

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice!

M. CLAIRE FRENCH
NJAC President
Monmouth County Clerk

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

NJAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2013

Trenton Country Club - Oakland Room
201 Sullivan Way, West Trenton, New Jersey

1. NJAC President Jeffry Dublin called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio conducted the roll call with the following board members present for a quorum: *Atlantic County Freeholder Frank Formica, Bergen County Administrator Ed Trawinski, Cape May County Freeholder Gerald Thornton, Essex County Freeholder Carol Y. Clark, Gloucester County Freeholder Heather Simmons, Hudson County Freeholder and NJAC President Jeffrey Dublin, Hunterdon County Freeholder John King, Mercer County Freeholder and NJAC Second Vice President Ann Cannon, Middlesex County Freeholder Blanquita Valenit, Middlesex County Clerk Elaine Flynn, Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor, Morris County Administrator John Bonanni, Sussex County Administrator John Eskilson, Union County Freeholder Vernell Wright, Warren County Freeholder and Immediate Past President Rick Gardner, Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes, Monmouth County Clerk and First Vice President Claire French, Mercer County Surrogate Diane Gerofsky. Also present were the Executive Director the Sheriffs Association of New Jersey and NJAC's General Counsel Michael O'Connell.*
3. NJAC Secretary/Treasurer Ed Trawinski presented the meeting minutes for the September 27, 2013 board of directors meeting. The board unanimously approved the minutes on a Monmouth County Clerk/Hudson County motion.
4. Secretary/Treasurer Trawinski also presented the NJAC financials dated October 31, 2013. The board unanimously approved the financials on a Warren County/Gloucester County motion.
5. NJAC Nomination Committee Chair Carol Clark presented the recommendations of the Nomination Committee for the 2014 slate of executive officers: The board unanimously approved the nominations below on a Bergen County/Warren County motion:

President – Monmouth County Clerk Claire French
First Vice President – Mercer County Freeholder Ann Cannon
Second Vice President – Bergen County Administrator Ed Trawinski
Secretary-Treasurer – Gloucester County Freeholder Heather Simmons
Immediate Past President – Hudson County Freeholder Jeffrey Dublin

6. NJAC Personnel Committee member Gerald Thornton presented the recommendations of the Personnel Committee, which included a discussion of the Executive Director's employment contract. The board unanimously approved renewing the Executive Director's contract on a Bergen County/Monmouth County Clerk motion.
7. NJAC President Jeffrey Dublin presented the date for NJAC's 2014 reorganization meeting. The board unanimously approved the date on an Essex County/Middlesex County motion.
8. President Jeffrey Dublin presented the schedule for NJAC's board of directors meetings in 2014. The board unanimously approved the schedule on a Union County/Monmouth County Clerk motion.
9. President Jeffrey Dublin presented the annual county dues, which included no increase for 2014. The board unanimously approved the date on a Hunterdon County/Gloucester County motion.
10. President Jeffrey Dublin presented NJAC's annual budget for 2014. The board unanimously approved the annual on a Bergen County/Warren County motion.
11. Executive Director Donnadio encouraged board members to visit with vendors at the Summit on the Affordable Care Act; and, noted that over 150 county and business leaders from across the State have registered for the event. NJAC put together two terrific panel discussions for an informative and educational half-day event. The first panel will discuss the Act in general, Medicaid expansion, what's expected of county governments, and the potential impact on county jails. The second panel will discuss employer responsibilities, legal and tax ramifications, and other practical implications under the Act. NJ 101.5's Kevin McArdle will moderate both panel discussions; and, Dr. Jaime R. Torres, the Region II Director for the United States Department of Health and Human Services, will serve as the keynote luncheon speaker.
12. Executive Director Donnadio also discussed NJAC's annual celebration of county government scheduled to take place this year from May 7th through May 9th at Caesar's in Atlantic City. The Executive Director

encouraged board members to participate in the upcoming conference committee meeting, at a date to be determined; and, noted that NJAC will once again host the only county vocational-technical school cook-off challenge in the nation.

13. NJAC First Vice President Claire French discussed NJAC's plan to advocate for extending the 2.0% cap on interest arbitration awards that is set to expire in April of 2014. First Vice President French pointed out that county governments dedicate approximately 50% of their overall budgets to salaries and wages; and, face a restrictive property tax cap levy where counties must prepare two comprehensive cap calculations and then use the more restrictive one. Failure to extend the 2.0% cap on interest arbitration awards will force county governments throughout the State to further reduce or even eliminate crucial services, personnel, and long-overdue infrastructure improvement projects.
14. First Vice President French also discussed NJAC's opposition to **ASSEMBLY, NO. 4147** (*Greenwald D-Camden/Rible R-Monmouth & Ocean*), which would require certain contract bid advertisements to contain certified cost estimate ranges, would specify the grounds for the rejection of all bids, and would require a 50% guaranty on bids. NJAC is primarily concerned with the fact that this legislation would circumvent the intended purpose and cost benefits of competitive bidding as the bill would provide contractors with little incentive to submit proposals below projected cost estimates. This legislation would also increase the cost of doing business with local governments as preparing bid solicitations would become more complex. Depending on the size and scope of a construction project, counties may be required to hire professional consultants to prepare comprehensive cost estimates. Moreover, county employees may not be qualified to "attest" to the accuracy of such cost estimates further driving up project expenses; and, could face potential litigation if the reasonableness of the estimate is challenged in court.
15. President Dublin adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. on a Warren County/Bergen County motion.