at the last meeting it was brought to my attention I didn't know my facts about whether it was a waiver but if it's not in our packet could we have the Clerk of the Board go through it.

Clerk of the Board Gage stated Lee called me last week and I did look through it. Why don't we just quickly start Director with your authority to expand a little bit what is a waiver and I know all of we know what a waiver is but I don't think we're talking different speech out there. A waiver of the rules is a part of the rules of the board. The rules of the board are adopted by this body on a yearly basis which sets down almost like a bylaw what the rules of the board that you govern yourselves by it is so miniscule as to tell you how to address each other Madam Director, Freeholder what have you it sets limits on questions it goes through this whole gamit. One of the sections in there is a timeline as to when resolutions are to be received by the Clerk of the Boards Office in turn sent home to all seven freeholders and then appearing on the agenda. The resolutions that we are talking about here were in for reorganization which means it was Friday before New Years by 3:00 pm that day send out the resolutions that we had received. The resolution in question that Mr. Ware is talking about is the Masten and Ray appointment as Special Counsel. That was not sent home in that packet on Friday subsequently I received emails and I'm not going to embarrass anybody here but I do have a copy here I have emails that appeared in my Blackberry on New Year's Day at 8:50 in the morning asking why the Masten and Ray resolution was not on the agenda. I responded roughly 11:00 am on New Year's Day that evidently it was a misunderstanding on my part because my understanding was we weren't going forward with that but we could have it ready for the January 18th meeting. I subsequently received an email back on Monday night stating to place it on the agenda for Reorganization January 4th. Therefore when I came into work on Tuesday morning I created the resolution to put on the agenda clearly it did

not make the timelines that you all had set out so clearly it was a waiver. It was looked at with counsel and everything else, we put it on the agenda and just like on tonight's agenda when you have the front page it says waiver of the rules we clearly printed resolution number 5 as a waiver unfortunately for you all which caused the confusion when I redid the agenda and reshuffled the resolutions after Ta-Neshia and I sat down and painfully when through them as far as order the Masten and Ray resolution that was supposed to be the waiver number was moved to number 8 on the agenda what we didn't catch is the front page where we should have made that number to waiver of resolution number 8 so what you technically did was you approved for waiver a resolution that didn't require a waiver and you never approved for waiver the resolution that did require a waiver which was the Masten and Ray so just for clarity and openness and all that kind of good stuff the former Director Ware was correct in the sense that the intention was that it was to be a waiver, it was always a waiver it was not sent home in the timeframe outlined by your rules of the board on the other hand Mr. Vanderslice his statements were not false either in the sense that you never approved it as a waiver because it did not appear on that sheet as a waiver. So if that is as clear as mud I will stop trying to explain that anymore.

Freeholder Vanderslice stated thank you for clarifying that.

Director Acton stated thank you Mr. Clerk. Reorganization day how many resolutions did you prepare?

Clerk of the Board Gage stated 58.

Director Acton stated 58 so I think you guys did a great job and thank you for all your hard work and dedication and this is just what happened.

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Director Laury stated we have a lot of treasures in the county and one of the treasures we have is our lakes and our streams which are under attack at all times. We discussed, Beth and I have discussed and Lee about an old committee we used to have Lakes and Waterways. I was not on board at that time but I truly like tonight to reup that committee to create that committee again. I'm going to ask for bipartisanship I'd like Beth to join me and Lee to join me on this committee a few people that I would like to join on that committee would be Sal Mardini from Rutgers, Emerson Eisele, Mr. Wheiting is over here, Mr. Yanis and Herb Wagner to start that committee to meet and we can choose others as we go along but basically being an informational type thing bringing it to the public what's going on with our lakes and streams as they are under attack. I think Mr. Emerson Eisele if you got a chance to look at his DVD its quite enlightening on what's going on so we hear conflicting views and if we can just have, get together and have some time and work this out and maybe make it public and maybe get some action on it latter on down the road it would just be an ad hoc committee. Madam Director if we can create that.

Director Acton stated yes. Ross do we need to make a motion.

Mr. Levitsky stated I think you have the authority to do that yourself.

Director Acton stated so we don't have to do a resolution for that. Thank you.

