

**SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
2007 REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2008
Salem Community College, Davidow Hall**

At 5:00 PM, opening music was performed by the Mt. Hope Church Choir prior to the beginning of the Reorganization Meeting.

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

Freeholder Elect: Lee R. Ware was sworn in by Superior Court Judge Benjamin Telsey with Senator Robert Menendez looking on.

Freeholder Elect: Julie A. Acton was sworn in by Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo.

Earl R. Gage, presiding protem, introduced Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo and Senator Stephen M. Sweeney for opening remarks.

Earl R. Gage, Clerk of the Board/Administrator, presiding Protem, called the Reorganization Meeting to order.

The Salem County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard presented the American Flag in a Color Guard procession. The Daretown Boy Scout Troop 60 led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

John Fecteau sang the National Anthem.

The President Protem asked Linda Garrison to deliver the invocation.

Soloist, Rhonda Gage then sang "The Irish Blessing".

The President Protem read the roll call and the following Freeholders were present: Freeholders Jeff Hogan, Charles Sullivan, Julie Acton, Bruce Bobbitt, Beth Timberman, David Lindenmuth and Lee Ware.

The President 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 Today's Sunbeam 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 President Protem presented the Election Certificates for Freeholders Lee R. Ware and Julie A. Acton.

The President Protem took nominations from the floor for Freeholder Director. Freeholder Sullivan nominated Freeholder Ware with Freeholder Hogan voicing the second. No other names were nominated. Nominations were closed on motion by Freeholder Lindenmuth, which was seconded by Freeholder Timberman. On roll call, the Freeholders unanimously approved the election of Lee R. Ware as Director by a hand vote of 6/0.

Senator Stephen M. Sweeney administered the Oath of Office to Freeholder Lee R. Ware as Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Salem County. As the Director's first official duty, he thanked the Board for re-electing him as Director for the year 2008. The following statement was read by Director Ware:

Good evening! I want to thank each of you for attending our annual Reorganization Meeting. Additionally, I wish to extend my appreciation to my colleagues on the Board for their faith in me by electing me as their Director once again. Each Freeholder brings to the Board a different set of experiences, personality, and perspectives which keeps this team strong and focused. As a long-time coach, it is my intention to keep this Board on the right track to ensure prosperity, progress, and promise for all of Salem County.

I have to say that I find these reorganization meetings bitter-sweet. While it is sweet to gather together to reaffirm our commitment to Salem County, it is bitter that for the past three reorganizations that the old broken down coach faces continual reconstruction brought about by old age. Last year, I had a boot on my foot, the year before I just came off of knee replacement, and this year I am preparing for surgery on my back. Sheriff Miller- please instruct your officers that the buzzing in the Court house by the metal detectors is not a weapon, just my broken down body.

This past year was marked with tremendous progress on many fronts including: economic development, farmland preservation, and renovating Salem County government to be more streamlined and able to compete in the changing world. Recognizing that taxes are everyone's priority, including my own, we have instituted a hiring freeze, conducted zero-based budget reviews, and lowered the tax rate by five cents.

While we have made great progress, we know that we have much more to do. One of the great philosophers of our time, Paul Ricoeur, stated "The moral law commands us to make the highest possible good in a world the final object of all our conduct." As we look to the next year we know that more must be done to make certain that Salem County government remains responsive to its citizens and strives to make the highest possible good our goal by ensuring that **no one is left behind**.

I want to congratulate Freeholder Acton on her election and we all look forward to working with you to continue to make Salem County strong and a better place for future generations.

As a coach, I know that we rise and fall together as a team. A team is only as strong as its support staff and each of the Freeholders have a great team behind us with our family and friends that are gathered here this evening. I would like to thank each of you for your support and efforts to help us help others.

APPLAUSE

Additionally, I want to thank my family: my mom- the matriarch of the Ware family who has been to more of these reorganizations than anyone I know, my wife Patti, and my three children, as well as acknowledge the memory of my father, Preston, and my brother, Clint, who both served on the Freeholder Board. They truly taught me by example, what scripture instructs us, "that to whom much is given, much is expected."

