



Board of County Commissioners

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 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 the Acting Clerk of the Board, Jeffrey T. Ridgway Jr.

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 March 5, 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.

Waiver of the Rules – N/A

Special Recognition – N/A

Correspondence – General and Committee/ Commission Minutes and Reports

1. Cape May County Resolution 109-25 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 Governments Official Website
2. Monmouth County Resolution 2025-0175 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 Governments Official Website
3. Warren County Resolution 110-25 To Oppose A-919/S-1518 Concerning Privatization Contracts
4. Monmouth County Resolution 2025-0176 To Oppose A-919/S-1518 Concerning Privatization Contracts
5. Sussex County Resolution To Support Publishing Legal Notices On Official Government Websites
6. Minutes from the Commission On Women February 18, 2025 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 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.

Treasurer’s Report

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

Hand vote passed 5-0.

Public Hearings & Adoptions –

A1 CY 2025 Resolution to Exceed the County Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

1. Motion and second to open the public hearing
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

RESOLUTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

A2 CY 2025 Resolution Authorizing County Entity to Exceed the County Entity Budget Request CAP (P.L. 2015, C. 249)

A3 Resolution to Have the 2025 Budget Read by Title

A4 Resolution Adding Appropriations to the 2025 Temporary Budget In Accordance with NJSA 40:A4-19.1

A5 Resolution Supporting the Publishing of Legal Notices on Official Government Websites

A6 Resolution Appointing Members To The Salem County Human Relations Advisory Board

A7 Resolution In Support of Mid-Atlantic States Career and Education Center's Application To The Feed NJ Grant Program

A8 Resolution Appointing a Member to the Salem County Economic Development Advisory Council

A9 Resolution Awarding A Contract Under New Jersey State Approved Contract #A-81748-G-2005 For Carpet/Flooring, Supply & Install

A10 Resolution Awarding A Contract Under New Jersey State Approved Contract #83925-T-0109 For Radio Communication Equipment & Accessories

A11 Resolution Awarding A Contract For The Purchase of A 2025 Ford F550 4x4 SD Regular Cab and Rack Accessories For The Ford F550 To Be Used By Road Department

A12 Resolution Authorizing Submission of A Grant Application For The FY 2025-2026 Leap County Shared Services Coordinator Grant

A13 Resolution Amending Resolution 2025-003 Setting Job Classification Titles and Salary Ranges for 2025

A14 Resolution Awarding A Contract For The Purchase of Two (2) 2025 Ford F250's Crew Cabs For The Road Department

A15 Resolution Objecting To The Proposed Amendment To Lower Delaware Water Quality Management Plan For Block 255, Lots 13, 14, 14.01, 14.02, & 14.03 and Block 268, Lots 5, 5.01 & 6

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 approved 5-0.

Director Laury mentioned that resolution A7, the Application deadline for Mid-Atlantic States Career is tomorrow 03/20/2025.

AGRICULTURAL / PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

B1 Resolution Approving Signatory For Required Bank Account For The Salem County Sheriff's Office

B2 Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families for the Child Advocacy Center Grant for the Salem County Prosecutor's Office

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.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

E1 Resolution Accepting and Executing The AAA NJSNAP Application Assistance 2025 Grant

E2 Resolution Accepting and Executing The 2024 5311/Non-Urbanized Transportation Grant Funding Through New Jersey Transit Corporation

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 Requesting An Extension of Time For The New Jersey Department of Transportation State Aid To Counties Under The New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund For Fiscal Year 2017 Local Bridge Fund Program

F2 Resolution Requesting An Extension of Time For The New Jersey Department of Transportation State Aid To Counties Under The New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund For Fiscal Year 2018 Local Bridge Fund Program

F3 Resolution Requesting an Agreement Date Extension for the New Jersey Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2022 Local Freight Impact Fund Program

F4 Resolution In Support of Pennsville Township With Their application for Municipal Complete Streets Technical Assistance From the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization

F5 Resolution Approving The Execution of Change Order #4 To The 2019 County Aid Road Program 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.

Director Laury brought attention to Resolutions F1 & F2 stating that the total estimated costs are about \$ 1 million each. Centerton Bridge is due for updates.

Advised the public that once this bridge is temporarily closed for repairs an alternate route would need to be considered.

Public Hearings & Adoptions -

2025 BUDGET

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2025 SALEM COUNTY BUDGET

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

Director Laury commended the team for their excellent work on this year's budget. The budget reflects an increase of less than 0.7%. As a result, thirteen out of the fifteen municipalities will see a decrease in their taxes. Special thanks go to the Finance/Treasury Department for their efforts in making this possible.

