

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
MAY 4, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Director Acton: Veterans Supervisor Joe Hannagan led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the prayer led by Freeholder Vanderslice.

Director Acton stated that adequate notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given of this meeting.

On Roll Call, the following Freeholders were present: Deputy Director Cross, Freeholders Laury, Painter, Vanderslice, Ware, and Director Acton.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the April 20, 2016 Workshop and Regular Meeting. Minutes be received, approved and recorded in the Minute Book. As there was no discussion, the motion was seconded by Freeholder Laury and carried by hand vote of 6/0.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION / PRESENTATIONS**

Recognizing May 2016 as Older Americans Month

Recognizing May 2016 as National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**GENERAL**

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross to accept and file the correspondence reports and that they be made a part of the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Laury. Motion carried a hand vote of 6/0.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS & CLAIMS**

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross that all Bills and Claims, when properly signed and audited be paid and charged to their respective accounts. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Laury and carried by a hand vote of 5/0. Freeholder Painter abstained.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Motion was made by Deputy Director Cross that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Vanderslice and carried by a hand vote of 6/0.

**ADOPTION ON 2016 RESOLUTION TO EXCEED THE COUNTY BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

R. 2016-189

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Motion was made by Freeholder Laury to open the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Painter Motion carried a hand vote of 6/0.
2. Motion was made by Freeholder Laury to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Vanderslice. Motion carried a hand vote of 6/0.
3. Motion was made by Freeholder Laury to adopt this following resolution. The motion was seconded by Deputy Director Cross Motion carried a hand vote of 6/0.
4. Roll Call Vote 6/0 – Cross – for, Laury – for, Painter – for, Vanderslice – for, Ware – for, Acton – for

**2016 BUDGET**

1. Resolution To Have The 2016 Budget Read By Title

**INTRODUCTION OF THE 2016 SALEM COUNTY BUDGET**

Motion by Freeholder Laury to take Introduction of the 2016 Salem County Budget off the table with a second by Freeholder Vanderslice. Motion carried a hand vote of 6/0.

1. Deputy Director Laury made a motion for the Introduction of the Budget on first reading. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Painter

Director Acton thanked CFO Coleman for the countless hours and dedication that she and her team put into providing this budget.

Freeholder Ware stated that he has always voted yes to introduce the budget, but this does not mean he is in favor of the adoption of the 2016 budget. He also asked if it is possible the adoption could be delayed due to the state.  
CFO Coleman stated yes, there can be a chance the budget will be delayed.

2. Roll Call Vote, 6/0: Director Acton- for, Freeholder Painter- for, Freeholder Ware- for, Deputy Director Cross- for, Freeholder Laury- for, Freeholder Vanderslice- for
3. Public Hearing (and adoption) scheduled for Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE – Acton, Vanderslice, Painter**

R. 2016-190

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Finance Resolution Cancellation Of Check (Check #93895 - \$61,041.26 – AE Stone, Inc.)

R. 2016-191

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Finance Resolution Cancellation Of Check (Check #1728 - \$7.00 –Treasurer State of New Jersey)

R. 2016-192

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Resolution Authorizing Application To USDA Rural Development For Funding From The Rural Business Development Grant Program

Freeholder Vanderslice moved for the adoption of these (3) three resolutions with Freeholder Painter seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 6/0.

**EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – Painter, Acton**

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE – Vanderslice, Painter, Laury**

R. 2016-193

**HEALTH & HUMAN**

Resolution Amending Resolution 2016-181: Resolution Authorizing The Freeholder Director And The Clerk Of The Board To Sign The Health Service Grant Application For The 2016-2017 Local Core Capacity Infrastructure For Bioterrorism Preparedness

R. 2016-194

**HEALTH & HUMAN**

Resolution Amending Resolution 2016-30 Resolution Appointing Members To The South Jersey Economic Development Council For The County Of Salem

Freeholder Vanderslice moved for the adoption of these (2) two resolutions with Freeholder Painter seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a hand vote of 6/0.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – Cross, Ware**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Cross, Laury, Vanderslice**

R. 2016-195

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Resolution Accepting Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Subgrant Award From New Jersey Department Of Law And Public Safety Division Of State Police Office Of Emergency Management For Emergency Management Performance Grant No. FY15-EMPG-EMAA-1700 In The Amount Of \$60,000.00

Deputy Director Cross moved for the adoption of this (1) one 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 6/0.