I also want to extend my welcome and appreciation to our United States Senator Robert Menendez and Congressman Frank LoBiondo for attending this evening and for fighting the good fight in Washington to make sure that Salem County is on the map. Additionally, we have our Third District team here with us this evening: State Senator Stephen Sweeney, Assemblyman John Burzichelli, and Assemblyman Douglas Fisher. This team

always stands by Salem County and makes sure that we receive the funding and support we need from the State to keep Salem County strong. I also want to recognize the newly sworn-in Superior Court Judge, The Honorable Benjamin Telsey, and thank him for taking the time to come and administer the oath of office, especially since he has always administered the oath to me and tonight would not be the same without him. We are proud of you, Judge Telsey (**APPLAUSE**). And we are truly blessed to have Linda Garrison offer the invocation and Rev. Dr. Edward Dorn to offer the benediction.

I also want to thank those who have come before us in serving the public. Their blood, sweat, and sacrifice have paved the way for Salem County's success. Some of the former Freeholders present with us this evening: Ben Timberman, Bill Kugler, Jack Kugler, Lester Harris, Leo Fredericks, and Tom Pankok who also served as Assemblyman. <APPLAUSE>

Our gratitude and welcome also needs to be extended to former Prosecutor Frank Hoerst...former Sheriff John Cooksey.

I also want acknowledge our County Surrogate Nicki Burke, who truly serves the people of Salem County well during their hardest times of loss. Our County Clerk Gilda Gill-thank you for your service to the people of Salem County.

Our Salem County law enforcement community brings great pride to the people of Salem County because of their integrity, dedication, and professionalism. The reason that they are second to none in the State of New Jersey is because of the outstanding leadership of Prosecutor John Lenahan and Sheriff Chuck Miller who both serve our County with distinction.

We are grateful to Salem County Community College and their President, Dr. Pete Contini for allowing us to use their facilities this evening and for their continuing dedication to the advancement of our County.

APPLAUSE

I also want to thank Harvest Community Bank for sponsoring the beautiful flowers and for the Mount Hope Church Choir for lending their talents for this evening's festivities. Also, thank you Rhonda Gage for her beautiful rendition of the Irish Blessing. Additionally, I want to thank the Boy Scout Troop #60 and our Sheriff's Department Color Guard for their presentation this evening.

I also want to express our gratitude to our Clerk of the Board & Administrator Earl Gage, Deputy Administrator Robin Weinstein, and their outstanding staff for putting this festive evening together. This evening is months in the making and takes a lot of hard work and we thank them for their dedicated service.

Salem County has moved forward because we have worked together as a team. President Harry Truman once remarked that a "statesman is a politician who has been dead for 20 years." I believe that this sentiment is a sad, but true reality for many within the political arena. However, it is my commitment to change this in Salem County by pledging to each of you that we will work together, setting aside partisan politics, to advance the agenda of the people of Salem County firmly believing that a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people will not perish."

As a team we will continue to address our common obstacles and as a team we will overcome them. Salem County deserves great things and we have been charged by the people to deliver. We will continue to work to address the growing property tax problem by streamlining County government, controlling spending, and working to share services

among all levels of government. Additionally, Salem County will continue to be responsive in addressing the quality of life issues of our residents and to ensure that we are making good on our commitment for a better today and stronger tomorrow. Thank you.

The President Protem took nominations from the floor for Freeholder Deputy Director. Freeholder Hogan nominated Freeholder Lindenmuth with Freeholder Sullivan voicing the second. No other names were nominated. On roll call, the Freeholders unanimously approved the election of David T. Lindenmuth as Deputy Director by a hand vote of 6/0.

Director Ware asked if there was a waiver of the rules for tonight's meeting. Clerk of the Board Gage stated that there was not.

