



Board of Chosen Freeholders

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2020

6:00 PM

Live Stream, 110 5th Street

(Meeting live streamed due to Coronavirus pandemic)

Call to Order: Director Ben Laury called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Invocation: Director Laury offered the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Director Laury asked all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Statement Regarding Open Public Meetings Act: Read by Stacy Pennington, Clerk of the Board.

Adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting:

1. By forwarding notice to the South Jersey Times and Elmer Times Co.; and
2. By posting notice on the bulletin board in the Salem County Courthouse and the Fifth Street Office Complex; and
3. By filing notice in the Offices of the Salem County Clerk and the Clerk of the Board all having been done at least 48 hours in advance.

Attendance Roll Call:

Freeholder	Present	Absent
Director Benjamin Laury	X	
Deputy Director Scott Griscom	X	
Freeholder Charles Hassler	X	
Freeholder Gordon Ostrum, Jr.	X (via speaker phone)	
Freeholder Lee Ware	X (via speaker phone)	

A quorum was present.

Minutes:

Dispense with the reading of the minutes of the April 15, 2020. Minutes are to be received, approved, and recorded in the Minute Book.

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum			X			
Freeholder Hassler		X	X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

Special Recognition:

1. Proclamation Recognizing Older American Month – presented by Freeholder Hassler
2. Proclamation Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month – presented by Freeholder Hassler

Freeholder Hassler noted that Mental Health especially important during the pandemic we are battling at this time. Director Laury noted how this has been a stressful month for all.

3. Proclamation Recognizing National Teachers Day May 5 – presented by Freeholder Griscom
4. Proclamation Recognizing National Nurses Week May 6-12 – Presented by Director Laury
5. Proclamation Recognizing National Hospital Week May 10-16 – Presented by Director Laury
6. Proclamation Recognizing Emergency Medical Services Week May 17-23 – Presented by Freeholder Hassler
7. Proclamation Recognizing Laboratory Workers – Presented by Freeholder Hassler

Director Laury noted how apropos it is that we are recognizing so many important people, through all of these proclamations, during the pandemic we are battling at this time.

Waiver of the Rules:

A10 Resolution Requesting Approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider for Covid-19 Related Donation Pursuant to NJSA 40A:5-29

C3 Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #3 Centerton Traffic Signal Improvements Almond Road, County Road #540 and Centerton Road, County Road #553 in Pittsgrove Township for the County of Salem Federal Project No. CMAQ-553(353 NJDOT Job No. 7110317

C4 Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #1 FY 2018 Railroad Rehabilitation Program for the county of Salem NJDOT Rail Freight Assistance Program Grant #7112310

A11 Resolution to Amend the Salem County Correction Officers Collective Bargaining Agreement

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum		X	X			
Freeholder Hassler			X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

Correspondence:*General:*

1. County of Mercer Resolution supporting Senate bill 1147 and Assembly Bill A-1372
2. Letter from Fralinger Engineering regarding an application to the NJDEP permit.
3. Letter from Atlantic City Electric Regarding BPU Docket No. ER20010088

Committee/ Commission Minutes and Reports:

1. Pollution Control Minutes February Meeting
2. Pollution Control Minutes May Meeting

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum			X			
Freeholder Hassler		X	X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

Payment of Bills and Claims

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum			X			
Freeholder Hassler		X	X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

Treasurer's Report:

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum			X			
Freeholder Hassler		X	X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

Resolutions:**A. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: - Laury, Griscom**

- A1 Resolution Authorizing the Donation of a Vehicle to Salem County Sheriffs Office of Emergency Services (Nunc Pro Tunc)
- A2 Resolution Authorizing the Donation of a Vehicle to Elsinboro Township

