

**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**

*March 24, 2017*

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10:09 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*  
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*  
Gerald M. Thornton, *Cape May County Freeholder Director*  
Ken Mecouch, *Cumberland County Administrator*  
E. Junior Maldonado, *Hudson County Administrator*  
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder*  
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*  
Anthony DeNova, *Passaic County Administrator*  
Melissa DeCastro, *Salem County Freeholder*  
George Graham, *Sussex County Freeholder*  
Richard D. Gardner, *Warren County Freeholder Director*  
Frank Bruno, *Somerset County Surrogate*  
John Armeno, *Executive Director for the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey*  
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*  
Paul Anzano, Esq., *Pringle, Quinn & Anzano, PC and NJAC General Counsel*  
Bob Werkmeister, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consulting*

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Dominic Vesper, Jr., *Camden County Deputy Administrator*  
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*  
Michael Laffey, *Cape May County Director of Operations*  
Kimberly Wood, *Cumberland County Deputy Administrator*  
Daniele Spence, *Gloucester County Confidential Aid to Freeholder Simmons*  
George Strachan, *Gloucester County Executive Director of the Improvement Authority*  
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*

Geoff Perselay, *Monmouth County Deputy Administrator*  
Cathy Burd, *Morris County Deputy Administrator*  
Jennifer Carpinteri, *Morris County Human Services Director*  
Mike Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*  
Edward Smith, *Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
Dan DiPoalo, *Business Development for KS Engineers*  
Jaime Gangone, *Community Relationship Specialist for Credit Union of NJ*  
Jim Jacob, *Vice President of Business Development for Primepoint*  
Emanuel Mahand, *Program Director – DE, NJ, PA for Nationwide*  
Misty Matulewicz, *Account Executive for United Healthcare*  
Erica Rosso, *PL Sales Representative for NJM Insurance Company*  
Judy Savage, *Executive Director for NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools*  
Michael Schiller, *Financial Professional for AXA Equitable*  
Connie Sullivan, *Senior Business Development Representative for Credit Union of NJ*  
John Verga, *Vice President of Key Account Sales & Account Management for United Healthcare*  
Joe Whalen, *Vice President of Marketing & Sales for Integrity Health*

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Renee Burawski, Chief of Staff to NJ Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner Valerie Miekle, addressed the Board concerning the State's transition to fee for service payments for certain mental health and addiction services. A power point presentation of Mrs. Burawski's discussion may be found online at [www.njac.org](http://www.njac.org). Several board members expressed concerns that the new system would prohibit some of the neediest residents from obtaining critical mental health treatment, and recommended the Department to establish clear fiscal safeguards or delay implementation. The Board directed NJAC to coordinate a follow up meeting with the Department to discuss the matter in more detail.

#### **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 January 27, 2017 on a Passaic/Warren County motion.
  - b. NJAC Financials - The board unanimously approved the NJAC financials, dated January 31, 2017, on a Hudson/Cumberland County motion.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NJAC President Simmons reviewed the following resolutions, which were passed as general consent matters on a Surrogate/Hudson County vote:
  - a. NJAC Committee Assignments 2017
  - b. National County Government Month - "Brilliant Ideas At Work"

NJAC President Simmons advised the Board that she and Mr. Donnadio will be visiting various county freeholder boards across the State this year to discuss NJAC's goals and objectives.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio announced that the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders and County Executive Jim Tedesco prepared proclamations honoring NJAC's Executive Officers. The proclamations were presented to the members.

Mr. Donnadio further discussed the NJAC Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization affiliated with the New Jersey Association of Counties. It is committed to providing innovative educational opportunities for county vocational-technical school and county college students of New Jersey. This year, the NJAC Foundation has once again partnered with Investors Bank and NJM Insurance Group. Investors Bank awarded the Foundation a grant of \$21,000 and will make a check presentation during NJAC's annual conference on May 12<sup>th</sup>; and, NJM Insurance Group awarded the Foundation a grant of \$5,250 and will make a check presentation during the conference as well on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Donnadio finally discussed this year's Annual Celebration of County Government takes place May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup> at Caesar's in Atlantic City and includes; a County Vocational-Technical School Cook-Off Challenge, a county college acapella sing-off, the opportunity to meet the 2017 gubernatorial candidates, and insightful reporter's roundtable and county awards luncheon, accredited workshops approved for continuing education credits, all major events and ceremonies hosted in the main exhibit hall, and unique networking opportunities to share resources and ideas,

4. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - NJAC Executive Director Donnadio, Esq. informed all board members that a copy of *State House News*, dated March 3, 2017, was enclosed in the provided packets and provided an update on the following issues at hand:

Criminal Justice Reform - On February 14, 2017, the New Jersey Council on Local Mandates dismissed NJAC's complaint that Criminal Justice Reform imposed an unfunded State mandate on county governments. The Council ruled 4-3 that the legislation in question implements a provision of the State's Constitution; and as such, is an exempt under the law. NJAC stands by the fact that the new law has cost county governments across the State approximately \$50.0 million to implement.

State Fiscal Year 2018 Budget - NJAC is in the process of reviewing the State Fiscal Year 2018 State Budget; and, a snapshot of the \$35.5 billion spending plan is included in the March 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *State House News*.

Transportation Trust Fund - The Budget includes \$400.0 million as Local Aid for counties and municipalities; and, the Department of Transportation has offered to reimburse local governments for the accelerated costs to complete projects affected by the 2016 TTF shutdown.

911 Fees - NJAC plans to aggressively pursue funding as this year's 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. Hunterdon County Freeholder John King recommended NJAC form a 911 Fee Committee to address the issue and the Board concurred.

PFRS Pension - NJAC and the NJSLOM are urging Governor Chris Christie to veto legislation that would transfer management of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) from the Division of Pension and Benefits to the Board of Trustees of PFRS.

Rice Notices - NJAC's Labor Counsel Joe Hannon with Genova Burns, discussed the recent Appellate Division decision in *Kean Federation of Teachers, et al v. Ada Morrell Board of Trustees of Kean University, et al* (App. Div. Feb. 8, 2017), which greatly enhances a public entity's Rice Notice requires to not only employees, but potential employees.

*The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the main Exhibit Hall at Caesar's in Atlantic City during its annual conference.*

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a Surrogate/Hudson County motion at 11:59 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