The following proposed Freeholder resolutions were read by the Clerk of the Board:

R. 2008-001
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION SETTING JOB CLASSIFICATION TITLES AND SALARY RANGES FOR 2008

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-002
RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE RULES TO GOVERN THE
SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2008

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-003
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-004
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE CLERK OF THE
BOARD/ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-005
ADMINISTRATIVE
RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING COUNTY ADJUSTER FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-006
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION CREATING THE POSITION OF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Lindenmuth moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Timberman seconding his motion. On discussion, Freeholder Acton questioned this resolution. Director Ware responded that the Public Safety committee has recommended separation the two positions currently held by Carl Wentzell, Emergency Management Coordinator and Executive of Emergency Services. As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2008-007
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-008
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING A DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-009
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING THE SALEM COUNTY 9-1-1 COORDINATOR

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-010
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-011
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING THE
DIRECTOR, SALEM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-012
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING THE MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR
FOR SALEM COUNTY AND APPOINTING SAID INDIVIDUAL TO THE
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD AND AS PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-013
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING A PURCHASING AGENT

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-014
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING A TRAFFIC SAFETY COORDINATOR

Deputy Director Lindenmuth moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Timberman seconding his motion. On discussion, Freeholder Acton asked what the position of Traffic Safety Coordinator entailed. Director Ware explained that this is an oversight position working on safety conditions of roadways and intersections, and attending State Safety meetings. As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2008-015
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING THE SUPERVISOR OF VETERANS INTERMENT

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-016
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING A LABOR AND LITIGATION COUNSEL
AND AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-017
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT
WITH THE IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-018
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Deputy Director Lindenmuth moved for adoption of this resolution, with Freeholder Timberman seconding his motion. On discussion, Freeholder Acton asked if Carl Wentzells' salary would decrease since he would be having less responsibilities. Director Ware responded that the salary would stay the same. As there was no further discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolution carried a hand vote of 7/0.

R. 2008-019
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-020
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING AUDITORS
AND AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-021
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING BOND COUNSEL
AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-022
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR EMPLOYMENT RELATED MATTERS
AND AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-023
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ATTORNEY FOR THE
OFFICE ON AGING ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-024
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING A PHYSICIAN FOR THE
SALEM COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND AWARING CONTRACT
FOR SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Deputy Director Lindenmuth 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.

R. 2008-025
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING A MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE
SALEM COUNTY NURSING HOME AND
AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

At this point in the meeting, Director Ware stated that if no Freeholder objected, the following resolutions would be read in bulk:

R. 2008-026
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLDER MEMBERS
TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

R. 2008-027
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF FREEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES
TO THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

R. 2008-028
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A LABOR NEGOTIATIONS TEAM FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2008-029
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

R. 2008-030
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-031
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE SEARCH COMMITTEE

R. 2008-032
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-033
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION

R. 2008-034
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-035
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R. 2008-036
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-037
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING MEDICAL INVESTIGATORS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2008-038
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING PATHOLOGISTS FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2008-039
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
MEDICAL PROVIDERS OF SALEM COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

R. 2008-040
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION

R. 2008-041
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-042
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SALEM COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

R. 2008-043
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-044
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY

R. 2008-045
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-046
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-047
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

R. 2008-048
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-049
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-050
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-051
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

R. 2008-052
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
SALEM COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

R. 2008-053
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

R. 2008-054
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2008-055
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A BANKING SERVICES PROVIDER
FOR THE COUNTY OF SALEM

R. 2008-056
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR REQUIRED BANK ACCOUNTS

R. 2008-057
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR BANK ACCOUNTS

R. 2008-058
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPROVING SIGNATORIES FOR REQUIRED BANK ACCOUNT

R. 2008-059
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2008 TEMPORARY BUDGET

R. 2008-060
ADMINISTRATIVE

RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN
ASSISTANT PURCHASING AGENT

Deputy Director Lindenmuth moved for adoption of these thirty-four resolutions, (resolutions 26 through 60) with Freeholder Timberman seconding his motion. As there was no discussion, the motion for adoption of the foregoing resolutions carried a hand vote of 7/0.