- A3 Resolution Determining the Form and Other Details of the Offering of \$51,009,000 General Obligation Bonds Consisting of \$38,095,000 Courthouse General Improvement Bonds, Series 2020A, \$8,000,000 Vocational-Technical School Bonds, Series 2020B (New Jersey School Bond Reserve Act, 1980 N.J. Laws C. 72, as amended) and \$4,914,000 General Improvement Bonds, Series 2020C of the County of Salem, State of New Jersey and Providing for the Sale of Such Bonds
- A4 Finance Resolution Cancellation of Check
- A5 Amendment to Resolution 2020-007 to Establish Job Classification titles and Salary Ranges
- A6 Resolution to Amend the Salem County Superior Correction Officers Collective Bargaining Agreement
- A7 Resolution to Amend the CWA Collective Bargaining Agreement
- A8 Resolution Authorizing Revolving Loan Fund Principal Payment Deferral for Hardship Related to the Coronavirus Pandemic
- A9 Resolution Requesting Extension of Time for the 2020 Budget
- A10 Resolution Requesting Approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider for Covid-19 Related Donation Pursuant to NJSA 40A:5-29
- A11 Resolution to Amend the Salem County Correction Officers Collective Bargaining Agreement

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum	X		X			
Freeholder Hassler			X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom		X	X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

B. AGRICULTURAL/ TOURISM COMMITTEE – Ware, Griscom

- B1 Authorizing the Proposed Acquisition of a Development Easement on Dare Farm Upper Pittsgrove Township
- B2 Authorizing the Proposed Acquisition of a Development Easement on Stimpson Farm Upper Pittsgrove Township
- B3 Authorizing the Proposed Acquisition of a Development Easement on Mihalecz Farm Upper Pittsgrove Township
- B4 Authorizing the Proposed Acquisition of a Development Easement on Bauman Farm Upper Pittsgrove Township

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum			X			
Freeholder Hassler			X			
Freeholder Ware	X					
Deputy Director Griscom		X				
Director Laury						

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Hassler, Ostrum

- C1 Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #1 Resurfacing and Safety Improvements of Hook Road, County Road #551, Phase 1 for the County of Salem Federal Project No. STP-SJ-0551(300) NJDOT Job No. 7105306
- C2 Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #1 Removal of Beam Guide Rail and Installation of Beam Guide Rail at Various Locations Throughout the County of Salem, 2nd Year Option
- C3 Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #3 Centerton Traffic Signal Improvements Almond Road, County Road #540 and Centerton Road, County Road #553 in Pittsgrove Township for the County of Salem Federal Project No. CMAQ-553(353) NJDOT Job No. 7110317
- C4 Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #1 FY 2018 Railroad Rehabilitation Program for the county of Salem NJDOT Rail Freight Assistance Program Grant #7112310

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum		X	X			
Freeholder Hassler	X		X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom			X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

D. HEALTH/ HUMAN SERVICES/ EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Ostrum, Ware

- D1 Resolution Authorizing the Freeholder Chair and the Clerk of the Board to Sign the Health Service Grant Application for the Special Child Health Services Case Management Unit
- D2 Resolution of Intent to Apply for the 2020-2021 Right To Know Grant
- D3 Resolution of Intent to Apply for Funding to New Jersey Transit on Behalf of the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders
- D4 Resolution Authorizing a Vehicle Lease Between Mid-Atlantic States Career and Education Center and the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders to Provide Various Transportation for Delaware, Dialysis, Camden and Philadelphia Appointments

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum	X		X			
Freeholder Hassler			X			
Freeholder Ware		X	X			
Deputy Director Griscom			X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

E. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Griscom, Ostrum - NONE

F. CHAPTER 159 TO INSERT REVENUE IN THE BUDGET: NONE

Freeholder Old Business: None

Freeholder New Business: None

Freeholder Public Announcements:

Freeholder Hassler noted that the Economic Development Council is looking for ways to help businesses during the pandemic. Please contact Jennifer Jones at the Salem County Chamber of Commerce with your ideas.

Director Laury noted a recent conference call between Sen. Corey Booker, four Salem County Freeholders and 11 Salem County Mayors. Many questions were discussed and he feels those on the call made it known what was needed in Salem County.

