

**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**

*September 22, 2017*

State House Annex Building - Committee Room 6  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

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The meeting was called to order at 10:07 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*  
Gary J. Rich, Sr., *Monmouth County Freeholder*  
Mary H. Melfi, *Hunterdon County Clerk*  
John King, *Hunterdon County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
Louis Cappelli, Jr., *Camden County Freeholder Director*  
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*  
Joseph Derella, *Cumberland County Freeholder Director*  
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*  
John Cimino, *Mercer County Freeholder*  
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*  
Mike Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*  
Anthony DeNova, *Passaic County Administrator*  
Melissa DeCastro, *Salem County Freeholder*  
Peter S. Palmer, *Somerset County Freeholder Director*  
Greg Poff, *Sussex County Administrator*  
Vernell Wright, *Union County Freeholder*  
Edward Smith, *Warren County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
Brian Hughes, *Mercer County Executive*  
George Strachan, *Gloucester County Executive Director of the Improvement Authority*  
Frank Bruno, *Somerset County Surrogate*  
John Armeno, *Executive Director for Sheriffs Association of NJ*  
Paul Anzano, Esq., *Partner of Pringle, Quinn & Anzano and NJAC General Counsel*  
Joe Hannon, Esq., *Member of Genova Burns LLC and NJAC Labor Relations Counsel*  
Bob Werkmeister, Sr. *Consultant of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. & NJAC Transportation Consulting*  
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**

Dominick Vesper, Jr., *Camden County Deputy Administrator*  
Michael Laffey, *Cape May County Director of Operations*  
Ken Mecouch, *Cumberland County Administrator*  
Kimberly Wood, *Cumberland County Deputy Administrator*  
Daniele Spence, *Gloucester County Confidential Aid to Freeholder Simmons*  
Elaine Flynn, *Middlesex County Clerk*  
Teri O'Connor, *Monmouth County Administrator*  
Christopher Marion, *Monmouth County Deputy Administrator*  
Geoffrey Perselay, *Monmouth County Deputy Administrator*  
Christine Myers, *Morris County Freeholder*  
Matt Jordan, *Passaic County Deputy Administrator*  
Chris Bergman, *Business Development Manager for SSP Architectural Group*  
Daniel DiPoalo, *Vice President of Business Development for KS Engineers*  
Jaime Gangone, *Community Relationship Specialist for Credit Union of New Jersey*  
Jim Jacob, *Vice President of Marketing for Primepoint*  
Eileen Leahey, *Director of External Affairs – South for PSEG*  
Dennis McNerney, *Vice President for Santander Bank*  
Frank Scarantino, *Engineer for Mott MacDonald*  
Connie Sullivan, *Sr. Business Development Representative for Credit Union of New Jersey*  
John Szeliga, *Director of External Affairs for Verizon*

## 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 September 22, 2017 on a Hunterdon/Salem County motion.
  - b. NJAC Financials - The board unanimously approved the NJAC financials, dated August 31, 2017, on a Surrogate/Warren County motion.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NJAC President Simmons deferred this portion of the meeting to Mr. Donnadio. Since the beginning of this year, both Mr. Donnadio and President Simmons have visited several counties and spoke before the Board of Chosen Freeholders regarding the objectives and strategic goals of NJAC. Most of the southern counties were addressed at the Southern New Jersey Freeholders Association (SNJFA). SNJFA President & Cumberland County Freeholder Director Joseph Derella explained that freeholders of southern counties meet approximately 7 times a year to share ideas and work together as one on important issues that affect the southern counties.
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio announced there is an availability for the 2018 NJAC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer positions. Applications are currently be accepted and the submission deadline is November 15, 2017. The Nominating Committee will meet prior to the last meeting of the year, and the Chair will report its recommendations to the Board of Directors on December 8, 2017.  
NJAC and Rutgers University are holding the County Administration Training Program on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers University in the Continuing Education at Atrium in  
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Somerset. Anna Marie Wright, Camden County Purchasing Agent, and Mary Lou Stanton, retired Somerset County Purchasing Agent, are instructors for the Public Procurement course taking place on October 20<sup>th</sup>. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, John Bonanni, Morris County Administrator, is leading the Management Challenges course while Joe Kovalcik, Morris County Director of Finance, is speaking on County Fiscal Affairs. Thus far, 20 individuals have enrolled in the Program.

