

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

JOHN W. KING
NJAC President
Hunterdon County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Friday – September 23, 2016
State House Annex Building – Committee Room 4
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

The meeting was called to order by NJAC President and Hunterdon County Freeholder John King at 10:11 a.m. After saluting the American flag, NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio called roll and a quorum was present.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

John King, *Hunterdon County Freeholder*
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Freeholder*
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder Chair*
Frank Formica, *Atlantic County Freeholder Chairman*
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*
Melissa DeCastro, *Salem County Freeholder**
Peter Palmer, *Somerset County Freeholder Deputy Director*
George Graham, *Sussex County Freeholder Director**
Rick Gardner, *Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director*
Ed Smith, *Warren County Freeholder Director*
Brian M. Hughes, *Mercer County Executive*
Shaun Golden, *Monmouth County Sheriff*
Mary H. Melfi, *Hunterdon County Clerk*
George Strachan, *Executive Director for Gloucester County Improvement Authority*
John G. Donnadio, *NJAC Executive Director*
Allen Weston, *NJAC Legislative Director*
Loren Wizman, *NJAC Director of Business Development*
Kimberly Nolan, *NJAC Office Manager*
Michael O'Connell, Esq., *Member of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Counsel*
Joseph Hannon, Esq., *Partner of Genova Burns LLC and NJAC Labor Relations Counsel*
Bob Werkmeister, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consultant*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Tom Bracken, *President & CEO of the NJ State Chamber of Commerce*
Michael Egenton, *Executive Vice President of Gov't Relations for the NJ State Chamber of Commerce*
John Armeno, *Executive Director of Sheriff's Association of NJ*
Gina Wheatley, *Burlington County Clerk of the Board*

Daniele Spence, *Gloucester County Confidential Aide to Freeholder Simmons*
James Benton, *Executive Director of the NJ Petroleum Council*
Emily Hammer, *Chief Marketing Officer of DI Group Architecture*
Jim Jacob, *Vice President of Business Development for Primepoint*
Emanuel Mahand, *Program Director for Northeast Region of Nationwide*
Scott Ross, *Associate Director of the NJ Petroleum Council*
Jane Sharp, *Director of CPM Program for Rutgers University*
Rob Walton, *Area Manager for JCP&L and Hunterdon County Freeholder*

**Sworn in by NJAC General Counsel prior to commencement of meeting.*

GUEST SPEAKERS

Thomas Bracken, President and CEO of the NJ State Chamber of Commerce, discussed the initiatives of Opportunity NJ. Opportunity NJ is a non-partisan, grassroots coalition comprised of a variety of interest groups representing employers, employees, businesses, trade associations, and community organizations in the State. Opportunity NJ supports policies that encourage job growth, business development, and affordability for all New Jersey residents. The Chamber, along with a coalition of regional chambers of commerce and other business advocacy groups throughout the State recently held a business summit in Atlantic City where executives and legislators addressed key issues needed to improve New Jersey's competitive standing. The most pressing issues impacting New Jersey's economic growth include: reforming the State's tax structure, reducing government regulations and mandates, funding transportation infrastructure projects, and maintaining a highly trained workforce.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT - In the absence of NJAC Secretary-Treasurer Gill, NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio presented the following reports at the request of President King:
 - a. Meeting Minutes - The board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of June 24, 2016 on a Mercer/Somerset County motion.
 - b. NJAC Financials - The board unanimously approved the NJAC financials, dated September 15, 2016 on a Warren/Mercer County motion.
 - c. NJAC 2015 Audit Report - The 2015 Audit for NJAC conducted by Suplee Clooney & Company revealed that the Association's accounting is in order and the organization is in good shape. The board unanimously approved the audit report on a Gloucester/Sheriff motion.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NJAC President King addressed the following:
 - a. County Administrators Training Program - NJAC and the Rutgers University Center for Government Services has partnered once again to provide a comprehensive two day professional development initiative for all local government employees, elected

- officials, and businesses interested in advancing their careers in public service. Successful program graduates will receive a certificate of completion from Rutgers University. This year's program is scheduled for September 23rd and 30th, and has been sold out since August.
- b. Summit on Pension and Health Benefits - NJAC is hosting a Summit on Pension and Health Benefits scheduled for December 9th at the Trenton Country Club. Panelists will discuss health benefits for public employees and present viable solutions for controlling public sector healthcare costs in a fair and equitable manner. Leading authorities will also examine the State's looming pension crisis and provide meaningful recommendations for making the pension system more affordable for taxpayers and sustainable for members.
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio reported on the following:
 - a. NJAC Foundation - Thanks to the generosity of Investors Bank, PSEG, NJM Insurance Group, Verizon, and Wells Fargo, the NJAC Foundation has awarded over \$205,000.00 in scholarships to 377 county vocational-technical school graduates since 2011.
 - b. 2017 Nomination Committee - NJAC will hold its 2017 reorganization meeting on January 27th, and Mr. Donnadio encouraged board members to apply for the vacant secretary-treasurer position.
 - c. NJAC Night of Baseball & Fireworks - NJAC hosted a night of baseball at the Mercer County Arm & Hammer Ball Park on July 28th where county officials and business associates had a unique opportunity to network and enjoy a great game.
 4. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - NJAC 1st Vice President Heather Simmons informed board members that the September 2nd edition of State House News was enclosed in their board packets for review.
 - a. Electronic Fund Transfers - Governor Christie recently signed into law legislation that will allow county governments to pay their bills electronically as one of our top legislative priorities. NJAC is currently working with a task force of county finance officers, purchasing officials, the banking industry, and the Division of Local Government Services to disseminate regulations for implementation of the new law in mid-2017.
 - b. 911 Dispatch Fees - NJAC is encouraging all 21 counties to adopt a resolution urging Governor Chris Christie and the State Legislature to properly allocate 911 System and Emergency Test Fund Account monies to county and municipal 911 centers as recommended under federal law.

- c. Pension and Health Benefits - NJAC remains opposed to the State comingling the State and local pension systems as counties and municipalities have met their obligations as employers with local property taxpayer dollars.
 - d. Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) - NJAC continues to advocate for increasing Local Aid Allocations under the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) to \$400.0 million and for a solution to ending the nearly 3 month long impasse on funding the Transportation Trust Fund. At least 5 counties have filed Notice of Claims against the NJ Department of Transportation (DOT) for breach of contract. These counties include: Cumberland, Hudson, Mercer, Passaic and Union. Yesterday NJAC and the New Jersey League of Municipalities testified before the Assembly Transportation Committee supporting a bill that requires the NJ DOT to reimburse counties and municipalities for any expenses incurred as a result of delays caused by the shutdown of all projects funded by the TTF. The Committee favorably reported the bill, which is now on Second Reading in the General Assembly.
 - e. Criminal Justice Reform Legal - NJAC has been reviewing the court rules adopted on August 30th by the Supreme Court to implement Criminal Justice Reform in 2017. NJAC's legal counsel, with input from NJAC and county counsels, has drafted a legal memorandum that summarizes the course of action NJAC should take in filing a complaint with the New Jersey Council on Local Mandates. Board members and NJAC legal counsel adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m. on a Sheriff/Atlantic County motion, and entered a closed session to review and discuss the specifics of the memorandum. The board meeting reconvened at 12:09 p.m. where the board unanimously approved to file a complaint with the New Jersey Council on Local Mandates on a Warren/Hudson County motion.
5. NEW BUSINESS - Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes announced that he became the President of the County Executives of America in July. *The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Oakland Room of the Trenton Country Club.*
6. ADJOURNMENT - The board adjourned on a Warren/Sussex County motion at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director