Deputy Director Laury stated I will be in contact with all those mentioned and we can take over from there.

Freeholder Cross stated if I could and I probably should have mentioned it under unfinished business or maybe old business I see former Freeholder Jeff Hogan is in the audience this evening I was wondering if we might be able to get an update on where they are with the smart farm.

Mr. Hogan stated it's really pretty simple we are just colleting all the funds everything is just about in. We hope to start in the spring.

Director Acton stated for the people that don't know about the smart farm could kind of just give a quick recap.

Mr. Hogan stated can I wait on that until we do our, we have a news release going out we are not quite ready to do that yet.

Freeholder Cross stated the portion of the grant, the received portion is going well.

Mr. Hogan stated everything is going well. We are collecting everything in so we are just about there. We are definitely going to start in the spring but we haven't got the press release out yet so if you don't mind I'll hold there.

Director Acton stated we got an audit that everybody received from the Salem County Transit and Freeholder Timberman has it there was no findings. This department they really do their due diligence and they are penny wise so kudos to them. I wish Jim Scull was here tonight because he's been a big asset in that department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patty Bomba, Carneys Point stated I'll keep my comments brief since we are all very tired of hearing about the Debbie Behnke reappointment. Madam Director a few weeks ago during a phone conversation I informed you that I would be attending the January 18th Board Meeting. But I told neither you Debbie nor any other Freeholder of the extent of my efforts to fill this room with supporters of Debbie and her office. We came together that night as Salem County residents with the same passion. What we heard was an unacceptable explanation for the delay of Debbie's appointment. What we witnessed was a childish response by the majority tabling the motion to reappoint. At the January 21st meeting after the reappointment I listened as Freeholder Laury made a statement accusing his democrat colleagues of upsetting Debbie, her family and friends. Since I orchestrated that campaign of support I am taking personal offence to that ridiculous statement. I'm angry and I'm very disappointed. Prior to last November's election and I can honestly say I had the upmost respect for every member of this board without regard to their political party. I can no longer say that. After three controversies in a three week time period this board has the difficult task of regaining the trust of the residents who were disrespected. In my opinion, and this is my opinion, it's time to stop the D & R games and get on with the business for which you were elected. Thank you.

Director Acton stated Mrs. Bomba thank you so much for your comments.

Emerson Eisele, Upper Pittsgrove Township, Director Acton I liked your opening statement for the good of all the people and we have to respect them I think that same thing applies to all our lakes we have to respect them. That's my intentions in being on this committee. I think the appropriate name for this committee would be Salem County Lakes Management Committee. It formerly was the Salem County Lakes and Waterways Committee we don't want them to be confused. We want to try to really accomplish something this time so I'm looking forward to being on that committee.

Director Acton stated I think that would be a nice name but when you get together you guys can formulate that.

Jim Yanis, Alloway Township, as a resident of Alloway Township I must pursue the previous request from Alloway Township. The traffic light in the center of town Greenwich and Main is what we are pursuing. I would like pure logic to prevail and install a four-way stop street. The timing of the lights in the center of Alloway have never been correct. A four-way stop would have drivers slow to a proper speed, stop and then proceed. Now and I've witnessed this personally the drivers speed up to make the light and then continue at an excess speed. Now the drivers make right turn on red and there is a sign which says they're not to make a right turn. The four way stop in Aldine is a prime example of safe vehicle movement in a small village. Other four-way stops throughout the county are additional proof of the safety on our roads with a four-way stop. In conclusion let 2012 be a safer year for Alloway Village a four-way stop. Thank you.

Director Acton stated Mr. Yanis thank you for your comments and Freeholder Laury.

Deputy Director Laury stated we've talked to Joe Fedora in the council we need a resolution from them or a request from them to make the changes which get submitted to the Public Works Committee and it's discussed. That's already in the process I know Freeholder Bobbitt has worked on this before and we are going to continue to work on this until we get it right for the residents of Salem County. So as soon as we get that resolution or letter from the municipality we're going to start work on that again.

