

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
County Government with a Unified Voice

BETH E. TIMBERMAN
NJAC President
Salem County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Friday – April 15, 2011
State House Annex - Committee Room 4
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

The meeting was called to order by NJAC President and Salem County Freeholder Beth E. Timberman at 10:06 a.m.

After saluting the American flag, John G. Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director, called roll and a quorum was present.

County Members in Attendance:

Frank Formica, Atlantic County Freeholder Chairman
Ed Trawinski, Bergen County Administrator
Stephen O'Connor, Cape May County Administrator
Carol Clark, Essex County Freeholder
Frank DiMarco, Gloucester County Freeholder
Jeffrey Dublin, Hudson County Freeholder
Ann Cannon, Mercer County Freeholder
Blanquita Valenti, Middlesex County Freeholder
Robert Clifton, Monmouth County Freeholder Director
Doug Cabana, Morris County Freeholder Deputy Director
Anthony DeNova, Passaic County Administrator
Beth Timberman, Salem County Freeholder
Peter Palmer, Somerset County Freeholder
Angel Estrada, Union County Freeholder
Richard Gardner, Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director
Tom DeGise, Hudson County Executive
Frank Bruno, Somerset County Surrogate
M. Claire French, Monmouth County Clerk
Charles Miller, Salem County Sheriff

Absent:

Burlington County, Camden County, Cumberland County, Ocean County, and Sussex County.

Freeholder Ron Sworen of Hunterdon County attended.

The minutes of the January 25, 2011 Board Meeting were unanimously approved on a Warren/Hudson County motion.

Guest Speakers:

Bridgette Kelly and Matt O'Keefe of the NJ Government Relations Team briefly presented before the board informing them of their availability to assist counties.

Richard Bagger, Chief of Staff to Governor Chris Christie, addressed the board members on key issues concerning New Jersey Government. Mr. Bagger touched on the 2% cap and shared services. He reported on the Health Benefits Reform. Right now private sector employees pay up to 25% toward health benefits. The State is considering the same benefits module used for Federal employees, for its public employees. Mr. Bagger addressed the cost of healthcare and mentioned negotiations are in place for a sliding scale.

The pension system is under funded by approximately \$54 billion. Raising the retirement age to 65 and adjusting the cost of living expenses are being considered to aid the pension system.

Official Reports:

1. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** - NJAC Secretary/Treasurer and Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director Richard Gardner presented to the Board the financial reports of NJAC and NJAC Benefits. The reports were unanimously approved on a Sheriff/Mercer County motion.
2. **President's Report** - NJAC President Timberman asked for motions on the following:
 - a. Resolution - General Counsel - Freeholder Palmer motioned to approve this resolution, Administrator DeNova seconded the motion and President Timberman asked for a roll call vote. Roll call was done and the resolution was unanimously approved.
 - b. Resolution - NJAC Transparency (Amendment) - This resolution was unanimously approved on a Mercer/Morris County motion.
 - c. Resolution - Transportation Trust Fund - This resolution was unanimously approved on a Warren/Mercer County motion.

President Timberman encouraged all board members to get involved with the conference and participate at the conference in Atlantic City. She also requested that the board members reach out to businesses to attend the conference.

3. **Executive Director's Report** - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio welcomed Bergen County Administrator Ed Trawinski and remarked that Burlington County announced they will rejoin NJAC membership. Freeholder Sworen was thanked for his support of NJAC.

An Annual Conference update was provided. Verizon will be hosting the Legislative Forum Luncheon. PSEG is this year's corporate sponsor and host of the President's Awards Dinner on the night of Thursday, June 16th. There will be DJ entertainment on Wednesday, June 15th, at the Exhibitors' Reception and a band at the President's Reception and Dinner. County employees are encouraged to attend.

Topics for conference workshops were requested. A new freeholder and county official orientation is being offered as a seminar. Continuing Education credits for the seminars are being offered. Fifty (50) exhibitors have already registered.

Conference Committee notes from meetings were included in the board packets and shared with board members.

The 2011 audit is completed. Once the reports are received they will be distributed for board members to review and approve then they will be posted on the website to comply with the Transparency Resolution.

Already posted on the website are: meeting minutes, resolutions, budget, legislative update, and conference information.

NACo is holding their Annual Conference July 15th through the 19th in Portland, Oregon. Board members were provided with conference registration and hotel reservation forms.

A healthcare survey was recently conducted by NJAC. County Administrators were thanked for their participation and quick responses. Yearly \$600 million are spent in healthcare.

On Monday, June 18th, Sussex County Administrator Eskilson will be joining Mr. Donnadio in meeting with Senate President Sweeney to discuss benefits reform and pension reform proposals.

Freeholder Clark inquired whether or not insurance companies have been confronted about the increased rates, and if the State's comptroller is looking into the insurance companies' price gauging. She also questioned if New Jersey has ever recovered from massive borrowing.

Freeholder Sworen added that if pension payments (made by counties) are late, there is a 10% fee charged.

4. **Legislative Committee Report** - Monmouth County Freeholder Director Robert D. Clifton informed all Board members that a copy of the Legislative Update was enclosed in the provided packets and turned this portion of the meeting over to Mr. Donnadio. Mr. Donnadio apprised board members on the status of Pension and Health Benefits Reform.

Other Business:

During the board meeting Lt. Governor Guadagno visited and invited NJAC members to a meeting, in which streamlining economic development in counties will be discussed. Mr. Donnadio thanked her for the invitation and will remind county officials of the meeting via email. Mr. Donnadio invited Lt. Governor Guadagno to attend the NJAC Annual Conference.

Freeholder Palmer inquired about the status of funding for psychiatric hospitals. Mr. Donnadio reported there was no change and that Karen Kubert, Director of Human Services for Warren County, is spearheading for the change in the formula for reimbursement.

Hudson County Administrator Abe Antun stated there is a problem with psychiatric hospital funding and the rate calculations. Mr. Antun reported that he filed a letter with the New Jersey Department of Human Services requesting a calculations rate change. He offered to share this letter with other counties should they be interested.

Michael Barrett, NJAC Transportation Consultant, reported on the Transportation Trust Fund. He referred to the NJ Local Aid & Transportation Trust Fund Report, dated November 2009. Freeholder Deputy Director Gardner stated this fund is needed. County roads are damaged due to heavy traffic from trucks, which many are out of state travelers.

This meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m. on a Warren/Monmouth County motion.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donnadio". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

John G. Donnadio
NJAC Executive Director

JD:kan:04/21/2011