



**Board of County Commissioners**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 5, 2025 6:00 PM

Salem County Historic 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** – Director Laury invited all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance

**Statement Regarding Open Public Meetings Act** – The statement was read by Clerk of the Board, Stacy L. 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 in 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       |        |

A quorum was present.

**Minutes**

Dispense with the reading of the minutes of the February 19, 2025 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 passed 5-0.

**Special Recognition –**

Deputy Director Ostrum presented a Proclamation Honoring March 2025 as Women’s History Month. Stacy Pennington, Clerk of the Board, Kelly Hannigan, CFO and Karin Wood, County Solicitor, were present to accept the proclamation.

**Presentation –**

The Salem County Health Department presentation was conducted by Rebecca Sleeter, Fallon Secaur and Lauren Pomykala. The Salem County Health Department briefly detailed the different resources available to Salem County residents. The presentation also recapped the departmental 2024 achievements and provided goals for 2025, see report/presentation attached.

Director Laury recognized the director of the Health Department, June Sieber. Also mentioned that one of the Health Department’s major goals is to establish a Senior Center. We anticipate details to be forthcoming.

Deputy Director Ostrum mentioned that he wanted the public to be aware of the great work done by the Health Department. This department does have a lot of one-on-one interaction with the public and we are lucky to have a group of committed/devoted individuals in this field that overall makes this county look good.

**Public Hearings & Adoptions –**

**A1 Resolution of the Second Reading and Adoption to Fix the Annual Salary of the Salem County Board of County Commissioners**

1. Motion and second to open the public hearing
2. Roll Call

| <b>Commissioner</b>    | <b>Motion</b> | <b>Second</b> | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Abstain</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Deputy Director Ostrum | X             |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Timmerman |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Taylor    |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Ramsay    |               | X             | X          |            |                |               |
| Director Laury         |               |               | X          |            |                |               |

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

1. Motion and second to close the public hearing
2. Roll Call

| <b>Commissioner</b>    | <b>Motion</b> | <b>Second</b> | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Abstain</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Deputy Director Ostrum | X             |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Timmerman |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Taylor    |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Ramsay    |               | X             | X          |            |                |               |
| Director Laury         |               |               | X          |            |                |               |

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

1. Motion and second to adopt resolution A1
2. Roll Call

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

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

**Correspondence** – General and Committee/ Commission Minutes and Reports:

1. Commission on Women Minutes from January 2025 Meeting
2. Morris County Resolution 2025-158 Urging State Leaders To Pass Legislation That Will Authorize Counties, Municipalities, School Districts and All Local Governments To Publish Legal Notices in A Clear, Transparent and Timely Manner On A Local Government's Official Website
3. Burlington County Resolution 2025-00041 Authorizing To Continue To Support Proposed Legislation That Will Authorize Burlington County, Municipalities, School Districts, and All Local Governments To Publish Legal Notices in A Clear and Transparent Manner On A Local Government's Official Website
4. Resolution 2025-0148 On Behalf Of The Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners In Support of Senate Bill S-4048 and Assembly Bill 1298 Supporting The Preservation of Historic Areas
5. Atlantic County Resolution 2025-118 Supporting The Publishing of Legal Notices On Official Government Websites
6. A letter from the Salem County Chiefs Association regarding concerns for lack of animal shelters

| 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 passed 5-0.

**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 passed 5-0.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**A2** Resolution Appointing A Member To The South Jersey Economic Development District For The County of Salem – Michael Chapman

**A3** Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Request for FY26 Congressionally Directed Spending

**A4** Resolution Supporting Lower Alloways Creek Township Resolution 2025-45 In Support of an Application to Congressman VanDrew FY26 Community Project Funding for Sluice Gates Evaluation and Replacement or Repairs

**A5** Resolution Authorizing Contract Amendment For Professional Services Related To The Energy Savings Improvement Plan (USA Architects-Reduction of \$76,836.27)

**A6** Resolution Authorizing The Award of A Non-Fair and Open Contract For Providing Election Services For The Salem County Board of Elections

**A7** Resolution Awarding Contracts For The Purchase of Four (4) 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500's and One (1) 2025 Chevrolet Colorado For The Departments of Public Works and Engineering

**A8** Resolution Authorizing The Execution of A Shared Services Agreement Between The County of Salem and The Cumberland County Improvement Authority For Renovations To The Social Services Building

**A9** Resolution Approving the Renaming of the Salem County Recreational Area Located at the Intersection of Perkintown Road and US Route #130 and Authorizing Improvements as Deemed Necessary by The County Commissioners

| <b>Commissioner</b>    | <b>Motion</b> | <b>Second</b> | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Abstain</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Commissioner Ramsay    |               | X             | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Taylor    |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Timmerman |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Deputy Director Ostrum | X             |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Director Laury         |               |               | X          |            |                |               |

Hand vote approved 5-0.

**AGRICULTURAL / PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**B1** Resolution Accepting and Executing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Attorney General, Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA Subcontractor Agreement with the Salem County Prosecutor's Office for FY 2024

**B2** Resolution Accepting and Executing the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Multi-Jurisdictional Gang, Gun, and Narcotics Task Force Grant Program for the Prosecutor's Office [JAG 1-17TF-23]

**B3** Resolution Authorizing the County of Salem Through the Salem County Sheriff's Office to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program to Enable the Salem County Sheriff's Office to Request and Acquire Excess Department of Defense Equipment

| 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 approved 5-0.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**D1** Resolution Authorizing The Award of A Non-Fair and Open Concession Contract For The Publication of An Economic Development Directory For The County of Salem

| 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 approved 5-0.

### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**E1** Resolution Amending Resolution 2024-264 To Extend The Budget Period For The Covid-19 Vaccination Program 2022 Activity C Grant

**E2** Resolution Applying for the Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance County Grant

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

Hand vote approved 5-0.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**F1** Resolution Authorizing 2025 Aerial Dispensing Operations By Salem County Mosquito Control

**F2** Resolution Amending Resolution 2024-587 Approving the Execution of Change Order #2 to the 2018-2019 Local Freight Impact Fund Program, Straughns Mill Road, County Road #643 Resurfacing and County Bridge #1700-141 Rehabilitation in Oldmans Township for the County of Salem

**F3** Resolution Prohibiting Normal Traffic Along Maple Avenue, County Road #634, South Broad Street, County Road #607, and East Main Street, County Road #675 in the Borough of Penns Grove, Salem County for their annual Penns Grove Day Parade

**F4** Resolution Approving the Execution of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Engineering Cost Sharing Agreement Route #77 and Glassboro Road, County Road #619 Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County

**F5** Resolution Approving the Salem County Planning Board’s Revised Fee Schedule for Salem County Land Development Review

| <b>Commissioner</b>    | <b>Motion</b> | <b>Second</b> | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Abstain</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Commissioner Ramsay    | X             |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Taylor    |               | X             | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Timmerman |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Deputy Director Ostrum |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Director Laury         |               |               | X          |            |                |               |

Hand vote approved 5-0.

Commissioner Taylor commented regarding Resolution F5 the Planning Board’s Revised Fee Schedule; this was discussed last year, which would allow for fees to be updated yearly. The revised fee is the responsibility of the applicant and not the county taxpayer.

Deputy Director Ostrum inquired; the last fee revision was conducted about 30years ago?

Commissioner Taylor answered, the fees have not been reviewed in the last 30 years. We just reviewed the fee schedule last year. We then ensured to include the revision within the document/policy which would allow us to update the fees yearly. Commissioner Talyor further mentioned that this was done to protect the county from added fees. Provided an example of how an application resubmission should fall onto the developer however the county was previously absorbing the redesign cost which ideally should fall onto the developer.

Commissioner Ramsay commented regarding Resolution F4, the new traffic signal to be installed on Route 77 and Glassboro Road, this is the final step in this process. Once this is passed it will then go back to the Department of Transportation for final seal and approval. The installation should begin late summer to early fall.