**TRANSPORTATION, AGRICULTURE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – Ware, Cross,**

R. 2016-196

**TRANSPORTATION, AGRICULTURE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Resolution For Access Agreement Between South Jersey Gas (SJ Gas) Company And County of Salem(owner)

R. 2016-197

**TRANSPORTATION, AGRICULTURE & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Resolution Authorizing The Proposed Acquisition Of A Development Easement On Bishop Farm, Upper Pittsgrove Township

Freeholder Ware moved for the adoption of these (2) two resolutions with Deputy Director Cross seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a hand vote of 6/0.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Laury, Ware, Acton**

R. 2016-198

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Resolution Prohibiting Normal Traffic Lotus Avenue, County Road #678, South Main Street, County Road #672 and Marlton Road, County Road #636 In The Borough of Woodstown, In The County Of Salem (Fourth of July Parade)

R. 2016-199

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Resolution Authorizing A Shared Service Agreement Between The County Of Salem And The Board Of Education For Special Services District And Vocational Technical Services District Of The County Of Salem (Landscaping Services)

R. 2016-200

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Resolution Approving The Execution Of Change Order #1 212 County Aid Program ADA Curb Ramps For The County Of Salem

R. 2016-201

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Resolution Supporting The Borough Of Woodstown To Make Application To A Project Funded By The New Jersey Department Of Transportation (NJDOT) Safe Routes To School Program Along The North Side Of Salem County road 616 (Bailey Street) From Hillcrest Drive To Lotus Avenue, The East Side Of County Road 678 (Old Salem Road) From Liberty Avenue To Bailey Street, And The West Side Of County Road 603 (Alloway Road) From Liberty Avenue to Bailey Street

Freeholder Laury moved for the adoption of these (4) four resolutions, with Freeholder Ware seconding his motion.

Director Acton stated on Resolution 2016-199 Resolution Authorizing A Shared Service Agreement Between The County Of Salem And The Board Of Education For Special Services District And Vocational Technical Services District Of The County Of Salem, this is a great joint effort to help alleviate cost and use the shared services to everyone's benefit. It is truly a win-win situation.

As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a hand vote of 6/0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Freeholder Painter stated that at the previous workshop meeting, the Workforce Development Board presented and a resolution was passed to add Cape May County into the Cumberland/ Salem partnership. This got sent to the state was approved earlier this week to take effect on July 1, 2016.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Freeholder Laury stated that Freeholder Vanderslice took the initiative to fly out to Ohio, with his own funds, to tour a chemical facility and asked if Freeholder Vanderslice could highlight his trip.

Freeholder Vanderslice stated he had the pleasure of visiting this chemical facility with Salem City Councilman Charles Hassler and local business owner John Bobbitt. We had good discussions on possible ideas. We asked the facility to provide a written business plan to see what the future options are. This was a great bipartisan effort and great to get to know Charlie and John a little better.

Director Acton stated prior at the Workshop meeting, Tax Administrator John Snyder gave a presentation. He gave a brief overview of tax appeals that are from 2009 that the County is obligated to pay back and not so much of the appeals currently. This board is really trying to be proactive and trying to set ourselves up for success and not for failure.

Director Acton wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

Director Acton stated that the program, Government 101, will be starting up again and information can be found on our County website.

Director Acton also stated that tomorrow is the National Day of prayer. There will be two locations for tomorrow's events. One will be at St. Joe's Parish Center in Woodstown beginning at 7:30am and the other here in the Old Courthouse beginning at 6:00pm.

## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anyone wishing to speak please speak clearly and state your name and address for the record.

When addressing questions concerning personnel issues with the County of Salem no names will be used at any time.

Robert Gant, Pennsville - Mr. Gant raised three questions regarding the introduced budget. All questions were answered by CFO Coleman. 1. Why has Maintenance of Patients in State Institutions increased from approximately \$530K to \$1.4M? CFO Coleman explained the amount is dictated by the state and the expense has an offsetting revenue. 2. Why is there a reserve for \$120K for retail building? CFO Coleman explained it represents rent received from the two dollar stores to be used specifically to pay down the debt on that property. 3. Also under debit is \$354K that he requested clarification. CFO Coleman explained it is for FEMA reimbursements that are required by law to pay down debts resulting from federal emergency allocations. Mr. Gant expressed his concerns about the possible outsourcing of 911 operators to Gloucester County and stated that the people of Salem County have spoken loud and clear that they want these services to remain in Salem County. This matter should not be left to the only the Freeholder Board and should be placed on a ballot. Director Acton responded that the board is merely fact finding at this point and is uncertain as to the results of this fact finding. She explained that it is important to gather all information prior to making any decision.

