

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
2015 REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2015  
OLDE SALEM COURT HOUSE  
MINUTES**

Aaron Yangello, a student at Salem Community College led the Welcoming Statement. The Salem County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard presented the American Flag in a Color Guard procession. Joseph Hannagan, Supervisor Veterans Interment and Frank Hofacker led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by the National Anthem sung by Lauren Painter.

The President Protem asked Pastor Mike Bill to deliver the invocation.

INVOCATION  
*Pastor Mike Bill*

**OATH OF OFFICE TO FREEHOLDERS ELECT**

HONORABLE DOUGLASS PAINTER  
by  
Lt. Governor and Secretary of State the Honorable Kim Guadagno  
Presiding

HONORABLE ROBERT J. VANDERLSICE  
by  
Lt. Governor and Secretary of State the Honorable Kim Guadagno  
Presiding

HONORABLE DALE A. CROSS  
by  
Lt. Governor and Secretary of State the Honorable Kim Guadagno  
Presiding

**REMARKS**  
Honorable Lt. Governor Kimberly A. Guadagno  
Honorable John Burzichelli, Assemblyman

**6:00 P.M. RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Kevin L. Crouch, Clerk of the Board  
*Presiding Protem*

**CALL TO ORDER**

*Kevin L. Crouch*

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING 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.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ELECTION CERTIFICATES FROM THE COUNTY CLERK**

The Presiding Protem presented the Election Certificates for Douglass H. Painter elected for a three year term for Freeholder, Robert J. Vanderslice for a three year term as Freeholder, and Dale A. Cross for a three year term as Freeholder.

**ELECTION OF THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR**

The Presiding Protem took nominations from the floor for Freeholder Director. Freeholder Laury nominated Freeholder Acton with Freeholder Vanderslice 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 Julie A. Acton as Director.

**OATH OF OFFICE TO THE FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR**  
by  
Michael M. Mulligan, Esq.

**ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR**

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

**OATH OF OFFICE TO THE FREEHOLDER DEPUTY DIRECTOR**  
by  
Michael M. Mulligan, Esq.

The following statement was read by Director Acton:

Good evening.

A sincere congratulations to Freeholder Cross and Freeholder Vanderslice on your re-election and welcome to the team, Freeholder Painter.

A heartfelt thank you to my family for their continued love and support.

I am honored to serve on a Freeholder Board comprised of seven dedicated, compassionate, and committed people. I am deeply humbled by their confidence in me, to continue serving in this leadership position as Director.

Over the past three years, the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders steered county government towards a more efficient government; a government that has addressed the needs of the citizens of Salem County; a government that continues to protect the taxpayers of Salem County. It is no secret that taxes are the fuel that drives the economic engine of county government. Like natural resources we respect those taxes and did not waste them.

The Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders will once again conduct regular meetings in different municipalities throughout Salem County, including Oldmans, Pennsville, Elmer, and Quinton for the 2015 year. We will continue having "open to the public" workshops and budget meetings accessible for every resident in Salem County.

We improved communication through our online newsletters, new Facebook Page, as well as an updated user-friendly county website. They 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.

Under the direction of Freeholder Cross and Sheriff Miller, we were able to complete a project that was started over a decade ago: modernizing the county's emergency services communications system. We also installed a third tower to provide better reception because our emergency responders and our law enforcement personnel deserve a state of the art communication system.

Under the direction of Freeholder Vanderslice – We have a great working relationship with "Grow New Jersey", we are home to newly constructed Five Below Warehouse Distribution Center in the Gateway Business Park. Businesses are investing in Salem County, this year's economic development expansions are clearly a sign of a positive upward growth.

Under the direction of Freeholder Laury – We have been able to maintain our county assets with the additions of: a new roof on the courthouse, new elevator, security cameras around the main campus and 5th Street Complex, and long overdue repairs to the water tower next to the Vocational School. We're proud to say that there are no structurally deficient County bridges and our county roads, bridges and dams have never been better.

Under the direction of Freeholder Ware, In addition to being our "board farmer," he advocated the NJ350 anniversary, Arts in Bloom and Tourism programs. Together with Kathleen Mills, we are inviting the public to "Discover the Possibilities" in Salem County.

Under the direction of Freeholder Timberman – The Board of Elections have been working efficiently throughout each election and was commended for being the first County to turn in all their paperwork before the deadline and prepared properly for the Special Elections which were held.

Freeholder Painter will be an excellent asset to the Board of Chosen Freeholders. With his multitude of background experience ranging from his services on the school board to business, Freeholder Painter will certainly be able to provide great recommendations for all areas of government.