Public Comment (Agenda Items or other County Business)

Anyone wishing to speak please speak clearly and state your name and address for the record. Each speaker will have **FOUR MINUTES** to speak. The Clerk of the Board (COB) will keep track of the time for each speaker. When addressing questions concerning personnel issues with the County of Salem no names will be used at any time.

Cheryl Nelson – Please plead our case to the Governor to open small businesses in Salem County. Yes, our numbers are (?) but we have recent testing and farm labor camps making the numbers higher.

The Governor’s committees are all sporting fresh haircuts yet we can’t have a salon open in our county.

Tim Mangold, Mannington Township –

Recently the federal government provided the State of NJ with detailed information regarding the existing capacity for Coronavirus testing within the state.

1. Has the state communicated with the county regarding the existing testing capacity within Salem County?

Director Laury noted the State has not communicated with Salem County regarding testing capacity. Administrator Ridgway noted there are conference calls every day, but there is nothing about testing capacity.

COB Pennington noted they are looking into different types of tests, but nothing about capacity.

2. What is the existing testing capacity within Salem County? Is it sufficient to meet the governors goals of testing for reopening?

Director Laury noted tests are being conducted at the Salem County Fairgrounds by appointment. It is not sufficient for reopening, as that will take a lot more testing and a lot more tests. Only those with symptoms are being tested.

3. Has the state communicated with the county regarding our progress towards reopening?

Director Laury knows nothing more than what has been on the news. No guidelines have been given. Administrator Jeff Ridgway noted that guidelines are based on our needs and determinations. We use CDC guidelines to determine as a county when/if we can open buildings again.

There are significant outbreaks going on in the Penns Grove / Carneys Point area, and in Upper Pittsgrove Township relative to the rest of the county.

1. What information can you provide regarding the circumstances around the outbreak?

Public Information Officer/Clerk of the Board, Stacy Pennington, noted a Penns Grove/Carneys point outbreak was in a long-term living facility. There is a significant share of the population that works in warehouse facilities just north of this area, where the people work in close proximity to each other. That was the cause of that outbreak.

In Upper Pittsgrove Township, a number of farm workers came into the area and were symptomatic. Because they live in close quarters, we tested them.

2. What measures are being put in place to mitigate the outbreaks?

POI/COB Pennington noted that the Health Dept. is contacting farms and businesses and people who have tested positive; we have a Spanish translator and also materials in Spanish; we are contact tracing and providing PPE for warehouses.

Thank you for holding the meetings online.

Robert Tuthill – Three Bridge Road, Monroeville, NJ – Has the county considered to put the new court complex next to the correctional facility during their investigation of developing a new courthouse? This could be fiscally responsible due to not having to transport inmates back and forth, possibly relieving officers of those duties to help out with the crime and such throughout our county, making it a safer place for our community? While historically it has been to keep the court house in the county seat, but fiscally, do you believe it is responsible to do so?

Director Laury noted that mandate require the Courthouse to be in the county seat, which is Salem City. Also, it is cost-prohibitive to put the courthouse in that location – approx. 25% more than renovating our existing facilities. Thank you for the question.

Angla Fogg Clour – Have there been any studies on Mosquitoes being able to carry the virus from an infected person to other people or animals?

County Administrator, Jeff Ridgway, knows of no study about mosquitoes carrying Covid-19. If he becomes aware of any, he will certainly make us aware of this.

Freeholder Ostrum noted this is an airborne disease.

Later in the meeting, Administrator Ridgway read this statement from the Mosquito Commission: “To date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new Coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes. The new Coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. To protect yourself, clean your hand frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Also, avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing and sneezing.”

Cat Bobbitt – Are there translators for speakers of other languages who may need assistance with the COVID-19 response besides just Spanish and English?

POI/COB Pennington noted that, yes, we contract with a program to provide any language we need.

Brian Pio, Symes Drive, LAC – The inmate population is still not practicing social distancing. 40 inmates eating together and out in population. Is there something the freeholders can do to stop this? The rest of the country is restricted. It will spread like wild fire in those conditions.