President Protem read the following Committee Assignments:

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

FH Committee	Chairperson	FH 1	FH 2
Administration	Lee Ware	Dave Lindenmuth	Beth Timberman
Finance	Chuck Sullivan	Jeff Hogan	Julie Acton
Public Services	Julie Acton	Bruce Bobbitt	Chuck Sullivan
Health & Social Services	Jeff Hogan	Beth Timberman	Julie Acton
Public Safety	David Lindenmuth	Bruce Bobbitt	Jeff Hogan
Planning and Transportation	Beth Timberman	Dave Lindenmuth	Lee Ware
Public Works	Bruce Bobbitt	Chuck Sullivan	Lee Ware

The following Minority Freeholder Report was read by Freeholder Acton:

Good evening to my family, friends, colleagues and constituents. I want to begin tonight by thanking my dear husband John, and my sons Jonathan and Justin. You are truly the wind beneath my wings. Thank you for supporting me throughout the Freeholder appointment process and campaign. Thank you for giving me the courage to do it, and having patience with me.... while I did it. I also want to thank my mom for always being there, my Dad passed away a year ago yesterday, he is now on my shoulders guiding me.

I also want to thank Congressman LoBiondo for swearing me in tonight. It is a true honor to have you here Frank, and I appreciate the very kind words.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the rest of the Freeholders, Senator Menendez, Senator Sweeney, Assemblymen Burzichelli and Fisher; together we can make a very strong voice for the future of Salem County.

I have been asked by many people why did I want to get involved in politics?, some thought that I am just "too nice", or "too kind".

Lady Astor stated in 1922, when she was the first woman elected to the British parliament, "it was not so much a revolution, (pause) but rather an evolution.". I have spent many years working as a volunteer in dozens of organizations, from the Boy Scouts, to Women's Services, Meals on Wheels, Family Promise. I truly care about the people of Salem County. I care about their current situations, and how we together can make a better life for everyone here.

Salem County is a great place to live. When I went campaigning, I got to savor the beauty of our landscapes and it's people - I want to keep it that way. I ran for Freeholder because I felt that I could make a positive difference. I won because people trust I will do the right thing, (pause and slow) and not just to do things right.

I think that we all know that this board stands at 6 Democrats to 1 Republican, but to simply say that takes the humanity out of the board. We are all people. People with different values, different backgrounds, and different ideals.

In 1954 Eleanor Roosevelt was speaking about the United Nations, in this speech she spoke of building bridges, between people and nations. No, I don't want anyone to confuse this Freeholder board with the United Nations, but I like the "building bridges" part.

We can accomplish more together than we ever can fighting amongst ourselves. Although I ran a campaign based on keeping a minority voice, I will take a far greater responsibility in achieving the overall goal of giving Salem County a secure future. One of my favorite bible verses states: "So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessings at the appropriate time." Making Salem County better and securing its future should be our number one goal no matter if you are Republican or Democrat.

To more clearly define my role, I will say this: I will robustly support the majority on any topic that is for the rights and good of the people of Salem County. In the same way, I will stand up or for what I think is right. As it state in Corinthians Chapter 16, "Be on guard. Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong." That will be my motto throughout the next three years. My job is not to be a hindrance, but be one of seven strong voices not always agreeing, but

together, as Mrs. Roosevelt suggested, building and maintaining those bridges throughout Salem County.

Many challenges face Salem County as this new century turned. Development has threatened our way of life, yet lack of development threatens our downtown urban centers. Our seniors need transportation, hard-hit families need assistance, we all expect emergency services, our youth need access to higher education and jobs -- yet Salem County is screaming for tax relief. **And I hear you!!!** I will gladly work with the majority to the tax burden. I will continue to speak out against wasteful spending and voice my opposition to any programs that are not for the common good, the good of our collective future.

