

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
2014 REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2014
OLDE SALEM COURT HOUSE
MINUTES**

The Salem County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard presented the American Flag in a Color Guard procession. The National Anthem was sung by Lauren Painter and followed by Joseph Hannagan, Supervisor Veterans Interment who led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Presiding Protem asked Father Charles Colozzi to deliver the invocation.

Beginning at 5:45 PM, the Oaths of Office were given to the following:

Freeholder Elect Julie A. Acton was sworn in by Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno.

Freeholder Elect Lee R. Ware was sworn in by Benjamin Telsey, J.S.C.

Evern D. Ford, Presiding Protem, introduced Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno, Assemblyman John Burzichelli and Assemblyman Celeste M. Riley for opening remarks

Evern D. Ford, Administrator, Presiding Protem, called the Reorganization Meeting to order.

The Presiding Protem read the following Opening Meetings Act statement:

Adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting

1. By forwarding notice thereof to South Jersey Times and Elmer Times Co.
2. By posting notice thereof on the bulletin board in the Salem County Court House and County Administration Building.
3. By filing notice there in the Office of the Salem County Clerk and the Clerk of the Board all having been done at least 48 hours in advance.

The Presiding Protem read the roll call and the following Freeholders were present: Freeholders Julie Acton, Dale Cross, Benjamin Laury, Robert Vanderslice, Lee Ware, Bruce Bobbitt, and Beth Timberman.

The Presiding Protem presented the Election Certificates for Julie A. Acton elected for a three year term for Freeholder and Lee R. Ware for a three year term as Freeholder.

The Presiding Protem took nominations from the floor for Freeholder Director. Freeholder Laury nominated Freeholder Acton with Freeholder Cross voicing the second. No other names were nominated. Nominations were closed on motion by Freeholder Vanderslice which was seconded by Freeholder Laury. On roll call, the Freeholders unanimously approved the election of Freeholder Julie A. Acton as Director by a hand vote of 7/0.

Lt. Governor and Secretary of State Kim Guadagno administered the Oath of Office to Freeholder Julie A. Acton as Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Salem County.

The Presiding Protem took nominations from the floor for Freeholder Deputy Director. Freeholder Vanderslice nominated Freeholder Cross with Freeholder Laury voicing the second. No other names were nominated. Nominations were closed on motion by Freeholder Laury which was seconded by Freeholder Vanderslice. On roll call, the Freeholders unanimously approved the election of Freeholder Cross as Deputy Director by a hand vote of 7/0.

The Presiding Protem stated there would be a five minute recess.

The following statement was read by Director Acton:

First, a sincere Thank you for again allowing me to serve the residents of Salem County. I am humbled by the voters continued confidence in me. You know that I don't take this lightly yet I have to give credit where credit is due... to my family. Without their unending support, this would not be possible.

The New Year is a time to reflect on our accomplishments but more importantly, to set our future goals. While the challenges are many and the decisions difficult, positive changes are taking place that benefit of our County such as; no increase in the county tax levy and a lucrative shared service contract at the Correctional Facility to name a couple.

One area that can *always* be improved upon is Communication. Our online newsletters, as well as an updated county website, are intended to help our residents stay informed of what is occurring in their County government and we ask that you utilize these tools to stay current as we look at new initiatives for the coming year.

On behalf of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, I would like to thank all of our county employees as well as our committees and volunteers for your dedication and service to our County. With your continued hard work and support, we will make Salem County the best that it can be!

Thank you for taking the time to attend this evening and we wish You and Yours a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Director Acton asked if there was a waiver of the rules for tonight's meeting.

Presiding Protem stated yes, for resolution number 68.

RESOLUTIONS

2014-1

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION SETTING JOB CLASSIFICATION TITLES AND SALARY RANGES FOR 2014

Freeholder Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Deputy Director Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-2

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RULES TO GOVERN THE
SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2014

Freeholder Vanderslice moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-3

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE
OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT LAW FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Freeholder Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-4

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNTY ADJUSTER
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(MICHAEL M. MULLIGAN, ESQ.)

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 4/3 with Freeholders Ware, Bobbitt and Timberman against.

2014-5
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR ATTORNEY
FOR THE SALEM COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING
(\$15,000 – JEAN S. CHETNEY)

Freeholder Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Deputy Director Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-6
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR AUDITOR
SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$140,000 - MERCADIEN, P.C.)