Public Hearing and Adoption scheduled for April 16, 2025

Director Laury announced that a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st, to address the current issues at the Animal Shelter. He noted that the first meeting took place yesterday at the Salem Office Complex, where it was well attended, and many valuable ideas were discussed. We look forward to the next meeting in hopes of reaching a solution.

Commissioner Old Business – N/A

Commissioner New Business – N/A

Commissioner Public Announcements:

Commissioner Timmerman noted some upcoming events in the county:

Thursday, March 20	12:00 pm – 6:00 pm Salem County FOP Old Oak Lodge 6 We will be set up in the parking lot of the Salem County FOP this Thursday, March 20th stop by and grab some lunch and dinner look for the orange canopy! See ya on Thursday!! Location: Hicks Pit Beef & BBQ, 693 South Broadway, Pennsville
Thurs. Fri. & Sat. March 20 th , 21 st & 22 nd	7:00 pm Chicago Teen Edition Presented by the Red Devil Players Ticket prices vary. Location: Penns Grove High School, Penns Grove

<p>Fri. & Sat. March 21st & 22nd</p>	<p>11:00 am – 4:00 pm ½ Chicken BBQ Fundraiser Cost: \$12.00 Includes Baked Beans & Potato Salad This BBQ will benefit Chris Crawford & Family Location: Lapp’s Dutch Market, 23 N. Virginia Avenue, Penns Grove</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 25</p>	<p>5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Stuffed Shells w/Meatballs Dinner (Eat in or Take out available) Cost: \$15 per dinner Includes: Side Salad, Dinner Roll & Dessert Sign up by Friday 3/21 – Call 856-469-1700 Location: VFW Post 253, 20 Phillip Drive, Salem</p>
<p>Sat. & Sun. March 29th & 30th</p>	<p>10:00 am – 4:00 pm World War I – Living History Event Stop down to the Fort to learn about World War I and conflicts of the war from re-enactors portraying many different aspects from what was called, "The War to End All Wars." This is a free event, bring your friends and family! Location: Fort Mott State Park, 454 Fort Mott Road, Pennsville</p>
<p>Sunday, March 30</p>	<p>3:00 pm Mirdiri Brothers Septet – Music Around The County Joe & Paul Midiri, Directors Free & Live Concerts in Salem County! Location: Salem Community College, Davidow Theatre</p>

Commissioner Taylor mentioned that the International Frameworking Conference (IFC) will take place this weekend at Salem Community College. The event starts Friday afternoon and continues throughout the weekend. This conference is highly regarded across the country, making it a worthwhile experience, and it's happening right in your backyard.

Commissioner Ramsay commented, for anyone that believes there is nothing to do in Salem County we have a 32-page packet here that consists of nothing but everyday events throughout the 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.

Commissioner Director Laury opened for Public Commentary:

Patty Bomba (Carneys Point) mentions as follows:

- Friday, March 21st Salem County Pride is sponsoring an event at Wood Lanes. "Bowl with Pride" from 7pm to 9pm.
- Saturday, March 29th NAACP's Freedom Fund Luncheon at 1pm.
- Saturday, April 5th Pocketbook Bingo which will benefit Habitat for Humanity. It will be at the Vocational Technical School starting at 12:00pm.

- Saturday, June 7th at Penns Grove VFW there will be a comedy show. Only 75 tickets are being sold. Suggested you save the date and purchase your tickets in advance.

Lindsay Breslin (Elsinboro Twp.) :

Asked Commissioner Taylor, what the follow up has been regarding Salem County Special Services and the K through 2nd grade program being moved back to Salem County instead of having the shared service in place with Cumberland County?

Commissioner Taylor asked for more information/details.

Lindsay Breslin (Elsinboro Twp.):

On January 28th, she reached out to Mr. Frank Maurer, the assistant superintendent of schools, to inquire about their program. She mentioned that her four-year-old daughter was diagnosed with Autism at 23 months. She has been advocating for her daughter and researching services available within the county. Through her efforts, she contacted Autism NJ, which helped her daughter gain the necessary support from the Quinton Township School System.

A few years ago, the school district initiated the establishment of a therapeutic classroom for autistic children. This progressive program includes occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy provided at home, eliminating the need to contract with the child study team. They have also allowed her daughter's ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) therapist and RBT (Registered Behavior Technician) to serve as her one-on-one aide during the school day. She has observed remarkable progress in her daughter.

After early intervention, it is expected that schools will provide necessary accommodation for children. However, as we know, schools in Salem County are currently understaffed and underfunded. As a result, children with disabilities, such as autism and Down syndrome, are placed in regular classes where aides may have only 40 hours of training. The lack of special education teachers and funding for occupational or physical therapy specialists on-site creates additional challenges.

