



## Board of County Commissioners

### REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2026 - 6:00 pm

Historic Courthouse, Salem, New Jersey

### OPENING

6:00 pm, Salem County Warden, John S. Cuzzupe invited all present to stand as the Colors were presented by the Honor Guard of the Salem County Correctional Facility.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – John S. Cuzzupe led all assembled in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, after which the Color Guard exited.

**INVOCATION** – John S. Cuzzupe invited Salem County Correctional Facility Chaplain Victor Jimenez to provide the invocation.

**WELCOMING STATEMENT** – Clerk of the Board, Ms. Stacy L. Pennington welcomed and thanked the audience for attending. She further referenced 2026 as being the year of The Horse and the symbolic representation in comparison to the 2026 Board of Salem County Commissioners.

**ELECTION CERTIFICATES** – Ms. Pennington announced the election winners for the seats of County Commissioner: Virgil C. Taylor and Dr. Daniel S. Timmerman and for Surrogate Dr. Gordon J Ostrum Jr. She noted the results were certified by the County Clerk Dale Cross.

### OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY

The Honorable Virgil C. Taylor was invited forward to take his Oath of Office for Salem County Commissioner. Mr. Taylor was joined by his family. The Honorable Benjamin Telsey presided with the table holding the bible.

After taking his oath, Mr. Taylor was congratulated and applauded.

The Honorable Dr. Daniel S. Timmerman was invited forward to take his Oath of Office for Salem County Commissioner. Dr. Timmerman was joined by Dr. Ostrum. The Honorable Benjamin Telsey presided with the table holding the bible.

After taking his oath, Dr. Timmerman was congratulated and applauded.

The Honorable Paul Collier was invited forward to take his Oath of Office for Salem County Commissioner. Mr. Collier was joined by his family. The Honorable Benjamin Telsey presided with the table holding the bible.

After taking his oath, Mr. Collier was congratulated and applauded.

The Honorable Dr. Gordon J. Ostrum Jr. was invited forward to take his Oath of Office for Salem County Surrogate. Dr. Ostrum was joined by his family. The Honorable Benjamin Telsey presided with the table holding the bible. After taking his oath, Dr. Ostrum was congratulated and applauded.

**RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Pennington called the Reorganization meeting to order immediately following the Oath of Office Ceremony.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT** – The Statement was read by Stacy Pennington, COB.

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 the Fifth Street Office Complex and by filing notice with 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
Commissioner Collier	X	
Commissioner Ostrum	X	
Commissioner Ramsay	X	
Commissioner Taylor	X	
Commissioner Laury	X	

A quorum was present.

**ELECTION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIRECTOR**

Ms. Pennington asked the Commissioners for a nomination and second for County Commissioner Director.

**Open the Nomination – Roll Call**

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner Taylor		X	X			
Commissioner Timmerman	X		X			
Commissioner Collier			X			
Commissioner Ramsay			X			
Commissioner Laury			X			

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

**Close the Nomination – Roll Call**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Commissioner Taylor	X		X			
Commissioner Timmerman		X	X			
Commissioner Collier			X			
Commissioner Ramsay			X			
Commissioner Laury			X			

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

**Vote for Director Ben Laury – Roll Call**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Commissioner Taylor	X		X			
Commissioner Timmerman		X	X			
Commissioner Collier			X			
Commissioner Ramsay			X			
Commissioner Laury			X			

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

Commissioner Laury stepped forward to take his oath as Commissioner Director. The Honorable Karin Wood, Attorney at Law, presided with Mr. Laury's wife holding the bible. After taking his oath, Director Laury was congratulated and applauded.

Clerk of the Board, Stacy Pennington then handed the gavel over to Director Laury and he continued the meeting.

**ELECTION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Director Laury asked the Commissioners for nomination and second for the position of County Commissioner Deputy Director.

**Open the Nomination – Roll Call**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Commissioner Collier			X			
Commissioner Ramsay	X		X			
Commissioner Laury			X			

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

**Close the Nomination – Roll Call**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Commissioner Taylor	X		X			
Commissioner Timmerman			X			
Commissioner Collier			X			
Commissioner Ramsay		X	X			
Commissioner Laury			X			

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

**Vote for Deputy Director Cordy Taylor – Roll Call**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Commissioner Taylor			X			
Commissioner Timmerman		X	X			
Commissioner Collier			X			
Commissioner Ramsay	X		X			
Commissioner Laury			X			

Roll Call vote passed 5-0

Commissioner Taylor stepped forward to take his oath as Commissioner Deputy Director. The Honorable Karin Wood, Attorney at Law, presided with Mr. Taylor’s family holding the bible. After taking his oath, Deputy Director Taylor was congratulated and applauded.