There are three D's when it comes to the procedure for quality government; discussion, debate and decisions. We are all colleagues; we just sometimes have different opinions about which road to travel. In the end, there is no doubt that we strive to always keep Salem County a priority.

On behalf of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, I would like to thank our Chief Financial Officer, Katie Coleman and all of our county employees as well as our committees and volunteers for your dedication and

service to our County. With your constant hard work and support, we can and will continue to make Salem County the best that it can be!  
Thank you for taking the time to attend this evening and we wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! May God bless you and may God bless Salem County.”

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

Presiding Protem stated yes, for resolution number 59.

Freeholder Laury moved for accept the waiver of the rules and add resolution 59 with Freeholder Timberman seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for acceptance of the foregoing waiver carried a hand vote of 7/0.

**RESOLUTIONS**

2015-1

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION SETTING JOB CLASSIFICATION TITLES AND SALARY RANGES FOR 2015

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

2015-2

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RULES TO GOVERN THE SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2015

Deputy Director 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.

2015-3

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

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

2015-4

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

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

2015-5

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

Deputy Director 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.

2015-6

ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR AUDITOR SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM (\$124,700 – NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA, P.A.)

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

2015-7

ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR BOND COUNSEL  
SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
(\$35,000 – ARCHER & GREINER, P.C.)

Deputy Director 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.

2015-8

ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR  
LABOR COUNSEL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
(\$65,000 – GILMORE & MONAHAN, P.S.)

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

2015-9

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

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Vanderslice seconding his motion.

Freeholder Cross extended his congratulations to Katie Coleman on her successful test score.

As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

2015-10

ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR ENGINEER AND PLANNER  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
(\$275,000 – ALAIMO GROUP)

Deputy Director Laury moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Cross 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.

2015-11

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

2015-12

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

2015-13

ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR  
(SCOTT HAINES)

2015-14

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

2015-15  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR PHYSICIAN  
AT THE SALEM COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
(\$100,000.08 - DR. DIAZ)

2015-16  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER  
FOR FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
(JAMES JOHNSTON)

2015-17  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR ATTORNEY  
FOR THE SALEM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
(\$175.00 PER HOUR – JEAN S. CHETNEY)

2015-18  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING A TRAFFIC SAFETY COORDINATOR  
(JOE O'DONALD)

2015-19  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION  
(RAY OWENS)

2015-20  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2015-21  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE SUPERVISOR OF VETERANS INTERMENT  
(JOE HANNAGAN)

2015-22  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR  
FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
(\$15,000 – PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC)

2015-23  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR  
GRANT WRITER SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
(\$35,000 – TRIAD ASSOCIATES)

2015-24  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER  
SERVICES FOR THE SALEM COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
(\$36,000 – CATHERINE E. SHERIDAN)

2015-25  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR INSURANCE  
RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
(AJM INSURANCE MANAGEMENT)

2015-26  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND  
PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
(\$250,000 – CGF HEALTH SYSTEMS, LLC)

Deputy Director Laury made a motion to adopt Resolutions 11 through 26 with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion to adopt Resolutions 11 through 26 carried by hand vote of 7/0.

Presiding Protem read the following resolutions were read in bulk.

2015-27  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLDER MEMBERS  
TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

2015-28  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS  
TO THE SALEM COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL, OFFICE ON AGING

2015-29  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DISABLED

2015-30  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

2015-31  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE

2015-32  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE SEARCH COMMITTEE

2015-33  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS  
TO THE SALEM COUNTY CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

2015-34  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF FREEHOLDER LIAISON  
TO THE SALEM COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

2015-35  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
CULTURAL AND HERITAGE COMMISSION

2015-36  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS  
ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2015-37  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS  
TO THE SALEM COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

2015-38  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEDICAL INVESTIGATORS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2015-39  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING PATHOLOGISTS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2015-40  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2015-41  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

2015-42  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
TO THE SOUTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2015-43  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COUNTY TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

2015-44  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES  
TO THE COUNTY OF SALEM POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY

2015-45  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY COMMISSION

2015-46  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SHARED SERVICES WORKING GROUP

2015-47  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

2015-48  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SOUTH JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2015-49  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS  
TO THE SALEM COUNTY VETERAN ADVISORY BOARD

2015-50  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE  
CUMBERLAND/SALEM WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB)

2015-51  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF  
MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN

2015-52  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

2015-53  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
SALEM COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Deputy Director Laury made a motion to amend Resolution No. 47 changing the Freeholder Liaison to just Freeholder Painter and Freeholder Laury with Freeholder Painter seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion to amend Resolution No. 47 carried by hand vote of 7/0.

