



Board of County Commissioners

MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2023 6:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Director Laury called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

INVOCATION – CFO Kelly Hannigan offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Director Laury led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT REGARDING OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT: The Statement was read by Clerk of the Board, Stacy Pennington.

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

By forwarding notice to the South Jersey Times and Elmer Times Co.; and
 By posting notice on the bulletin board in the Salem County Courthouse and the Fifth Street Office Complex; and
 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

Commissioner	Present	Absent
Director Laury	X	
Deputy Director Ostrum	X	
Commissioner Ramsay	X	
Commissioner Taylor	x	
Commissioner Timmerman		X

QUORUM WAS PRESENT

MINUTES

Dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 18, 2023 Regular Meeting. Minutes are to be received, approved, and recorded in the Minute Book.

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		x	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman						X
Deputy Director Ostrum	x		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 4-0

CORRESPONDENCE – General and Committee/ Commission Minutes and Reports

1. A resolution from Mannington Township Requesting to Reduce the Speed Limit on Kings Hwy Salem County Road #620
2. Meeting Minutes from the Southern NJ County Commissioner September 18, 2023 Meeting

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman						X
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 4-0

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman						X
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 4-0

RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: -

A1 Resolution to Renew the Indemnity and Trust Agreement with Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Fund

A2 Resolution Authorizing a Letter of Agreement Between the County of Salem and the Communication Workers of America Local 1085

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman						X
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 4-0

AGRICULTURAL / PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

B1 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 (BVP23)

B2 Resolution Approving and Executing a Master Services Agreement with Soundthinking, Inc. for Subscription Based Gunshot Detection, Location and Forensic Analysis Service for the Salem County Prosecutor's Office for the Benefit of the Borough of Penns Grove

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman						X
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 4-0

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES/ EDUCATION COMMITTEE

D1 Resolution Declaring November 6th - 12th Operation Green Light for Veterans in Salem County

D2 Resolution Approving the Submission of a Proposal to New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Aging Service to Apply for 2024 Area Plan Grant

D3 Resolution Acknowledging the Business Associate Agreement Form from the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services for the Area Plan Grant

D4 Resolution Accepting the Standard Board Resolution Form from the New Jersey Department of Human Services for the Area Plan Grant

D5 Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between New Jersey Transit and the Salem County Board of County Commissioners for an Award of a Vehicle Under Section 5311 Program

D6 Resolution Acknowledging the Standard Board Resolution Form from the New Jersey Department of Human Services for the Medicare Improvements for Patient and Providers Act (MIPPA GRANT)

D7 Resolution Authorizing the Grant Application for the Private Well Outreach 2024 Grant

D8 Resolution Authorizing the Agreement with Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers for Information Exchange Participation

D9 Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Civic Plus to Provide Social Media Archiving to the Salem County Department of Health and Human Services

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman						X
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 4-0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

E1 Resolution Accepting and Executing Agreement Modification No. 1 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation Federal Aid Agreement No. 22-DT-BLA-874 Telegraph Road, County Road #540, Phase 2 - Design Federal Project No. STBGP-0540(301) NJDOT Job No. 7111301

E2 Resolution Issuing Change Order 19 to the Contract for Courthouse Addition and Alterations to the Existing Courthouse and Administration Buildings

E3 Resolution Issuing Change Order 20 to the Contract for Courthouse Addition and Alterations to the Existing Courthouse and Administration Buildings

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay	X		X			
Commissioner Taylor		X	X			
Commissioner Timmerman						X
Deputy Director Ostrum			X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 4-0

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 - **FY22 STBGP Telegraph Rd. (CR540) Phase 2 DES**

F2 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 - **2023 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Prosecutor**

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman						X
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 4-0

COMMISSIONER OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Ramsay noted that Orsted will cease work on its U.S. offshore wind projects in New Jersey.

COMMISSIONER NEW BUSINESS: None

COMMISSIONER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Ramsay noted these upcoming events:

Saturday, November 4	9:00 am – 3:00 pm Wildcat Theatre 2nd Annual Vendor Fair Quinton Township School – 8 Robinson Street, Quinton
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Saturday, November 4	10:00 am – 3:00 pm Healthy Hearts Festival – Register ahead for the Fundraiser 5K and 1 Mile Walk (Vendor Event) www.appelfarm.org/healthyhearts for the application, or contact Kat Baer at kbaer@appelfarm.org -- Appel Farm – 457 Shirley Rd, Elmer
Saturday, November 4	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner 7:00 pm – Music by Charlie Boucher Penns Grove VFW, Margaret Street
Saturday, November 4	6:00 pm Beef, Beer & BBQ - Benefits Gallant Heart programs Contact Glenn Cherry at info@gallantheartnj.org Alloway's Vets, 95 Timberman Road, Woodstown, NJ
Thursday, November 9	5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Chamber Business After Hours – RSVP to Chamber Office 856-351-2245 or Jennifer@SalemCountyChamber.com The Engine House - 106 North Hook Rd, Pennsville
Friday, November 10	8:00 am – 10:00 am Chamber of Commerce Workshop – ‘Boosting Your Google Business Profile’ SCC – Tillis 123
Friday, November 10	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm Vendor Event – Pictures with Santa 328 North Broadway, Pennsville
Saturday, November 11	11:00 am Veterans Ceremony Riverview Beach Park – Pennsville
Saturday, November 11	5:00 pm – 10:00 pm Salem County Humane Society “Fur Ball” Fall Benefit - \$45 per ticket Call/Text (856)381-6500 Salem County Sportsman Club, Rt. 40, Penns Grove
Sunday, November 12	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Take-Out Chicken Dinner \$15 - benefits NJ Special Olympics (½ chicken and 2 sides) Salem County FOP Old Oak Lodge 6, Pennsville
Thursday, November 16	1:00 pm Holiday Helper Raffle – Raffle Benefits Penns Grove Rotary To Order Tickets call: 856-769-2997 (\$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20) Talk of the Towne Diner – Carneys Point
Saturday, November 18	9:00 am – 12:00 pm Salem County Improvement Authority – Document Shredding Event 286 Welchville Road, Alloway

Director Laury reminded everyone of the elections on November 7th and urged everyone to vote.

Commissioner Timmerman arrived.

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.

Michael Seery – Pittsgrove Township – Stated Senator Durr spoke to the State of New Jersey, and they agreed to put a traffic light up at the intersection of Route 77 and Glassboro Road in Upper Pittsgrove. The State of New Jersey stated that they are willing to pay 75 percent and wants the County of Salem to cover the other 25 percent of the cost. The traffic light will cost the county roughly \$75,000. Director Ben Laury commented that the Board of County Commissioners will be in touch with him regarding the matter.

Nelson Carney Jr. – Woodstown - Stated he was there to speak on behalf of a county employee whom he feels deserves to have a promotion due to the said employee having tenure and being racially discriminated against. Director Ben Laury stated that the Board of Commissioners cannot comment on personnel matters.

Dawn Lawyer – Pittsgrove Township – Stated she resides at the corner of Garden Road and Centerton Road in Pittsgrove Township where many accidents have occurred; most of which have happened in her front yard. Dawn mentioned she would like to have 4 way stop signs installed at this intersection. She also asked about the possibility of lowering the speed limit between Olivet School and Schalick High School.

Anna Ruffo – Stated her granddaughter, Kayla Rose, lost her life on October 11th at the intersection of Garden Road and Centeron Road in Pittsgrove Township when a dump truck collided with a vehicle, she was traveling in. Anna Ruffo commented she would like to have 4 way stop signs installed at this intersection as well as have the speed limit lowered so this does not happen to someone else.

Jim Rowe – Pilesgrove – Stated he was there to speak on behalf of a county employee whom he feels deserves a promotion. Jim urged the Board of Commissioners to consider the long-term effects of what a promotion could do for this employee, his health benefits, and pension.

Kevin Yeagle – Pittsgrove Township – Pittsgrove Township Committeeman Yeagle stated a resolution was passed requesting a few select intersections to be changed to 4 way stop signs. Kevin stated a safety study in North Carolina proved that converting intersections to 4 way stop signs significantly reduced the rate of vehicle accidents and fatalities. He would like to see 4 way stop signs being installed while waiting for the long-term plan of the installation of round-abouts which will help slow the flow of traffic as well as decrease accident rates in Pittsgrove Township.

Nick Mesiano – Pittsgrove Township – Stated he is an alternate member of the Pittsgrove Environmental Board. Nick mentioned that there is a resolution to stop truck traffic on Gershal Ave in Pittsgrove Township. Mr. Mesiano commented, recently there have been eight stop signs installed. He would like to see more stop signs installed to slow the flow of traffic and he hopes that by doing so it will keep the public safe.

Christopher Bascom – Stated he shares a child with Kayla Rose who lost her life on October 11th at the intersection of Garden Road and Centeron Road in Pittsgrove Township. Christopher mentioned that he would like to see four way stop signs installed at Garden Road and Centerton Road so no one else will have to endure the pain of losing a loved one.