Director Laury took a minute to recognize several government officials, committee chairs and municipal members that were present in the audience.

Surrogate Dr. Ostrum thanked everyone in the room that allowed him to serve as commissioner in previous years. He mentioned that he was grateful to have served a highly productive last term. Mentioned he will miss the role of commissioner but looks forward to continuing serving Salem County as he embarks in the role of Surrogate.

**READ RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE**

Director Laury asked the Commissioners for a motion to read Resolutions numbered 2026-001 through 2026-005, and 2026-008 through 2026-035 and 2026-037 will be read in bulk.

Resolution numbers 2026-006 and 2026-007 will be read together and 2026-036 will be read separately.

See attached list of resolutions.

**VOTE FOR RESOLUTION 2026-001 - 2026-005 and 2026-008 – 2026-035 and 2026-037**

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

Roll Call passed 5-0

**VOTE FOR RESOLUTION 2026-006 and 2026-007**

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

Roll Call passed 4-0

#### VOTE FOR RESOLUTION 2026-036

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

Roll Call passed 4-0

2026 Reorganization Meeting List of Resolutions	
	Resolutions will be read in bulk and approved by roll call 001-005 & 008-037 /006 & 007 together
001	Resolution for the Adoption of the Rules to Govern the Salem County Board of County Commissioners for Year 2026
002	Resolution for Compliance With the Open Public Meetings Act Law for the County of Salem
003	Resolution Setting Job Classification Titles and Salary Ranges for 2026
004	Resolution Adopting the 2026 Temporary Budget
005	Resolution Approving Signatories for Required Bank Accounts for the County of Salem
006	Resolution Designating a Custodian of Funds and Depositories for Municipal Moneys and Authorizing Investment of Funds at Interest for the County of Salem
007	Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the County of Salem
008	Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Governing Body Certification of Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Enforcement Guidance
009	Resolution Assigning County Departments for 2026
010	Resolution Designating County Commissioner Member or Liaison for Various Boards, Commissions, and Agencies Outside of Salem County Government 2026
011	Resolution for the Appointment of County Commission Members to Various Education Boards and Committees
012	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Agricultural Development Board / <b>Jack Cimprich</b>
013	Resolution Appointing A Member to the Salem County Board of Social Services / <b>Thomas Smith</b>
014	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Construction Board of Appeals / <b>Rob Ceasar, Ernie Buff &amp; Rob Sutton</b>
015	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Commission on Women / <b>Gwyn Parris-Atwell (Chair), Elaine Dunner (Treasurer), Kelsey Cole, Alexis Faulhaber, Alaura Maxwell, Charlyn Martin, and Lynn Saunders</b>
016	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Economic Development Advisory Council / <b>Gunar Bergoltz, Megan Flinn, Jim Pfeiffer &amp; Sean M. Brown</b>
017	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Mental Health Board / <b>Margaret Cheeseman &amp; Julie Hofacker</b>
018	Resolution Appointing A Member to the Citizens Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA) / <b>Victoria Maurizio</b>
019	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Tourism Advisory Council / <b>Nick Mesiano, Michael Melniczuk &amp; Paul Harland</b>

020	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Advisory Council for the Salem County Office on Aging / <b>Janice Lombardo</b>
021	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Planning Board / <b>Lew Schneider, Armando Fernandez, Melissa Thompson &amp; Lou Pasquale</b>
022	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem Community College Trustee Search Committee / <b>Grace Alliegro, Bob Bender, William Masten, Connie McAllister, Stacy Pennington, Harvey Saunders, and William Taylor</b>
023	Resolution Appointing Members to the South Jersey Economic Development District for the County of Salem / <b>Martin Jay Einstein, Sean Sepsey, Melissa Thompson &amp; Michael Chapman</b>
024	Resolution Appointing Representatives for the County of Salem to the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization / <b>Mayor Ed McKelvey (Alloway Rep) / James McKelvie &amp; Joseph S. Augustyn of Alaimo Group</b>
025	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Pollution Control Financing Authority / <b>Mark Valente</b>
026	Resolution Appointing A Member to the Salem County Improvement Authority / <b>Richard Warner</b>
027	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Veteran Advisory Board
028	Resolution Appointing Members to the Cumberland/Salem/Cape May Workforce Development Board / <b>Cristina Chillem, Thomas Smith, Joe Hiles, Dr. Michael Gorman &amp; Rachele Dorsey</b>
029	Resolution Appointing Member to the Salem County Youth Services Commission
030	Resolution Appointing Members to the Salem County Information Technology Committee / <b>Michael Peterson &amp; Leon Esham</b>
031	Resolution Awarding A Contract for General Architect for the County of Salem / <b>USA Architects</b>
032	Resolution Awarding A Contract for County Auditor for the County of Salem / <b>PKF O'Connor Davies LLP</b>
033	Resolution Awarding A Contract for Bond Counsel for the County of Salem / <b>Archer &amp; Greiner PC</b>
034	Resolution Awarding A Contract for Financial Advisor Services for the County of Salem / <b>Phoenix Advisors LLC</b>
035	Resolution Awarding Contracts For Civil Litigation Counsel Services for the County of Salem / <b>Aimino &amp; Dennen / Barker, Gelfand, James &amp; Sarvas / Marla Demarcantonio of Holston McDonald, Uzdavinis &amp; Myles / Marmero Law / Moustakas Nelson / Rooney &amp; Donohue</b>
036	Resolution Awarding A Contract for County Planner Services for the County of Salem / <b>Alaimo Group Consulting Engineers</b>
037	Resolution Awarding A Contract for Labor Counsel for the County of Salem / <b>Archer &amp; Greiner</b>

