

**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, March 13, 2015*

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

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The meeting was called to order by NJAC President and Mercer County Freeholder Ann Cannon at 10:20 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*  
*Gary J. Rich, Sr., Monmouth County Freeholder Director*  
*M. Claire French, Monmouth County Clerk*  
*Gerald M. Thornton, Cape May County Freeholder Director*  
*E. Junior Maldonado, Hudson County Freeholder Chairman*  
*Blanquita Valenti, Middlesex County Freeholder*  
*John Bonanni, Morris County Administrator*  
*Anthony DeNova, Passaic County Administrator*  
*Peter S. Palmer, Somerset County Freeholder*  
*John Eskilson, Sussex County Freeholder*  
*Vernell Wright, Union County Freeholder*  
*Richard D. Gardner, Warren County Freeholder*  
*Frank Bruno, Somerset County Surrogate*  
*Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff*  
*Michael P. O'Connell, Esq., Pringle Quinn & Anzano, PC – NJAC General Counsel*  
*Joseph Hannon, 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**

*E. Marie Hayes, Cape May County Freeholder*  
*Dominic Vesper, Jr., Camden County Deputy Director*  
*Mike Laffey, Cape May County Director of Operations*  
*Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator*  
*Matt Jordan, Passaic County Deputy Administrator*  
*Elaine Flynn, Middlesex County Clerk*  
*Richard Lane, Sr. Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
*Robert Werkmeister, Sr. Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*  
*Dr. Patricia Donahue, President of the Mercer County Community College*

Dr. Larry Nespoli, *President of the NJ County Colleges Association*  
Kevin Askew, *Director of Sales and Marketing for TechXtend*  
Sylvanna Bartholomew, *Assistant for Meridian Property Services*  
Shawn Chester, *Government Account Executive for Verizon Wireless*  
Jim Jacobs, *Vice President of Business Development for Primepoint HRM & Payroll Services*  
Robert Kasilowski, *Account Executive for Honeywell – Energy Services Group*  
Bina Kumar, *Managing Director – East Region for Nationwide*  
JilAnn Murphy, *Director for The Mercadien Group*  
Dorothy Nicholson, *President & CEO for BrightStar*  
Daniel Ortega, *Community Affairs for ELEC-825*  
Arnie Riisen, *Consultant*  
David Sarmir, *Senior Retirement Specialist for Nationwide*  
Vice Scire, *Vice President of Marketing for Primepoint HRM & Payroll*  
Tyler Seville, *Associate Director of Policy and Research for NJBIA*  
Ellen Stein, *Revenue and Grants Specialist for MBI\*GluckShaw*  
John Szeliga, *Field Director of External Affairs for Verizon*  
Bernie Vitti, *Executive Director for PharmaCare*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Dr. Lawrence Nespoli, President of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, and Dr. Patricia Donahue, President of Mercer County Community College, provided an update of the community colleges. There are 19 community colleges with over 60 campuses serving 21 counties. Community colleges provide statewide training services through the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development. Also provided are quality transfer, occupational, continuing education, business support and community services programs at a reasonable low cost that lead to student success and respond to local and statewide needs.

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 unanimously approved the meeting minutes of January 30, 2015 on a Passaic/Middlesex County motion.
  - b. NJAC Financials – The board unanimously approved the NJAC financials, dated February 28, 2015, on a Cape May County/County Surrogate motion.
2. **President’s Report** – NJAC President Cannon asked for motions on the following:
  - a. Resolution – 2015 NJAC Standing Committees & Chairpersons – the board unanimously approved NJAC committee assignments on a Hudson/Morris County motion.
  - b. Resolution – 2015 National County Government Month – The board unanimously approved the month of April as National County Government Month on a Sussex/Cape May County motion.

