

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, March 15, 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 10:12 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*
M. Claire French, *Monmouth County Clerk*
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder*
Ed Trawinski, *Bergen County Administrator*
Richard Gardner, *Warren County Freeholder*
John G. Donnadio, *NJAC Executive Director*
Frank Formica, *Atlantic County Freeholder Chairman*
Edmund Grant, *Cape May County Director of Operations*
Douglas Long, *Cumberland County Freeholder Deputy Director*
Ken Mecouch, *Cumberland County Administrator*
Carol Clark, *Essex County Freeholder*
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Freeholder*
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*
Lillian Burry, *Monmouth County Freeholder*
Teri O'Connor, *Monmouth County Administrator*
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*
Anthony DeNova, *Passaic County Administrator*
Peter S. Palmer, *Somerset County Freeholder Director*
John Eskilson, *Sussex County Administrator*
Vernell Wright, *Union County Freeholder*
Brian M. Hughes, *Mercer County Executive*
Donald De Leo, *Hudson County Surrogate*
Elaine M. Flynn, *Middlesex County Clerk*

Absent

Burlington County
Camden County
Hunterdon County
Middlesex County
Ocean County
Salem County
County Sheriff

Also in attendance:

Timothy Cunningham, *Policy Advisor for the Office of the NJ State Governor*
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*
Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*
Kimberly Wood, *Cumberland County Deputy Administrator*
Daniele Spence, *Gloucester County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Simmons*
Dejon V. Morris, *Hudson County Chief of Staff to Freeholder Dublin*
Katrinda Allen-Lee, *Hudson County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Dublin*
Serena DiMaso, Esq., *Monmouth County Freeholder Deputy Director*
Mary Jo Buchanan, *Morris County Deputy Administrator*
Matthew DiRado, Esq., MPA, *Union County Director of Administrative Services and Division of
Personnel Management and Labor Relations*
Ronald Bird, *Director of Finance of Security Capital Advisors, LLC*
Colleen Burns, *Vice President of Premier Healthcare Resources*
Anthony Fornarotto, *Regional Sales Director of Global Companies, LLC*
Caryn Gaetano, *Account Executive of ACCSES NJ/CNA Services*
Kathleen Moeller-Pfeiffer, MSLS, *Deputy State Librarian of Lifelong Learning*
Geoffrey Perselay, *President of Perselay Associates, Inc.*
Hal Spence, *President of CAMCA*
John Szeliga, *Director of External Affairs for Verizon*
Dick Williams, *Former Somerset County Administrator (retired)*

The minutes of the January 29, 2013 board meeting were unanimously approved on a County Surrogate/Bergen County motion.

Guest Speaker

In the absence of Marc Ferzan, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding, Timothy Cunningham, Policy Advisor for the Governor, informed board members that the State is committed to an on-going recovery and rebuilding from the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. He added that the Office of Recovery and Rebuilding has made progress with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in terms of responding to the disaster; providing public assistance; working with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) on repairs to roadways and bridges; and, replenishing our beaches.

Official Reports:

1. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** – President Dublin asked Mr. Donnadio to review and provide the financial report of NJAC. The board of directors unanimously approved the report by voice on a Warren County/County Surrogate motion.
2. **President's Report** – NJAC President Dublin asked for motions on the following:
 - a. **Resolution - 2013 Committee Assignments** – The board of directors unanimously approved the committee assignments by voice vote on a Mercer County/Cumberland County motion.
 - b. **Resolution – April 2013 as County Government Month** – The board of directors unanimously approved the resolution by voice vote on a County Clerk/Passaic County motion.

NJAC President Dublin reminded all board members that they were issued a copy of the proposed changes to NJAC's Constitution and By-Laws by email on February 14, 2013; and, that a copy was enclosed in each member's board packet to discuss the proposed revisions that included:

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.”*

The board of directors unanimously approved the changes to “Page 4, Article III – Section 2, Membership and Dues” by roll call vote on a Warren County/Cape May County motion.

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. 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.”*

Mr. Donnadio noted that the proposed amendment would authorize all county administrators to serve as NJAC board members and executive officers by deleting language that should have been removed in 2012 when NJAC's board of directors voted to permit county administrators and managers to serve as executive officers. Several board members suggested that the board consider the fact that county administrators in charter counties are appointed by county executives and that the proposed amendments did not accurately reflect this dynamic. With this in mind, the board of directors unanimously approved to table the changes to “Page 5, Article IV – Section 2, Board of Directors” by roll call vote on an Essex County/County Surrogate motion; and, referred the matter to the By-Laws Committee to make recommendations for the June 28, 2013 board meeting.

