

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

BRENDAN W. GILL
NJAC President
Essex County Freeholder President

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by 2019 NJAC 1st President Marie Hayes. After the flag salute, NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio called roll, and a quorum was present.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*
John Cimino, *Mercer County Freeholder Vice Chairman*
Teri O'Connor, *Monmouth County Administrator*
Mary H. Melfi, *Hunterdon County Clerk*
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*
William Moen, Jr., *Camden County Freeholder*
Joseph Derella, *Cumberland County Freeholder Director*
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*
John Lanza, *Hunterdon County Freeholder*
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*
Charles Hassler, *Salem County Freeholder*
Greg Poff, *Sussex County Administrator*
Angela Garretson, *Union County Freeholder*
Richard Gardner, *Warren County Freeholder*
Diane Gerofsky, *Mercer 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*
Jeffrey Pierson, *Cape May County Freeholder*
Ken Mecouch, *Cumberland County Administrator*
Kimberly Wood, *Cumberland County Deputy Administrator*
Jody Hirata, *Cumberland County Deputy Administrator*
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder*
Mike Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*

OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT - NJAC Secretary-Treasurer and Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor reported on the following:
 - a. Meeting Minutes - The Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of January 25, 2019 on a Camden/Sussex County motion.
 - b. NJAC Financials - The Board unanimously approved the NJAC financials, dated January 31, 2019 on a Camden/Burlington County motion.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NJAC 1st Vice President E. Marie Hayes presented the following:
 - a. County Government Month Resolution - The Board unanimously approved April 2019 as County Government Month on a Warren/Cape May County motion.
 - b. NJAC Committee Assignments Resolution - The Board unanimously approved the resolution on a Mercer/Cumberland County motion.
 - c. President Visits and County Briefings - Mr. Donnadio announced that after the June primaries, he and President Gill will be visiting each county at their appropriate board meetings to discuss NJAC's goals and objectives.
 - d. Special Recognition Award - Mr. Donnadio and the Board of Directors recognized and presented an award to Ken Mecouch for his leadership, outstanding service, and dedication to county government and NJAC. Mr. Mecouch will retire as the Cumberland County Administrator on March 31st.
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT -
 - a. Annual Celebration of County Government May 8th through May 10th - NJAC's Conference Committee met in January to discuss this year's outstanding event, which includes the 8th annual County Vocational-Technical School Cook-off Challenge, an Acapella Sing-Off, outstanding workshops approved for continuing education credits, and the opportunity to network with county and business leaders from across the State. For the first time, NJAC is awarding scholarships to the winning schools in People's Choice category at the Cook-Off and is honoring freeholders with 20 years or more of service at the inaugural Freeholder Hall of Fame class.
 - b. Regional County Meetings - Mr. Donnadio mentioned he would like to form two groups regionalizing the northeast and central western counties similar to the Southern New Jersey Freeholders Association.
 - c. Business Associates Program - Board Members were asked and encouraged to help grow the NJAC Business Associates Program and assist with getting businesses to exhibit, sponsor and participate in this year's conference.

- d. County Administrators Training - Once again this year, NJAC and Rutgers University will be partnering on the New Jersey County Administrators Basic Certificate Program. This year's program will take place on September 27th and October 4th at the Rutgers University Inn and Conference Center in New Brunswick.
 - e. NJAC Foundation Scholarships - Mr. Donnadio announced Investors Bank, NJM Insurance Group, and SHI International awarded the NJAC Foundation grants totaling \$31,250.00 for county vocational technical school graduates who plan on continuing their education at a State college or university. Ms. Wizman is still awaiting to be invited to apply for the PSEG grant of \$12,000.00, for which NJAC Foundation anticipates on being approved. Investors Bank and PSEG will make check presentations at the Association's annual conference.
4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT - NJAC 2nd Vice President and Mercer County Freeholder Chair John Cimino announced that the latest copy of the State House News, dated March 15, 2019, was enclosed in the provided packets and apprised board members on the following issues:
- a. State Fiscal Year 2020 Budget - On March 5th, Governor Phil Murphy unveiled his \$38.6 billion spending plan for State Fiscal Year 2020. NJAC is in the process of reviewing the State fiscal year 2020 budget and will provide a review of the spending plan shortly.
 - b. 911 Funding - The State fiscal year 2020 budget does not include any new funding for county and municipal 911 centers and the State will continue diverting 911 fees. NJAC plans to testify before the Assembly Budget and Senate Budget and Appropriations committees that the State of New Jersey should comply with federal guidelines to adequately fund local 911 centers.
 - c. County Correctional Police Officers - NJAC supports the retitling of county correction officers to county correction police officers under recent legislation. NJAC advocated for the amendment to clarify that the measure would not alter the pension benefits of any person whose title would change. In general, county correction officers that participate in PERS are typically hired by counties at 35 years of age or older or fail to meet other PFRS requirements. NJAC testified at several committee hearings that approximately 250 county correction officers statewide fall in this category, and that the transfer of these employees from PERS to PFRS would cost approximately \$3.7 million per year statewide for active employees. The current employer pension contribution rate for PERS employees is 13.37% of an employee's annual salary, while the current employer pension contribution rate for PFRS employee is 27.3%. The General Assembly is expected to vote on the measure at one of its upcoming voting sessions and the Senate is expected to concur with the amendments.
 - d. County Transportation Services - Mr. Donnadio thanked Michael Viera, Executive Director of NJ COST, for taking time out of his busy schedule to testify with NJAC on March 11th before the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities

Committee concerning the transportation services provided by county governments to senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and other mobility needs. County administrators also provided NJAC with summaries of these vital services. As demand for community transportation systems have grown exponentially, monies from the Casino Revenue Fund, which support the Senior Citizens and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (SCDRTAP), have decreased by 51% since 2008 forcing county governments to either subsidize the programs or reduce services. NJAC urges State leaders to develop a more dependable and stable source of revenue so that county governments across the State may continue delivering essential transportation services to senior citizens, individuals with disabilities and others with mobility needs.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Palladium Ballroom of the Caesar's in Atlantic City during the 69th NJAC Annual Conference and Celebration of County Government.

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a Warren/Morris County motion at 11:53 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 letter.

John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director