**Commissioner Old Business – N/A**

**Commissioner New Business – N/A****Commissioner Public Announcements:**

Commissioner Timmerman noted some upcoming events in the county:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of Each Month               | <p>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm<br/> <b>FREE Lead &amp; Health Screenings</b><br/>           *Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Blood Sugar, Lead testing for children, Lead testing of consumer products<br/>           No Appointments Necessary. Lead Screenings Offered for ages 1-6 years old.<br/>           Health Screenings Offered for ages 18 years or older.<br/>           For more information, call 856-935-7510 ext. 8477<br/>           Location: Salem County Offices, 110 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Salem</p>   |
| January 25 <sup>th</sup> thru March 29 <sup>th</sup> | <p><b>Salem County Department of Health and Human Services – 2025 Free Rabies Clinics (see schedule attached)</b></p>   |
| Fri. & Sat., March 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> | <p>7:00 pm<br/> <b>The Wedding Singer</b><br/>           Ticket prices vary.<br/>           Location: Salem High School, Salem</p>  |
| Saturday, March 8                                    | <p>2:00 pm – 6:00 pm<br/> <b>Elmer Grange Oyster Dinner</b><br/>           Dine In &amp; Take Out<br/>           \$35 per person- all you can eat<br/>           Fried Oysters, Chicken Salad, Vegetable, Coleslaw, Macaroni Salad, Roll, &amp; Dessert.<br/>           Quantities Limited - No Walk Up's- Call for reservations!<br/>           856-358-0583<br/>           Location: Elmer Grange #29, 535 Daretown Road, Elmer</p>   |
| Saturday, March 8                                    | <p>8:30 am<br/> <b>Salem County Commission on Women – Women of Achievement Breakfast</b><br/> <b>Benefiting the 2025 Nancy Timberman Scholarship</b><br/>           Ticket: \$50.00<br/>           Tickets must be purchased by February 28<sup>th</sup><br/>           Write all Checks to: Salem County Commission on Women<br/>           Mail Checks in an envelope marked "Commission on Women"<br/>           Att: Elaine Dunner, 469B Whig Lane Road, Pilesgrove, NJ 08098<br/>           Location: The Grove at Centerton, 1022 Almond Road, Pittsgrove</p> |
| Saturday, March 8                                    | <p>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm<br/> <b>Celebration of Rev. Awood A. Jones 15<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary</b><br/>           We would love for you to join us on this memorable occasion.<br/>           Catering by DiPaolo's Italian Ristorante<br/>           Cost: \$75 per person<br/>           Location: Salem River Inn, 91 Salem Country Club Road, Salem</p>   |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <p>Wednesday,<br/>March 12</p> | <p>8:00 am – 11:00 am<br/> <b>Breakfast is better when it's Together with Veterans!</b><br/> Join us for Free Coffee, Bagels, Donuts and good conversation.<br/> In addition, we will have guest speakers with information on various services available to Veterans and their families.<br/> Location: VFW Post 253, 20 Phillip Drive, Salem</p>                                      |
| <p>Friday,<br/>March 14</p>    | <p>11:30 am – 1:00 pm<br/> <b>Annual State of the District Update Luncheon – Senator Burzichelli, Assemblywoman Simmons &amp; Assemblyman Bailey</b><br/> Cost \$40 per person<br/> RSVP to The Chamber Office at 856-351-2245 or respond with payment to SalemCountyChamber.com<br/> Location: Salem Community College's Davidow Hall Atrium, 460 Hollywood Avenue, Carneys Point</p> |
| <p>Saturday,<br/>March 15</p>  | <p>5:00 pm – 8:00 pm<br/> <b>Muskrat Dinner</b><br/> Pan Fried Muskrat, Pepper Cabbage, Potato Salad , Green Beans and Desserts. \$45.00 per person. Tickets must be bought and paid in advance. Credit card by phone 856.935.2357 after 4. Cash app \$DanielleMacLacklin or Venmo @Alice -Dages.<br/> Location: Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #1966, 232 E Broadway, Salem</p>      |
| <p>Saturday,<br/>March 15</p>  | <p>5:00 pm – 10:00 pm<br/> <b>16<sup>th</sup> Annual South New Jersey National Deer Association Banquet and Youth Deer Expo</b><br/> Buffet Dinner + Cash Bar, Games, Prizes, Raffles, Live &amp; Silent Auctions<br/> Location: The Grove at Centerton, 1022 Almond Road, Elmer</p>   |
| <p>Monday,<br/>March 17</p>    | <p>5:00 pm – 7:00 pm<br/> <b>St. Patrick's Day – Ham &amp; Cabbage Dinner</b><br/> Cost: \$15<br/> Includes: Potatoes, Roll and Dessert<br/> All you can Eat In or Take Out Available<br/> Call 856-469-1700 to sign up. Proceeds Benefit VFW Post 253 Auxillary<br/> Location: VFW Post 253, 20 Phillip Drive, Salem</p>  |
| <p>Wednesday,<br/>March 19</p> | <p>11:30 am – 1:00 pm<br/> <b>March Luncheon – St. Patrick's Day Celebration</b><br/> Wear Green!<br/> Space is limited, Advanced registration is required.<br/> Call to register: 856-339-8622<br/> Location: Salem County Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), 693 S. Broadway, Pennsville</p>   |



Director Laury mentioned that the Catholic Church will be having a breakfast this Sunday. Mannington will also be having their Pancake Breakfast this Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Deputy Director Ostrum mentioned that tomorrow the Salem Community College will be having a program on influential women in nursing from 11am to 1pm. Encourage the public to attend as the college is offering good things via its college nursing program.

Commissioner Taylor mentioned that the Salem Vocational Technical school will be having its luncheon on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and is honoring Dave Bailey from Ranch Hope.

**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.

**Commissioner Director Laury opened for Public Commentary:**

Maggie Masserini (Carney Point) mentioned the following:

- Thinking about history, New Jersey has a lousy representation for being a second-class state.
- Bordentown was the first public school and is still standing. This is wonderful history, we need to continue to honor. This goes back to the use of the original library system. The library system is used by seniors and small children. Expressed the importance of having a library to share with the community for reading, learning and crafts. Presented a quilt that was created by children that participated in the library program.

**Next Meeting Date- Next Meeting Date March 19, 2025, 6:00PM – Historic Courthouse, Salem**

**Executive Closed Session – 6:46 pm**

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      | X   |     |         |        |
| Commissioner Taylor    | X      |        | X   |     |         |        |
| Commissioner Timmerman |        |        | X   |     |         |        |
| Deputy Director Ostrum |        |        | X   |     |         |        |
| Director Laury         |        |        | X   |     |         |        |

Hand vote approved 5-0.

**Executive Closed Session Ended – 6:56 pm**

| 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 approved 5-0.

**Call to Order** – Commissioner Director Laury called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Director Laury welcomed the audience and explained that this meeting was set to bring attention to the current animal control issue within the county. The Board of Salem County Commissioners has set this meeting to facilitate Municipalities to come to an agreement regarding having a shelter in place for animals. The plan tonight is to setup a committee of volunteers to come up with the best alternative to address this issue. We would like to meet again on April 16th. This is the same date and time as our already scheduled Open Public Meeting to discuss ideas or plans that the committee has established. We are aware of an animal biting situation that has occurred in Pedricktown however, it's better to leave this out as the discussion is focused on animal control and what can be done to ease this situation. This is an open public meeting which gets recorded, please be mindful of the topic to be discussed. This is a county wide issue, and we need to come together as a county to address the issue. We are looking for suggestions and ideas and now are opening the floor for the audience to participate.

Mayor LaDaena Londo (Penns Grove) mentioned as follows:

Suggested as a recommendation to look for grants that may be available and to possibly have the municipalities come together to build an animal shelter or raise the funding to be able to achieve this goal. Mentioned that the current administration has a temporary holding for federal grants, however this shouldn't stop our efforts to look for grants. If we can legally have fund raisers where the municipalities or interested parties can come together to participate in such events to possibly gain donors. Stressed that she is personally interested in being a part of that effort.

