

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

MARY H. MELFI  
NJAC President  
Hunterdon County Clerk

JOHN G. DONNADIO  
Executive Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

*March 23, 2018*

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

---

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by 2018 NJAC President and Hunterdon County Clerk Mary H. Melfi. After the flag salute, NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio called roll, and a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mary H. Melfi, *Hunterdon County Clerk*  
Brendan W. Gill, *Essex County Freeholder President*  
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*  
John Cimino, *Mercer County Freeholder Vice Chairman*  
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Freeholder*  
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*  
Joseph Derella, *Cumberland County Freeholder Director*  
Jerry Walker, *Hudson County Freeholder*  
John King, *Hunterdon County Freeholder*  
Ronald Rios, *Middlesex County Freeholder Director*  
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*  
Melissa DeCastro, *Salem County Freeholder Director*  
Carl Lazzaro, *Sussex County Freeholder*  
Bette Jane Kowalski, *Union County Freeholder Vice Chair*  
Richard Gardner, *Warren County Freeholder*  
Brian Hughes, *Mercer County Executive*  
Frank Bruno, *Somerset County Surrogate*  
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*  
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*  
Elaine Flynn, *Middlesex County Clerk*  
John Carroll, *Middlesex County Director of Public and Government Affairs*  
Christine Meyers, *Morris County Freeholder*

Michael Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*  
Greg Poff, *Sussex County Administrator*  
Ed Smith, *Warren County Director*

## OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT - NJAC Secretary-Treasurer and Mercer County Freeholder Vice President John Cimino reported on the following:
  - a. Meeting Minutes - The Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of January 26, 2018 on a Hudson/Union County motion.
  - b. NJAC Financials - The Board unanimously approved the NJAC financials, dated February 28, 2018 on a Warren/Gloucester County motion.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NJAC President Mary H. Melfi presented the following:
  - a. NJAC Committee Assignments - The Board unanimously approved the 2018 committee assignments on a Cumberland/Cape May County motion.
  - b. County Government Month Resolution - April 2018 is declared by the National Association of Counties and NJAC as County Government Month. The Board unanimously approved the resolution on a Salem/Hunterdon County motion.

President Melfi reported that she and Executive Director Donnadio will be visiting each county after primary elections in June to discuss the objectives and goals of NJAC for 2018.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - NJAC Executive Director John G. Donnadio announced that Investors Bank, PSEG, and NJM Insurance awarded the NJAC Foundation grants totaling \$38,250.00 for county vocational technical school graduates who plan on continuing their education at a State college or university. Investors Bank and PSEG will make check presentations at the Association's annual conference and counties were encouraged to hold special presentations for scholarship winners.

Mr. Donnadio also reported that the NJAC Annual Conference Committee led by Chair Marie Hayes and President Melfi met in January to discuss the logistics and agenda for this year's annual conference. The NJAC Annual Conference is being held from May 9<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup> at Caesar's in Atlantic City. The agenda includes a county vocational-technical school cook-off Challenge, a county college acapella sing-off, accredited workshops approved for continuing education credits, and ceremonies hosted in the main exhibit hall as well as unique networking opportunities to share resources and ideas. New segments this year are a President's dessert reception and briefing by former governors of New Jersey.

Finally, Mr. Donnadio reported that he and President Melfi are in the process of meeting with Governor Murphy's cabinet members. Next Tuesday, March 27, they are scheduled to meet with State Treasurer Elizabeth Muoio.

4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT - NJAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Essex County Freeholder President Brendan W. Gill announced a latest copy of the State House News, dated March 16, 2018, was enclosed in the provided packets and apprised the board members on the following issues at hand:

State Fiscal Year 2019 Budget - NJAC is in the process of reviewing the State Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and will provide a review of the spending plan shortly.

Interest Arbitration - NJAC will continue to aggressively pursue extending the 2% cap on binding interest arbitration awards that expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The NJAC Legislative Committee, led by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gill, will meet for discussion and develop a strategy from all 21 counties on re-enacting the 2% cap that the Legislature will understand.

Pension Changes - NJAC opposes legislation that would transfer management of the Police and Fireman's Retirement System (PFRS) a new Board of Trustees governed by labor as the measure does not provide adequate protections for members, local governing bodies, and property taxpayers.

Labor Access to Employees - NJAC also opposes legislation that would provide labor unions with virtually unrestricted access to employees, impact the orderly administration of government, and diminish the collective bargaining process by unleveling the playing field in favor of labor at the expense of management.

911 Fees - NJAC will continue to advocate for legislation that would allocate 9-1-1 funding for county local public safety answering points.

*The next meeting is scheduled for June 29 at 9:30 a.m. in Committee Room 4 of the State House Annex Building in Trenton.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a Cumberland/Warren County motion at 11:57 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