Deputy Director Laury made a motion to adopt Resolutions 27 through 53 with Freeholder Painter seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion to adopt Resolutions 27 through 53 carried by hand vote of 7/0.

Presiding Protem read the following resolutions were read in bulk.

2015-54  
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

2015-55  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2015-56  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR REQUIRED BANK ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2015-57  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR REQUIRED BANK ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2015-58  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR REQUIRED BANK ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

2015-59  
 ADMINISTRATIVE  
 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PURCHASING AGENT  
 FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM  
 (JESSICA BISHOP)

2015-60  
 ADMINISTRATIVE  
 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO THE  
 SALEM COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

2015-61  
 ADMINISTRATIVE  
 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
 SALEM COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION

Deputy Director Laury made a motion to adopt Resolutions 54 through 61 with Freeholder Cross seconding his motion.

Freeholder Vanderslice stated that he will be abstaining from Resolution 54 and 55.

Freeholder Painter also stated he will be abstaining from Resolutions 54 and 55.

As there was no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolutions 27 through 53 carried by hand vote of 7/0, with Resolution 54 and 55 being 4/2 with Freeholder Vanderslice and Freeholder Painter abstaining.

2015-62  
 ADMINISTRATIVE  
 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2015 TEMPORARY BUDGET

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

County Counsel Michael Mulligan, Esq. stated that on Resolution 57, that although Freeholder Vanderslice is not a signatory on this Resolution, he should not be put into the position of a possible conflict of interest.

Deputy Director Laury made a motion to have a revote on Resolution 57 with Freeholder Painter seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion to revote on Resolution 57 carried a hand vote of 7/0.

Deputy Director Laury made a motion to adopt Resolution 57 with Freeholder Painter seconding his motion.

Freeholder Vanderslice stated that he will be abstaining.

As there was no further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 57 carried a hand vote of 6/1 with Freeholder Vanderslice abstaining.

**2015 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>FH Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>FH 1</b>	<b>FH 2</b>
Administrative	Julie Acton	Robert Vanderslice	Dale Cross
Education/Employment	Douglass Painter	Robert Vanderslice	Beth Timberman
Health & Human Services	Robert Vanderslice	Beth Timberman	Julie Acton
Community Services	Beth Timberman	Douglass Painter	Benjamin Laury
Public Safety	Dale Cross	Benjamin Laury	Lee Ware
Transportation, Agriculture	Lee Ware	Dale Cross	Julie Acton
Public Works	Benjamin Laury	Lee Ware	Douglass Painter

**The following Minority Freeholder Report was read by Freeholder Timberman:**

"Distinguished Guests, Reverend Clergy, Salem County Citizens and my Fellow Freeholders;  
Good Evening and Happy New Year!

Welcome to our Annual Reorganization Meeting of the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Congratulations to our Re-elected Freeholders, Dale Cross and Bob Vanderslice. Congratulations also to our newest Freeholder, Doug Painter. Welcome aboard!

Thank you all for attending this annual special Freeholder meeting, where the county freeholders and county administration reorganize the county government. It is with great honor and reverent humility that I stand before you tonight as a member of the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders, beginning my 12th year as a freeholder. As one of two of the minority party members, I will give the Minority Address tonight.

With this annual meeting, several changes occur. New committee assignments are received, new members are assigned to boards and commissions, and different professionals replace previously appointed ones. Overall, it is a time of change, and a new year for new ideas and plans to be made.

With this new year, we take the time to reflect on our past year. We look back to 2014 as a year of accomplishing some of our goals.

As a freeholder board, we started the transition to being "paperless." We now receive our packets by email and may review them on our laptops or Ipads instead of in bulky paper packets. This is progress and hopefully will reduce the unnecessary waste of paper!

We voted recently to approve a bond for expansion of our County Votech School. Overcrowded academic classrooms will now be a thing of the past as 6 more classes will be added this year as well as some other necessary improvements to the campus.

We have increased our surplus and trimmed some more spending in county government.

We continue to look at ways to improve the health of county residents through health initiatives like the Health Dept. walk initiatives and sending a nurse out to evaluate MOW clients.

Communications in the Office of Emergency Management have improved with the installation of new radios, equipment and an updated 911 center.

Roads and bridges are seeing improvements as we continue to address the aging transportation infrastructure in the county.