Freeholder Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 4/3 with Freeholders Ware, Bobbitt and Timberman against.

2014-7
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR BOND COUNSEL
SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$50,000 – ARCHER & GREINER, P.C.)

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-8
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CETTEI AND CONNELL INSURANCE FOR
ANCILLARY INSURANCE COVERAGE THAT FALLS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE
OF THE SALEM COUNTY INSURANCE COMMISSION

Freeholder Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-9
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CONNOR, STRONG, AND BUCKELEW FOR
ANCILLARY INSURANCE COVERAGE THAT FALLS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE
OF THE SALEM COUNTY INSURANCE COMMISSION

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-10
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
(\$150/HR – CHANCE & MCCANN, LLC)

Freeholder Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-11
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR

LABOR COUNSEL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$75,000 – GILMORE & MONAHAN, P.S.)

Freeholder Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-12
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CLERK OF THE BOARD
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(KEVIN CROUCH)

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-13
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A TEMPORARY CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(KATIE COLEMAN)

Freeholder Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2014-14
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR ENGINEER FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$290,000 – ALAIMO GROUP)

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

Presiding Protem read the following resolutions were read in bulk.

2014-15
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
(DALE A. CROSS)

2014-16
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL
DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
(SCOTT HAINES)

2014-17
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR
(SCOTT HAINES)

2014-18
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE FIRE MARSHAL
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(JOHN TURNER)

2014-19
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A HUMAN RESOURCES

OFFICER FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM (STACY PENNINGTON)

2014-20
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(DR. KATHLEEN SPINOSI, PHD)

2014-21
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR PHYSICIAN
AT THE SALEM COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
(\$100,000.08 - DR. DIAZ)

2014-22
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER
FOR 2014 FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(JAMES JOHNSTON)

2014-23
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A TRAFFIC SAFETY COORDINATOR
(JOE O'DONALD)

2014-24
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE SUPERVISOR OF VETERANS INTERMENT
(JOE HANNAGAN)

2014-25
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TURNKEY
COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$18,895.50 – COMPLIANCE OVERSIGHT SOLUTIONS IDEAL)

2014-26
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR
FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$7,800 – PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC)

2014-27
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
STRATEGY CONSULTANT FOR THE SALEM COUNTY RAILROAD
(\$37,375 – WINNING STRATEGIES WASHINGTON, LLC)

2014-28
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR
GRANT WRITER SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$20,000 – TRIAD ASSOCIATES)

2014-29
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER
SERVICES FOR THE SALEM COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
(\$16,200 – JAN P. LANG, ANP)

2014-30
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND
PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM
(\$125,000 – CGF HEALTH SYSTEMS, LLC)

2014-31
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER FOR THE SALEM COUNTY
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
(\$375,000 – SALEM HOSPITAL CORPORATION)

2014-32
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND THE COUNTY OF SALEM (MEDICAL EXAMINER)

2014-33
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND THE COUNTY OF SALEM FOR A HEALTH OFFICER

Freeholder Laury motioned to adopt resolutions R. 2014-15 thru 2014-33 and second by Deputy Director Cross carried by roll call vote. Deputy Director Cross, for; Freeholder Laury, for, Freeholder Vanderslice, for, Freeholder Ware, for, Freeholder Bobbitt, for Freeholder Timberman, for and Director Acton, for.

Director Acton apologized for not having discussion and asked if there was any discussion.

Freeholder Timberman asked why we are entering into a shared services agreement with Gloucester County for a health officer for a period of ten years that seems like an awful long time to commit.

Freeholder Bobbitt stated that's been amended to five years.

Presiding Protem read Resolutions 2014-34 thru 2014-66 and R. 2014-68 in bulk.

2014-34
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLDER MEMBERS
TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

2014-35
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS
TO THE SALEM COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL, OFFICE ON AGING

2014-36
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DISABLED

2014-37
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

2014-38
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

2014-39
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE SEARCH COMMITTEE

2014-40
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS
TO THE SALEM COUNTY CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

2014-41
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION

2014-42
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS
ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2014-43
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS
TO THE SALEM COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

2014-44
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A
MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2014-45
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEDICAL INVESTIGATORS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2014-46
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING PATHOLOGISTS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2014-47
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2014-48
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

2014-49
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM
TO THE SOUTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2014-50
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

2014-51
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES
TO THE COUNTY OF SALEM POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY

2014-52
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY REVOLVING LOAN FUND LOAN BOARD