Solicitor Mulligan reminded Director Acton of the two minute rule in regards to the public addressing the Freeholder Board.

Andy Buzby, Chairman of the Salem County Ag Development Board - With the recent development of not collecting the dedicated \$.02 open space tax, Mr. Buzby shared his concern that the county will not be able to cost share with the state as a dedicated fund/source is required for cost sharing (for farmland preservation). CFO Coleman explained that the county will be collecting a tax so we will be able to answer in the affirmative that the county does collect a dedicated tax even though it is a reduced amount. Mr. Buzby requests a subcommittee meeting and Director Acton concurred that such a meeting will take place and thanked Mr. Buzby for his attendance.

Samuel Osborn, 612 Hawks Bridge Road, Carneys Point - Commented that presenters need to speak louder and enunciate for those who do not hear well. Mr. Osborn shared his concern that the open space tax will not be collected for the upcoming year. Freeholder Director confirmed that the tax will be suspended for one year. Mr. Osborn asked how this would help balance the budget. Director Acton explained that this would reduce the tax obligation to the taxpayers for the one year suspension. Mr. Osborn questioned what right the Freeholder Board has to suspend the collection. Director Acton referred the question to Solicitor Mulligan. Mr. Mulligan explained that the current dedicated tax was established by a 2002 referendum by the Freeholder Board. This referendum called for the Freeholder Board to make an investments for open space and recreation at its discretion. He furthered explained that such an investment cannot be afforded when the county is struggling to pay current operating expenses and, like previous administrations have done, a choice was made to not collect the open space tax. Mr. Osborn asked for confirmation that \$750K of the dedicated tax is to pay down debt. Freeholder Director Acton confirmed this.

Jack Cimprich, Mayor Upper Pittsgrove Township - Mr. Cimprich offered that \$5M is not an exurbanite amount of money to have in place for the farmland preservation. He stated that such an amount is needed to fund the program and to leverage other programs. For each dollar the county spends for this program, \$6 to \$8 comes in. Farms only use \$.30 in services for each \$1 collected. Farmers need these funds when their money is tied up in land and equipment. By not collecting the dedicated tax you will kill the program for future years. Mr. Cimprich provided a letter addressed to the Salem County Freeholders (attached).

Kevin Eachus, Mayor Pilesgrove Township - Mr. Eachus thanked the Freeholder Board for their efforts in preserving the Musemeci property. Pilesgrove currently has 5,458 acres preserved and 409 acres pending preservation by application and there are another 700 potential acres. He referred to the 2002 referendum that the voters supported to collect a \$.02 dedicated tax and urged the Freeholder Board to continue to do so.

Margery Eachus, Pilesgrove Township (Dairy Farmer) - Mrs. Eachus read from a prepared statement that was provided to the Freeholder Board (attached).

Joseph Hiles, Marlton Road, Woodstown - Mr. Hiles asked for confirmation that the introduced budget results in a \$.076 increase and by suspending the open space tax the net increase is \$.056. Freeholder Director Acton confirmed. Mr. Hiles referenced a recent Woodstown-Pilesgrove Board of Education meeting in which the community came attended. Included in the attendance was Freeholder Painter. Mr. Hiles commented that the Board of Education is looking beyond the budget numbers and saw people, families, employees, etc... Like that board of education, he requests that a similar ad hoc committee be formed to explore other ideas. While he commended Freeholder Laury for tabling the introduction at the previous Freeholder Meeting to meet with union leaders, such meetings have been very unproductive. He spoke against outsourcing and plead not to sell out public safety to the lowest bidder. He cited a recent contract with Green Technology Services for IT support saying costs went from \$19,000 per month in 2015 for IT management to \$41,000 per month in 2016.

Fran Grenier, South Main Street, Woodstown - Commends the Freeholder Board for their work in regards to economic development. The people of Salem County cannot continue to fund the tax increases. It requires reform from Trenton as people continue to leave the county and homes are left abandoned. We must cut unnecessary spending and find less expensive ways to provide services.