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:*

1. *The County Executive*
2. *Constitutional Officers of Association of New Jersey.”*

Mr. Donnadio noted that this proposed amendment provides flexibility to the five county executives in appointing an NJAC Voting Board Member from their membership. Although the board discussed this matter and appeared to support the change, the board never voted on the measure.

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.”*

Mr. Donnadio noted that the proposed amendment would authorize all county administrators to serve as NJAC board members and executive officers by deleting language that should have been removed in 2012 when NJAC’s board of directors voted to permit county administrators and managers to serve as executive officers. As noted above, several board members suggested that the board consider the fact that county administrators in charter counties are appointed by county executives and that the proposed amendments did not accurately reflect this dynamic. With this in mind, the board of directors unanimously approved to table the changes to “Page 5, Article IV – Section 2, Board of Directors” on an Essex County/County Surrogate motion; and, referred the matter to the By-Laws Committee to make recommendations for the June 28, 2013 board meeting.

Mr. Donnadio noted that Bergen County Administrator Ed Trawinski has volunteered to serve as NJAC Secretary/Treasurer and that the above noted changes were necessary to authorize his appointment. With this in mind, NJAC’s 2nd Vice President and Mercer County Freeholder Ann Cannon suggested that Mr. Trawinski serve as Acting Secretary/Treasurer until the board agrees on changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. The board unanimously approved the nomination of Ed Trawinski as Acting Secretary/Treasurer by roll call vote on a County Surrogate/Mercer County motion.

3. **Executive Director’s Report** – NJAC’s Executive Director John G. Donnadio reminded members that NJAC’s annual celebration of county government is scheduled for May 8th through the 10th at Caesar’s in Atlantic City; and, encouraged board members to attend the highly anticipated event that included 24 educational workshops, a legislative luncheon forum, and the State’s only county vocational-technical school cook-off challenge.
4. **Legislative Committee Report** – NJAC 1st Vice President and Monmouth County Clerk M. Claire French informed all board members that a copy of the most recent edition of State House News was enclosed in their board packets. NJAC 1st Vice President French provided an overview on County Aid Allocations under the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF); sharing county tax administrators; the publication of ordinances; law suit reporting; subcontracting agreements; and early voting.

Mr. Donnadio informed board members that on March 8, 2013 NJAC sent a letter to DOT Commissioner Jim Simpson concerning the distribution of County Aid pursuant to a new law that reauthorized the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). This new law eliminated the Federal Aid Urban System minimum allotment from the County distribution formula and will cause substantial losses in funding for the State's most urban counties where Bergen, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, and Union counties stand to lose over \$5.79 million per year in funding. With this in mind, NJAC strongly supports the recommendations made by the New Jersey State Association of County Engineers (NJSACE) in their February 6, 2013 letter as a fair and equitable solution for all twenty-one counties as it proposes a \$12.5 million increase in annual County Aid allocations for a total of \$91.25 million per year through State fiscal year 2017. Mr. Donnadio thanked NJAC and Greenman-Pedersen consultants Mike Barrett and Dick Lane for their hard work on this important issue.

NJAC's Legislative Director Allen Weston discussed legislation concerning the Red Light Monitoring Pilot Program. The five-year pilot program signed into law on January 13, 2008 is scheduled to end December 2013. This law requires the New Jersey Department of Transportation to determine the effectiveness of the installation and utilization of traffic control signal monitoring systems in New Jersey. NJAC will reevaluate this legislation if DOT recommends reauthorizing the program in 2014.

Other Business:

Hudson County Surrogate De Leo commended the NJAC Foundation for raising over \$80,000.00 scholarships over the past two years for county vocational technical school graduates who plan to continue their education at a county college or State college or university.

Gloucester County Freeholder Heather Simmons reported that Gloucester County is collaborating with several neighboring counties to streamline the costs associated with operating county jails. Passaic County Administrator Anthony DeNova noted that Passaic County and Essex County now share a juvenile detention facility that has saved significant taxpayer dollars.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 4 of the NJ State House Annex.

Adjournment

At 11:58 a.m., the board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting by a voice vote on a County Surrogate/Mercer County motion.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director