The NJAC Foundation Scholarship Program received donations from Investors Bank and NJM Insurance Group. Recently, PSEG donated \$12,000 to the Foundation. Publicly, the County Boards of Chosen Freeholders presented the scholarship recipients with their awards. 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.

The NJAC Summit on Opioid Crisis and Resources for Recovery will take place on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Trenton Country Club from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Nearly 100 registrants have already signed up for this event. Many thanks to Camden County Freeholder Director Cappelli and Deputy Administrator Vesper for assisting NJAC in obtaining panelists.

4. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - NJAC Executive Director Donnadio, Esq. informed all board members that the NJAC Legislative Affairs Committee met on August 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss establishing the Association's legislative goals for the 2017 lame-duck session, 2018-2019 legislative session, and new State Administration in January 2018. Board members reviewed, discussed and adopted the following goals:

Lame-Duck Goals should be realistic and achievable before the new Governor and legislature take office in January 2018.

1. Extend the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards and reinstate the health benefit requirement under Chapter 78. (*Hunterdon/Somerset County motion*)
2. Authorize counties to share county tax administrators. (*County Surrogate/Monmouth County motion*)
3. Equalize the bid, pay-to-play, and prevailing wage thresholds. (*Mercer/Sussex County motion*)

Short-Term Goals should be realistic and achievable within the two year legislative cycle; and should be specific and tangible so that NJAC may accurately quantify any potential cost savings or other benefits.

1. Provide counties within their fair share of fees or surcharges collected from administering 9-1-1 services. (*Camden/Warren County motion*)
2. Permit the use of electronic procurement for goods and services. (*Warren/Cumberland County motion*)
3. Restrict commercial entities from using the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) for business purposes. (*County Clerk/Hunterdon County motion*)

The NJAC Legislative Committee recommended a fourth short-term goal of authorizing county jails to serve as residential drug treatment facilities. This recommendation was tabled for a later discussion on a *Hunterdon/Monmouth County* motion.

Long-Term Goals should be realistic and achievable within the first term of the newly elected Governor; and should offer viable solutions for long-standing issues that have had a negative impact on county governments.

1. Reduce the costs associated with operating and maintaining county court facilities. (*Monmouth/Salem County motion*)
2. Streamline Civil Service laws, rules, and regulations which includes an opt-out provision for local governing bodies. (*Somerset/Cape May County motion*)
3. Establish a dedicated source of grant funding for counties to use as seed monies to regionalize services. (*Cape May/Salem motion*)
4. Modernize the Local Public Contracts Law. (*Somerset/Morris County motion*)
5. Provide counties with the option to establish a dedicated source of revenue to promote economic development and tourism. (*Morris/Warren County motion*)

Morris County Freeholder Christine Myers discussed tourism and identifying a dedicated source of revenue to reinvest into tourism and economic development.

Lastly, Mr. Donnadio reminded the Board that, following the board meeting, at 1:00 p.m. a press conference pertaining to the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards is taking place on the steps of the State House Annex Building. Members from the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, New Jersey Conference of Mayors, and NJAC will be making remarks at this press conference. The purpose of this press conference is to urge State leaders to permanently extend the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards set to expire at the end of this year.

#### NEW BUSINESS

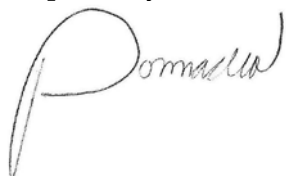
Freeholder King attended the NACo Annual Conference in July that took place in Columbus, OH. During this conference, comprehensive tax reform proposals that would impact counties were discussed. Of particular concern to New Jersey is the proposed elimination of the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction.

*The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Oakland Room of the Trenton Country Club.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned at 12:19 p.m. on a County Surrogate/Salem County motion.

Respectfully submitted by:



John G. Donnadio, Esq.  
NJAC Executive Director