From personal experience, I can attest that schools often attempt to cut corners wherever possible. Research indicates that Salem County offers special education services in Mannington, claiming to provide assistance for students from kindergarten through second grade. When she inquired about this program, she was informed that services had been shifted to Cumberland County as a shared service. Consequently, the bus ride to Vineland would take over an hour for her daughter.

We need to bring our kindergarten through second-grade special services program back to Salem County. The last communication she received from Mr. Maurer and Mr. Swain was in January, when she offered to serve as an advocate on any board to help resolve this issue. Unfortunately, she has yet to receive a response from anyone.

What is the county doing to reinstate this program and services in Salem County? It makes no sense for Salem County to bus children in grades K through 2 back and forth to Cumberland County when necessary, services can and should be provided locally.

Commissioner Taylor commented:

Thank you for advocating for your daughter; that is where this effort begins. I want to clarify that the building in Cumberland County is owned by Salem County. We are one of the few special services districts in the state, and we have three buildings, two of which are located in Salem County. I appreciate your attendance tonight, and I believe your next

step should be to attend our upcoming Board of Education meeting, scheduled for next Tuesday at the Vocational Technical School. We are committed to this cause and continue to support these services. It's important to note that special services are included in the school's budget, and all three buildings were accounted for in that budget as well. I believe the board members should hear your concerns and may be better positioned to answer some of your questions.

Lindsay Breslin (Elsinboro Twp.):

Thank you for your response, Mr. Taylor. I will make sure to attend the next school board meeting. What makes me nervous is that the responsibility seemed to be placed on you, yet I didn't receive clear answers. I understand that Salem County owns three buildings, but that doesn't address the needs of our K through 2nd-grade children. Our public-school systems are struggling and lack the necessary services for special education students. My main question is: how can we restore special services for K through 2nd grade in Salem County?

Commissioner Taylor also mentioned, "If you could please provide me with your contact information, I will ensure you receive some answers."

Councilwoman Sharon Cline (Salem City) commented as follows:

She is the chair of Salem City's Commerce Committee and Housing Committee. At a meeting in the Third Legislative District last week, Assemblyman Dave Bailey praised the Housing Committee for their efforts, which shows that the committees are truly making progress.

She is requesting support regarding the recent application for Giordano's Recycling Facility. We must take action to protect our environment. We understand that residents are concerned about the number of trucks that would be traveling on our local roads. Growing up in Salem, she remembers the large number of trucks that used to pass through the town.

Salem City needs jobs and homeowners; we have unfortunately lost thirteen former high school students to homicide, partly due to the lack of job opportunities. Please take the time to read Giordano's plans carefully. Trucking is an integral part of American life, and we must ensure that we have the necessary infrastructure in place.

Thank you for your time.

Commissioner Taylor further mentioned:

Ms. Cline since you are here expressing your support do you mind letting the public know when the next SWAC meeting is scheduled.

Councilwoman Sharon Cline (Salem City) responded:

Yes, the next Salem Waste Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 31st at the Salem County Improvement Authority at 6:00pm. Again, I'm asking for the Board of Commissioners to strongly consider the application.

Maggie Masserini (Carneys Point) mentioned as follows:

She wanted to emphasize the importance of having a local library. Previously, the library hosted an open mic night where three to four musicians would perform monthly, and these events were well-attended by the community. The library also offered various programs, including meeting groups, fellowship groups, children's reading groups, and other activities.

Do you have any updates regarding the old library site?

Director Laury:
The county has put an offer out, but it hasn't been accepted. More to follow.

Deputy Director Ostrum :
We will go into a closed session tonight. Mr. Frank Hoerst will be attending this meeting as a guest.

Frank Hoerst Attorney (Alloway Twp.):
Introduced members from the SMS Rail Service, Jeff, Jim and his daughter. He thanked the Board of County Commissioners and asked if there were any questions he could cover.

County Solicitor, Karin Wood:
The questions that the Board of County Commissioners would like to address concern a contract so this would need to be discussed during the Executive Closed Session portion of today's meeting.

Next Meeting Date- Next Meeting Date April 2, 2025, 6:00PM – Historic Courthouse, Salem

Executive Closed Session – 6:38 pm

Resolution Authorizing Executive Session County of Salem - *Matters Relating to the Purchase, Lease of Acquisition of Real Property or the Investment of Public Funds & 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 approved 5-0.

Executive Closed Session Ended – 7:30 pm

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

Hand vote approved 5-0.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
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,

Jeff Ridgway, Jr.
Acting Clerk of the Board