

**NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**  
*County Government with a Unified Voice!*

JEFFREY DUBLIN  
NJAC President  
Hudson County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO  
Executive Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

*Friday, June 28, 2013*

**State House Annex - Committee Room 4  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608**

The meeting was called to order by NJAC President and Hudson County Freeholder Jeffrey Dublin at 10:11 a.m.

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

**Members in Attendance:**

Jeffrey Dublin, *Hudson County Freeholder*  
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder*  
Ed Trawinski, *Bergen County Administrator*  
Richard Gardner, *Warren County Freeholder*  
John G. Donnadio, *NJAC Executive Director*  
Gerald M. Thornton, *Cape May County Freeholder Director*  
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*  
Edmund Grant, *Cape May County Director of Operations*  
Douglas Long, *Cumberland County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
Carol Clark, *Essex County Freeholder*  
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Freeholder*  
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*  
Matt Holt, *Hunterdon County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
John King, *Hunterdon County Freeholder*  
Gary Rich, *Monmouth County Freeholder*  
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*  
John W. Bartlett, *Passaic County Freeholder*  
John Eskilson, *Sussex County Administrator*  
Vernell Wright, *Union County Freeholder*  
Nicole Fox, *Improvement Authority of Passaic County – Executive Director*  
Thomas DeGise, *Hudson County Executive*  
Brian M. Hughes, *Mercer County Executive*  
Frank Bruno, *Somerset County Surrogate*  
John Armeno, *NJ Sheriff's Association Executive Director*

**Absent**

Atlantic County  
Burlington County  
Camden County  
Ocean County  
Middlesex County  
Salem County  
Somerset County  
County Clerk

**Also in attendance:**

Dr. Nilsa Gutierrez, *US Department of Health & Human Services – Director of Medical Affairs*  
Dennis Gonzalez, *US Department of Health & Human Services – Executive Officer*  
Joseph Hannon, Esq., *Associate of Genova, Burns, Giantomasi & Webster and NJAC Labor Counsel*

Michael O'Connell, Esq., *Associate of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Counsel*  
 Michael Barrett, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
 Dick Lane, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
 Allen Weston, *NJAC Legislative Director*  
 Loren Wizman, *NJAC Director of Business Development*  
 Kimberly Nolan, *NJAC Office Manager*  
 Dan Hornickel, *Burlington County Director of Human Resources*  
 Marge DellaVecchia, *Camden County Deputy Administrator*  
 Kimberly Wood, *Cumberland County Deputy Administrator*  
 Lisa Cerny, *Gloucester County Director of Human Services*  
 Daniele Spence, *Gloucester County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Simmons*  
 Dejon V. Morris, *Hudson County Chief of Staff to Freeholder Dublin*  
 Mary Jo Buchanan, *Morris County Deputy Administrator*  
 Cathy Burd, *Morris County Director of Human Services*  
 Joe Kovalcik, *Morris County*  
 Allison Stapleton, *Morris County*  
 Karen Kubert, *Warren County Director of Human Services*  
 Mike Schiller, *AXA Equitable Financial Professional*  
 Steve Higley, *AXA Equitable Financial Professional*  
 Wayne Kuss, *Capital One Bank*  
 Tammy Brown, *Conner Strong & Buckelew*  
 Greg Copeland, *File Bank, Inc. President*  
 Anne Casamano, *File Bank, Inc. Sales Manager*  
 Anchulee Yuanghirum, *First MCO Client Services Coordinator*  
 Thea Isabella, *First MCO Business Development*  
 Rob Wright, *Mutualink, Inc. Regional Project Development Manager*  
 Amy Magnuson, *North Jersey Transportation Authority Special Projects Manager, Board & Subregional Support*  
 Geoffrey Perselay, *Perselay Associates, Inc. President*  
 Dick Williams, *Former Somerset County Administrator (retired)*  
 Abbey Greenberg, *South Jersey Gas Public Affairs Specialist – Gov't & Regulatory Affairs*  
 Alexis Turner, *US Communities - Program Manager*

