

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

ANN M. CANNON
NJAC President
Mercer County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 26, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order by NJAC President and Mercer County Freeholder at 10:06 a.m. After saluting the American flag, John G. Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director, called roll and a quorum was present.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ann Cannon, Mercer County Freeholder
John King, Hunterdon County Freeholder Director
Heather Simmons, Gloucester County Freeholder
Gary J. Rich, Sr., Monmouth County Freeholder Director
E. Marie Hayes, Cape May County Freeholder Director
Ken Mecouch, Cumberland County Administrator
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator
Blanquita Valenti, Middlesex County Freeholder
John Bonanni, Morris County Administrator
Anthony DeNova, Passaic County Administrator
Peter S. Palmer, Somerset County Freeholder
Beth E. Timberman, Salem County Freeholder
John Eskilson, Sussex County Freeholder
Vernell Wright, Union County Freeholder
Ed Smith, Warren County Freeholder Director
Mary H. Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk
Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff
Jim Blanda, Camden County Improvement Authority
Michael P. O'Connell, Esq., Pringle Quinn & Anzano, PC – NJAC General Counsel
Brett Pugach, Esq., Genova Burns LLC – NJAC Labor Counsel
John G. Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director
Allen Weston, NJAC Legislative Director
Loren Wizman, NJAC Director of Business Development
Kimberly Nolan, NJAC Office Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Charles A. Richman, Commissioner of NJ DCA
Tim Cunningham, Director of Local Government Services Division for NJ DCA
Dominic Vesper, Jr., Camden County Deputy Director
Jeff Lindsay, Cape May County Human Resources Director
Kimberly Wood, Cumberland County Deputy Administrator
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator

Teri O'Connor, *Monmouth County Administrator*
Matt Jordan, *Passaic County Deputy Administrator*
Elaine Flynn, *Middlesex County Clerk*
John Armeno, *Executive Director of the NJ Sheriffs Association*
Daniele Spence, *Gloucester County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Simmons*
Rob Davis, *Mercer County Director of Research & Special Projects for the Board of Chosen Freeholders*
Jennifer Gagnon, *Confidential Aide to Freeholder Director Rich*
William Drew, *NJ Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness*
Jim Jacobs, *Vice President of Business Development for PrimePoint*
Richard Lane, *Sr. Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*
Emanuel Mahand, *Program Director for Nationwide*
Geoff Perselay, *President of Perselay Associates, Inc.*
Joyce Sagi, *President of DARA*
Honorable Fred Scalera, *Mutualink*
Michael Schiller, *Financial Professional at AXA Equitable*
Vic Scire, *Vice President of Marketing for PrimePoint*
Harry Thibodeau, *President for Pharma-Care*
Bernie Vitti, *Executive Director of Business Development for Pharma-Care*
Rob Walton, *Area Manager for JCP&L*
Robert Werkmeister, *Sr. Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*
Rob Wright, *Mutualink*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Charles A. Richman, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJ DCA), and **Tim Cunningham**, Director of Local Government Services Division for NJ DCA, provided a status update on how the Division works with local governments to ensure their fiscal integrity and solvency, as well as support their efforts to comply with New Jersey State laws and regulations.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report** - NJAC Secretary-Treasurer and Monmouth County Freeholder Director Rich presented the following reports:
 - a. Meeting Minutes - The Board approved the meeting minutes of March 13, 2015 on a Hunterdon/Gloucester County motion while Warren County and County Clerk abstained.
 - b. NJAC Financials - The Board unanimously approved the NJAC Financials, dated May 31, 2015 on a Passaic/Union County motion.
2. **President's Report** - NJAC President Cannon asked for motions on the following:
 - a. NJAC Annual Celebration of County Government - It was held from May 6th through May 8th. There were 22 educational workshops approved for continuing education credits. The conference took place at Caesar's in Atlantic City with over 500 guests, 80 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 4th Annual Cook-Off Challenge.

