

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

E. MARIE HAYES  
NJAC President  
Cape May County Freeholder

JOHN G. DONNADIO  
Executive Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

*June 26, 2020*  
Video Conference Meeting  
9:00 a.m.

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The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by 2020 NJAC President E. Marie Hayes. After the flag salute, NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio called roll, and a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Daniel O'Connell, *Burlington County Freeholder*  
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*  
Johnathan Young, Sr., *Camden County Freeholder*  
Melinda Kane, *Camden County Freeholder*  
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*  
Joseph Derella *Cumberland County Freeholder Director*  
Darlene Barber, *Cumberland County Freeholder*  
Brendan W. Gill, *Essex County Freeholder President*  
Rufus Johnson, *Essex County Freeholder*  
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Freeholder*  
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*  
Susan Soloway, *Hunterdon County Freeholder Deputy Director*  
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Freeholder*  
John Cimino, *Mercer County Freeholder*  
Teri O'Connor *Monmouth County Administrator*  
Deborah Smith, *Morris County Freeholder Director*  
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*  
Virginia Haines, *Ocean County Freeholder*  
Anthony DeNova, *Passaic County Administrator*  
Charles Hassler *Salem County Freeholder*  
Shanel Robinson, *Somerset County Freeholder Director*  
Herb Yardley *Sussex County Freeholder*  
Angela Garretson, *Union County Freeholder*  
Alex Lazorisak, *Warren County Administrator*  
Brian Hughes, *Mercer County Executive*  
Shaun Golden, *Monmouth County Sheriff*  
John Armeno, *Sheriff's Association of NJ*  
Joe Hannon, Esq., *Member of Genova Burns LLC and NJAC Labor Relations Counsel*  
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

Gerry Seneski, *Cumberland County CFO*

Kim Wood, *Cumberland County Administrator*

Michael Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*

Greg Poff, *Sussex County Administrator*

## OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT - NJAC Secretary/Treasurer and Cumberland County Freeholder Director Joseph Derella reported on the following:
  - a. Meeting Minutes - The Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of January 24, 2020 on Mercer/Sussex motion.
  - b. NJAC Financials - The Board unanimously approved the NJAC financials dated May 31, 2020 on a Mercer/Union motion.
  - c. NJAC Overall Fiscal Status - NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio reviewed the overall fiscal health of the Association and made recommendations on mitigating losses, reducing operating expenses, and generating new monies. The Executive Director noted that the Association's annual conference generates approximately 35% of the organization's yearly revenue and that the Association would likely furlough or layoff employees if the event is cancelled in its entirety. The Board recommended polling members to determine their thoughts on a hybrid in-person/remote conference before making a final decision.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NJAC President E. Marie Hayes presented the following:
  - a. NJAC Committee Assignments - The Board unanimously approved NJAC committee assignments on a Salem/Gloucester motion.
  - b. September 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to September 18<sup>th</sup> - The Board unanimously approved rescheduling the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to September 18<sup>th</sup> on a Mercer/Salem motion.
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio presented the following:
  - a. Annual Celebration of County Government October 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> - As noted above, the Executive Director will poll members to determine their thoughts on how the event should take place.
  - b. Year-End Conference - Mr. Donnadio indicated that this would be discussed in more detail at the next Board meeting as the Association must first focus on next steps for its annual conference.