We cannot rest on our achievements thus far though.

We must address the concerns that exist with the delayed emergency response times as we look at our stressed and short staffed volunteer emergency squads across the county. A few years ago we tabled a resolution that would have initiated a county wide ambulance service. It is time to revisit this initiative.

Homelessness is prevalent throughout our county, as it is in every county. It is not easily seen or measured, but exists in every municipality and in every school district. We as the county government cannot leave it up to churches and the non- profits alone to figure out the solutions that will end this problem. The time to take the lead and begin looking at a viable homeless shelter and services that would start to address these complex issues in Salem County is now. We may not have the answers but we can start the conversation with our partners.

We must look at the county jail needs differently. Built as a jail for adults, it does not address the needs of minor offenders, the mentally ill, the addicted or the homeless. Adding on does not address any of these issues. It is time to talk to our neighboring counties about the possibility of a regional jail that will serve the entire area's needs as well as explore the adaptive reuse of the existing facilities in an effort to address each of these different challenging issues.

Major business closings in our county will take their toll on our local economy in the months and years ahead and this challenges us to continue to look for new businesses that will establish a long term presence here.

As county leaders, we must recognize our assets. First and foremost, we must recognize the genuinely good people of Salem County. Whether they are county employees or simply county residents, we need to accept their ideas and willingness to contribute back to society and this county, and encourage them by employing them, putting them on boards, recognizing their contributions and volunteerism. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. Neither the bottom line, nor a person's political party affiliation, should be the deciding factor of one's worth and input. Sometimes a divergence of ideas leads to the best solution. The practice of good government belongs to neither party; rather it is the product of a true bipartisan effort to do what is right, and honorable and just.

Secondly, our ideal location, abundance of open spaces, small county population and varied transportation infrastructures give us a unique opportunity for tourism, economic development among the western corridors, and ratable growth. We need to be involved in planning with our federal and state reps to ensure that our uniqueness is considered. Situated in the most densely populated region of the country, yet still agricultural and undeveloped, we are a diamond in the rough. We have it all right here, and it is time to call on our legislative partners in Congress, the Governor's Office and the State Legislature to work with us in maximizing our assets.

We are challenged as a board to go above and beyond what is comfortable, and what is familiar and work toward a common goal of improving the lives of our Salem County residents. As the Holy Bible tells us, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." My fellow freeholders, I ask that we lay aside our differences and work together as wise stewards of all that we have been entrusted with.

Thank you and God Bless! "

**The following Majority Freeholder Report was read by Deputy Director Laury:**

"Thank you all for a few moments of your attention while we reflect on Salem County. We are not sure how far back the tradition of a majority speech goes, but one of our first settlers, John Fenwick, may have been the first to offer one. .... And just for a matter of accuracy Lee Ware, B. Harold Smick (our historian) and I were not there to witness it.

Thank you to Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno for participating in tonight's reorganization and thank you for being a good friend to Salem County.

We would like to recognize others in attendance.

- All those who have served or are currently serving in an elected office
- All of the families of the current Salem County Freeholders
- Those in law enforcement who protect us (the police departments, the prosecutor's office, and the sheriff's department
- All those who are serving or have served in our armed forces

We would like to congratulate and to welcome Dale Cross and Bob Vanderslice back to the Freeholder board.

We would like to welcome Freeholder Doug Painter. We know Doug's work ethic and his wanting to do the right thing for our residents will make Salem County proud. Congratulations Doug.

We are very grateful and humbled that Salem County voters are again placing their faith in us. Today we begin the fourth year under the direction of the new majority. The hard work and perseverance over the last three years are showing.

Our county taxes have stabilized, with increases below inflation or no increase at all. And from our preliminary discussions of the 2015 budget with our CFO, this year appears be no exception. Other than minimal increases in the employment (with the cost offset by significantly lowering overtime costs)at the correctional facility, we have right sized our county government with fewer county employees

With the oversight of our Sheriff Chuck Miller, we have significantly increased our revenue by sharing our correctional facility services with Gloucester county. The revenue from this shared service alone has reduced our county tax burden and indirectly reduced the costs of our bonding through better credit ratings. In addition, we have reduced our debt in each of the last three years.

We are seeing renewed efforts in new economic development and in business retention. With Freeholder Vanderslice heading up our Economic Development Council, we will aggressively pursue and maintain ratables and jobs for Salem County.

