

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

M. CLAIRE FRENCH
NJAC President
Monmouth County Clerk

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday - January 28, 2014
State House Annex - Committee Room 4
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

The meeting was called to order by 2013 NJAC President and Hudson County Freeholder Jeffrey Dublin at 10:07 a.m. After saluting the American flag, John G. Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director, called roll and a quorum was present.

Members in Attendance:

M. Claire French, *Monmouth County Clerk*
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder*
Ed Trawinski, *Bergen County Administrator*
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Freeholder*
Jeffrey Dublin, *Hudson County Freeholder*
John G. Donnadio, *NJAC Executive Director*
Michelle Gentek, *Camden County Freeholder*
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*
Ken Mecouch, *Cumberland County Administrator*
Brendon Gill, *Essex County Freeholder*
Rufus I. Johnson, *Essex County Freeholder-At-Large*
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*
John King, *Hunterdon County Freeholder Deputy Director*
Gary Rich, Sr., *Monmouth County Freeholder Deputy Director*
Lillian G. Burry, *Monmouth County Freeholder Director*
John P. Kelly, *Ocean County Freeholder*
Carl W. Block, *Ocean County Administrator*
Peter S. Palmer, *Somerset County Freeholder Director*
John Eskilson, *Sussex County Administrator*
Vernell Wright, *Union County Freeholder*
Richard D. Gardner, *Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director*
Edward J. Smith, *Warren County Freeholder*
Nicole Fox, *Executive Director for Passaic County Improvement Authority*
Donald De Leo, *Hudson County Surrogate*
Frank Bruno, *Somerset County Surrogate*
John Armeno, *Sheriff's Association of New Jersey*
Paul Anzano, Esq., *Member of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Counsel*
Michael Barrett, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*

Absent

Atlantic County
Burlington County
Middlesex County
Morris County
Passaic County
Salem County
County Executive
NJAC Labor Relations Counsel

Allen Weston, NJAC Legislative Director
Loren Wizman, NJAC Director of Business Development
Kimberly Nolan, NJAC Office Manager

Also in attendance:

Pat Jones, Camden County Clerk
Kimberly Wood, Cumberland County Deputy Administrator
Daniele Spence, Gloucester County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Simmons
Dejon Morris, Hudson County Chief of Staff to Freeholder Dublin
Al Thomas, Hudson County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Dublin
Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk
Sam Frisby, Mercer County Freeholder Vice Chair
Jo Ann Povia, Mercer County Director of Research & Special Projects for the Freeholder Board
Eric Puliti, Mercer County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Cannon
Paula Sollami-Covello, Mercer County Clerk
John P. Curley, Monmouth County Freeholder
Serena DiMaso, Esq., Monmouth County Freeholder
Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff
Andrea Bazer, Monmouth County Counsel
Rosemarie Peters, Monmouth County Surrogate
Ann F. Grossi, Esq., Morris County Clerk
John Faella, Account Executive for Siemens Industry, Inc.
Emily Hammer, Principal for SSP Architectural Group
Ted Huesing, Account Executive for Siemens Industry, Inc.
Thea Isabella, Director of Business Development for First MCO
Mark Kataryniak, Senior Vice President of French & Parrello Associates, PC
John Kerry, Account Executive for Siemens Industry, Inc.
Bina Kumar, Managing Director – East Region for Nationwide Retirement Solutions
Jeff Mayer, Director of Tradition Energy
Joe McIntyre, Customer Relations Manager for Dominion Voting Systems
Kathleen Moeller-Pieffer, Deputy State Librarian for the New Jersey State Library
Geoffrey Perselay, President of Perselay Associates, Inc.
Arnie Riisen, Consultant for Alternative Utility Services
Judy Savage, Executive Director of NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools
John Szeliga, Director of External Affairs for Verizon
Barry Van Kat, Wells Fargo Bank, NA
Bernie Vitti, Executive Director, Business & Sales, for PharmaCare, Inc.
RJ Weber, Account Executive for Green Energy Management Services
Wes Witherington, NE Sales/NJ Public Sector for Kronos, Inc.
Robert French, husband of M. Claire French
Bruce and Sherry Haberman, son-in-law and daughter of M. Claire French