Director Laury mentioned that there is a shared services grant available. The funding is estimated at about \$400,000.00 and maybe available to the county. This is more of a long-term solution. Cape May County currently receives a million-dollar donation every year from the same person to support their animal facility, so this is a possibility. Thanked Ms. Londo for her suggestions and participation.

Mayor Kevin Eachus (Pilesgrove Township) mentioned as follows:

Suggested working with Rowan University as they currently have a veterinary program. They have a veterinary onsite and can involve the students to volunteer their services for added credits. Rowan is a part of Gloucester County, but he has reached out to the dean with the suggestion. Shelters is a current study that's part of that curriculum, so I believe this may be a good idea although it's a long-term solution.

Deputy Director Ostrum mentioned that discussions have taken place with Senator Burzichelli and Assemblyman Dave Bailey regarding involving the colleges and they are in full support. However, this would take 2 to 3 years to establish so again it's a long-term solution.

Mayor Donald C. Asay (Mannington Township) mentioned as follows:

This has been an ongoing issue. Several efforts have been made over the years. A recent plan discussed was the Tajma Kennel however this was later dropped because it wasn't seen as feasible for our situation. This isn't to discourage any new ideas. We had the opportunity to discuss with Voorhees Animal Control and her indication was that we aren't contracted to house animals there anymore. She did mention that they anticipate issues with all of Salem County. The Voorhees location is considered far and I believe we need to establish something more locally. We need to investigate more cost-effective solutions. In review of the numbers for Mannington Township, we average about 6 animals per year. Bigger towns might have higher numbers of stray animals. The

animals that Mannington Township has encountered appear to have been abandoned in our area.

Mayor Ken Brown (Carneys Point) mentioned as follows:

Recommended that all the municipalities should come together and equally participate in an animal facility. Further suggested if one of the towns has an empty building, they could have ownership of the building and divide the costs of running the facility amongst the municipalities. Carneys Point paid over \$40,000.00 just last year in Animal Control costs and already anticipated an increase in the budget this year that hasn't been announced just yet. This is a big problem in Carneys Point. Apartment owners/landlords have complained of tenants that have abandoned their pets at the empty apartment or home. Residents within the community tend to feed stray animals which in turn just increases the issue. Animals have no concept of their location. They can be roaming around in all corners within Salem County. If you look at the community profiles on Facebook, you will see posts of lost pets almost every day. The laws need to be stricter on people regarding animal cruelty/irresponsibility. This is all long-term solutions.

Mayor Daniel Neu (Pennsville) and Administrator Heather McManus (Pennsville) mentioned as follows:

Pennsville is unique to Salem County as we do have an animal facility. We have volunteer staff and an outside organization that assisted with obtaining donations for the animals, however things have since changed. We are currently looking into ways to obtain funding such as donations. It costs about \$250,000.00 a year to run an animal shelter and 20% of that is based on donations. Currently, we are housing animals together, which isn't an ideal situation. There is an adoption program in place where fees are collected to assist with maintaining the facility.

Director Laury inquired, "Do you have room for expansion or additional runs?"

Heather McManus Administrator (Pennsville) answered:

Right now, we have 9 runs in place and a very small cat room. We have room for expansion however we do have concerns that come along with the expansion such as staffing.

Director Laury further mentioned, if you have a current facility we are only asking if there is room for expansion with the hopes that we can get other municipalities involved to help support with funding to execute the expansion. We only want to anticipate a partnership to benefit the situation.

Mayor Daniel Neu (Pennsville) further mentioned:

Our main concern is staffing. There's a lot that goes into play to run this facility and with discussions about expansion will come the need for additional staffing. The facility will require an added Vet onsite. We also provide certain animal spay and neutering services. Currently the program consists of capturing stray local cats and either spaying or neutering them to decrease the population. However, this is related to fixing the roads in Salem County, you can't get them all. We are a no kill shelter and strive to find these animals their forever homes. We have faced difficult situations where our staff become attached to an animal emotionally yet because of their health conditions might need to be put down.

Administrator Heather McManus (Pennsville) further mentioned:

Acknowledge that the Salem County Health Dept was present and mentioned that they are a big help. Mentioned that Pennsville had a rabies outbreak last year. The issue isn't

just housing the animals. At the current moment, we haven't been able to locate a Veterinary that will work with our facility. We spayed and neutered over 600 cats last year. For multiple reasons we haven't been able to obtain a Veterinary. The last Veterinary we had onsite encountered a situation where a lot of cats were rescued from an inhabitable situation and unfortunately half of those animals had to be put down. She couldn't handle this and left the facility.

Deputy Director Ostrum mentioned:

If you have a facility that's currently modeled for working in your township it is great. We are only discussing the expansion idea as an opportunity for you to partner with another township to help absorb some costs that come with running the facility.

Mayor Daniel Neu (Pennsville) further mentioned:

We used to have shared services in place with several municipalities. This, however, became too overwhelming for the facility to handle.

Director Laury mentioned:

We are looking for volunteers to sit on this committee for the Animal Shelter. We ask that once the meeting concludes and you are interested in assisting the committee, please see Stacy to provide your contact information. The plan is for this committee to come up with short-term and long-term ideas. We plan to meet back here on April 16<sup>th</sup> to further discuss.

