



Board of Chosen Freeholders

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2018

6:30 PM

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

I. **Call to Order**

Director Melissa DeCastro called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

II. **Invocation:**

Director Melissa DeCastro called upon Pastor Hillary Crute, Haven United Methodist Church to provide the invocation.

III. **Pledge of Allegiance:**

Director DeCastro called upon Joseph Hannagan, Director of Veterans Affairs Services, who led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. **Statement Regarding Open Public Meetings Act**

Clerk of the Board, Brenda Banks, stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting by:

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, Fifth Street 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.

V. **Attendance Roll Call**

On roll call, the following Freeholders were present: Lee Ware, Deputy Director Charles Hassler, Benjamin Laury, Scott Griscom, and Director Melissa DeCastro. Quorum was established with all five Freeholders present (5/0).

VI. **Minutes**

Motion was made by Deputy Director Charles Hassler to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 20, 2017 regular meeting and January 3, 2018 annual re-organization meeting. Minutes are to be received, approved, and recorded in the Minute Book. Freeholder Lee Ware seconded the motion. With no further discussion, it carried by a roll call vote of 5 Approved / 0 Opposed/ 0 Abstained.

VII. **Special Recognition** – No special recognitions.

VIII. **Presentation** – No presentations.

IX. **Waiver of the Rules** – No waiver of the rules.

X. **Correspondence**

A. **General:**

1. Letter from Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopting a resolution requesting the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards be made permanent.
2. Oldmans Township letter regarding a resolution requesting speed limit signs be erected along a portion of Perkintown Road toward Route 130.

B. **Committee/ Commission Minutes:**

1. Pollution Control Financing Authority December 5, 2017 meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Charles Hassler to accept and file the correspondence, as well as, the committee/ commission minutes and reports be made a part of the minutes. Freeholder Lee Ware seconded the motion and as there was no discussion, it carried by a roll call vote of: 5 Approved/ 0 Opposed/ 0 Abstained.

XI. Payment of Bills and Claims: No bills and claims were presented this month.

XII. Treasurer's Report: No report.

XIII. Resolutions:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – DeCastro, Hassler

Resolution 2018-48

Resolution for Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Law for the County of Salem 2018 Meeting Dates.

Resolution 2018-49

Resolution Separating the County Adjuster and County Counsel Position and Appointing County Adjuster.

Resolution 2018-50

Resolution Extending Appointment of Special Counsel.

Resolution 2018-51

Resolution Appointing Department Head/ Engineering for the County of Salem.

Resolution 2018-52

Resolution Revising the Appointed Representatives of the County of Salem to the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization.

Resolution 2018-53

Resolution Appointing Freeholder Member to the South Jersey Economic Development District for the County of Salem.

Resolution 2018-54

Resolution to Update the Designating Freeholder Member or Liaison for Various County Boards, Commissions, and Agencies Outside of Salem County Government for 2018.

There was a motion to move for adoption Resolutions 2018-48 and 51-54 by Deputy Director Charles Hassler, seconded by Freeholder Lee Ware. There was no discussion, the motion passed with a roll call vote of: 5 Approved/ 0 Opposed/ 0 Abstained.

There was a motion to move for adoption Resolution 2018-49 by Deputy Director Charles Hassler, seconded by Freeholder Lee Ware. During discussion, Freeholder Ben Laury questioned why we were appointing an Adjuster when it is included under the County Counsel current duties. In addition, why was the wording included regarding the tenure. Director Melissa DeCastro indicated the salary is being looked into and will be adjusted. This is being done for tenure purposes as tenure laws per statute of New Jersey. Freeholder Ben Laury stated he was not voting for this Resolution because the duties are included under County Counsel and the inclusion of the tenure wording. No further discussion from the Freeholder Board took place. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

Approved: (3) DeCastro, Hassler, Ware

Opposed: (2) Griscom, Laury Abstain: 0

There was a motion to move for adoption Resolution 2018-50 by Deputy Director Charles Hassler, seconded by Freeholder Lee Ware. During discussion, Freeholder Ben Laury is concerned why we have special counsel and why it was needed. Director Melissa DeCastro called upon Special Counsel, Kevin McCann who indicated that there are current legal events that County Counsel cannot cover. Currently he is defending a suit against the Director made by the Republican Party and will not elaborate. No further discussion took place and the motion carried by a roll call vote of:

Approved: (3) DeCastro, Hassler, Ware

Opposed: (2) Griscom, Laury Abstain: 0

B. AGRICULTURAL/ TOURISM COMMITTEE – Ware, Laury

Resolution 2018-55

Resolution Authorizing the Proposed Acquisition of a Development Easement on Robbins and Williams Farm, Alloway Township.