Housing Units were created to be standalone isolated areas, almost like an island. Inmates live in these Units, just like a family would at home. Currently, each person is placed in a single cell but because of the volume of inmates in each unit, social distancing (within 6 feet) when inmates are not locked down, is enforced by officers when practical. To have all inmates in general population "social distance" would require mandatory isolation lockdowns which has been avoided because the correctional environment is already stressed. Inmates have lost most privileges (family visits, religious and education programs, haircuts). Grouping inmates for isolation would require them to spend upwards of 20 hours a day in their cell. The grouping of inmates for isolation and more space to "social distance" occurs where we do feel it needs to occur -in our medical isolation and intake units.

Since our process to date has been working, we have learned over the past 70 days that the greater threat for COVID 19 to infect the inmates in the general population units would be from the Officers, Nurses, or new inmate admissions. Before the pandemic hit South Jersey, most of the inmates in general population were already at SCCF, and not exposed to COVID 19. These inmates are less a threat to each other. The Officers and nurses are required to wear a mask around all inmates to protect inmates from outside contact. The Units are also being cleaned and disinfected several times per day. New inmate admissions are scrutinized for possible COVID 19 infection or prior exposure to COVID 19. A new admission exhibiting symptoms or claims they were exposed, are sent directly to medical isolation and monitored daily for increased symptoms. A new admission not sent to medical isolation is sent to the intake unit (another island) whereby they remain for 15 days and monitored 3 times per day for symptoms, before being vetted to general population. There has not been a positive COVID 19 inmate from any of the general population units. The positive cases have occurred from new admissions. The Administration feels the current procedures in place to minimize a pandemic from occurring in the facility is working, however, realizes changes may need to occur given the fluidity of the COVID-19 threat.

Carey Marie Italiano – Thank you to all officials during these Covid-19 times. On behalf of the PCFA, we appreciate the last minute updates to review and approve our minutes on such short notice. We are working with Atlantic City Electric / Excelon on time sensitive bonding project that was rescinded earlier due to Covid, but now due to be approved by June. Thanks again and stay safe!

Jeff MacMaster – Has the Board received any information from the Governor on re-opening? Stay safe gentlemen, thanks.

Please see answer to Tim Mangold above. Thank you.

Susan Bryant Krassow – Why are there so many positive cases in Upper Pittsgrove Twp.? Are these cases do to an outbreak at a specific location? Knowing this would alleviate community fear!!!

Please see answer to Tim Mangold above. Thank you.

Additional Freeholder Comments

Director Laury asked for input from the Freeholders to put together a Re-Opening Task Force for Salem County with input from Chamber of Commerce and/or the Economic Development Committee. Can we get this ramped up? Freeholder Hassler is a member of the Economic Development Committee and is in agreement that this should get moving. Director Laury has reached out to members of the Econ Dev Comm and Kathleen Mills, Econ Dev Director. He feels the first question would be where do we need help, what can we do as a county to get businesses opened up.

Director Laury also noted that June Sieber, Health Dept. Director, has been working on getting information out and maybe we can include economic info with her communications.

Freeholder Hassler has volunteered to work with State Legislators on a task force and is waiting to hear back about any plans. No timeframe has been established.

All Freeholders agreed that EMS, nurses, doctors and staff have really stepped up to respond to the pandemic and thanked them for that. Director Laury noted that Salem County has a great reputation for being friendly and thanked the residents for that.

Executive Closed Session

G1 Resolution Authorizing Executive Session County of Salem-Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiations and the Attorney-Client Privilege

Motion to Open Executive Session

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum			X			
Freeholder Hassler	X		X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom		X	X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

Motion to Close Executive Session

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum			X			
Freeholder Hassler	X		X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom		X	X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

Adjournment

Freeholder	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Freeholder Ostrum			X			
Freeholder Hassler	X		X			
Freeholder Ware			X			
Deputy Director Griscom		X	X			
Director Laury			X			

Roll call vote: passed 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Next Meeting Date

May 20, 2020

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM

Live Stream, New Jersey 08079