President Cannon further reported that the 2015 NJAC's 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is taking place from May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup> at Caesar's in Atlantic City. Vendors begin setting up on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. followed by the Meet and Greet Reception at 5:00 p.m. On Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>, the conference kicks off at 9:00 a.m. with a Board of Directors Meeting and NJAC Foundation Scholarship Award Presentation. There are educational and informational workshops throughout the day for attendees to participate and earn continuing education credits. During the 12:30 p.m. President's Luncheon, an award ceremony will take place to recognize county officials. The Reporters' Roundtable, moderated by Michael Aron, follows the award ceremony. The Exhibitors' Reception will take place later on that evening. Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>, is the final day of the conference and it kicks off with a second NJAC Foundation Scholarship Award Presentation followed by the NJAC Business Associate of the Year Award and U.S. Congressman Tom MacArthur will make keynote remarks. Lastly, the county vocational technical schools will participate in a cook-off challenge beginning at 12:30 p.m. with awards being presented shortly thereafter. President Cannon encouraged all to register and participate.

3. **Executive Director's Report** - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio reported that NJAC is now on Facebook. This social media tool is being used to report NJAC's involvement in press conferences and promote its annual conference, especially the cook-off challenge.

Executive Director Donnadio thanked New Jersey Manufacturer's Insurance Group for awarding the NJAC Foundation a \$5,250.00 grant for county vocational-technical graduates who plan on continuing their education at a county college or State college or university. The NJAC Foundation will distribute one grant of \$1,750.00 in each county where NJM maintains a corporate office, which includes Atlantic, Mercer, and Morris counties. The NJAC Foundation is grateful for NJM's generosity and commitment to its community.

Board members also were provided with a NJAC Purchase-Lease Analysis to review and discuss whether NJAC should to renew its lease with Capital View Urban Renewal or buy a property. Hudson County Administrator Antun remarked there are more negatives than positives for buying a property at this time; however he believes NJAC should eventually invest in owning a property. Freeholders Thornton, Palmer, and Gardner along with Surrogate Bruno suggested renegotiating the terms of the rental lease. Finally, the Executive Director recognized that NJAC's Immediate Past President and Monmouth County Clerk Claire French would be retiring from county government on April 1, 2015. Board members expressed their gratitude for Clerk French's leadership and commitment to county government.

4. **Legislative Committee Report** - NJAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Hunterdon County Freeholder Director John King informed all board members that a copy of *State House News*, dated March 6, 2015, was enclosed in the provided packets prior to asking Mr. Donnadio to update the board members on legislation in which NJAC is active.

During the latter part of February, the New Jersey Department of Transportation confirmed it plans to restore the \$25.0 million for vital bridge repair, replacement, and

rehabilitation funding, and that counties should expect to receive grant solicitation letters from the Department during March 2015. NJAC continues to pursue maintaining Local Bridges Future Needs Program monies for 2016 and beyond; and will continue to advocate for a stable, dependable, and long-term source of dedicated funding for the nearly insolvent Transportation Trust Fund.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the New Jersey Pension and Health Benefits Study Commission released a report titled, "A Roadmap to Resolution." This report proposes several recommendations to reform and stabilize the public employee pension and health benefits systems. NJAC is in the process of reviewing the Commission's report, and is particularly concerned with the recommendation to adopt a unified State/local approach to benefits funding as the local pension systems funded by counties and municipalities are actuarially sound simply because local governments have made full employer contributions as required under the law for over a decade. NJAC objects to any recommendation that would affect, alter, or integrate the local pension systems as counties and municipalities have met their obligations as employers and the local pension system are fiscally sound as a result.

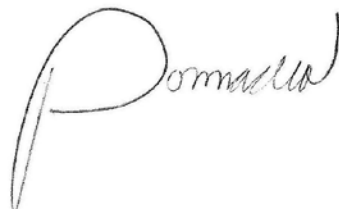
NJ Assemblyman Robert Auth of District 39 introduced, on February 5<sup>th</sup>, A-4164 which proposes the dissolution of county government. He stated in a Trenton Times Op-Ed that New Jersey can save billions by doing away with county government. The NJAC Board of Directors encouraged and approved Mr. Donnadio to respond to Assemblyman Auth's Op-Ed.

*The next board meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 6 of the NJ State House Annex.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Cannon adjourned the meeting on a Warren/Cape May County motion at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnadio", written over a large, stylized capital letter "P".

John G. Donnadio, Esq.  
NJAC Executive Director