

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
JUNE 8, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Director Acton: The Freeholder Board lead the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the prayer led by Freeholder Vanderslice.

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 Cross, Freeholders Laury, Painter, Vanderslice, Ware and Director Acton.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & CLAIMS

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross that all Bills and Claims, when properly signed and audited be paid and charged to their respective accounts. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Laury and carried by a hand vote of 5/0. Freeholder Painter abstained.

ADOPTION OF 2016 SALEM COUNTY BUDGET

Freeholder Vanderslice made a motion to open the public hearing on the amendment to the 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Laury. All were in favor for a vote of 6/0.

Freeholder Laury made a motion to close the public hearing on the amendment to the 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Vanderslice. All were in favor for a vote of 6/0.

Deputy Director Cross made a motion to adopt the amendment to the 2016 Salem County Budget. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Vanderslice.

Roll Call Vote, 6/0: Director Acton- for, Freeholder Painter- for, Deputy Director Cross- for, Freeholder Vanderslice – for, Freeholder Laury- for, Freeholder Ware – for

CFO Coleman stated that the amendments to the budget are:

1. Reduction in Board of Social Services allocation due to duplication of line item
2. Reduction in Deferred Charges due to audit process
3. Addition of 200,000 capital improvement fund for capital expenditures taken out of current budget
4. Net reduction from the 3 above reduced amount taken from surplus.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – Acton, Vanderslice, Painter

R. 2016-234

ADMINISTRATIVE

Resolution For Additional Appropriations In The Temporary Budget For CY 2016 For The County Of Salem

Freeholder Vanderslice moved for the adoption of this (1) one resolutions with Freeholder Painter seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 5/0.

EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – Painter, Acton

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE – Vanderslice, Painter, Laury

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – Cross, Ware

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Cross, Laury, Vanderslice

TRANSPORTATION, AGRICULTURE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Ware, Cross,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Laury, Ware, Acton

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anyone wishing to speak please speak clearly and state your name and address for the record.

When addressing questions concerning personnel issues with the County of Salem no names will be used at any time.

Rebecca Ferguson, Fenwick Ave, Salem – She previously questioned the cost of unemployment of privatization. She believes the amount to be significant. Her detailed analysis results in a total potential cost of \$891,602.59. In 2012, costs were \$0. In 2013, \$19,850 was expended. In 2014, \$21,000 was spent. In 2015, just under \$19,000. \$160,000 has been allotted for 2016 which is significantly less than the potential cost. She further questions the total payout for accumulated time. Accumulated absence liability for the county is over \$1M. Therefore, in addition to the current bid, there could be an additional \$2M in costs. She questioned if the budget is passed, is this contract automatically entered into. CFO Coleman explained that it is not automatic. CFO Coleman requested a meeting to review her calculations in more detail. Mrs. Ferguson asked to forward her calculations to CFO Coleman.

Rob Scardino, East Ave, Woodstown – Mr. Scardino read a prewritten statement. Today I ask you what is the price of a life? What dollar amount are you willing to place on the knowledge at the other end of the line? What is the value of the ability to provide competent care while the appropriate resources are dispatched to save a life? How you seek to place a bottom line in response to a fire, an auto accident, a cardiac arrest or weather emergencies as we become too familiar with? What is the cost of a competent staff which can provide alternate routes of travel due to traffic or roadway emergencies to ensure the swift response time of all incoming units? The move to outsource and failure to bargain in good faith by this freeholder board puts the bottom line, a price and value on the lives of every individual of Salem County. This risk of life and property by entertaining an unknown entity such as iXP is a risk that needs not be taken. As a resident, as a taxpayer, a voter and a first responder, I implore you that you get back to the table and disregard privatization of these vital services. At a previous meeting, he asked what number of county residents stand to lose their job with the outsourcing to iXP. While he did not received an answer, he said that all employees who stand to lose their job are county residents. That will put a burden on unemployment.

Freeholder Painter commented that he has taken a role to sit on the negotiations team and sharing details as to what has taken place would not be appropriate. He assures the audience that they are bargaining in good faith and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in order to preserve the operations of the 911 center.

Mr. Scardino responded to Mr. Painters comments asking if prior offers by the county were made public in the paper or anywhere else. Mr. Painter affirmed. Mr. Scardino said that such information being made public by only one side is not good faith bargaining and may be subject to unfair labor practices.

Maricia Chiarelli and Dana Hitchner of Woodstown – Founders of C.A.R.E. (Community Awareness Regarding Education) – By engaging the community you receive good feedback and good ideas. Much can be accomplished by engaging the public as they have proved with their work with Woodstown Pilesgrove School District. They offer themselves and committees to work with the Freeholder Board towards a resolution.

Mo Hufsy – Nuclear Business Agent for IBEW 94 - 800 members working at the nuclear power plant in Salem County. Mr. Hursy offers his support to the CWA members and come out against privatization. He reminded the Freeholders that were voted into office to keep the jobs of the citizens, not to cut them.

Ed Voyles, Carneys Point – Mr. Voyles reports that the township committee of Carneys Point are not happy with the potential privatization of the 911 center. This decision will not go well in Carneys Point.

Ardie Racite, Carneys Point – The mayor of Carneys Point is not happy about the potential outsourcing. There is a current 5 year contract with 3 years remaining. Concerned that the decision could cost more in county and local taxes to the residents of Carneys Point.

Janeen Kiger, Lower Alloways Creek – Questioned if there was any discussion with local officials in regards to outsourcing. The dispatchers protect the public and the Freeholder should look to make cuts in other areas. Freeholder Cross responded that he spoke to Carneys Point officials. The Freeholders are exploring the possibility and no vote has taken place to outsource. She is against outsourcing and says she has not met one person who is in favor of this.

Melissa Sites, Quinton Alloway Rd, Quinton – Brought her children so they could see the people who cost her father his job. There must other means to come up with the necessary money other than taking away the dispatchers and nursing staff jobs. She would like the Freeholders to explain to the children how their lives will be affected and why their father will lose his job.

Bob Gant, Pennsville, FOP president - He Suggests an online poll and perhaps ballot questions. He has over 2,500 signatures of residents who are against this and the FOP is totally against this. Do you know how many people are for this? Has polling been done. Director Acton responded that no polling has been done.

Freeholder Director closed by thanking everyone for attending.

Director Acton thanked everyone for their comments and announced the next meeting will be held on June 15, 2016, at 4:00 PM at the Olde Courthouse located at 104 Market Street. Salem, New Jersey. There will be no workshop meeting prior.

Deputy Director Cross made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Freeholder Vanderslice.
The adjournment carried by hand vote of 6/0 at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Crouch, Clerk of the Board