If I need to vote against a funding request, it will not be out of meanness or spite, I assure you, but because that expenditure is not the best or right thing to do at that time. Ronald Reagan stated in his first inaugural address "We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow." Let there be no misunderstanding. I am ready to act. I stand ready to work. I support farmland preservation and dedicated open space. I support Smart Growth and the critical economic development it can attract. As I have said before, I love life in Salem County and I want my children, and my grandchildren to experience that same beauty and greatness. I don't have all the answers, but together, I know we can find the balance.

In closing, a proverb states, "Good people are guided by their honesty; treacherous people are destroyed by their dishonesty". I urge the seven of us to work together for the common good. To work hard for what is right. Together develop a comprehensive vision for Salem County that gives the most to our citizens without taxing them into poverty.

My family has given me strength. God has given me my compassion. And the people of Salem County have given me my voice. Thank you all and God Bless Salem County.

The following Majority Freeholder Report was read by Deputy Director Lindenmuth along with a power point presentation:

(SLIDE 1- Leaving No One Behind)

This last Election cycle boasted the lowest voter turnout since 1999—with only one in three registered voters casting their ballots. This is a startling statistic that should serve as a wake up call for us all. Some may argue that the results of the last election constituted a mandate. However, I believe that the louder message came not from those who voted, but from those who chose not to vote.

Scripture tells us that "where there is no vision, the people will perish." Vision is what is missing in politics today and has thereby made government unresponsive to the basic needs of its citizens: a common goal. The people in New Jersey and in Salem County have spoken loud and clear to those in elected office that a true reform is vitally necessary. This reform has less to do with the issues of taxes, farmland preservation, and social reform, as it does with the fundamental desire in each of us to leave this world better for our children than it was given to us.

(SLIDE 2- Leaving No One Behind- Freeholder Group)

Tonight's State of the County speech will not be your normal political rhetoric which seeks to spin accomplishments, for the truth does not need spin. Rather, this evening's speech will be about the truth: the truth about our record, the truth about the County's

needs, and the truth about our vision for the future. We will not be threatened by the issues, instead we seek to put them front and center.

Salem County is “the Garden Spot of the Garden State” and is a great place to live, raise a family and to grow old in. We must ensure the safety of all of our residents and work to improve the quality of life for everyone. We believe that government is not and should not be an abstract bureaucratic institution that exists for the sake of existing. We believe that government is, instead, a group of diverse people that join together to seek to help other people. Everyday County Government is making a real difference in the lives of its residents. Through the Office on Aging, the Office for the Disabled, or our Veterans’ Services Department – just to name a few- we are making a positive change in our community.

Common sense government is the cornerstone of our principles. If it will improve lives and save money—then we must do it. Colin Powell once remarked that “Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers who can cut through argument, debate, and doubt to offer a solution that everyone can understand.” Sometimes we live up to General Powell’s sentiments, and other times we fall short, but, all the while, we keep our eyes on the prize desiring to serve the people of Salem County with integrity, courage, and wisdom, so that we can keep government responsive to the citizens it was elected to serve.

As Director Ware has stated many times, “Our approach to government does not deal with being a ‘big’ or ‘small’ government; rather, it has everything to do with being an effective government that best addresses the needs of the people.” This common sense view of governance has allowed Salem County to move forward on many fronts that will continue to stimulate planned economic growth, while at the same time preserving and enhancing our rural legacy of excellence.

(SLIDE 3- Gateway Business Park)

Salem County has the lowest population density in the State and this presents us with a tremendous benefit, as well as a tremendous challenge in regards to economic development. The Freeholders, working in tandem with our Economic Development engine, the Improvement Authority, are diligently working to coordinate our assets and effectively market our strengths to businesses and government leaders alike. One of the shining successes of this approach is the Gateway Business Park in Oldmans Township, which over the last two years has garnered three new tenants, which bring more ratables into the County, as well as more jobs. The success of this project involves strategic thinking and a firm resolve. The Gateway Business Park harnesses the attractiveness of the I-295 transportation corridor and combines it with the County’s proactive business-friendly incentives.