Paul Anzano, Esq. of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Legal Counsel, performed the swearing in of the 2014 NJAC Board of Directors. 2013 NJAC President and

Hudson County Freeholder Jeffrey Dublin thanked all the members for the opportunity to serve as President and complimented NJAC for the accomplishments the organization made during

2013. He wished Monmouth County Clerk M. Claire French much success and congratulated her on becoming the President of NJAC for 2014. The meeting was then turned over to President French. NJAC President M. Claire French thanked Freeholder Dublin for his exceptional leadership by presenting him with an award for serving as the 2013 NJAC President.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. **NJAC Nominating Committee Report** - NJAC President French presented the 2014 slate of executive officers to the board members. The board unanimously approved the slate of officers on a County Surrogate/Warren County motion.

NJAC President	M. Claire French, Monmouth County Clerk
NJAC 1 st Vice President	Ann Cannon, Mercer County Freeholder
NJAC 2 nd Vice President	Ed Trawinski, Bergen County Administrator
NJAC Secretary-Treasurer	Heather Simmons, Gloucester County Freeholder
NJAC Immediate Past President	Jeffrey Dublin, Hudson County Freeholder

2. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** - NJAC Secretary-Treasurer and Gloucester County Freeholder Heather Simmons presented the following reports:

- a. Meeting Minutes - The board unanimously approved the December 13, 2013 NJAC Board of Directors meeting minutes on a Bergen County/Cape May County vote.
- b. NJAC Financials - The board unanimously approved the NJAC financials on a Somerset County/ County Surrogate motion.

3. **President's Report** - NJAC President French asked for motions on the following:

- a. Resolution - 2014 Annual Dues - The board unanimously approved the 2014 annual dues on a County Surrogate/Cape May County motion.
- b. Resolution - NJAC 2014 Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule - The board unanimously approved the 2014 schedule on a Gloucester County/Hudson County motion.
- c. Resolution - 2014 Budget - The board unanimously approved the 2014 annual budget on a Mercer County/Cumberland County motion.
- d. Resolution - NJAC General Legal Counsel - The board unanimously approved the appointment of NJAC's legal counsel on an Essex County/Warren County motion.
- e. Resolution - Labor Relations Counsel - The board unanimously approved the appointment of NJAC's labor counsel on a County Surrogate/Warren County motion.

- f. Resolution – Accountant/Auditor – The board unanimously approved the appointment of NJAC’s accountant/auditor on a Gloucester County/Somerset County motion.
4. **Executive Director’s Report** – NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio thanked Freeholder Dublin for his leadership, support and dedication to NJAC as President.

Mr. Donnadio also thanked those who attended and supported the December 13, 2013 Summit on the Affordable Care Act. Over 150 county and business leaders from across the State attended the event.

NJAC’s Conference Committee met on January 17th to discuss this year’s 64th annual celebration of county government scheduled to take place from May 7th through May 9th at Caesar’s in Atlantic City. *Notes from the January 17, 2014 Conference Committee Meeting, Registration/Hotel Reservation forms, and Schedule of Events for the 2014 NJAC Annual Conference were enclosed in each members’ board packet.*

The County Vocational-Technical School Cook-Off Challenge rules and selection process were provided by Judy Savage, Executive Director of the NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools. Automatic entries for 2014 are Hudson County as it won the 2013 People’s Choice Gold Award and Monmouth County as the County of the 2014 NJAC President. Schools from Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Ocean, and Somerset are also automatic entries since they did not participate last year and met the required application deadline. Atlantic, Bergen, Cumberland, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, and Warren counties participated in last year’s competition and also applied to compete by the required deadline. Only four slots were open, so a drawing was required to determine which schools would fill the remaining slots. The following schools were selected: Atlantic, Mercer, Cumberland, and Warren.

5. **Legislative Committee Report** – NJAC 1st Vice President and Mercer County Freeholder Ann Cannon informed all board members that a copy of *State House News*, dated January 17, 2014, was enclosed in the provided packets prior to asking Mr. Donnadio to update the board members on legislation in which NJAC is active.

Mr. Donnadio apprised board members on the matter of pre-adjudicated inmates housed in county jails. NJAC and the New Jersey County Jail Wardens Association are in the process of coordinating a meeting with the Director of Medicaid Services from within the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services. The meeting is being requested by both groups to discuss Medicaid eligibility and the health insurance exchange for pre-adjudicated inmates housed in county jails.