There was a motion to move for adoption this one (1) Resolution by Freeholder Lee Ware, seconded by Freeholder Ben Laury. There was no discussion, the motion passed with a roll call vote of 5/0.

Approved: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

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

Resolution 2018-56

Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application for State Aid to Counties Under the New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Bridge Future Needs Program for Fiscal Year 2018.

Resolution 2018-57

Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #4 – Final 2012 County Aid Road Program Resurfacing of Pointers-Auburn Road, County Road #540 For the County of Salem.

Resolution 2018-58

Resolution Approving the Execution of Change Order #3 ARC of Salem County Parking Lot Improvements in Mannington Township for the County of Salem.

Resolution 2018-59

Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application for State Aid to Counties Under the New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Freight Impact Fund Program for Fiscal Year 2018.

There was a motion to move for adoption these four (4) Resolutions by Deputy Director Charles Hassler, seconded by Freeholder Scott Griscom. There was no discussion, the motion passed with a roll call of 5/0.

Approved: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

D. HEALTH/ HUMAN SERVICES/ EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Laury, DeCastro

Resolution 2018-60

Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between New Jersey Transit and the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the Funding of the 5311 Rural Transportation Assistance Act.

Resolution 2018-61

Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between New Jersey Transit and the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the funding of the Senior and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act.

Resolution 2018-62

Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with Gloucester County Department of Public Health to Share Specialized Lead Paint Analyzing Equipment

Resolution 2018-63

Resolution Executing and Accepting a Grant from the New Jersey Department of Health for the Childhood Lead Exposure Prevention (CLEP) Project Grant.

There was a motion to move for adoption these four (4) Resolutions by Freeholder Ben Laury, seconded by Freeholder Lee Ware. There was no discussion, the motion passed with a roll call vote of 5/0.

Approved: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

E. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Griscom, Ware

Resolution 2018-64

Resolution Approving the Salem County Sheriff's Office Participation in the Federal 1033 Program and Approving the Acquisition of Surplus Military Equipment.

Resolution 2018-65

Resolution of the Board of Chosen Freeholders Executing and Accepting a Grant from the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice for the Prosecutor's Office (Insurance Fraud Reimbursement Grant).

There was a motion to move for adoption these two (2) Resolutions by Freeholder Scott Griscom, seconded by Freeholder Lee Ware. There was no discussion, the motion passed with a roll call vote of 5/0.

Approved: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

- IX. Freeholder Old Business** – None was discussed.
- X. Freeholder New Business** – None was discussed.
- XI. Freeholder Public Announcements** – No announcements were made.

XII. Public Comment

Diane McAllister, Pennsville

Ms. McAllister indicated that she is not pleased as a 69 year old who has voted in every election believed her vote counts. She voted because it mattered; however, Freeholder DeCastro changed parties and she now sees her vote does not count. She feels deceived and betrayed as she is a conservative independent republican. There the need to know what candidates really think as she believed in Freeholder DeCastro who now changed her party affiliation and is surprised this is permitted by law. Ms. McAllister indicated she is a fiscal conservative and is fearful the Democrats will hire people and add to taxes. The school board, flood insurance is all a burden. She indicated this is not personal, but she feels deceived and betrayed.

Joan Dickens, Pennsville

Ms. Dickens stated she feels exactly as what Diane McAllister stated.

Edward Ramsey, Pittsgrove

Mr. Ramsey indicated he feels the same way as the other speakers. He is unhappy. Stated that there were not any Resolutions on the internet this time. He stated Freeholder DeCastro stated she felt like did not have a voice. He never heard any specific ideas, resetting county's course and never brought to the public. He feels deceived as well.

XIII. Adjournment

Director Melissa DeCastro called for a motion to adjourn, Freeholder Ben Laury made a motion, seconded by Lee Ware. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda P. Banks
Clerk of the Board