Assemblyman Dave Bailey (Woodstown) mentioned as follows:

We have had many discussions around this issue. Thank you to commissioner Taylor for taking time to meet regarding this issue. We also have had discussions with multiple Mayors from across the county. Senator Burzichelli and I have also had discussions around this issue. We are here to support the county. Any ideas that may arise we are totally open to discuss. One idea that was mentioned regarding policy, if we have to review and revise, we are open to this idea as well. We don't provide services, but we can review policies that may better help serve the county and our community. If we can play a role in the committee or play a role in reviewing this plan or even play a role in researching additional funding, we are opened to these ideas as well. It has been clear in these discussions that at this point it's a municipal issue. There have been talks about Cape May County and their shelter facility. Gloucester County currently has a facility that generates \$2.1 million dollars a year in expenses and only earns about \$66,000.00 a year in revenue so this is a service that they provide. We are talking about animals and not people. Just as an example, Pennsville mentioned that they are spending \$250,000.00 a year and only receive 20% of donations so again this should be considered as a service that's being provided. Apologies if the numbers are incorrect but I just wanted to give an overall example. We are looking forward to assisting the county along with our municipalities to address this issue. We appreciate that the county has made this attempt to bring the municipalities together to formulate ideas in hopes of arriving at a solution. I also wanted to ensure to recognize Ned Shimp. This man has done an amazing job in serving all of Salem County. I don't think he's receiving enough credit as a citizen for the amazing job he has done.

Mayor Edward Meschi (Upper Pittsgrove) mentioned as follows:

I don't have an answer to this issue. I also don't understand how this happened so abruptly. Our township was paying \$3,600 a year for a kennel. The state basically put him out of business. He probably didn't follow all the laws and regulations. What the rules were, we aren't necessarily sure. Some of the animals that come from this facility are wonderful pets and some unfortunately aren't. I've witnessed people adopting

animals and have nothing but issues. Many have faced multiple expenses with vet bills and so forth just to keep the animal alive. I hate saying these things as I am a dog lover. We were told at one point that the Vineland SPCA would take us in for \$25,000.00 a year but that didn't include the cost of the animals. We ultimately found a place in Voorhees where we negotiated \$500 as a monthly fee but now, they can't take us in either. Again, where did this problem start? I don't believe this was an issue 5 years ago.

Director Laury answered:

Again, we don't have an answer, but it's believed that the problem started during the pandemic. People took in animals as they didn't have much to do stuck at home. Now that people have returned to work, they don't have the time to tend to the animals. Last year we accounted for 302 stray animals and this year we are already up to 230 and its only March. It's an unfortunate growing issue.

Mayor Edward Meschi further mentioned:

It could also be legislation. They had a lot of mandates in place that basically put Ron's Kennel out of business. He didn't leave because he had too many animals, he left because he couldn't make a living. Is this just a county issue or has it expanded worldwide?

Director Laury responded:

The discussions I have had with Senator Burzichelli, the understanding is that there are two counties facing the lack of shelter issue. One is believed to be Sussex County which is further up North New Jersey. Thanked Mayor Meschi for his comments.

Vaugh Groce (Salem City Council) mentioned as follows:

Many municipalities are present tonight, which makes it quite clear that they are facing issues keeping a shelter in place. We wanted to ask, would this issue possibly be geared toward the improvement authority to seek a location? This would then lead our municipalities to take part in some kind of governmental agreement to share in costs to run the facility.

Director Laury responded:

That's a great idea. This is something that we can consider.

Sean Brown (Director of housing for Salem City) mentioned as follows:

Mr. Groce did a great job in summarizing. I would just like to add that this seems to be a capacity issue. I just want to address some facts as there's been a lot of discussions via social media. When a budget is completed, no one is anticipating these types of issues. There is no large amount of funding available to try to solve the problem. Secondly, when a stray animal is captured, something needs to be done with the animal. The improvement authority idea would serve as a long-term solution. This concept has worked for other counties within New Jersey. If considered, the fee structure could be vetted out and added to the budget for next year.

Director Laury responded:

Thank you for your comments and participation. Does anyone know how Delaware is handling the Animal Control issue?

Sean Brown (Director of housing for Salem City) responded:

Some say you can't cross state lines with animals. I don't believe it is legal. I personally chased down an animal control vehicle I came across in Camden. The person did

mention that he was aware of the issue. I believe most municipalities have reached out to shelters asking for assistance to house stray animals, but most have received a no.

Director Laury responded:  
Thank you.

Issabella Goetz (Carneys Point) mentioned as follows:

I have some short-term solutions for this problem. Newark New Jersey currently has over 300 dogs in their facility that are housed in crates. I know this idea might not seem ideal however, we need somewhere to house these animals. We do have multiple empty buildings around Salem County. These buildings can be utilized as a short-term solution as well to house the animals in crates or kennels. Again, this idea might not sound ideal, but it does get the animals housing and off the streets. It was previously mentioned to get the college Veterinary program involved where students can earn credit towards their curriculum just to come out and service our shelters. We can obtain volunteers from the community that can come and walk these animals. Maybe once established full-time personnel can be hired to help run the facility. There are a lot of people that are interested in volunteering. Currently animals are required to be registered and licensed in the towns where they live. This is another requirement that doesn't seem to be followed by many residents. This requirement should be enforced. We don't need to punish people for not registering their pets, but they should receive warnings and be further educated. There should also be an animal microchip review conducted yearly. Every animal should require a microchip that can be updated yearly. This should be county wide initiative, and a location should be designated where residents can go to comply with the requirement. A lot of residents in the community know how to capture cats. We can possibly establish a program like T&R where volunteers from the community can take part in capturing stray cats and bring them to a participating facility to have them fixed. The residents can then receive some sort of acknowledgment for their efforts.