(SLIDE 4- Salem County Infrastructure)

If we are to continue to grow economically, we must continue our efforts to improve our infrastructure in the areas of transportation, planning, and marketing. The Salem County Public Works and Engineering Departments, under Freeholder Bobbitt’s direction, have been successful in completing many road and bridge projects. However, in Salem County, transportation is not just limited to roads and bridges, but also our continuing efforts to renovate the Salem County railroad. Our short line rail system is a valuable asset to businesses, such as Mannington Mills, Anchor Glass, and the South Jersey Farmers Exchange, just to name a few. If we are to continue to make Salem County an attractive location for these businesses, which employ numerous County residents, then we must continue our aggressive efforts to secure funding for the renovation projects. With Freeholder Timberman leading the way, we have made great progress with the rail road, but there is more work to be done. We will continue our aggressive lobbying efforts to secure more funding until this project is completed.

(SLIDE 5- Farmland Funding)

Planning is an essential element to controlled Economic Development, as well as ensuring that we do not lose the rural agricultural legacy that makes Salem County great. One of the County's most successful tools in directing development is Farmland and Open Space Preservation. We have instituted a new tool in our fight to responsibly preserve land called the Installment Purchase Agreement, otherwise referred to as IPA. IPAs allow us to purchase more land by paying for it over time, rather than in one lump sum, with no increased cost to the County. We know that preserving Salem County is important to you, but we also know that you need to pay your bills, and the IPA gives us the tool to accomplish our goals without breaking the bank.

While the Freeholders share your concern with preserving farmland and keeping taxes low, we also know that we need to ensure that we are also preserving the farmer, so that we can remain the Garden Spot of the Garden State. Accordingly, we are broadening the mission of the Planning Department to support our preservation efforts. The new Department of Planning and Agriculture's mission will be to preserve farmland and open space, support our farmers in their efforts to remain competitive in a changing world, and to responsibly plan Salem County's development through assistance to our municipalities and advocacy to the State and Federal Government. We will be replacing a consultant with a full-time Planning Director, which will be less money and provide more services, as well as consolidating existing resources under this department. We will be improving services, while at the same time we will be saving money -**Common Sense**.

(SLIDE 6- Tourism)

Salem County has been successful in getting on the map and garnering more money from funding sources outside the tax base in the areas of planning and transportation. One of the markets that has been relatively untapped by Salem County is the tourism industry. Salem County is beautiful and has many treasured environmental and historical resources that will appeal to people. However, we have remained one of New Jersey's best kept secrets for too long and we want our share of the over 37 billion dollars spent in tourism last year. In order to generate more tourism revenue, we are in the process of developing a marketing plan, which has been a cooperative venture among community, business, and government leaders-involving all stakeholders. A successful marketing program can help Salem County achieve a number of benefits including additional jobs in sectors such as hotels, restaurants, retail establishments, and transportation. New jobs lead to a multiplier effect of direct and indirect tourism dollars which are recycled through the local economy.

(SLIDE 7- Tax Rate)

Our successful economic development initiatives have provided us with the means to dramatically reduce the tax rate. This administration of the Board of Chosen Freeholders has lowered the tax rate seven cents amounting to over \$3.4 million in 2007. However, we know that the tax rate is only one part of the equation to sustainable tax relief as the County must address spending. This year, under the watchful eye of Freeholder Sullivan, we have instituted a modified zero-based budgeting review process for all departments to justify every penny over 50% of last year's funding. This process has allowed us to hold the line on many budget items, as well as decreasing others. Additionally, we have instituted a hiring freeze for 2008.