2014-53
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY COMMISSION

2014-54
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

2014-55
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SOUTH JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2014-56
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CASINO REVENUES

2014-57
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS
TO THE SALEM COUNTY VETERAN ADVISORY BOARD

2014-58
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
CUMBERLAND/SALEM WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB)

2014-59
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN

2014-60
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

2014-61
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2014-62
ADMINISTRATIVE

FINANCE RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A CUSTODIAN OF FUNDS AND THE
DEPOSITORIES FOR MUNICIPAL MONEYS, AND AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT
OF FUNDS AT INTEREST FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2014-63
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2014-64
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR REQUIRED BANK ACCOUNTS

2014-65
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR REQUIRED BANK ACCOUNTS

2014-66
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR BANK ACCOUNT

2014-67
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2014 TEMPORARY BUDGET

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a roll call vote. Deputy Director Cross, for; Freeholder Laury, for, Freeholder Vanderslice, for, Freeholder Ware, for, Freeholder Bobbitt, for Freeholder Timberman, for and Director Acton, for.

R. 2014-68
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION ABOLISHING THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM (WAIVER REQUIRED)

Freeholder Laury made a motion to amend Resolution No. 40 changing the appointee from Kevin Hahn to Myrle Patrick with Deputy Director Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion to amend Resolution No. 40 carried by hand vote of 7/0.

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of Resolutions No. 34 thru 66 and No. 68, with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion.

On discussion, Freeholder Vanderslice stated he would be abstaining from 52, 62 and 63.

Freeholder Bobbitt stated he would like to have Resolutions No. 52, 62 and 63 voted on separately.

Motion to adopt Resolutions No. 34 thru 51, 53 thru 61, 64 thru 66 and 68 carried by roll call vote Deputy Director Cross, for; Freeholder Laury, for, Freeholder Vanderslice, for, Freeholder Ware, for, Freeholder Bobbitt, for Freeholder Timberman, for and Director Acton, for.

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of Resolutions No. 52, 62 and 63 with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion.

On discussion, Freeholder Bobbitt stated he has a problem with Pennsville National Bank being a depository for the County and should not be doing any business with any company or business organization of which a member of the freeholder board is an owner in whole or in part and for that reason will be voting no to the three resolutions. Freeholder Bobbitt made a motion to amend Resolutions No. 52, 62 and 63 to remove Pennsville National Bank and second by Freeholder Timberman.

On further discussion, Freeholder Bobbitt stated that Freeholder Vanderslice would be abstaining but just because you abstain that doesn't mean it's right.

Roll call vote on motion to amend Resolutions No. 52, 62 and 63 Deputy Director Cross, against; Freeholder Laury, against, Freeholder Vanderslice, abstain, Freeholder Ware, for, Freeholder Bobbitt, for Freeholder Timberman, for and Director Acton, against.

Freeholder Director Cross moved for adoption of Resolutions No. 52, 62 and 63 with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion. As there was discussion, motion carried on roll call vote. Deputy Director Cross, for; Freeholder Laury, for, Freeholder Vanderslice, abstain, Freeholder Ware, for, Freeholder Bobbitt, against Freeholder Timberman, against and Director Acton, for.

2014 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

FH Committee	Chairperson	FH 1	FH 2
Administrative	Julie Acton	Robert Vanderslice	Dale Cross
Public Services	Bruce Bobbitt	Robert Vanderslice	Julie Acton
Health & Human Services	Robert Vanderslice	Beth Timberman	Bruce Bobbitt
Social Services	Beth Timberman	Bruce Bobbitt	Benjamin Laury
Public Safety	Dale Cross	Benjamin Laury	Lee Ware
Transportation, Agriculture & Cultural Affairs	Lee Ware	Dale Cross	Beth Timberman
Public Works	Benjamin Laury	Lee Ware	Julie Acton

The following Minority Freeholder Report was read by Freeholder Bobbitt:

Thank you to everyone for attending the 2014 reorganization meeting of the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders

And a special thank you to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assemblyman John Burzichelli, Assemblywoman Celeste Riley for attending tonight's meeting.

Congratulations to all the re-elected and newly elected officials in all levels of government. It is a true honor to be elected to serve your family, your friends and your neighbors. Elected office comes with a duty to always base every decision you make on what is best for your constituents. Elected office should never be about the elected official – it should always be about those he or she is elected to serve.