Pam Jessie (Pittsgrove) mentioned as follows:

I would like to touch on the idea that was just mentioned regarding the T&R Program with cats. In Pittsgrove specifically, there was a group that would assist in capturing cats. Such organizations are AWA and Forgotten Cats. These organizations offer discounts for their services. AWA is charging \$20 and Forgotten Cats are about \$50 or \$55 per animal. Also, cats do require licensing. We issue a warning for unregistered animal owners to comply. If they choose not to comply, we then follow it up with a summons. Shelters are currently overpopulated. Yes, the pandemic had a lot to do with the current situation but there are other factors we need to consider. Back yard breeders tend to be an issue as well. The shelters right now don't want to accept Salem County but it's because they are trying to stick with their own areas. Shelters and Rescues across the United States in general are just overwhelmed. We have had people offer Rescue homes as another solution. The animals aren't in Kennels, but they are vaccinated and safely housed for a 7day time frame. As a short-term idea, if we can find a kennel such as Lakeside or Sierra Farms in general but we need a solution for these animals. We need to have a quarantine area to deal with animal biting situations as they may occur.

Deputy Director Ostrum mentioned

The Sheriff's Department has had some input in previous consideration, I would like to ask the Undersheriff Mr. Peterson to share any comments or suggestions.

Michael Peterson, Salem County Sheriff's Dept. (Quinton) mentioned as follows:

The only thing I can add to this current issue is that the Sheriff's Office made a presentation 14 years ago. The plan is a county run plan that involves a animal shelter.

This extensive plan would include the county and the municipalities. This plan would include grant money, donations and fund raisers. At the time in 2010, the plan was estimated to cost 1.2 million dollars as a startup. This would be quite costly to run yearly. We put a request out to all 21 counties asking how many locations had shelters in place. We received a response from 10 counties. The results were basically split down the middle, 6 had county run shelters where 4 did not. We have proof of this concept that shelters can be run at a county level to some extent. This is a costly endeavor and would take everyone here present to consider. I think that our original plan structurally can exist however it will have to be reworked.

Director Laury mentioned:

Thank you to everyone here for their attendance and participation. Again, if you would like to participate in this committee, please see Stacy and provide your contact information after the meeting. We are looking for both short-term and long-term ideas. Six weeks isn't much time to come up with a solution, but we are starting the process. My contact information is available on our Salem County webpage, please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions or suggestions you would like to share.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm

| <b>Commissioner</b>    | <b>Motion</b> | <b>Second</b> | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Abstain</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Commissioner Ramsay    |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Taylor    | X             |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Commissioner Timmerman |               | X             | X          |            |                |               |
| Deputy Director Ostrum |               |               | X          |            |                |               |
| Director Laury         |               |               | X          |            |                |               |

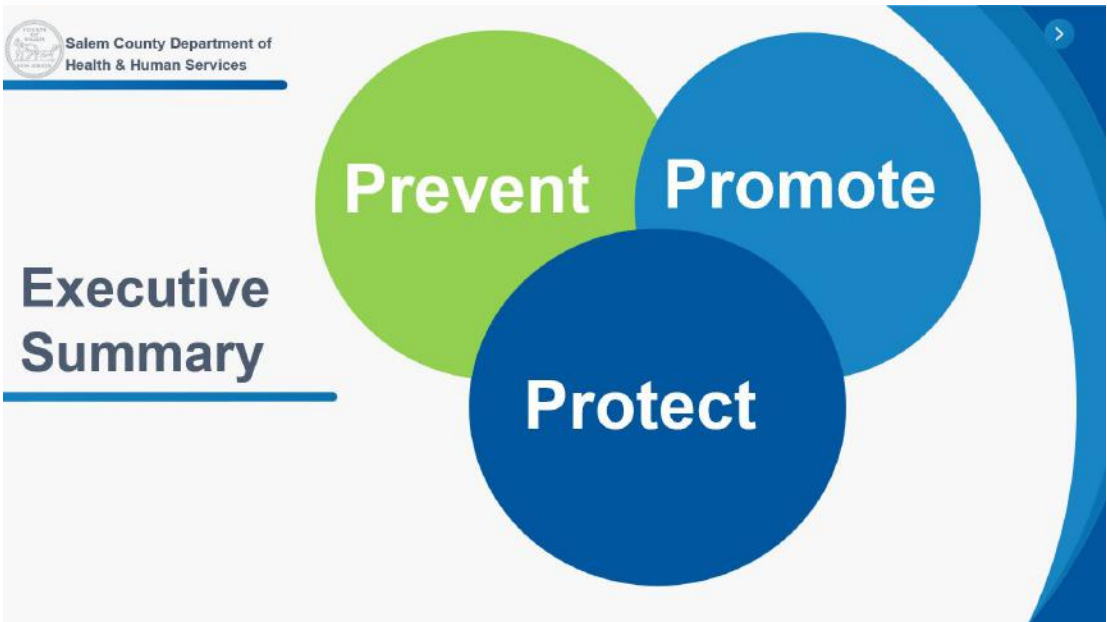
Hand vote approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy L. Pennington  
Clerk of the Board