NJAC is advocating for the State to extend the 24-hour hospital stay exception to pre-adjudicated inmates housed in county jails. These inmates make up 90% of the statewide county prison population, and including them under the exception would yield significant cost savings for county governments struggling to make ends meet. In

general, federal regulations prohibit Medicaid coverage for care provided to incarcerated individuals. However, a 1997 ruling provides an exception for Medicaid eligible inmates who become inpatients of a hospital or nursing home upon the recommendation of a physician; and, then receive room, board, and professional services in the hospital or nursing home for a 24-hour period or longer. Although NAJC certainly supports the Department's efforts to capture state inmates and state inmates housed in county jails under the above-noted exception, the Department should also include pre-adjudicated inmates housed in county jails as it would save valuable county taxpayer dollars.

It also appears that certain pre-adjudicated inmates housed in county jails may be eligible to purchase health insurance through a health insurance exchange pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). In summary, the ACA authorizes eligible individuals in custody and pending disposition of charges to enroll in a health insurance plan offered through an exchange prior to conviction or to maintain coverage if already enrolled. As you know, the vast majority of individuals that enter into county jails have serious medical and behavioral health needs and would benefit a great deal from treatment to address these conditions. Moreover, county governments through their county jails are responsible for providing primary healthcare services for the overwhelming majority of inmates that lack any type of health insurance coverage at a substantial cost to local taxpayers. With a capacity to hold 18,500 inmates in county jails statewide, we're seeking some much needed guidance or best practices from the Department on how to identify and enroll eligible inmates for healthcare coverage under a health insurance exchange and as intended under the ACA.

NJAC was also pleased to hear Governor Chris Christie highlight in his State of the State Address that he supports permanently linking the 2.0% cap on interest arbitration awards set to expire in April of 2014 to the 2.0% property tax cap levy. Over the past few weeks, NJAC has had the opportunity to meet with several legislators to discuss the impending deadline as maintaining the cap is critical to stabilizing property taxes and allowing counties to deliver essential services in a cost effective manner. As has been well documented, 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 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. Although NJAC is cautiously optimistic that the Legislature and Administration will take action on this important and timely matter, the Sunset Provision was a key reform compromise for unions and others that initially opposed the measure. With this in mind, it's imperative that NJAC quantify any projected cost savings and other intangible benefits resulting from the cap. It's as equally as important for counties to contact their legislators as soon as possible to let them know how important and timely this initiative is to county governments across the State. NJAC plans on drafting a model resolution for each county to consider and adopt, and will share it with you next week via email.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ocean County Freeholder John Kelly remarked that the Ocean County Juvenile Detention Center is being redesigned to become a dual facility. The Center is not being fully populated because less and less juveniles are being sentenced. The Board of Chosen Freeholders suggested to utilize the center as a drug treatment facility as well. The redesigning of the Center should be completed this year. Freeholder Kelly invited officials from other counties to tour the facility. Hudson County Administrator Abe Antun informed the board that the same is being done with the facility in Hudson County. In addition, Hudson County Juvenile Detention is adding on a mental health unit. Gloucester County Freeholder Simmons added that the county stopped housing juveniles, and that adult males are being jailed in Cumberland, Salem, and Essex Counties. Somerset and Monmouth Counties also participate in the shared services by housing their juvenile delinquents in the Middlesex County facility.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 4 of the NJ State House Annex.

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a County Surrogate. Sussex County motion at 10:41 a.m.

Board members and guests reassembled at 11:00 a.m. in the Senate Chambers for the Swearing-In Ceremony of NJAC President French and Executive Officers. Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden led the flag salute while Hudson County Surrogate Donald De Leo performed the invocation. Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno administered the oath of office to NJAC President French and the executive committee members. NJAC President French reminded members of the audience of the legislative accomplishments NJAC has achieved and legislation it continues to work on. President French recognized and thanked everyone for their support, and looks forward to leading NJAC in 2014. Guests were invited to the West Gallery of the NJ State Museum, located at 205 West State Street in Trenton, for a reception catered by the culinary students of the Monmouth County Education Center.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donnadio". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director

JD:kan:02/04/2014