And so the election is over – and the winners prepare to take office. But all the residents of Salem County are the winners, because, as it has been for over 200 years in this Country, the democratic process has worked, and a smooth, peaceful transition in the governing of the people takes place.

This minority address will not be long. One of the greatest speeches in American history is Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. 270 words. 2 minutes to deliver. An unequalled example of saying so much in so few words.

And while I would never attempt to compare this minority address to the Gettysburg Address, my point is that it will not take a lengthy speech to convey my message.

The residents of Salem County have been very fortunate to have Freeholders who, despite party affiliation, have, for the most part, worked together for Salem County. I have been a member of both the majority party and the minority party. And, to be honest with you, it is not always easy to be a member of the minority party. Are there things that we would have done differently? ABSOLUTELY. Would different decisions have been made in the Administration of Salem County government? ABSOLUTELY. Remember – the term "minority party" means that we have one less vote on this board. It does not mean that our opinions, ideas or vision are in any way inferior to those of the majority party. Have I, at times, been extremely vocal in my disagreements with certain decisions? Again, ABSOLUTELY. That is because I will always fight for what I believe is right and just, and will not sit in silence even if my objections are not considered.

The past several years have seen both important progress in Salem County and some significant disappointments. Initiatives that began during the 9 years of Democratic control of this Board have either come to fruition or continue today.

While the Democrats were in the majority, **REAL** economic development initiatives were achieved such as:

1. The development of the long stagnant Gateway Business Park project. Under our administration, this project was realized, and several very important employers, such as J E Berkowitz Glass, Goya Foods and Mullica Hill Cold Storage, became part of OUR economic development plan for Salem County, providing numerous employment opportunities for Salem County residents.
2. Assisting Anchor Glass to be sure that this business, which has been a very important member of the Salem County business community for over 150 years, remained open and operating in Salem County. Ensuring that this plant, the longest continuously operating glass manufacturing operation in the United States, stayed in Salem County, along with the over 300 full time jobs it provides.
3. Applying for and being awarded over 3.8 million dollars in TIGER grants to rehabilitate and expand rail service in the County.
In additional to these economic achievements, other initiatives that include:
4. The merging of the Vo-Tech and Special Services School Boards – saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in administrative costs to County taxpayers.
5. Two milestones were reached in preserving farmland – becoming the County with the largest acreage of preserved farmland in the State and preserving the single largest piece of farmland in the County and the State of New Jersey – the nearly 1900 acre Seabrook property in Mannington Township.
6. Restoration of the Old Salem County Courthouse, bringing this very important piece of Salem County history back to the condition it so richly deserves.
7. Initiating and completing the sale of the Salem County Nursing Home to a private enterprise – saving the taxpayers of Salem County millions of dollars while still providing state of the art nursing home services to our residents.
8. Acquisition of the property at 110 Fifth Street and then the completion of construction of the new Salem County Fifth Street Complex, to satisfy State mandates and eliminate overcrowding at the County offices on Market Street.
9. During Hurricane Irene and in the aftermath of the storm, providing professional emergency services response to those residents that required aid. Unequaled cooperation among County departments, most notably the Salem County Health Department, Engineering and Public Works Departments, to restore services and repair damage to the County infrastructure and return our County to full service as quickly as possible.
10. Upgrades to the Salem County Veterans Cemetery, which continue today under the very competent supervision of Joe Hannagan, Director of Salem County Veterans Services.

And the disappointments –

The practice by the majority party of not re-appointing qualified, dedicated individuals to boards and committees simply because of party affiliation. Appointees and employees who have selflessly served this County for years have been dismissed or cast aside – not because they couldn't do the job. On the contrary, these individuals provided outstanding service to the County. The strike against them was their perceived political affiliation.

The most significant disappointment in recent years came in 2012, when, under the current administration, 14 valuable County employees were laid off. To this day, I remained convinced that there were other options available to the County to avoid those layoffs. In my opinion, the majority party did not look long enough or hard enough to keep those employees.