(SLIDE 8- In-House Employee Trainings)

Also in the past year we have been able to save over \$50,000 by consolidating employee trainings and doing them in-house, as opposed to contracting them out. Many Departments need the same training, so rather than do them separately we looked at combining them. We also looked for people who were certified to do the trainings when we filled open positions hiring - **Common Sense**. This administration created the

Department of Human Resources in 2006, which has standardized all of our policies and procedures and coordinated our trainings to ensure that we are in compliance with Federal and State mandates. In cooperation with the Office of Emergency Management, as well as other departments, this new coordinated and streamlined approach has made a substantial difference in county spending, as well as ensured that our employees are the best they can be. Not only is there a savings on the county level, but these trainings are open to municipalities as well. Thus, there is a savings on your municipality tax rate as well.

(SLIDE 9- Shared Services)

In addition to the in-house changes we are making to eliminate redundancy and inefficiency, we have also worked to become the lead agency in coordinating shared services both within and outside of the County. We have awarded contracts for the feasibility studies concerning: Municipal Courts, County-wide Police, and Shared Cultural & Heritage Operation with Cumberland County. Additionally, we are working to provide municipalities with the **option** of contracting with the County for various positions that we believe can be consolidated. It is important that everything is on the table as we seek to consolidate services using a common sense approach and that we work together to make sure that we are providing great service at a lower cost - again, common sense.

As we move forward, it is imperative that we continue to plan for our future. This year we will be engaging in a Strategic Planning process to outline our goals for the next five years and how we will achieve them. The planning will involve both renovating County government and addressing the social problems that affect us all.

In regards to internal practices, we will continue to work with the newly formed Diversity Advisory Council to develop a strategic diversity plan that will address County practices from recruitment to retention. It is essential that our practices as a County reflect the best values of our society to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table and no one is left behind.

(SLIDE 10- Going Green)

The County will also seek to become a leader in environmentally friendly practices by "Going Green." We will seek innovative solutions to our energy needs by harnessing solar, wind, and other renewable energies to ensure that our business practices will create a cleaner environment today and tomorrow – an example is the Utilities Authority Gas to Glass project. To assist the County in these endeavors, we will be fully activating the Energy Committee which will serve as a resource for government and businesses alike in making Salem County a leader in environmentally friendly energy use practices and innovations.

(SLIDE 11- Salem County's Children)

Our vision involves much more than County government itself, we want to turn County Government into an agent of social change by addressing the problems plaguing our communities. In Salem County, **one out of ten** children is growing up in poverty.

As a long time educator, I firmly believe that our most solemn responsibility is to our children. Therefore, we are pledging our commitment to reduce childhood poverty in Salem County through the creation of the Salem County Children's Health Initiative under our Department of Health and Social Services. This new initiative will be given the goal of assuring that all children in the County have health insurance by strengthening and expanding the system of safety-net clinics, especially school-based health centers, and by educating the public on the various programs that are available to children.

(SLIDE 12- Flu Clinic)

This past year, Salem County Health Department, under the Chairmanship of Freeholder Hogan, instituted a new program "Shots for Tots," which provides free immunizations for children without health insurance or who have insurance that does not cover immunizations. We will continue this program, in addition to expanding our drive-through flu clinics and flu-shot services which provided 1800 shots to Salem County residents for the first time-very proud of- at no-cost. It is imperative that we are proactive with our children's health so that they can have happy and safe childhoods.

(SLIDE 13- Child Abuse)

Part of having a happy and safe childhood is to have a safe home. Salem County rates of child abuse and substitute care exceed the statewide rate and the rate of family problem referrals is twice that of the State average. We are pledging our commitment to lowering this startling statistic by partnering with many of our social service agencies to establish the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council of Salem County. This council will have the mission to build a community where children are free from abuse and neglect by promoting healthy, nurturing relationships between children and adults. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, the Council will provide programs and events which foster the well-being of children and families throughout Salem County.

Families cannot foster well-being without having someplace to call home. Salem County has already established a Homeless Task Force with the goal of dramatically reducing homelessness in the County over the next ten years. The Freeholders are supporting this task force, and we pledge our financial support in the next year to ensure their success in addressing this problem.

