



Board of Chosen Freeholders

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2020

Salem County Olde Courthouse, 104 Market Street, Salem, New Jersey

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 led 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	
Freeholder Lee Ware		X

A quorum was present.

Minutes:

Dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 4, 2020 Regular Meeting. 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			

Hand vote 4-0.

Special Recognition: Director Laury noted that this is the time of year when we usually have a recognition dinner for the Salem County First Responders. Due to the pandemic, this event is not possible. Director Laury then thanked all First Responders for their dedication to our county and its residents, especially in this pandemic time.

Director Laury also noted the extraordinary job performed by the Board of Elections this year. They dealt with unprecedented requirements and got the job done. Thank you to all involved.

Presentation: None

Waiver of the Rules:

A3 Resolution Awarding a Professional Services Contract for an Independent Consultant to Evaluate the Salem County Branch Line for the County of Salem

A4 Resolution Amending Resolution 2020-016 Awarding a Contract for Labor Counsel for the County of Salem

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

Public Hearings & Adoptions:

Adoption of Ordinance 2020-003

Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Roadway, Bridge and Railroad Improvements, By and In the County of Salem, State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$2,000,000 Therefor and Authorizing \$1,904,761 Bonds or Notes of the County to Finance Part of the Costs Thereof

1. Motion to Open the Public Hearing
2. Roll Call

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 4-0.

3. Motion to Close the Public Hearing
4. Roll Call

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 4-0.

5. Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2020-003
6. Roll Call Vote

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 4-0.

Correspondence:

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

A. General:

- a. Sussex County NJ Resolution S-3030/A-4848
- b. Franklin Township, Warren County Resolution 2020-68

Payment of Bills and Claims:

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

Treasurer's Report: None

Resolutions:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: - Laury, Griscom

- A1 Resolution Certifying the Review of the 2019 Audit of Federal Awards and State Financial Assistance
- A2 Resolution for Check Cancellation
- A3 Resolution Awarding a Professional Services Contract for an Independent Consultant to Evaluate the Salem County Branch Line for the County of Salem
- A4 Resolution Amending Resolution 2020-016 Awarding a Contract for Labor Counsel for the County of Salem

A5 Resolution Authorizing an Application to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services Seeking Approval to Adopt a Special Emergency for COVID 19 Related Revenue Loss and/or Additional Expenditures

A6 Transfer Resolution

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

B. AGRICULTURE / TOURISM COMMITTEE – Ware, Griscom

B1 Resolution Accepting Cultural & Heritage Commission 2021 Grant Dollars from the New Jersey Historical Commission and the New Jersey State Council for the Arts

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

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

C1 Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #5 - Final (Year Two) the Removal of Beam Guide Rail and Installation of Beam Guide Rail at Various Locations throughout the County of Salem

C2 Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #1 2017 County Aid Road Program for the County of Salem

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

D. HEALTH/ HUMAN SERVICES/ EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Ostrum, Ware - NONE

E. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Griscom, Ostrum

E1 Resolution Accepting and Executing a Grant for the Prosecutor’s Office from the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program [BVP20]

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

F. CHAPTER 159 TO INSERT REVENUE IN THE BUDGET:

F1 Resolution Providing for the Insertion of Any Special Item of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-87 Chapter 159, P.L. 1948 (Bulletproof Vest Partnership)

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

Freeholder Old Business: None

Freeholder New Business:

Freeholder Ostrum noted the Governor’s restrictions in place due to the pandemic. There are no further restrictions besides those. All Freeholders agreed that a letter should be written to the Governor regarding opening up Salem County. County Counsel, Karin Wood agreed to handle this.

Freeholder Public Announcements:

Director Laury noted these upcoming events:

- Shredding Event at SCIA – 11/21/2020
- Music Around The County – 11/22/2020
- Small Business Saturday – 11/28/2020
- Arts In Bloom studio tours – 11/28-29/2020
- Meals On Wheels is collecting gifts for their clients until 12/14/2020
- Please support ongoing toys and food drives if you can. Take advantage of them if needed.

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.

Patty Bomba, Carneys Point – Ms. Bomba wanted to make sure the 911 Operators were included in the First Responders thank you. Director Laury noted that they absolutely are and thanked her for the comment.

Beth Timberman, Pilesgrove Township – Ms. Timberman noted a few questions:

- Did Salem County follow the Governors orders?
- Why do 16 BOE temp workers have Covid?
- Why were workers not temperature checked?
- Why does BOE trail have no running water?
- Why did voters not have to wear masks on election day when entering building?
- She has heard that a BOE member has died from Covid.
- She doesn't expect answers, but why is there an increase in employees who are positive?

Nelson Carney, Salem – He agrees with Beth Timberman's comments. He has lost a friend, Reggie Brooks, to Covid-19. Mr. Brooks was a long-time BOE temp employee. Mr. Carney stated nobody was notified and feels this is unacceptable. Salem City schools are closed until March due to the pandemic.

Stacy Pennington, COB and PIO, addressed the BOE issues:

- Worker was identified and all were sent home. All areas where the BOE employees were working were sanitized. Then BOE workers were isolated in the trailer to finish the election count.
- Contact tracing was done and all those identified as possibly exposed were notified.
- Temperatures are taken every time someone enters the building and they must have a mask on. After workers enter trailer, we are not aware of what they do because only they are allowed in the area.

Jeff Ridgway, Administrator also addressed the BOE issues:

- The Election Board decided to use a trailer (not the 2nd floor of a building, as rumored)
- The Health Dept. did do contact tracing and all possibly exposed persons were notified. Administration cannot act until notified by the Health Dept. of positive cases.

Director Laury clarified that all positive cases are of concern, and noted that we are lucky to live in a rural county with fewer cases than other areas.

Executive Closed Session

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

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			

Hand vote 4-0.

6:30 pm - Start of Executive Session

Adjourn executive session

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			

Adjourn the meeting

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			

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Next Meeting Date

December 2, 2020

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM Meeting

Salem County Olde Courthouse, 104 Market Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079