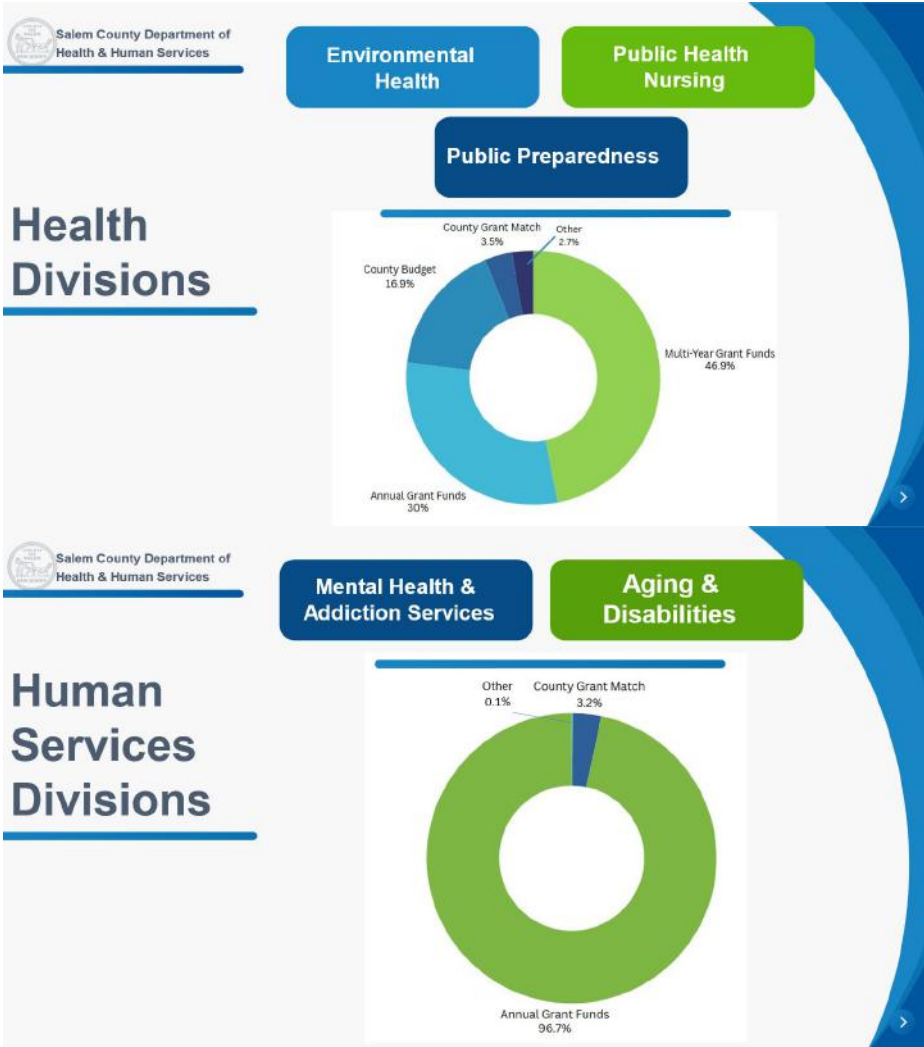


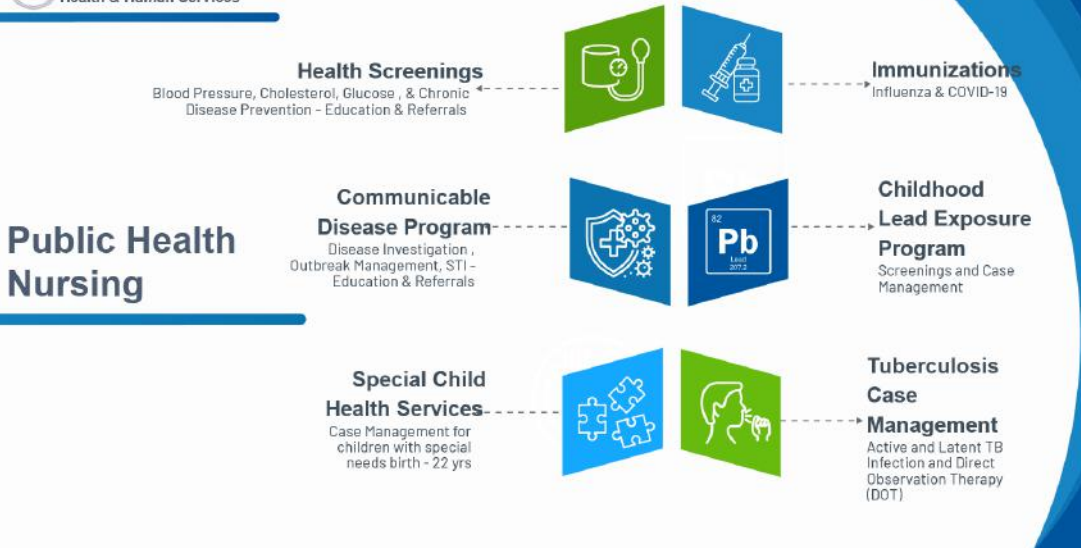
The top section features a blue curved header. Below it is the Salem County logo, which includes a circular seal with a horse and the text "COUNTY OF SALEM NEW JERSEY". The words "Salem County" are written in a large, elegant script font, with "NEW JERSEY" in a smaller, sans-serif font underneath. Below the logo, the text "Department of Health & Human Services" is centered in a serif font, flanked by horizontal lines. At the bottom of this section are five colored buttons: "Aging & Disabilities" (blue), "Environmental Health" (green), "Mental Health & Addiction Services" (blue), "Public Health Nursing" (blue), and "Public Preparedness" (dark blue).