Please bear with us as we list a few of the major businesses making an impact in Salem County Right now

- Siegfried Chemical's SECOND Expansion (Pennsville)
- JE Berkowitz Warehouse Expansion (Oldmans)
- Mullica Hill Freezers Expansion (Oldmans)
- McLane Trucking Expansion (Carneys Point)
- Five Below's NEW 1 million sq ft building that will create and employ over 150 jobs (Oldmans)
- DayTop Adolescent Drug Treatment Facility (Pittsgrove)

These, along with many small businesses starting up like Fox's NAPA Auto Parts (Pittsgrove) Dunkin Donuts (Pennsville), Niblocks Store Expansion (Quinton), Dobson Turf Management (Upper Pittsgrove), Krise Electric (Elmer), and Pittsgrove Power Equipment (Pittsgrove); Dr. Warmuth's medical offices (Elmer) and I am sure many that we have not named.

We thank all of them for their and commitment to their community and to Salem County.

In the foreseeable future

- PSEG,s 4rd reactor (Lower Alloway Creek)
- Chemours – DuPont's rebranding of the Chambers Works in Deepwater -- expanding its presence (Pennsville and Carneys Point)
- Atlantic City Electric Operations Center for 200 employees (Pittsgrove)
- And even the possible expansion of the Spitfire airport (Oldmans) and a new Super WaWa (Pennsville)

This managed growth is balanced with our dedication to farm land preservation and open space acquisition. This year we have preserved additional farmland in Salem County and have more in the process of being preserved. It is amazing that the line between Gloucester and Salem Counties is delineated by farm land in Salem County and housing developments in Gloucester County. We truly are the garden spot of the Garden State.

During 2015 we will continue to look at all possible ways to be more efficient with the resources you have provided. Not only saving county tax dollars but local tax dollars with initiatives such as

- Re energizing the Salem County EMS Support program
- Beginning county wide dispatching for all municipalities (and thank you Sheriff Miller and Undersheriff John Cuzzupe for your efforts and the completion of the radio tower project -- A job well done)
- utilizing federal and state grant dollars to fund one of Salem County's largest one year improvement of our roads, bridges, and railroad.

It would not be right if we did not recognize and show our gratitude our volunteers tonight

Please stand and be recognized if you are a volunteer for

- an EMS or Fire Departments
- the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- and appointed to a County / Municipal board or committee\

From our heart a sincere thank you.

We will continue to get the freeholder board closer to our residents; we will again be taking freeholder meetings on the road with freeholder meetings in Oldmans, Quinton, Elmer, and Pennsville. Now we would like to continue a tradition, started by Freeholder Vanderslice last year, when he challenged us to pass forward "Love and Kindness" by giving each freeholder his wife's homemade jelly. Freeholder Ware and Freeholder Cross have a long tradition in the sport of baseball (and congratulation to Coach

Ware on 600 high school wins). They both know teams are made up of individual players and efforts. Our 2015 motto to this freeholder board and our administration is that "Great Individual Efforts make a Great Team".

Now, I am asking Freeholder Vanderslice to hand out baseballs to our freeholders and administration team, signed by each of the 2015 freeholders. This token is to continually remind us that "Great teams are made up of Great Individual efforts". This 2015 team pledges that you, the residents, will be the beneficiaries of our efforts.

Director Julie Acton is the perfect choice to lead our team as she leads by example. Her leadership continues to keep us focused while recognizing individual contributions. Under her leadership we will to continue to expand our efforts to keep Salem County the best place to live... work... retire and... raise families. Thank you Julie.

Before concluding, I would like to take one moment to recognize my wife, Kathy, of 35 years ..... Thank you all for being the wind beneath my wings.

On a personal note, I am truly honored to serve Salem County. I wake up every day and I get to help someone. To me this is a blessing and a truth that I learned as an Eagle Scout to "Do a Good Turn Daily". Thank you for the opportunity to do this in Salem County.

And finally, we are, beyond any doubt, blessed to be living and serving in Salem County

I will conclude as I ended the 2012 minority speech, with words from Red Skelton

I wish you love and happiness in everything you do. The time has come to say good night. I hope I've made a friend... And so I'll say, "May God Bless you, until we meet again."

#### **Other Business:**

Freeholder Cross read the following:

"First, let me thank the Honorable Kim Guadagno for sharing our special evening with us, it is greatly appreciated and we're honored that she took the time given her very busy schedule. To our Third District Legislators; Senate President Sweeney, Assemblyman Burzichelli ... "thank you" and we look forward to continuing our good working relationships with those in Trenton.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bob on his re-election and to welcome Doug as he begins his first term on the board. We look forward to the challenges that await and there will be many, but we have not and will not shy away from the difficult decisions. Each of you brings a tremendous work ethic to the table and the desire to do what is right. Each and every time we are together, I gain a greater respect for you both, for the work that you do and the effort that you put forth... our residents expect and deserve that.