Fiore Copare, MD – Pittsgrove Township – Stated he is a physician, the Mayor of Pittsgrove Township, and a friend to many. Fiore mentioned the speed on the roads going through the Township of Pittsgrove is out of control and the roads are not designed for high volume; most come for the four exits of Route 55. He mentioned that Gershal Ave does not have a shoulder and would like to prevent trucks from using Pittsgrove Township a thru-way. Fiore also mentioned within a four-month period, 20 accidents have occurred with one of them being fatal.

William Schmidt – Pittsgrove Township – Pittsgrove Township Committeeman Schmidt stated he is a firefighter for Centerton. William mentioned that from October 9th to October 24th of 2023 he personally responded to every accident on Centerton Road Pittsgrove Township. He stated that he would like to see traffic slow down and consider a resolution to the issue of vehicular accidents.

Nash Hetzel – Pittsgrove Township – Stated he is the Chief of the Centerton Fire Company and has been a member for the past 20 years. Nash commented that there is a minimum of 5 accidents per year at the intersection of Garden Road and Centerton Road in Pittsgrove Township until recently to which he mentioned that within a three-week period there were five accidents at this intersection. He stated there is a heavy volume of trucks that travel down Garden Road to Route 77 some of which blow through the stop sign for unknown reasons. Nash would like to see traffic slow down and more stop signs installed.

Ed McKelvey – Alloway Township – Mr. McKelvey, the Mayor stated he is thankful for the two four way stop signs that were installed. Mayor McKelvey thanked the Board of Commissioners for installing them and mentioned since the four way stop signs were installed there have not been any vehicular accidents where there have been injuries. He mentioned he is concerned with the intersection of Alloway Friesburg Road crossing Cohansey Friesburg Road. Mayor McKelvey stated he would like to have more four way stop signs installed throughout the county.

Biff Crossley – Alloway Township – Stated he responds to motor vehicle accidents within the township and since the four way stop signs have been installed at either of the intersections mentioned by Mayor Ed McKelvey there has been zero calls to respond to. He mentioned the traffic light in the middle of Alloway is faulty; takes too long to change causing people to run the no turn on red signs and that there is a sign missing at one of the corners. Mr. Crossley stated he would like to see the traffic light converted to a four-way stop to slow traffic down. Director Ben Laury asked the Director of Public Works to investigate the matter.

Rachel Sickler – Monroeville – Stated she is concerned about the intersection of Route 77 and Glassboro Road in Upper Pittsgrove Township. Mrs. Sickler mentioned that traffic on Route 77 has significantly increased; she is aware of the motor vehicle accidents that are happening more frequently and is also aware of the severity of them. She mentioned within the last week there have been three accidents at this intersection. Mrs. Sickler asked the Board of Commissioners to consider what can be done to improve the safety of this intersection.

Betty Coombs – Upper Pittsgrove – Stated her concern with the motor vehicle accidents at the intersection of Route 77 and Glassboro Road. Betty asked the Board of Commissioners to encourage the townships within Salem County to be proactive and install four way stop signs.

Ben Laury called for a Motion from The Floor to install a four way stop at the intersection of Garden Road and Centerton Road. He also made a motion to reduce the speed limit between Garden Road and Olivet to 35 mph.

In response to these public comments Administrator Ridgway noted that speed limits can be dropped immediately: stop signs require a minimum of thirty days.

Deputy Director Ostrum noted that there is no pushback from the board regarding the need for safe intersections.

Director Laury then asked for a motion from the floor to install 4-Way stop signs at the intersection of Garton Road and Centerton Road in Pittsgrove Township; talked about reduction in speed.

MOTION FROM THE FLOOR

Resolution Authorizing the Installation of a Four-Way Stop Sign at the Intersection of Garden Road, County Road #674 and Centerton Road, County Road #553; and for Establishing a New Speed Limit Along Portions of Garden Road, County Road #674 and Centerton Road, County Road #553 in the Township of Pittsgrove, County of Salem

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay	X		X			
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum		X	X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

Director Laury also stated that circle roundabouts is being planned for 6-points and 5-points. He also stated that we need expert engineering advice for solutions to intersection issues.

NEXT MEETING DATE November 15, 2023 6:00pm at The Olde Courthouse

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION: 6:58 pm

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

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay			X			
Commissioner Taylor		X	X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum	X		X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

Motion to close Executive Session

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay			X			
Commissioner Taylor	X		X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum		x	X			
Director Laury			x			

HAND VOTE 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Ramsay			X			
Commissioner Taylor	X		X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Deputy Director Ostrum		X	X			
Director Laury			X			

HAND VOTE 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy L. Pennington

Clerk of the Board