Ms. Beth Riley, Alloway Township, I am also a Alloway Township resident and this has been discussed in my opinion way too much. Mr. Bobbitt had looked into it. It is not a four-way stop we have foot traffic. We've had engineers look at it. If there are children crossing that street how do they know when to cross. When there is a light changing you can see its red you walk, children know. Okay out in Aldine there's no kids crossing and when you have foot traffic it has to be a light. It is the timing of the light that is the problem and the impatience of people because Mr. Fedora has sat at that light and timed it 45 seconds that's all that it is. That intersection needs a light. I mean the engineers have already looked at it. I don't understand why they keep bringing it up over and over again.

Freeholder Bobbitt stated it really appears to me to be a dead issue. The light is up there for a reason for safety that's the reason we put it there. Like Beth said it's already been engineered they've done studies, they've done this and that. That's why the light is there it's not just to give Alloway a rough time. The light is there for a reason for the safety and plus to take the light down and put a four-way stop I think it would be a big mistake. I have been out there myself and sat there and it is 40 or 45 seconds every time I sit right on that front porch there and have my ice cream cone and watch 40 seconds every time. We did have a problem initially because the camera blew up it's 40, 45 seconds that's it and it changes.

Warren Wieting, I have to echo Beth's comments if you go to that light it says no right on red. Why? Anybody's been on the planning board knows about sight distance that's a very narrow street the houses have probably been there 100 years maybe 200 hundred years that's the old tavern on the right if you're getting out of town heading towards Salem. No right on red, no full stop on red. It is absurd to keep discussing this again anybody's been on a planning board will know no full stop there it's got to be a traffic light. Another subject if I may what I planned on I just wanted to reiterate what Beth said Alloway is asking for a 3 ½ percent increase in our taxes. Now when you start considering what this is this is 3 ½ percent which will be 103 ½ percent. The next year will come in and we want another 2 per cent maybe another 3 percent taxes are just going up and up and up. I'm retired homestead rebates gone gasoline's going up I'm on a tax freeze I hopes it still exist because of my age and my income. This business of home rule, you know I would love to drive a Cadillac Escalade I did once and it was a nice vehicle but I can't afford home rule folks. I can't afford it. Business merge because of redundancy understand there's 15 townships in Salem County 560 plus in the State the highest real estate taxes in the nation consider a minimum of 3 township committeemen plus pension times 560 some townships have 7. We can't afford it we've got to merge these townships have been around for 200 to 300 hundred years and if you start looking at the calendar 1766 1765 these are all before that. George said this was a good idea, King George. Look at it the mayor is omnipotent, omnipotent he needs one person to agree with him. We're paying for 1.3 dams and now they are trying to make us pay for 2.3 dams. The precedence is started our township said hey we're going to pay for the dam they never discussed a lake community there's a lake view drive in there. I lived in Lake Shawnee and that's one of the problems people have with me that I've had a lot of experiences. We had a lake front home this is up near Lake Kapikog and it was a lake community. In our deed we were going to be taxed, charged, billed for the lake. At one time it was an ice lake and what they did is they cut the ice in the winter and stored it in the old iron mines it was fascinating and I loved it. Be careful if you have to go in the old iron mine in the summertime it's full of bats but anyway it was a beautiful place to live and I enjoyed paying for the lake I wanted to live on the lake. I'm in Alloway right now and I don't want a lake. To me it's a dam on a dam stream a DDS. Let the people on Lakeview Drive create a lake community that alternative never came up it was either the people have wet property or the people in the township paid for it. These small towns have outlived their usefulness merge them they pay you taxes and you're

having a problem with taxes can you imagine just because you merge the township how much income you would have.

Director Acton stated I think that's a suggestion if you wanted to put that in writing to our Third Legislature. They would have more influence over something like that than at a county level.

Mr. Wieting stated but can't the county even give an incentive you know get the mayors together and say hey guys we're raising your taxes I just attended a meeting well we got one and half percent coming up or one and a half cents and the townships are raising taxes get them all together and say guys you can't afford this anymore.

Director Acton stated and we do as much shared services as possible we are still exploring different options so I think you are on the right path.

Mr. Wieting stated yeah Princeton has merged you know people are merging and there are a lot of services being merged just I can't afford it not to wait too long.

Deputy Director Laury motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Freeholder Timberman and carried by hand vote 7/0 at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl R. Gage
Clerk of the Board