The last six years have passed quickly and I cannot say enough about working closely with Director Acton and Deputy Director Laury. This county is fortunate to have public servants that work tirelessly and unselfishly. Thank you for being great mentors.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle as they say, thank you for always respecting my opinion throughout our six years together. We certainly haven't always agreed but we have, *for the most part*, agreed to disagree both professionally and respectfully and I look for that to continue in the New Year.

I cannot thank enough my beautiful wife Kathy, my son Kyle, Stewart my father, my family and our friends for their unending support, without them this would be unreachable and hollow. Thank you and I love you. To my beloved mother and daughter, I'll trust you are smiling down on us all.

To the spouses and families of my colleagues, a heartfelt "thank you" for making a considerable sacrifice. Behind every elected official is a spouse that holds the household together while we are out being public servants... it's not overlooked and you are to be commended.

I would also like to thank my employer, PSE&G. They have not only given me the support necessary to fulfill this office but they have been a great partner to Salem County.

Again, this is not something that an individual can accomplish and to the dedicated staff and employees at the County and the many loyal supporters that helped our team to be seated here before you this evening, we sincerely thank you.

In closing, once again the voters of Salem County have put their faith in me to help lead this County forward. For those who did not vote for me, I hope that my words and my actions will earn your trust and support. I assure you that it's not a responsibility that I take lightly. I was truly humbled the first two campaigns and I still share that same sentiment this evening. It is an honor and a privilege to represent you and I pledge that I will work just as hard this term to retain your trust in me and our team.

Goodnight and God bless..."

Freeholder Painter read the following:

"Thank you Tricia, Matthew, Nicholas and Lauren. Matthew could not be here this evening. He is in college in New York.

Thank you to community for the faith and trust you are placing in me.

I appreciate the Lt. Governor for taking the time to visit and participate this evening. We are fortunate to have open and direct communication with her office. Thank you John Burzichelli.

Thanks to my parents and brothers for their support.

Thank you to my in-laws for raising a loving and supportive daughter that became my wife and rock.

Tonight has brought honor to me and my family as I begin to work on your behalf. I will do so in a way that brings honor to our county.

A special thanks to our veterans, it is their sacrifice and the sacrifice of their families that allow elections to take place in our great country. We are very fortunate that our government reorganizes in a peaceful manner...thank you.

Thank you to my colleagues...I look forward to the work that lies ahead and addressing the issues together."

Freeholder Vanderslice stated that three years he said he would never work for the next election, but would always work for the next generation and tonight he has his new grandson next to him tonight during his oath. He also stated that he appreciated the Lt. Governor pointing out the words "under the authority of the people", because this seat is not a republican seat or a democrat seat, this seat belongs to the people of Salem County. Also in the oath statement, it says "So Help Me God". A couple weeks ago we were heading to Church and my daughter was visiting and she asked me how long have I been teaching Sunday school? I had to think about it, and said 37 years. She said really and I said yes I started out teaching 6<sup>th</sup> graders which lasted about 3 weeks and then I moved to adults and have been teaching adults ever since. And so when I made that statement "so help me God" I want you all to know that I mean it with all sincerity. The Bible that I used tonight, is the Bible that I teach from and the words ring true when it says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all the ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths". So I believe those things and a matter of fact I say to Freeholder Lee Ware, that I will be praying for you on Friday when you are having your hip replaced, I will be praying for him on Friday while having his hip replaced. As I will be praying for each one of you as we go through this year, and I would also ask of you to pray for each one of us as we try to do what is right for the people of Salem County. So again I would like to thank you all for those of you who have supported me for the many years including this year, and for those of you, as Freeholder Cross mentioned, for those of you who did not, I just sincerely hope that you will look to us as people who are willing to serve you to the best of our abilities so help us God. Thank-you.

Director Acton thanked everyone for their comments and announced the next meeting will be held on January 21, 2015, at 7:30 PM at the Olde Salem Courthouse located at 104 Market Street. Salem, New Jersey 08079. Workshop meeting will be held at 6:15pm.

Director Acton called upon Chaplain Joe Farro to give the Benediction.

Deputy Director Laury made a motion to adjourn seconded by Freeholder Cross and carried by hand vote 7/0 at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Crouch  
Clerk of the Board

