Present: Freeholders Acton, Laury, Cross, Vanderslice, Ware, Bobbitt, Timberman, CFO Wright, Administrator Ford, COB Gage.

The meeting opened at 5:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act by Director Acton.

The Meeting was turned over to Joan Bailey, acting President of Salem Community College for a presentation.

Ms. Bailey presented a power point outlining the current status of the College, the amount of students enrolled giving historical data to show that growth projections are on target. She also highlighted the exceptional growth in the Allied Health Field, noting particularly that the College was attracting some Delaware students because of the nursing program. She also noted that there is a 100% pass ratio for graduating students from this program when they sit for their licensing exams.

Ms. Bailey also gave a comparison analysis between neighboring community colleges, and their tuition scale. She further noted the ratio in funding, which by the State model for community colleges is supposed to be 33% from State funds, 33% from County funds, and 33% from student tuition was not the case. The current ratio is 18% from the state, 25% from the County with the students picking up slightly more than 50%. Ms. Bailey ended with her request for a 3% increase in funding.

R. 2012-131
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM

At 6:20 there was a motion by Deputy Director Laury, second by Freeholder Ware, to go into executive session to discuss labor negotiations and a current law suit; Hall vs. the County of Salem, motion carried 7/0.
Present: Freeholders Acton, Laury, Cross, Vanderslice, Ware, Bobbitt, Timberman, CFO Wright, Administrator Ford, COB Gage, Solicitor Levitsky.

The freeholders discussed the budget in relation to upcoming Labor negotiations. A time line was presented by administration noting that the first negotiations with all eight bargaining units would begin the week of February 27 through March 2. Administration presented the worst case scenario reduction in force plan, and also the many options open to labor that would achieve the same goal of reducing costs. Each option was discussed and the pros and cons were examined. The goal of reducing costs will vary with each bargaining unit, noting that some units can not comply with across the board options.

Bruce Hall vs. Salem County, the merits of the case was discussed. No action was taken by the Freeholders.

The Freeholders by motion, Mr. Laury moved, Mr. Cross seconded, to re enter open session at 7:15 PM, carried 7/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl R. Gage
Clerk of the Board