

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

September 18, 2020
Video Conference Meeting
9:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio. After the flag salute, Mr. Donnadio called roll, and a quorum was present.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Maureen Kern *Atlantic County Freeholder Vice-Chairwoman*
Daniel O'Connell, *Burlington County Freeholder*
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*
Johnathan Young, Sr., *Camden County Freeholder*
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Freeholder*
Joseph Derella *Cumberland County Freeholder Director*
Rufus Johnson, *Essex County Freeholder*
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Freeholder*
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*
Susan Soloway, *Hunterdon County Freeholder Deputy Director*
John Cimino, *Mercer County Freeholder*
John Pulomena *Middlesex County Administrator*
Teri O'Connor *Monmouth County Administrator*
Doug Cabana *Morris County Freeholder*
Deborah Smith, *Morris County Freeholder Director*
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*
Anthony DeNova, *Passaic County Administrator*
Charles Hassler *Salem County Freeholder*
Herb Yardley *Sussex County Freeholder*
George Strachan *Gloucester County Improvement Authority*
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

Kim Wood, *Cumberland County Administrator*
Deena Leary *Morris 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 approved the meeting minutes of June 26, 2020 on a Salem/Mercer motion. Sussex County abstained.
 - b. NJAC Financials – The Board unanimously approved the NJAC financials dated August 31, 2020 on a Camden/Passaic motion.
 - c. NJAC Overall Fiscal Status & Revenue Generation – NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio discussed the revenue impact of cancelling the annual conference. Several cost saving measures were also discussed such as relocating NJAC's office, eliminating NJAC's General Counsel and the per diem employee, and reducing travel and event registration expenses. The Board was given an overview of the NACo program "Cashvest," which uses proprietary software and advanced analytics to maximize returns on governmental deposits. The fee structure for this program was discussed, which includes no upfront costs to local governments and no cost at all unless it can demonstrate cost savings. Mr. Donnadio took questions on the program, and the Board voted to move forward with getting a more detailed presentation on a Hudson/Mercer motion.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – NJAC President E. Marie Hayes presented the following:
 - a. NJAC Executive Board Nomination – The Board will be accepting nominations for a new Secretary/Treasurer. In order to maintain NJAC's status as a bi-partisan organization, the nominee must be a Republican and an active board member. Members were asked to consider the criteria and submit nominations.
 - b. NJAC Year-End Summit – This year, the Year-End Summit will be turned into an awards celebration and luncheon, to be held on December 11th. The awards to be given out were reviewed. At this time, the plan is to hold the event in person, but the Association will host a virtual one if necessary. The theme for the event will be positive, as the year has brought so many challenges for all. Mr. Donnadio took board feedback on these proposals which were well received.
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio presented the following:
 - a. Covid Workshops – Mr. Donnadio discussed the workshops which will be replacing the NJAC Annual Conference this year. The workshops have all been approved for continuing education credits and members were encouraged to participate.
 - b. Foundation Scholarships– Mr. Donnadio thanked the membership for their help in distributing and presenting the 2020 NJAC Foundation Scholarship Awards. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, the scholarships were again well received. The donations made by Investors Bank, SHI, and NJM were distributed to county

- vocation technical school graduate continuing their education at a county college or State college or university.
- c. NJAC County Administrators Certificate Program - Mr. Donnadio highlighted the upcoming County Administrator's Certificate Program which is done in partnership with Rutgers University.
4. PRESIDENTS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION - Freeholder Hayes opened the floor for a roundtable discussion on a number of topics, including:
 - a. Labor Issues - There was a brief discussion on labor issues being faced by the counties in light of the Covid-19 health crisis. NJAC is awaiting State guidance on the opening of public facilities but has yet to receive it.
 - b. Interest Arbitration & Law Enforcement Issues - Hudson County asked about the status of interest arbitration discussions in light of Covid-19. NJAC has had ongoing discussions with the Administration on this topic but it has become a backburner issue in light of the public health crisis. NJAC will continue to push this issue as the State comes out of the pandemic. Several counties commented on the potential impact of Covid on arbitration cases and the difference in this current wave of negotiations with law enforcement bargaining units. Additionally, Mr. Donnadio discussed recently held legislation that would have allowed PFRS members to retire at any age after 20 years of service.
 - c. Additional Roundtable Issues - Burlington County discussed some issues they are having with CAREs Act funding related to billing insurance before being eligible for reimbursement. The 12 counties who did not receive direct aid from the federal government also asked for clarification on when they may be receiving the funds. Hudson County discussed a letter that came from the Lt. Governor which discussed additional community development block grant funds for each county. Regarding State budget projections, Hudson County asked if there will be any collateral benefit for counties with the budget deal that has been struck by the Governor and the Legislature. Mr. Donnadio speculated that any restorations of funding to counties will come from the recycling trust fund and clean communities grant cuts. Camden County inquired about 911 grant funding but was informed that does not appear to be realistic in this budget season. The 911 grant funding issue will be a priority for NJAC again, same as interest arbitration, coming out of the public health crisis.
 5. STATE HOUSE NEWS- NJAC 1st Vice President and Mercer County Freeholder John Cimino reported on the following:
 - a. State's Budget - The budget agreement reached by the Administration and the Legislature was reviewed, including new revenues such as the millionaire's tax and CBT surcharge. It is expected that the budget will be adopted in the following week, ahead of the deadline at the end of September.
 - b. COVID-19 Bonds - Local officials are awaiting guidance from the Division of Local Government Services on recent legislation signed into law that would allow

counties and municipalities to borrow monies through the issuance of bonds or notes to cover unanticipated emergency expenses and revenue shortfalls.

- c. Additional Legislation - Mr. Donnadio reviewed legislation that would mandate the creation of a county re-entry coordinator position in each county to help released inmates navigate social services upon re-entry. Although NJAC was instrumental in the drafting of the bill, the version which passed the Assembly did not include an appropriation to fund the position. Mr. Donnadio also indicated that the association may begin to ramp up advocacy for separating the local and state PERS system. This advocacy platform was approved by the board after a Hudson/Passaic motion. Passaic County also brought up recently signed legislation that deals with the compensation of nursing home employees. It was noted that treating publicly owned facilities like privately owned ones creates additional challenges for these public nursing homes. There were no new updates on additional federal financial support for local governments.

6. NEW BUSINESS - Middlesex County discussed State directives for counties to stockpile PPE for long-term care facilities within their borders as part of agreements on reimbursement funding. Several counties discussed how they are handling the new "Juneteenth" holiday declaration from the State with regards to their existing holiday schedules and at the bargaining table.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11 at 9:00 a.m. location TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned on a Monmouth/Camden County motion at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director