In early 2013, we faced similar budget concerns. The global economic struggle had trickled down to Salem County. One of the recurring budget concerns that I myself have tried to address every year since I took office is the overtime issues at the Salem County jail. Overtime at the jail reached a peak in 2012 at 2.7 million dollars. In 2013, Gloucester County's budget issues became Salem County's budget salvation. Gloucester County approached Salem County with a plan: Salem County's jail had prisoner capacity that was not being used, and Gloucester County was interested in closing their jail. So the deal was struck. Salem County now houses a portion of Gloucester County's prisoners for fair compensation. This unsolicited influx of revenue has not only made it possible to balance the Salem County budget, replenish surplus and avoid significant cut backs and potential additional layoffs, the increase in revenue has enabled the County to increase staffing at the jail to reduce overtime. This bipartisan effort by the entire Board of Chosen Freeholders has provided benefits to Gloucester County and more importantly to Salem County.

This revenue from Gloucester County will be important to the Salem County budget for years to come, and must be managed properly. We must be careful not to let this money dissipate into the County budget without a true accounting of where it went.

And with this increase in revenue, so to comes the responsibility to diligently manage the personnel and prisoners at the jail. The number of prisoners at our jail has quickly shot to capacity. This is a true example of the need to exercise very careful judgment on every management decision we make.

For years, you have heard the phrase "Salem County, a great place to live, work and play". Some residents think this is just a catchy phrase. I have lived here all my life, born and raised. I raised my three college educated children here, and now my grandchildren are being raised in Salem County. Four (4) generations of my family have made their living in Salem County and contributed to this County in a variety of ways. My grandchildren are the fifth generation of Bobbitt's in this County, and I want to be sure that this County remains for them, the great place to "live, work and play" that it has been for the generations of Bobbitt's who came before them. With the correct leadership and direction, I believe it can stay that way for these future generations.

There is one more point I must make. The position of Salem County Freeholder comes with the responsibility to hold yourself to a standard of behavior that the people of this County expect. This standard of behavior should not be a burden; it should be behavior that is practiced without any thought. Our moral compass should always point north, in every aspect of our lives and in every decision that we make. I am proud to say that the Democratic members of this Freeholder Board, unlike members of the current Republican majority of this Freeholder Board, have always acted in this manner, and will continue to do so. Our job is to morally, ethically, professionally and TRUTHFULLY represent the residents of Salem County, with every decision we make based on what is best for Salem County. No matter what adversity we face, no matter what is done behind the scenes by the alleged "transparent" Republican majority, the Democrats on this Freeholder Board will conduct themselves in the honest, fair and trustworthy manner that the residents of this County deserve.

Thank you.

MAJORITY FREEHOLDER REPORT ***THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. VANDERSLICE***

The following Majority Freeholder Report was read by Freeholder Vanderslice:

Good Evening Everyone and welcome. Thank you Lt. Governor for participating in tonight's reorganization and thank you for being here and for being a "good friend" of our County.

I would like to thank our 3rd District Legislators for making themselves available and for their genuine interest in Salem County. I would also like to congratulate them on the recent reelections. Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assemblyman John Burzachellic, and Assemblywomen Celeste Riley.

I would like to ask all of **the family members** of the Freeholder board to stand . . .
Freeholder Ware - Congratulatory remarks

Freeholder Director Acton – Special personal reflection

Story: Idaho sheep rancher was approached one day by a stranger in a suit. He said, "If I can guess how many sheep you've got, may I have one?" Thinking this to be impossible the rancher agreed. "You have 1,795 sheep." Stunned by the correct answer the rancher told him to choose his sheep. The man selected an animal and slung it over his shoulder and started to walk away. The rancher said, "hey, if I can tell you who you work for can I have that animal back?" "OK," said the stranger "You work for the government." "How did you figure that out?" "Well, put my dog down and I will tell you."

There is not much respect for government in America today. In fact, according to a recent poll done by the Associated Press, Americans entered 2014 with a profoundly negative view of their government, expressing little hope that elected officials can or will solve the nation's biggest problems.

Here in Salem County, we set out just two years ago to take our County down a road; a road that would include some “new sights and some familiar sights.” A road; to borrow some words from Robert Frost, “We took the road less traveled by.”

We made it our **Mission** “to enhance Salem County resident’s quality of life by ensuring the safety, prosperity and wellness of our communities through responsive, innovative and fiscally responsible actions.”

We adopted a **Vision** “to provide the citizens of Salem County the highest quality of life by promoting: Public Safety; Fiscal Responsibility; Economic Development; Culture and Diversity; Health and Education; and Preservation of Natural Resources.”

So, what about FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY . . . in my world fiscal responsibility is synonymous with the Prudent Man Theory - **The Prudent Man Theory** directs trustees "to observe how men of prudence, discretion and intelligence manage their own affairs, not in regard to speculation, but in regard to the permanent disposition of their funds, considering the probable income, as well as the probable safety of the capital to be invested." In other words – When you’re investing or spending other people’s money, you do it as if it were your own.