### **Guest Speaker**

Dr. Nilsa Gutierrez, Director of Medical Affairs for the US Department of Health and Human Services, and Dennis Gonzalez, Executive Director for the US Department of Health and Human Services, briefed the board members on the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2010, President Obama signed into law the ACA, and it was ratified by the Supreme Court in 2012. The three goals of the ACA are:

1. Protect consumers from insurance company abuses;
2. Improve access to care; and
3. Make healthcare more affordable.

The Health Insurance Marketplace is a new way to buy health insurance and a place for individuals and small employers to directly compare private health insurance options. Even

working families can get help through the Marketplace. Everyone must obtain insurance through the Marketplace except for people who have private insurance, employer sponsored insurance, retirement insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, or VA health benefits. Enrollment begins October 1, 2013 and coverage begins January 1, 2014. Included in this coverage there will be no discrimination due to pre-existing conditions or gender, no annual limits on insurance coverage, advanced premium tax credits will be available, the small business tax credit will increase, and access to Medicaid will expand.

This Act has provided for over 50% discount on covered brand-name medications for those in the prescription drug donut hole. In New Jersey, people with Medicare saved over \$298.6 million on prescription drugs since the law's enactment. In 2012, 169,373 individuals in New Jersey saved over \$165.4 million, or an average of \$977 per beneficiary. The donut hole is expected to be closed by the year 2020.

Since 2011, over 2 million New Jerseyans with private health insurance gained preventive service coverage with no cost-sharing. \$480,000 was given to support the National Health Service Corps by assisting New Jersey in repaying educational loans of health care professionals in return for their practice in health professional shortage areas. New Jersey has been given \$68.6 million to support its community health centers and \$16.6 million for maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs. These programs bring health professionals to meet with at-risk families in their homes and connect families to help they need. Another \$3.1 million benefit New Jersey for school-based health centers to help clinics expand their capacity to provide more health care services and modernize their facilities.

Under current law, undocumented and incarcerated individuals are excluded from being insured. However, many board members inquired if pre-adjudicated inmates in county jails qualified for health benefits under the ACA. Dr. Gutierrez and Mr. Gonzalez could not provide a definite answer and agreed to research information.

Dr. Gutierrez suggested meeting with individual counties for a presentation to get a better understanding of the ACA.

### **Official Reports:**

1. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** - NJAC Secretary/Treasurer and Bergen County Administrator Ed Trawinski updated the board members with the financial report of NJAC. The board of directors unanimously approved the report by voice vote on a Warren/Cape May County motion.
2. **President's Report** - NJAC President Dublin asked for motions on the following:
  - a) Meeting Minutes - The minutes of the March 15, 2013 board meeting were unanimously approved by voice vote on a Bergen/Mercer County motion.
  - b) Constitution & Bylaws Amendments - The board of directors unanimously approved the amendments by voice vote on a Mercer/Warren County motion.

Listed below are the amendments:

1. Page 4, Article III – Section 2, Memberships and Dues: *“NJAC Board of Directors shall vote to approve at its Annual Meetings the annual dues of member counties.”*
  2. Page 5, Article IV – Section 2, Board of Directors: *“The Board of Freeholders of each member county shall at their annual organizational meeting designate one of their freeholders or their county administrator or county manager to serve as a Voting Member for that calendar year, a second one of their freeholders or their county administrator or county manager to serve as an alternate, and a third freeholder or their county administrator or county manager to serve as a second alternate; provided however, that a county administrator in a county organized under the “Optional County Charter Law” with a “County Executive” may serve as a Voting member, alternate, or second alternate, only if the County Executive recommends to the Board of Freeholders, and the Board approves said recommendation by resolution as prescribed in this section, that the county administrator may serve as a Voting member, alternate, or second alternate on behalf of the governing body. A certified copy of the resolution of these appointments shall be forwarded to the Association’s central office prior to their assumption of membership on said Board. The Board of Freeholders of any member county may amend or change their designation(s) by forwarding a certified copy of the resolution affecting such change, which resolution shall take effect at the Association’s office.”*
  3. Page 5, Article IV – Section 3, Board of Directors: *“The following organizations or county officials shall select from their membership a Voting Board Member, a first alternate and a second alternate for each calendar year in accordance with their respective Constitution and By-Laws:*
    - a) *The County Executive*
    - b) *Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey.”*
  4. Page 6, Article IV – Section 4, Board of Directors: *“The County Executives shall each year, appoint from the Charter Counties, a county executive or county administrator to serve as a NJAC Voting Board Member, a second county executive or county administrator to serve as first alternate, and a third county executive or county administrator to serve as a second alternate; and the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey shall each year, appoint a County Clerk to serve as a Voting Board Member, a second County Clerk to serve as first alternate, and a third County Clerk to serve as second alternate; a County Sheriff to serve as a Voting Board Member, a second County Sheriff to serve as first alternate, and a third County Sheriff to serve as second alternate; a County Surrogate to serve as a Voting Board Member, a second County Surrogate to serve as first alternate, and a third County Surrogate to serve as second alternate.”*
- c) Nomination of NJAC Secretary/Treasurer – Mr. Trawinski was nominated and has been Acting Secretary/Treasurer since March 15<sup>th</sup>. After consideration and discussion among the executive committee members, Mr. Trawinski was

recommended to become NJAC Secretary/Treasurer. The board of directors unanimously approved their recommendation by voice vote on an Essex/Mercer County motion.

Mr. Trawinski was sworn in by Michael O'Connell, member of Pringle Quinn Anzano, PC and NJAC General Counsel and was announced as the NJAC Secretary/Treasurer.

3. **Executive Director's Report** - NJAC's Executive Director John G. Donnadio updated the board members on the following:

- a) Annual Convention Review - It was held May 8<sup>th</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 24 educational workshops all approved for continuing education credits. The conference took place at Caesar's with over 500 guests, 70 vendors, and participation from a number of county affiliate groups. The conference ended on a high note with 11 County Vocational-Technical Schools participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cook-Off Challenge followed by the President's Awards Ceremony.

The NJAC Annual Conference will take place again at Caesar's in Atlantic City next year. The dates are May 7<sup>th</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

- b) NJAC Foundation Scholarships - The NJAC Foundation was awarded two grants this year. The first was from PSEG in the amount of \$12,000.00; and the second was from Investors Bank in the amount of \$14,000.00.

PSEG & Investors Bank made check presentations to the NJAC Foundation during the NJAC Annual conference on May 9<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Board members were encouraged to make special presentations to the students once receiving the awards in their county's Board of Chosen Freeholders' Office.

- c) County Administrators' Training Program - It takes places this year on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at Rutgers University - Center for Government Services in New Brunswick. The program is designed to enhance the operational and functional knowledge of county administrators and professional staff.

Two programs are being offered: Basic Certificate Program and Advanced Certificate Program. The Basic Certificate Program covers essential components in the administration of county government. Sessions on public procurement, labor relations, county fiscal affairs and ethics provide an overview of these important day-to-day functions.

The Advanced Certificate Program presents specialized topics on issues that present challenges to the operations of county government. DEP regulations, transportation funding, human services funding, and privatization challenges are addressed by recognized experts.

The Division of Local Government Services of DCA has approved continuing education credits for QPA, CCPO, CMFO, CCFO, and CWM recertification.

More information and registration for the programs will soon be provided on the NJAC website. All county administrators and professional staff are encouraged to enroll in the programs.