Evan Crim, Woodstown - Eight year volunteer as an EMT and firefighter. He is currently a Salem County PST (number 134) who offers a calm voice during chaos and emergencies. He commented that the Freeholders are putting a price tag on the safety of everyone's friends, families, and neighbors.

Gerald Baber, Alloway Township - Mr. Baber stated he is the voice (one of many voices) that serves at the 911 center. He spoke in opposition to the plan to consider outsourcing jobs from the 911 center. Outsourcing is the most ridiculous idea he has heard from the freeholder board in years.

Byron DuBois, Pittsgrove Township, Chairman of Pittsgrove Ag Advisory Board - Mr DuBois questioned why the Ag Development Board was not consulted prior to cutting the dedicated open space tax. Director Acton responded that \$100,000 will be collected in 2016 for the dedicated tax and is a one year suspension. Director Acton further responded that action is being taken to insure that the suspension is for only one year and Mr. DuBois shared his concern that once the tax is suspended it will be very difficult to reinstate.

Michael Blaszczyk, President of CWA Local 1085 – Disturbed by the County’s part time workers taking over the workforce making it seem like the “walmart” of local governments. Director Acton stated that this was a fact finding investigation to privatize. Mr. Blaszczyk stated facts that were given to him by county administration: The last full year of the County IT department was in 2013 and consisted of a budget of \$219,000 which we devoted to salaries. Last year the outsourced budgeted amount was \$500,000 with management fees of \$342,000. Since May, the fee has been \$40,000 per month. The proposed budget for 2016 includes \$499,000 towards contractor fees and an additional \$51,000 for expenses. In May of 2014 when the department was privatized, the full time monthly management fee was \$19,000. As of April 2016, it is over \$41,000 a month. Such data is disturbing to Mr. Blaszczyk as both the union president and as a taxpayer. He commented that it appears that Administration has not really investigated the medical staff issues and there are various financial issues that need to be looked at that the Administration is completely unaware of. There are 14 dedicated employee nurses who look after those who no one else really cares about.

Patty Bomba, Hawks Bridge Road, Carneys Point – Per Mrs. Bomba, the one and only time she had to call 911, Mr. Baber answered the phone and she was so glad that he did. She knows that everyone is on the same caliber as Mr. Baber. Mr. Baber also saved the life of a gentleman who was completely duct taped, she understands he had help, but again anyone out there is of the same caliber. Mrs. Bomba continued that they (911 operators) are our neighbors, they know us, they know where we live. If my husband who has a cardiac condition is in need of 911 or if my granddaughter who is disabled and has other health issues and I need to call 911 or any other member of my family, I would like one of my neighbors to be on the other end of the call. They know us, they know where we live and they know how to get help to us as quickly as possible. You're trying to save jobs and your trying to bring new jobs into Salem County which you have not been to successful in doing, so why not keep the jobs of our Salem County neighbors. It is very difficult to remain respectful when coming up to this microphone because it certainly has not been earned. You do not reciprocate.

Denise DiTeodoro, Mannington, PST – PST DiTeodoro stated that at 1600 hours today, I told myself I was not going to speak today but just to listen, at 1630 hours today I saw my son, who I am trying to teach loyalty, respect, honor and honesty to. Loyalty by definition is strong feeling of support or allegiance. I know at the time we are being asked by our director to continue our jobs, and we are being loyal to him, the Sheriff, this county, and all the

residents by continuing to give 150% when other people would ask "are you kidding me?" I know as Freeholders, you need the loyalty of your constituents to get back into office. Please keep us in mind when you are thinking of the word loyalty.

Cindy Grasso, Carneys Point – Ms. Grasso shared that she works with a great group at the 911 center. They are a lot younger than me, they all have families, babies, they are all invested in Salem County by buying homes here. I do not have a mortgage anymore but if the 911 center is gone, I would sell my house and move out of Salem County, which I am sure everyone else will have to do as well. They are either going to lose it or sell it due to not having a job. For the past 30 years I have been a volunteer firefighter in Salem County, I have 28 years of service as a PST, and I am a proud PST 147.