In the years prior to the “new majority”, the TOTAL COUNTY TAXES APPORTIONED TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET rose from under \$35 million to just over \$50 million. An average increase of approximately \$1.7 million per year over 10 years. In the past two years, in the midst of great economic adversity, the TOTAL COUNTY TAXES APPORTIONED TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET rose from \$50,144,000 to \$51,568,000. An average increase of \$712,000 (less than half).

Understand, that over the past three years the loss in TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE OF LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS (ratables) has been astronomical. Which makes the average increase in the total tax levy since this majority has taken control even more astonishing.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY!!!!!!

When we took over the majority we said we would not only reduce the size and cost of county government, but we would look for ways to enhance REVENUE not effected by county taxes.

And while we sought ways to do that, we became aware of Gloucester County’s decision to close their jail and have inmates housed in adjoining counties. Our Sherriff, Chuck Miller, took the bull by the horns and negotiated an agreement that enhanced revenue by over \$3 million for 2013. But Sherriff Miller didn’t stop there, in keeping with our commitment to maximize revenue, he further negotiated that Salem County become the processing center for ALL Gloucester County commitments; thereby enhancing the revenue by another \$1.5 million. So kudos to Sherriff Miller and company for their outstanding efforts.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY!!!!!!

With that, let me say that much of what has been accomplished in this area would not have been possible without our Chief Financial Officer - Katie Coleman. She is by far the best government finance person around . . . bar none!

Katie represents the epitome **FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE!!!!!!**

Another area that has been a priority is to bring a variety of people to the table to discuss ways to expand the counties efforts in the area of Economic Development.

Economic development, by text book definition, generally refers to the sustained, concerted actions of policy makers and communities that promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific area. While many municipalities have created economic development initiatives, The County has taken a new approach by forming The Salem County Economic Development Council. The SCEDC is a group of business leaders, educators, government officials, and agriculturalist committed to moving Salem County in the right direction.

What we have learned, especially in this economic climate, is that it is going to require **patience**. Regular meetings have taken place and the outcome of those meetings has been two areas that we would like to focus on in the year ahead:

Agri-manufacturing – The plan is to develop a Center for Agricultural Profitability. It encompasses several focus areas which include marketing, financial management, product development and on farm energy sources. The other focus is on grain and forage (hay) marketing. The plan would include use of the Salem Port and railroad to transport product and add value to existing grain and hay commodities.

A Technology Corridor – It is important to note that a solid business strategy is the first critical path item for success, but isn't enough on its own. Once the business strategy is established, other critical path items must be effectively addressed. The idea of a technology corridor is in its nascent stage and will require the assistance of the communications industry and our state officials to come to fruition.

We will continue to do everything possible during this weak national and state-wide economic recovery to promote Salem County - its location, its educated work force, and it's willingness to do whatever it takes.

There is much more that can be said about:

- Improvements in our roads and bridges
- Upgrades to the county railroad system
- Completion of vital infrastructure
- More transparency
- More accessibility
- More reliability

. . . there just isn't enough time.

And so, our commitment to the stakeholders of Salem County is to continue doing what we have been doing all along. The kind of commitment that is found in the Old Testament when the Prophet Micah asked, "What does the Lord require of you? **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**"

A personal story about a canning jar

The jar of homemade apple sauce was given to me by Maggie Maxwell Mood. She said, "You've had a tough year, so I wanted to give you this." She told me that the ingredients included apples, cranberries, honey, and a little salt. What she didn't say was that there was "love" in there . . . there was "kindness" in there. And, I think that it is important that we Pass it Forward. So, tonight I have brought some of my wife's homemade grape jelly to share with my fellow Freeholders. Love and Kindness . . . pass it forward.

One final word . . .

It is for everyone in the audience and for every member of the Freeholder board – **"Don't let anyone define who you are . . . only God can define who you are!"**

Freeholder Ware thanked his family, everyone for their thoughts and prayers for his grandson and Prosecutor Lenahan.

Presiding Protem, asked Reverend Dr. H. Holland Fields, Jr. to deliver the benediction.

Freeholder Laury made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Deputy Director Cross. The motion carried by a hand vote of 7/0. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Kevin Crouch
Clerk of the Board