- d) Trenton Thunder - A minor league baseball game between the Harrisburg Senators and Trenton Thunder takes place on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:05 p.m. at the Mercer County Water Front Arm & Hammer Ball Park. A luxury suite has been reserved and a picnic style dinner is being catered. This event is free of charge for all county officials, but reservations are based on a first come first serve basis as seating is limited to a maximum of 30. County officials were encouraged to sign up.
  - e) Year-End Conference - The venue for the Year-End Conference is once again the Trenton Country Club. It will take place on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Two ideas for topic discussions are the Affordable Care Act or a follow-up to last year's Summit on Emergency Management and Preparedness. Board members were encouraged to submit suggestions to the NJAC office in time for preparation of the event.
4. **Legislative Committee Report** - In the absence of NJAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Monmouth County Clerk M. Claire French, Mr. Donnadio informed all board members that a copy of the most recent edition of the State House News was enclosed in their board packets and updated them on the following issues:
- a) Special Elections - The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is aware of the counties' concerns with the upcoming special elections for the United States Senate. It is believed that counties will be reimbursed for the special elections; however reimbursement may not be provided until January 2014. Mr. Donnadio reported that guidance and a letter are expected next week after Governor Christie signs the budget.

Hudson County Administrator Antun commented that a commitment is needed, and would like an appropriation letter stating that funds will be reimbursed by January 2014. As of right now and like most county administrators, Mr. Antun is struggling to figure out how to pay for the special elections without dipping into the emergency funds.

Hudson County Executive DeGise suggested NJAC take legal action if no letter is received within two weeks from the Governor's office.

Mr. Donnadio agreed to formulate a plan of action if no letter is received within two weeks. Board members will be apprised on this issue.

- b) County Aid Allocations under the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) - Michael F. Barrett, Richard Lane, and Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. were thanked for their

assistance to NJAC and hard work on the TTF. NJAC and the New Jersey State Association of County Engineers (NJSACE) proposed a \$12.5 million increase in annual County Aid allocations for fiscal year 2014 to address the substantial loss in funding for the State's most urban counties.

The proposed State budget for fiscal year 2014 includes \$190.0 million as local support under the Transportation Capital Program: \$78.75 million for county roads; \$78.75 million for municipal roads; \$25.0 million for county bridges; and \$7.5 million for the Commissioner's discretionary funding. Our proposal of \$12.5 million would increase support for county roads from \$78.75 million to \$91.25 million and overall local support to \$202.5 million.

Board members were encouraged to contact their legislators to let them know they support NJAC and the NJSACE proposal.

- c) County Operated Nursing Homes - Mr. Donnadio reported that the next County Operated Nursing Homes of NJ meeting will take place on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the elimination of \$30.0 million in funding for PEER Grouping for those counties that still operate nursing homes.

Cape May County Freeholder Director Thornton commended NJAC and Mr. Donnadio for their assistance on this concern.

- d) Open Public Meetings and Records - The Senate once again amended legislation that would provide greater access to open public meetings and records. Although NJAC is a strong advocate of transparency in local government and is still in the process of reviewing the new bills, we remain concerned that the legislation does not take into consideration the expense, staff time, and resources necessary to carry out its mandates. There is also concern that the bill would exempt members of the State Legislature, NJAC, New Jersey State League of Municipalities, New Jersey School Boards Association and other stakeholders who did not have the opportunity to review or testify in committee on the new provisions. In summary, Senate No. 2511 would provide the public with greater access to meetings of public bodies and information about the meetings; and Senate No. 2512 would provide greater access to government records.

Board members were encouraged to contact their legislators to let them know that this legislation would impose an unnecessary and costly burden on local governments already struggling to make ends meet.

#### **Other Business:**

NJAC is currently collecting labor contracts from every county to post on NJAC's website.

The NACo Annual Conference is being held July 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> in Tarrant County - Forth Worth, Texas.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 4 of the NJ State House Annex.

**Adjournment**

At 12:45 p.m., the board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting by a voice vote on a Cape May County/County Executive motion.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donnadio". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John G. Donnadio, Esq.  
NJAC Executive Director