

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
MAY 2, 2012
5:30 PM**

Freeholder Director Acton opened the meeting at 5:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call showed present-Freeholders Laury, Cross, Vanderslice, Bobbitt, Timberman, and Director Acton.

Director Acton introduced Jeff Ridgway, Director of Public Works. Mr. Ridgway gave a comprehensive update of the Public Works Department noting the following topics:

Winter wrap up: With virtually no snow and few ice/sleet storms the County is in good shape as far as stockpiled salt and brine. The 14 miles of snow fence are all down, and more importantly overtime and contractor expense was kept at the lowest minimum.

Spring work: Because of the exceptional mild winter the County is far ahead in the usual schedule when it comes to the spring routine. Many miles of drainage ditches have already been cleared, and storm water flow areas have also been cleared.

Gov Deals Auction: To date \$48,000 excess equipment and material has been sold.

Mosquito Commission: Because of the mile March and winter reported call for mosquito control are above last year at this time.

Chiller update: This matter is still in litigation, however the replacement of the four units is underway.

Fifth Street Project: Progress is being made, but due to the roofing issue expected completion date is scheduled for October 23, 2012.

Director Acton at this time recognized Earl Gage to give a report and update on the Railroad. Mr. Gage noted that The County Shoreline runs for 18 miles from the Salem Port to Swedesboro. To date since 2004 the County has upgraded and replaced 11.66 miles of the rail at a cost of \$14,749,293.00 of which \$11,614,899 was grant funded. There is approximately 7.8 miles of track left to upgrade and the Trestle. The County has applied for TIGER I, II, and III receiving an award for TIGER III in the amount of 3.8 million dollars. This award will require a County match of 1,250,000 dollars. TIGER III will be a three year project, requiring in 2012 no outlay of County funds (the final design and construction documents will be generated with funding from a 2005 CRDA Grant. In 2013 the Trestle will be completed requiring a \$400,000 County match, and 2014 the Running Track will be completed requiring a \$750,000 County match. Plans to apply for non federal grant money are underway.

At this time the Freeholders gave a round table update on items of business concerning their committees:

Director Acton: spoke about the reorganization of the Treasurer's Office, and the ongoing work with the Budget.

Mr. Vanderslice: updated the County on items of interest at the College and the Vo-Tech noting the recent legendary chocolate competition.

Mr. Bobbitt: noted that the Health department would soon begin lead paint inspections across the County, and that there would be a minimal charge for these inspections. He also spoke at length on the Community Health Project.

Ms. Timberman: noted that one ramp has been built this year from the Office of Disability, and that there is some concern over leadership for the Juvenile Justice program, the Judge this year has refused to chair the organization.

Mr. Cross: noted that the safe surrenders warrant program is taking place this year in Atlantic City. The Office of Emergency Management Building has purchased a new generator, replacing the one that failed during the hurricane last year. The County is in negotiations for the leasing of towers for our new communications equipment, and the negotiations of the expiring dispatch contracts are also underway.

Deputy Director Laury: noted that additional communities are interested in sharing to some degree the County Planner. He noted the re opening the next day of East Lake dam and roadway and that one of his favorite events the Silver Fox Tea will take place May 17th.

Director Acton introduced Steven O'Connor, interim Executive Director of the South Jersey Economic Development District and the current Chairman, Leonard Desidario. Mr. O'Connor spoke about the challenges facing the District. He fully explained the outstanding debt (\$611,789.09) and the plan for handling same. He noted that once the lease agreement and possible sale of the development rights to the Atlantic County Aviation Park are completed then the District should be on solid financial ground. He further noted the importance of the District, the millions brought into each County member for economic development, and the fact that Atlantic County was reconsidering their withdrawal from the District.

Deputy Director Laury motioned to go into executive session at 7:01 PM, second by Freeholder Vanderslice, motion carried 6/0.

Deputy Director Laury motioned to resume the public portion and to recess the meeting at 7:23 PM, second by Freeholder Vanderslice, carried 6/0.

Respectively submitted,

Earl R. Gage
Clerk of the Board