The bottom section is a graphic titled "Executive Summary" on the left, underlined. To the right are three overlapping circles: a green circle labeled "Prevent", a blue circle labeled "Promote", and a dark blue circle labeled "Protect". The "Protect" circle overlaps both the "Prevent" and "Promote" circles. In the top left corner of this section is the Salem County Department of Health & Human Services logo and name. A small blue arrow icon is in the top right corner.







## Public Preparedness



## Mental Health & Addiction Services

- 

**Prevention**  
Municipal Alllicance Program, CATCH Smoking Education, Stigma Free Community Awareness, Not My Kid, OFRT, and additional prevention education programs
- 

**Community Outreach**  
Narcan Kit Distribution & Training, RESCUE Recovery Coach Outreach/Education, Linkage to Treatment for Substance Use Disorder & Mental Health, Treatment Funding Availability, ACEs/Trauma Informed Care Community Presentations, Crisis Intervention Team Training, and Community Events
- 

**Recovery Supports**  
Recovery Coach Hotline, Monthly Recovery Fellowship Events, Recovery Transportation, & Sober Living Funding

# Aging & Disabilities

## State Health Insurance Program

Certified counselors available to assist Salem County seniors and disabled individuals with Medicare and Medicaid adjustments during the annual open enrollment period.



## Adult Protective Services

Specialty staff trained to investigate reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of Salem County senior residents.



## Transportation

Assisted transportation for Salem County residents 60 yrs. and older or those living with disabilities with doctors' visits, food shopping, and local trips.



## Personal Services

Light assistance programs that support Salem County senior residents' independence with ADLs, prescription prices, and individual transportation.



## Physical Activity

Weekly opportunities for Salem County Seniors and those living with disabilities for physical exercise and fall risk prevention courses.

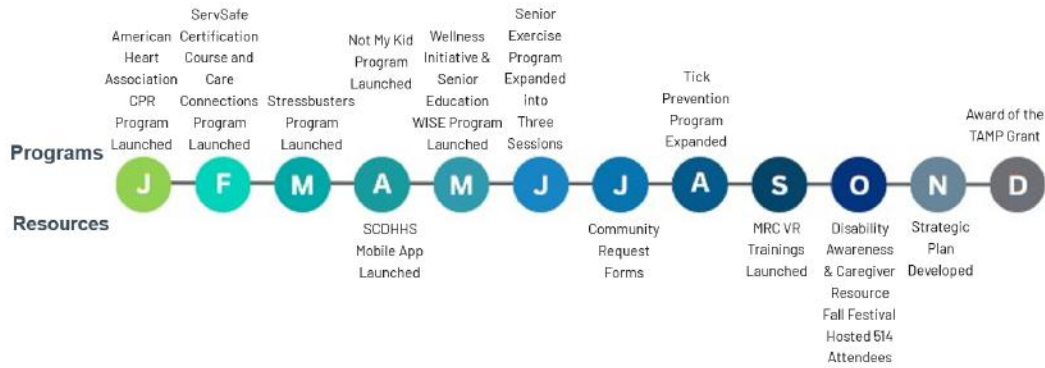


## Social Connection and Resource Events/Programs

Opportunities throughout Salem County and regional areas to socialize with other seniors or persons living with disabilities and gaining information about resources available to the public.



## Programs and Resources Launched in 2024





## 2024 Highlights



## 2025 Goals



- Upgrade of Digital Health Department System and digitizing documents to more efficient maintenance and tracking.
- Selected to represent Salem County for our outstanding and innovative services at the 2025 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review and the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association Conference.
- Launch of Salem County Grief Support Group.
- Continued Implementation of VR Technology in Salem County MRC Trainings.
- Utilization of the Mobile Unit to increase screening and vaccination rates in rural, underserved populations in Salem County.
- Expansion of essential transportation services through SCOOT with the AMP Grant.
- Apply for grant funding to aid in the expansion of the newly formed Disability Services Division.

The logo for Salem County, New Jersey, is centered at the top. It features the text "Salem County" in a large, elegant script font, with "NEW JERSEY" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. To the left of the text is the official seal of Salem County, New Jersey, which depicts a horse and rider. Below the county name, the text "Department of Health & Human Services" is written in a serif font, flanked by horizontal lines.

Below the logo are five icons representing different digital channels:

- A Facebook 'f' icon with the handle [@SALEMCOUNTYHEALTH](#) below it.
- An Instagram camera icon with the handle [@SALEM\\_COUNTY\\_HEALTH](#) below it.
- An app store icon with the text "iOS & Android" and "Download the App Now" below it.
- A globe icon with a mouse cursor pointing to it, with the website [HEALTH.SALEMCOUNTYNJ.GOV](#) below it.
- An X (Twitter) icon with the handle [@SC\\_HEALTHDEPT](#) below it.