

DRAFT

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Director Acton who then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 with quorum met: Deputy Director Cross, Laury, Painter, Vanderslice, Ware and Director Acton.

Presentation

Empire Blended -

Salem City Mayor Charles Washington introduced Empire Blended, a company looking to manufacture and distribute product from a new plant in Salem City. Representing Empire Blended were Jay Gornitsky and Bob Rudy. Mr. Gornitsky anticipates bringing 100-125 new jobs to the area using all new hires, not by moving current employees to the area. Mr. Rudy brought photos of the Salem City site along with information on what improvements they believe are needed from the County of Salem's rail infrastructure in order to get the site up and running. The Freeholders expressed interest in Empire Blended coming to the area and requested the County Engineer to further investigate.

CLOSED SESSION

R. 2016-330 authorizing the Exclusion of the Public from a Meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Salem was passed six for, zero against.

CWA Union representatives (Representatives) Carolyn Shoemaker and Susan Livingston presented the following two Step 3 grievances:

Direct Deposit – The Representatives requested the Freeholders to abandon mandatory direct deposit for all employees. They explained that several employees are not comfortable allowing for direct deposit to take place and would prefer receiving a printed check. County Counsel provided alternatives that State law enabled direct deposit upon passage of a Freeholder resolution (already accomplished in Resolution 2016-259) but this could also be used as a bargaining tool in the collective bargaining agreement negotiations.

Tuition Reimbursement – The Representatives asked for the Freeholders to reverse a previous Step 2 denial of tuition reimbursement for a Health Department employee. They presented tuition reimbursement was an item in the Union contract and had been approved by the Health Department Head.

The Freeholder Board stated they would discuss and notify the Union when a decision was made.

Upon discussion the Freeholder Board voted that:

On the matter of Direct Deposit, Freeholder Vanderslice moved to uphold the Step 2 grievance denial reaffirming Resolution 2016-259 Requiring All County Employees To Participate In Direct Deposit For Net Pay with Freeholder Laury seconding his motion. As there was no discussion a hand vote was made of 5/1 with Freeholder Ware against.

On the matter of Tuition Reimbursement, Freeholder Laury moved to uphold the denial with Freeholder Painter seconding his motion. As there was no discussion a hand vote was made of 6/0.

Freeholder Vanderslice made a motion to adjourn the workshop meeting, seconded by Deputy Director Cross. The adjournment carried by hand vote of 6/0 at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis Harker, Clerk of the Board