## Commissioner Reports

Deputy Director Taylor thanked everyone in attendance. He mentioned that the last three years as a commissioner have been productive. He's honored to have the opportunity to serve as a county commissioner and looks forward to collaborating with the community to address concerns. Thanked Mickey Ostrum for his mentorship and support as he transitions into the role of Surrogate. Salem County is fortunate to have Dr. Ostrum's continued service. Welcomed Paul Collier to the Board. Mentioned that he had the opportunity to work alongside Paul when he served as the Mayor of Lower Alloways Creek. Thanked the Board for their trust and support as they commence this new year and endeavor together.

Commissioner Ramsay thanked the audience in attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Congratulations to Mr. Taylor on the nomination for Deputy Director and to Mr. Laury for his nomination to Director. Welcomed Mr. Collier to the Board and mentioned that his experience as Mayor of Lower Alloways Creek will be beneficial to the board. Anticipates the continued participation on the board for 2026.

Commissioner Timmerman thanked the audience for allowing him to serve another three-year term. Mentioned that he's still relatively new to Salem County and politics. Valued the last three-year

term as he’s learned along the way how the system works and promises to help support the board for another term as commissioner.

Commissioner Collier thanked Dr. Ostrum as he permitted the position to be opened on the board. Thanked the Republican Committee for their support. Also thanked Lower Alloways Creek Township clerk and committee as they also supported him in his previous role as Mayor. Thanked his family for their added support. His career as Mayor of LAC started as a 1year deal that lasted 7years. Now in his 8<sup>th</sup> year he’s excited and looks forward to serving as a Salem County Commissioner.

Director Laury thanked the current board members along with Dr. Ostrum for his 7years of service on board of county commissioners. Cited a phrase from Thomas Jefferson, “We can not replace him, we can only succeed him.” Mentioned that Dr. Ostrum contributed a lot to the board and will greatly be missed. Thanked and welcomed commissioner Paul Collier for taking on the opportunity to serve as commissioner. Further stated that commissioner Collier will have great shoes to fill but expect him to very well exceed expectations. Thanked all the administrative staff for their motivation and dedication to Salem County. Thanked Mayor Joe Hiles from Woodstown, Mayor Glenn Merkle and the entire Woodstown Council for successfully implementing a Municipal Lead EMS program. Thanked Emergency Department head Scott Haines for facilitating the meetings to establish the Municipal Ambulance Alliance. Recognized Brenda Banks for leading the Veterans Affairs Department and caring for those who served our country. Thanked June Sieber for leading the Salem County Health Department. June and her team do an outstanding job assisting our aged citizens of the county. Thanked the Carneys Point committee for stepping forward and addressing the Animal Control challenges facing all the Salem County Municipalities. Thanked Jeff Ridgway Sr. for completing the Salem County Courthouse under budget. Thanked all the Salem County employees for all their dedication. Thanked his wife Kathy for putting up with his years of service to the county which entails multiple meetings. Director Laury is happy to announce that Salem County is going into an agreement with the purchase of the Sharptown Church to establish a much-needed senior center here in Salem County. The senior center will be purchased with grant funds, and the agreement has been signed. Thanked all the residents of Salem County for allowing him to serve as commissioner and God Bless America.

**BENEDICTION**

Chaplain Victor Jimenez from the Salem County Correctional Facility provided the Benediction over the Salem County Board of County Commissioners.

**NEXT MEETING DATE** – January 21, 2026, 6:00 pm at the Historic Courthouse, Salem

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Director Laury asked for a motion to close the meeting. - 6:39 pm

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

Hand Vote passed 5-0

Respectfully submitted,  
 Stacy L. Pennington,  
 Clerk of the Board