(SLIDE 14- Vo-Tech)

One of the contributing factors to homelessness and childhood poverty is unemployment. We need to address the barriers that prevent parents from working and earning a living wage. Accordingly, the Freeholders will work with the Vo-Tech and Community College to expand opportunities that support the professional development of child care providers with training scholarships to help build a skilled and stable child care work force. Additionally, we need to research new avenues of helping parents achieve their educational and vocational goals by exploring new methods of assisting parents in going back to school. This, we believe, will have a generational effect. By children seeing their parents value education, the children will be encouraged to pursue their educational goals as well. Personally, witnessing how my parents valued education lead to me valuing and continuing to value education today.

(SLIDE 15- Community College)

Salem County is blessed that the Community College takes a proactive stance on education. Furthering education is a critical key to the County's economic development initiative, as well as addressing many of the social problems that plague our County. If we are to bring the high paying jobs to Salem County, then we need to have a workforce that will attract them. Accordingly, the Freeholders are pledging their continued support of the College and its efforts to bring bachelor degree programs to Salem County. It is critical for us to educate our population and retain them here so that we can benefit from their knowledge.

To help more Salem County residents earn a bachelor's degree, Salem Community College has established dual-admission agreements with Wilmington University, Chestnut Hill College and Strayer University. This past fall Wilmington University began offering its own bachelor-degree level business administration and nursing courses at our Community College.

Our high schools also need our attention. We believe that the high school drop-out rate is much too high. Therefore, we will create a High School Retention Task Force. Bringing

together parents, community leaders, education professionals, and government representatives- again involving all the stakeholders so everyone has a voice- this task force will have the goal of cutting high school drop-outs by half in five years.

(SLIDE 16- Department of Consumer Affairs)

Our focus on education is not just on institutional education, we also strive to educate the public on issues such as crime and fraud. We are going to expand the mission of the Department of Weights and Measures to include Consumer Affairs to educate the public on bad business practices and to be an advocate for them when they fall victim to them. Through this Department of Consumer Affairs, we will work to educate and help our population. Additionally, many within our County are eligible, but do not take advantage of, the Earned Income Tax Credit. Salem County government will work with Social Service Agencies to educate our population on this important program that rewards work by assisting struggling families.

We will also partner with our law enforcement community to implement the Governor's Safe Streets and Neighborhood Crime Reduction Initiative. Through education and enforcement, we will continue to address the growing recruitment activities, drug and alcohol abuse, and violence. Part of our plan is to increase law enforcement education outreach programs for our schools through our Prosecutor and Sheriff's offices. I have asked, and both Prosecutor Lenahan and Sheriff Miller have eagerly agreed, that both offices work together to develop a plan to regularly visit every school in the County. By maintaining and strengthening law enforcement's positive presence among the youth, we believe that we can win them over through persuasion, rather than through punishment. We want to reach and teach them, before they get into trouble.

(SLIDE 17- Let's Get to Work)

It has been said that "Your ability and your aptitude will not affect your altitude as much as your attitude."

Again, "Your ability"-how good you are- "and your aptitude"- how smart you are- "will not affect your altitude"- how high you achieve and how far you go in life- "as much as your attitude".

This administration of the Freeholder Board believes that **we can and must** change the direction of our community in order to continue to remain a great place to live, work, and play for everyone. We maintain that we must **improve on the practices that make us strong, address the problems that confront us, and work together for a better today and stronger tomorrow**. We have set a bold agenda for the coming year and **we will** accomplish great things if we work together and use some **common sense**. If it improves services and saves money.... With that being said, lets get to work.

May God bless you and heaven smile upon you.

Thank you

Earl R. Gage, Clerk of the Board/Administrator, presiding Protem, asked Reverend Dr. Edward Dorn to deliver the benediction.

Director Ware thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Motion was made by Deputy Director Lindenmuth to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Freeholder Timberman. On roll call, the motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Earl R. Gage
Clerk of the Board