- b. NJAC 5th Annual Night at the Ballpark – A minor league baseball game between the Binghamton Mets and Trenton Thunder takes place on Thursday, July 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Mercer County Water Front Arm & Hammer Ball Park. A 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.
 3. **Executive Director’s Report** – NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio congratulated the Cumberland County Technical Education Center for winning the People’s Choice Award at this year’s 4th Annual Cook-Off Challenge; and, Cape May County Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton for receiving The “Maurice Fitzgibbons Freeholder of the Year Award.” Mr. Donnadio also mentioned that he is looking into other venues for next year’s conference to save money. He then apprised board members of:
 - a. NACo Annual Conference – This year marks the 80th Annual Conference and Exposition for NACo. It is being held from July 10th through July 13th in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. This annual conference provides county officials with a great opportunity to vote on NACo’s policies related to federal legislation and regulation; elect officers; network with colleagues; learn about innovative county programs; find out about issues impacting counties across the country; and view products and services from participating companies and exhibitors.
 - b. NJAC Foundation Scholarships – This year the NJAC Foundation was awarded a total of \$33,250 from Investors Bank, PSE&G, and NJM Insurance Group. Investors Bank and PSEG made check presentations to the NJAC Foundation during the NJAC Annual Conference on May 7th and May 8th. The scholarship awards are dispersed to qualified county vocational-technical school graduates who plan on continuing their education at a New Jersey county college or State college or university. 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. NJAC Lease/Purchase Office Space Update – Included in the board packets was a synopsis of the NJAC Office Lease Proposal. NJAC and the landlord reached an agreement in principal on a five year lease to remain at its current location. Under the terms of the new lease, NJAC will see a cost savings of \$101,799.00 from October 2015 through October 2019.
 - d. County Administrators’ Program – This year there are a number of new county officials, so NJAC is once again partnering with Rutgers University to offer continuing education programs. The dates and details have yet to be determined and will be discussed over the course of the summer. Details will be posted on www.njac.org.
4. **Legislative Committee Report** – NJAC 1st Vice President and Hunterdon County Freeholder Director John King informed all board members that a copy of *State House News* dated June 25, 2015 was enclosed in the provided packets prior to asking Mr. Donnadio to update the board members on legislation in which NJAC is active.

- a. Open Public Meetings and Records Act - The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee failed to consider legislation that would have made changes to the Open Public Meetings and Open Public Records Act.
- b. Senior Citizens and Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program - During yesterday's voting session, both houses considered legislation that would have increased funding by \$6.0 million for the Senior Citizens and Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program, which provides critical community transportation and paratransit services for the aged and disabled.
- c. Earned Sick Leave - Earlier in the week, the Senate Labor Committee passed legislation that would require each employer to provide earned sick leave to each employee it employs in the State.
- d. Early Voting - Legislation that would have revised the State's voting procedures and authorize early voting seems to have stalled for the time being. It would carry an estimated \$10.0 million to \$15.0 million per year price tag.
- e. Supreme Court Pension Ruling - Earlier this month, the New Jersey Supreme Court invalidated the provision of Chapter 78, signed into law during 2011, that required the State to make increased payments as an employer of the State pension systems.
- f. State Fiscal Year 2016 Budget - Late yesterday afternoon, the Legislature passed its Fiscal 2016 State Budget of which Governor Christie has until midnight on June 30th to line item veto and sign into law.
- g. Conditional Veto of Assembly Bill No. 3970 - Later this afternoon the Senate will likely concur with Governor Christie's Conditional Veto of Assembly Bill No. 3970 (*Prieto, D-32*), which would allow a county vocational-technical school district to request that a county improvement authority construct and finance a county vocational school district facilities' project that has been approved by the Commissioner of Education.

The Conditional Veto recommends that the bill would authorize, rather than require, the use of design-build contracts for school facilities' projects. NJAC supports this change as it would provide county officials the flexibility to select the most appropriate contracting method according to the scope of a given project. This legislation provides county governments with an innovative financing mechanism that could streamline school facilities' projects and save valuable taxpayer dollars.

OTHER BUSINESS

John Eskilson, Sussex County Administrator, is resigning from county government services effectively on June 30th. The Board presented Mr. Eskilson with an award acknowledging his dedication as a long-standing member of the NJAC Board of Directors. Best wishes were given to him in his new endeavors.

The Year-End Conference is tentatively scheduled to take place on Friday, December 18th, at the Trenton Country Club. Mr. Donnadio encouraged board members for suggestions on topic discussions. Freeholder Timberman remarked raised the suggestion of bail reform being a topic for the 2015 Year-End Conference, and Cumberland County Administrator Mecouch agreed. Sheriff Golden mentioned the Court Security Plan as it is not conducive to funding while Mr. Antun concurred.

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 4 of the NJ State House Annex.

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a Somerset/Hunterdon County motion at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnadio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director