Special Meeting of the Salem County Improvement Authority
Joint Meeting with the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Tuesday August 28, 2012
Upper Floor Old Salem County Court House
Salem, New Jersey

Chairman John Ober called the Salem County Improvement Authority to order.

Roll call: John Ober Present
Pete Voros Present
Lew Schneider Present

Chairman John Ober stated that this request for a joint meeting has been a long process to have both parties to sit down and discuss issues.

Executive Director Deborah Turner Fox discussed that a list of open invoices was sent over to the County for payment. Many have been paid however there are still two outstanding invoices that must be paid by the County prior to the State approving SCIA the ability to pass their budget. The Division of Local Government Services will not approve the SCIA Budget until the $40,000 for County Correctional Facility Bond Administration for 2011 and 2012 is either certified by the County’s CFO that the money will be forth coming or a check is processed by the County for SCIA. On a motion by Freeholder Bobbitt, the Freeholders authorized CFO Wright to process payment for the $40,000 to SCIA immediately.

Executive Director Turner Fox also discussed the lengthy amount of time that it takes for the County to process payments for the monthly bill for Nursing Home Retirees Health benefits for July and August. This payment is due the 10th of each month and is billed over to the County however payments are 60 to 90 days behind. She reminded the Freeholders that this matter was specifically discussed in the Memorandum of Understanding that was submitted to the County at their request. Freeholder Vanderslice inquired who at the County received the MOU. Ms. Turner-Fox responded that it was sent over to the County Administrator twice and that the Freeholders were all copied on the last transmittal.

Chairman John Ober read the mission of the SCIA Economic Development Division.

Executive Director Turner Fox spoke on the benefits of Economic Development being managed through the SCIA, specifically those which County government is not authorized to undertake such as conduit bond financing. She stated some of the details of this division and the County wide benefits and suggested that the organizations continue to collaborate for the betterment of all of Salem County.
Freeholder Bobbitt stated that since SCIA is already doing a good job at Economic Development that the County should get on board and work with this agency not against it.

Freeholder Dale Cross inquired about the transfer of funds authorized at the SCIA Board meeting the previous evening. Ms. Turner-Fox indicated that that transfer would not affect SCIA’s ability to transfer 5% of the unrestricted revenues to the County, but was intended to set assist funding for construction of the next cell at the Solid Waste Division and replace aging equipment.

Freeholder Ben Laury stated he has concerns because of the most recent and past audit findings.

Chairman Ober stated that there were three findings in the audit, which showed significant improvement over prior years. The first being late entries into the General Ledger. Chairman Ober stated that four of Salem County municipal audits that he was able to find on line have the same audit finding. This has been resolved since the employee that was responsible for this duty is no longer employed by SCIA and since SCIA no employees an accountant. Secondly the software which recorded tonnage at the Scalehouse incorrectly reported the taxable tonnage. It was charging for taxes but not distribute to the correct line item. This was found by the SCIA staff prior to this audit and has been remedied. He also stated he requested an independent auditor look at the sale of the Nursing Home and the cost to SCIA over the three year period of ownership.

Petroni and Associates compiled the independent audit and reviewed the numbers and these numbers are accurate.

(M)Peter Voros, (S) L. Schneider to adjourn the joint meeting of the Salem County Improvement Authority and the Salem County Board of Freeholders.

All approved, meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

[Signature]

Joan M. Cole
Recording Secretary