

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

JOHN A. CIMINO
NJAC President
Mercer County Commissioner

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2021

Video Conference Meeting

10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by NJAC President and Mercer County Commissioner John A. Cimino.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Caren Fitzpatrick *Atlantic County Commissioner*
Steven Tanelli *Bergen County Commissioner Chairman*
Tracy Silna Zur *Bergen County Commissioner Vice-Chairwoman*
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*
Johnathan Young, Sr., *Camden County Commissioner*
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Commissioner*
Jeffrey L. Pierson *Cape May County Commissioner*
Joseph Derella *Cumberland County Commissioner Director*
Darlene Barber, *Cumberland County Deputy Commissioner Director*
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Commissioner*
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*
Shaun Van Doren, *Hunterdon County Commissioner*
John Cimino, *Mercer County Commissioner*
Nancy Pinkin, *Middlesex County Clerk*
Teri O'Connor, *Monmouth County Administrator*
Dominick DiRocco, *Monmouth County Commissioner*
Doug Cabana, *Morris County Commissioner*
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*
Virginia E. Haines, *Ocean County Commissioner*
Mike Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*
Shanel Robinson, *Somerset County Commissioner Director*
Greg Poff, *Sussex County Administrator*
Angela Garretson, *Union County Commissioner*
Diane Gerofsky, *Mercer County Surrogate*
George Strachan, *Gloucester County Improvement Authority*
Shaun Golden, *Monmouth County Sheriff*
John G. Donnadio, *NJAC Executive Director*
Allen Weston, *NJAC Legislative Director*
Kimberly Nolan, *NJAC Office Manager*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Julian Neals, Esq. *Bergen County Administrator*
Catherine Binowski, *Camden County Director of Human Resources*
Kim Wood, *Cumberland County Administrator*
Deena Leary *Morris County Deputy Administrator*
Michael Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*
Bruce Bergen, *Union County Counsel*
Matt Chase, *Executive Director, NACo*

MATT CHASE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NACO

President Cimino introduced NACo Executive Director Matt Chase to the Board. Mr. Chase gave an overview of the NACo blueprint and their non-partisan mission in Washington. Mr. Chase discussed NACo legislative priorities such as HR1 and the “American Rescue Plan” and gave an overview of the first 100 days of the Biden Administration. Finally, Mr. Chase took questions from the Board and discussed how federal aid would flow to local governments.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT – NJAC Secretary/Treasurer and Hunterdon County Commissioner Shaun Van Doren reported on the following:
 - a. Meeting Minutes/NJAC Financials – The Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes of the January 29, 2021 NJAC reorganization meeting on motions by Cumberland and Bergen counties.
 - b. NJAC Financials The Board unanimously approved the NJAC financials dated March 17, 2021 on motions by Cape May and Morris counties.
2. PRESIDENT’S REPORT – NJAC President and Mercer County Commissioner John A. Cimino presented the following:
 - a. Resolution – County Government Month/NJAC Committee Assignments – The board unanimously approved the two resolutions on a single motions by Bergen and Camden counties. 1
 - b. President’s Visits, County Briefings & Legislative Meetings - President Cimino indicated that he would like to visit each county with Executive Director Donnadio this summer. The Board was also solicited for issues currently impacting their counties so that the NJAC team could advocate on their behalf.
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio presented the following:
 - a. NJAC Partnership with cashVest- Mr. Donnadio reviewed the NJAC partnership with cashVest and the timely nature of this partnership as federal monies begin to flow into the counties.
 - b. Annual Celebration of County Government- Mr. Donnadio indicated that the Association is moving forward with a plan to have an in-person celebration of county government from October 12-14th in Atlantic City. While there will be no

cook-off or sing-off, Mr. Donnadio is hopeful that the gubernatorial candidates will be in attendance to address county officials before the election.

- c. Virtual Workshops- Mr. Donnadio highlighted the recent educational workshops and previewed upcoming workshops on mental health programs and prisoner re-entry programs.
 - d. NJAC Foundation Scholarships - Mr. Donnadio was pleased to inform the Board that the scholarship program will aim to get back to delivering in-person scholarships at commissioner meetings throughout the State starting in the summer where possible. The program is once again made possible by the generous donations of Investors Bank, SHI, NJM, and PSE&G.
4. STATE HOUSE NEWS - NJAC 1st Vice President and Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor Presented the following:
- a. American Rescue Plan Guidance - The Board discussed this topic during the presentation by Mr. Chase.
 - b. Transfer of Local PERS - Mr. Donnadio reviewed recently introduced legislation that would separate the local portion of PERS and provide equal representation on the new board between labor and management. The annual increases to county contributions in 2021 were reviewed as was the necessity for this legislation in order to preserve the fiscal health of the local system. Mr. Donnadio asked all the counties to pass resolutions supporting this proposal.
 - c. 9-1-1 Fee Diversion - Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden reviewed the historical context of New Jersey's 9-1-1 fee diversion and announced that he will be a member of a newly created FCC committee on fee diversion and how to address it. The newly announced infrastructure proposal by the Biden Administration will contain billions in new federal funding to upgrade systems to NextGen. Commissioner Young highlighted how the pandemic has brought to light issues with New Jersey's 9-1-1 infrastructure backbone and how many counties have already exceeded the capabilities of what the State backbone can handle. Mr. Donnadio indicated that the message about funding diversion is resonating with the Legislature and that some legislators have indicated they will be putting forth proposals to provide local funding during the budget negotiations.
 - d. In-person Early Voting - Mr. Donnadio gave an overview of the early voting legislation and the estimated costs associated with it. NJAC is hopeful that the proposal will end up being appropriately funded during the budget process, however, should the Administration/Legislature underfund the operation, a the Association will pursue a claim with the Council on Local Mandates. Several board members discussed implementation issues that go beyond simply funding the measure appropriately, including issues with polling locations, the short timeframe, and the state-wide voter registration system.

- e. County Correctional Police Officer Vacancies – With vacancies for these positions sitting around 20% state-wide, NJAC is working with leadership in both houses of the Legislature to move legislation to help aid in filling these vacancies. So far, leadership has committed to the legislation conceptually.

- f. County Jail Prisoner Re-entry – Mr. Donnadio reviewed legislation which requires numerous services to be provided for inmates at the time of release from a State prison or a county jail. It looks like the bill will be amended to only apply to inmates who had a stay of 60-90 days which will remove the eligibility for a majority of inmates in county facilities. Another important potential amendment would remove the bill's requirement to provide a three month supply of medication to the released inmate, and instead supply a script for a three month supply to them upon release. These amendments would result in substantial savings of taxpayer dollars compared to the original proposed language in the legislation.

5. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS – None.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 25th at 10:00 a.m. location TBD. President Cimino will continue to work towards having an in-person meeting for those who wish to attend and is looking for a location that can accommodate the board.

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director