

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

HEATHER SIMMONS
NJAC President
Gloucester County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2017

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by 2017 NJAC President and Gloucester County Freeholder Heather Simmons. After the flag salute, NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio called roll, and a quorum was present.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Freeholder*
Mary H. Melfi, *Hunterdon County Clerk*
John King, *Hunterdon County Freeholder Deputy Director*
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*
Gerald M. Thornton, *Cape May County Freeholder Director*
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*
John Cimino, *Mercer County Freeholder*
Blanquita Valenti, *Middlesex County Freeholder*
Teri O'Connor, *Monmouth County Administrator*
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*
Mike Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*
Anthony DeNova, *Passaic County Administrator*
Melissa DeCastro, *Salem County Freeholder*
Greg Poff, *Sussex County Administrator*
Vernell Wright, *Union County Freeholder*
Edward Smith, *Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director*
Shaun Golden, *Monmouth County Sheriff*
George Strachan, *Gloucester County Executive Director of the 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*
Joe Hannon, Esq., *Member of Genova Burns LLC and NJAC Labor Relations Counsel*
Bob Werkmeister, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consulting*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*
Daniele Spence, *Gloucester County Confidential Aid to Freeholder Simmons*
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder*
James Benton, *Executive Director for the New Jersey Petroleum Council*
Warren Broudy, *Principal for The Mercadien Group*

Michael Egenton, *Executive VP of Government Relations for the NJ Chamber of Commerce*
Tammy Elfort, *Director of Corporate & Non-profit Relationships for Jersey Flight Arena Football* Jaime
Gangone, *Community Relationship Specialist for Credit Union of NJ*
Emanuel Mahand, *Program Director – DE, NJ, PA for Nationwide*
Digesh Patel, *Director of Government Services for The Mercadien Group*
Vic Scire, *Vice President of Marketing for Primepoint*
Bernie Vitti, *Executive Director of Business Development for PharmaCare, Inc.*
Margot Walsh, *Executive Director for Jersey Shore Partnership*
Joe Whalen, *Vice President of Marketing & Sales for Integrity Health*

GUEST SPEAKER

Kevin Drennen, Executive Director of the Senate Majority Office, provided the board and audience members with an overview of the State budget process and discussed the budget goals of the Senate Democratic Office. Mr. Drennen also discussed the goals and objectives of the Senate Democratic Office during the lame duck session.

Christine Shipley, Executive Director of the Senate Republican Office, addressed the board and audience members with perspective from the Senate Republican Office and discussed the budget goals of the that Office. Additionally, Ms. Shipley discussed the lame duck session goals of the Senate Republican Office.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT – NJAC Secretary-Treasurer and Hunterdon County Clerk Mary H. Melfi reported on the following:
 - a. Meeting Minutes – The board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of March 24, 2017 on a Hunterdon/Cape May County motion.
 - b. NJAC Financials – The board unanimously approved the NJAC financials, dated May 31, 2017, on a Warren/Hudson County motion.
2. PRESIDENT’S REPORT – NJAC President Simmons recognized and congratulated NJAC staff, affiliate groups, members of the conference committee and business associates for the outstanding annual conference that took place in May. There was an increase in attendance, especially by county government personnel. It was the first year that over 200 county officials attended the event. Congratulations went out to those who received County Service Awards: Oscar Aviles of Hudson County; David Miller of Mercer County; Michael Oppegaard of Monmouth County; and Dominic Vesper of Camden County. NJAC 2016 President John W. King received the Maurice Fitzgibbons Freeholder of the Year Award, while Primepoint received the newly named Peter S. Palmer Business Associate of the Year Award. After 50 years of public service, Freeholder Palmer is retiring from office, and NJAC presented him with a special award for his tireless advocacy, dedication, and distinguished service. The Camden County Technical Schools won the People’s Choice Awards at the 6th Annual County Vocational Technical School Cook-Off Challenge. The culinary students prepared an amazing braised beef short rib taco for the conference attendees. NJAC also hosted its 2nd Annual

Acapella Sing-Off where students from Cumberland County Community College and Union County College performed at the Exhibitors' Reception.

President Simmons reported that she and Mr. Donnadio plan on visiting counties throughout New Jersey and would like to attend their freeholder meetings to discuss the goals and objectives of NJAC.

Board and audience members were encouraged to attend NJAC's annual night of baseball and fireworks at the Arm & Hammer Ball Park in Trenton. It is scheduled to take place on Thursday, July 20th, at 7:00 p.m. where Trenton Thunder will take on the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. NJAC has a reserved suite, which accommodates a maximum of 30 guests. Food and beverages will be served. Only six tickets remain.

Finally, as NJAC First Vice President and Monmouth County Freeholder Gary Rich will not seek re-election and in an effort to maintain NJAC's bipartisan rotation of executive officers, the board unanimously approved, making Hunterdon County Clerk Mary Melfi NJAC's 2018 President on a Hunterdon/Warren County motion.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio promoted the 2017 NACo annual conference to the board and audience members. This year NACo is holding its conference in Franklin County - Columbus, Ohio from July 21, 2017 through July 24, 2017. Any New Jersey county government official whose county is a member of NACo and is interested in serving on the NACo board of directors must submit their interest to Mr. Donnadio no later than Friday, July 7th.

Mr. Donnadio thanked Investors Bank and NJM Insurance Group for their generous donations to the NJAC Foundation's scholarship program. Both Investors Bank and NJM Insurance Group made check presentations at the annual conference. The NJAC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization affiliated with NJAC. It is committed to providing innovative educational opportunities for county vocational technical school graduates of New Jersey.

NJAC and Rutgers University are once again teaming up to offer continuing education through the County Administration Training Program. The program will be held on two days - October 20th and 27th - at Rutgers University in the Continuing Education at Atrium in Somerset.

The NJAC Year End Summit will take place on Friday, December 8th, at the Trenton Country Club from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At this time a theme has not been secured; however suggestions are welcomed. NJAC would like to begin publicizing this event right after the Labor Day holiday.

4. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - NJAC Executive Director Donnadio, Esq. informed all board members that a copy of *State House News*, dated June 16, 2017, was enclosed in the provided packets and apprised the board members on the following issues at hand:

911 Fees - NJAC is in the process of collecting data from all 21 counties concerning the costs associated with operating and maintaining county 911 centers. NJAC plans to aggressively pursue funding as this year's NJ State Budget once again diverts fees from local public safety answering points, but includes an additional \$13.0 million for the State's reverse 911 system.

Interest Arbitration Awards - NJAC is encouraging all 21 counties to adopt resolutions that urge State leaders to enact legislation that will permanently extend the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards, which is set to expire on December 31st of this year. Model resolutions will be emailed to the counties within the week.

PFRS Pension - NJAC and the NJSLOM are developing a strategy to address the PBA's intent to remobilize on legislation that would transfer governance of the PFRS from the Division of Pension and Benefits to the Board of Trustees of PFRS.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 6 of the State House Annex Building in Trenton.

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a Warren County/County Clerk motion at 11:38 a.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