Tim O'Donnell – President of Fire Chiefs Association – Mr. O'Donnell stated that the 911 center is a 24 hour 365 day operation. The dedicated personnel that are there during birthdays, family events and holidays. They never close. This past week was Public Service Communicator Day and I would like to thank them for their service. Today is also firefighter appreciation day so I would also like to thank our brother and sister firefighters in the county. Mr. O'Donnell quoted the words of Director Acton from April 2013 by saying, "Director Julie Acton thanked the communicators for their dedication and described the PST's as unsung heroes with roles that are so vital to our county I just wanted to take the opportunity to recognize and thank them." He further shared Director Acton's words from February 2016 in regards to the 911 center and that all dispatch services are under one roof. April 2014, Deputy Director Cross congratulated the hard work of the PST's keeping the county safe during equipment upgrades and that they are the unsung heroes of Salem County. Despite these previous comments, Mr. O'Donnell pointed out that those people are here tonight fighting for their jobs. "If Forrest Eichmann were here today, would be having these same conversations?"

David Schaeffer, Mannington, Vice Chair of Preservation Board - Mr. Schaeffer questioned why the Freeholders did not discuss the cut to the dedicated open space tax with the Agriculture Board. Director Acton stated that a meeting will be set up to discuss it. Mr. Schaeffer was banking on this program for a recent farm he purchased with his son. He stated that as a dedicated Republican he is ashamed of the current Freeholder Board.

Patrick Bomba, 628 Hawks Bridge Road, Carneys Point – Mr. Bomba questioned if anyone had contacted state leaders to see if money could be diverted to Salem County to support business.

Carolyn Shoemaker, Vice President of CWA Local 1085 - Over the past four years, she has seen many things that disappoint her. Hardworking people have lost their jobs and she hates to see additional ones do the same. She is not aware of any positives associated with privatization. She is concerned about the departments that have lost employees over the past few years and the idea of part time people doing full time work.

Ed Segrest, Woodstown Borough Councilman - Commented that things are not going to get any easier. These issues are likely to repeat themselves in the future. He commented that a major factor in the current financial situation is that Salem County does not get enough school aid and that state legislatures need to make changes to the current funding formula.

John Hoehn, Pennsville – Mr. Hoehn stated that he teaches his students that sometimes good decisions have bad results but that does not make the decision bad. He asked that a decision criteria with regards to outsourcing be established and share with the public. He too is concerned about the ratables and expects to be in a similar situation in the future and the solution is focused efforts in the area of economic development.

Ed Meschi, Pinyard Rd, Monroeville – Upper Pittsgrove has had a \$.02 dedicated tax and was forced to reduce it to \$.01. He suggests a compromise in the reduction of the county's tax as reinstating it in the future will be very difficult.

Greg Windfeld, Deepwater - Mr. Windfeld stated that he does not understand that when it comes to budget cuts why public safety tends to be the first item on the chopping block. He pointed out the PST's in attendance and shared how grateful he is that these are voices he hears when on an emergency call.

Freeholder Ware - stated that there is a reason that Salem County is number one in the state in regards to preserved farmland. It is due to the dedicated agriculture workers of Salem County. Mr. Ware is disappointed in the majority that they did not contact the Ag Advisory Board and him as the Freeholder liaison in regards to cuts to the open space. He stated that when he was the Freeholder Director, members of his team suggested to "go after" that \$.02 tax (open space) and he said no, we will not and it did not happen. He went on to share about an incident at Woodstown High School where a teacher suffered from a seizure. He applauded the efforts of the PST's in handling the emergent situation. He called for the Freeholder Board to end the idea of privatizing immediately.

Freeholder Director Acton stated that decisions do not come easy or lightly.  
Freeholder Director closed by thanking everyone for attending.

Director Acton thanked everyone for their comments and announced the next meeting will be held on May 18, 2016, at 4:00 PM at the Olde Courthouse located at 104 Market Street. Salem, New Jersey. There will be no workshop meeting prior.

Deputy Director Cross made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Freeholder Vanderslice.

Director Acton stated there was a motion and a second and before we adjourn, Director Acton directed the following comment to Freeholder Ware. "In 2011, February 2, when your budget was presented as you as the director, "The county tax rate will be increased by 1.4 cents. However, we have decided that because our residents are already facing economic hardships, we will suspend 1 cent of the 2 cents dedicated farmland preservation tax so that our residents will only realize a .4 cent increase. I have talked to Andy Buzby along with our administrator and he is willing, and they are willing, to suspend it for one year which will be back next year. We have money in farmland preservation to fund, to maintain this important program while we would take this extraordinary effort to limit the affect on the county budget and on our residents."

The adjournment carried by hand vote of 6/0 at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Crouch, Clerk of the Board