- c. NJAC Foundation Scholarships - Mr. Donnadio highlighted the continued success of the NJAC Foundation and noted the generous donations made this year by Investors Bank, SHI, and NJM. Mr. Donnadio gave the floor to NJAC Foundation Trustee Heather Simmons who thanked NJAC staff for growing relationships with donors and stressed the importance of the scholarship program during the COVID-19 public health crisis.
4. COUNTY GOVERNMENT'S ROLE DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS - Freeholder Hayes reflected on the hard work of county governments during the COVID-19 public health crisis and thanked everyone for their leadership and commitment to public service.
    - a. Reopening of County Facilities - Mr. Donnadio thanked the Board for participating in several surveys to facilitate the timely sharing of important information. Burlington County Administrator Eve Cullinan noted that Burlington County is facing challenges with reopening as it shares administrative facilities with the State. The County Administrator also discussed the County's plan to execute furloughs with library staff. Hudson County Administrator Abe Antun and Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor reiterated that county governments have been open throughout the COVID-19 public health crisis and have continued to provide services. As such, Monmouth County has been using the phrase "returning to the office" rather than "returning to work." NJAC was asked to conduct additional surveys on topics including face coverings, remote freeholder meetings, COVID-19 testing, and services for seniors. Finally, Camden County Freeholder Jonathan Young discussed the fact that the county one-stop centers are supposed to be open but the State is not providing the necessary employees or guidance.
    - b. Labor Issues - At the request of Union county Freeholder Angela Garretson, Mr. Donnadio will gather information on how the public sector unions are responding to transitioning back to work.
    - c. Testing Sites - Mr. Donnadio discussed a recent NJAC survey on county-run COVID-19 testing sites and their plans moving forward. Several counties including Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Ocean, and Passaic provided; and, Passaic County Administrator Tony DeNova noted that Passaic County is the only county in the nation offering in-home COVID-19 testing.
    - d. Contact Tracing - Mr. Donnadio reviewed the steps the State is taking to boost the availability of contact tracers in the State as well as a recent State RFP. Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties discussed how they have handled contact tracing to this point including soliciting volunteer staff such as school nurses. Cumberland County Freeholder Joseph Derella noted how having State and federal prisons within their county has impacted their COVID-19 statistics.

- e. Law Enforcement Legislation - Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden discussed several recent developments impacting law enforcement including new body camera legislation, new law enforcement licensure requirements, and the recent directive to release the names of police officers with certain violations issued by the State's Attorney General. Sheriff Golden recommended NJAC review these matters for potential fiscal, liability, and operational concerns that would impact county governments.
  - f. Budget Projections - The Board concurred that the COVID-19 public health crisis has creating revenue shortfalls in realty transfers fees, county fines, and other ancillary revenues and remains concerned about the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter property tax collections.
5. STATE HOUSE NEWS- NJAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Mercer County Freeholder John Cimino reported on the following:
- a. State's Borrowing Plan - The General Assembly recently passed legislation that would authorize the State to issue \$5.0 billion in general obligation bonds and to apply for up to \$9.0 billion in federal stimulus loans on behalf of certain local governing bodies. Although a companion version of the bill does not currently exist in the Senate, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee held a public hearing on the Administration's proposal earlier this month where the State Treasurer also outlined the projected \$10.0 billion revenue shortfall the State is facing as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis. NJAC has not taken a position on this legislation and the measure has stalled in the Senate at this time. Morris County Freeholder Deborah Smith, Hunterdon County Freeholder Susan Soloway, and Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor noted that their counties opposed the measure. As such, NJAC will poll members on whether the Association should support/oppose/abstain from the measure.
  - b. COVID-19 Bonds - Legislation that would allow counties and municipalities to borrow monies through the issuance of bonds or notes to cover unanticipated emergency expenses and revenue shortfalls directly attributable to the COVID-19 public health crisis has also stalled in the Senate for the time being. NJAC supports this legislation as it would provide a valuable mechanism to help navigate the unprecedented budget challenges all local governing bodies will undoubtedly face because of the COVID-19 public health crisis
  - c. Deficit Financing - Similar to COVID-19 Relief Bonds, but somewhat more conservative, Senator Troy Single recently introduced legislation that would authorize local governing bodies to borrow the amount of an anticipated deficit in operations, an actual deficit in operations, or emergency appropriations related to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The main differences between issuing COVID-19 Bonds and Deficit Financing are that the duration of financing, the length of financing, and the number of applicable budget years are more restrictive under Deficit Financing, which also requires Local Finance Board approval under the Local Budget Law. NJAC supports this bill as well.

- d. Additional Legislation - The Executive Director thanked Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor for her help with legislation that would have, in part, allowed municipalities to unilaterally close county roads and thanked Governor Murphy for conditional vetoing legislation that would have proved costly for county correctional facilities to implement.
  
6. FEDERAL FUNDING REVIEW - Mr. Donnadio indicated that there is no new movement on federal legislation that would provide additional direct aid to counties or municipalities. Separately, the Executive Director reported that he's optimistic the State will reimburse the 12 counties that did not receive CARES Act monies for the expenses incurred in operating test sites, purchasing PPE equipment, sheltering at-risk individuals, and more.

*The next meeting is scheduled for September 18 at 9:00 a.m. location TBD.*

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a Monmouth/Salem County motion at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



John G. Donnadio, Esq.  
NJAC Executive Director