

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

JOHN A. CIMINO
NJAC President
Mercer County Commissioner

JOHN G. DONNADIO, ESQ.
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2021
Video Conference Meeting
10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by NJAC President and Mercer County Commissioner John A. Cimino.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Steven Tanelli, *Bergen County Commissioner Chairman*
Daniel J. O'Connell, *Burlington County Commissioner*
Eve Cullinan, *Burlington County Administrator*
Johnathan Young, Sr., *Camden County Commissioner*
E. Marie Hayes, *Cape May County Commissioner*
Jeffrey Pierson, *Cape May County Commissioner*
Joseph Derella *Cumberland County Commissioner Director*
Darlene Barber, *Cumberland County Deputy Commissioner Director*
Kim Wood, *Cumberland County Administrator*
Heather Simmons, *Gloucester County Commissioner*
Abe Antun, *Hudson County Administrator*
Shaun Van Doren, *Hunterdon County Commissioner*
John Cimino, *Mercer County Commissioner*
Ann Cannon, *Mercer County Commissioner*
Nancy Pinkin, *Middlesex County Clerk*
Teri O'Connor, *Monmouth County Administrator*
Douglas Cabana, *Morris County Commissioner*
John Bonanni, *Morris County Administrator*
John P. Kelly, *Ocean County Commissioner*
Carl Block, *Ocean County Administrator*
Anthony DeNova, *Passaic County Administrator*
Ed Ramsay, *Salem County Commissioner*
Shanel Robinson, *Somerset County Commissioner Director*
Greg Poff, *Sussex County Administrator*
Angela Garretson, *Union County Commissioner*
James Kern, III, *Warren County Commissioner Director*
Brian Hughes, *Mercer County Executive*
Mary Melfi, *Hunterdon County Clerk*
Paula Sollami-Covello, *Mercer County Clerk*
Diane Gerofsky, *Mercer County Surrogate*
George Strachan, *Gloucester County Improvement Authority*
Shaun Golden, *Monmouth County Sheriff*

Joe Hannon, Esq., *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

Sonya Harris, *Atlantic County Clerk to the Board*
Catherine Binowski, *Camden County Assistant County Counsel*
James Rhodes, *Camden County Deputy Administrator*
Paige Desiere, *Cumberland County Director of Personnel and Human Resources*
Eric Campo, Esq., *Gloucester County Counsel*
Robert Taino, *Hudson County, Secretary to Sheriff Schillari*
Lillian Nazzaro, *Mercer County Administrator*
Dominick DiRocco, *Monmouth County Commissioner*
Michael Fiure, *Ocean County Deputy Administrator*
Emily Hammer, *Warren County Director of Public Works*
Jane Sharp, *Rutgers University, School of Public Affairs and Administration*
Muriel Sportelli, *Spruce Technology Inc, VP of Public Sector*
Gordon Thomas, *TD Bank, Vice President*
Wayne Leahy, *Honeywell, Energy Services Group*
Tim Hillman, *New Jersey Office of the Governor, Deputy Chief of Staff, Intergovernmental Affairs*

TIM HILLMAN, NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

President Cimino introduced Mr. Hillman, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intergovernmental Affairs for Governor Murphy to give an update on a variety of State-level issues. Mr. Hillman discussed the status of the COVID-19 response in New Jersey and indicated that no new restrictions were being considered in the foreseeable future. The State is currently working on their booster shot plan, which includes how to build back up capacity and where to have sites located. Governor's Counsel is currently working on vaccine mandates and how they line up with new federal mandates. Mr. Hillman also discussed the State's response to Tropical Storm Ida with the intent to expand disaster declarations for Essex, Mercer and Hudson counties at a minimum. Mr. Hillman also reviewed assistance programs available to residents impacted by the storm and proceeded to take questions from the Board.

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 of Directors unanimously approved the meeting minutes of the June 25, 2021 on a Hunterdon/Union motion, and unanimously approved the financials on a Passaic/Camden motion.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – NJAC President and Mercer County Commissioner John A. Cimino presented the following:

- a. Tropical Storm Ida – President Cimino requested, and the Board concurred, that NJAC should urge the Governor's office, the State's congressional delegation and legislative leadership, FEMA, and President Biden to expand the State's disaster declaration to include additional counties impacted by Tropical Storm Ida.
 - b. County Visits/Legislative Meetings - President Cimino indicated that he was hoping for an in-person Board meeting and additional county visits during his tenure, but anticipates increased in-person activity by the end of the year. Mr. Cimino also discussed the upcoming lame duck legislative session and deferred to Mr. Donnadio to discuss individual proposals in his report. Counties were asked to bring any challenges they are currently facing to him to be addressed by the Association.
 - c. Year-End Meeting Format - The Board discussed the possibility of having an in-person year end event as NJAC normally would. The President and Executive Director both would like to see this happen and opened the discussion to the Board for feedback and topic proposals. After some discussion, it was decided that an in-person meeting would take place with a topic dealing on emergency management and storm response.
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio presented the following:
- a. Annual Celebration of County Government– Mr. Donnadio informed the Board that registrations have gone well for the Conference, with more than 300 people and 70 vendors already signed up with a month to go. The schedule for the event was reviewed as well as some measures that have been scaled back due to the pandemic.
 - b. NJAC Partnership with cashVest– Mr. Donnadio discussed the NJAC partnership with cashVest and indicated that Atlantic County has been the first county to sign onto the program.
 - c. County Administrators Certification Program - Mr. Donnadio reviewed the County Administrators Certification Program done in conjunction with Rutgers University and encouraged attendance for those who have not completed the program.
 - d. Regional County Meetings in 2022– Mr. Donnadio was pleased to inform the Board that progress has been made regarding the formulation of Central and Northern New Jersey Commissioner Associations to emulate what takes place in Southern New Jersey. Meetings will likely begin in the coming year for the Northern and Central groups.
4. STATE HOUSE NEWS – NJAC 1st Vice President and Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor Presented the following:
- a. Labor Negotiations Legislation – Mr. Donnadio provided an overview on the "Responsible Collective Negotiations Act" and indicated that the bill may resurface during the lame-duck session after renewed efforts by labor unions who favor the proposal. It was suggested that Board members meet with and discuss the impact of the legislation with their legislative delegations both now and after the general election.

- b. 9-1-1 Fee Diversion – Mr. Donnadio indicated that there is some progress being made on this front as Assemblyman Spearman has introduced legislation and the Board was asked to support the proposal and keep this issue at the forefront. Sheriff Golden discussed his participation on an FCC committee that was asked to make recommendations regarding diverting states such as New Jersey and shared some recommendations that made it into the final committee report.
 - c. Hiring County Correctional Police Officers – Mr. Donnadio reviewed Senate Bill S-3672 which would aid in the hiring of county correctional police officers in the counties that continue to struggle to do so by removing the requirement that they pass the civil service law enforcement examination.
 - d. Additional Legislative Matters - Mr. Donnadio indicated that he has been requesting the Administration for clarity on vaccine mandates. Counties shared information on what they have been doing as well as roadblocks they have faced regarding vaccine mandates. The potential for a uniform policy was discussed to help avoid or stand up to potential challenges. County Executive Hughes discussed Mercer County's response to Tropical Storm Ida and the County's work with FEMA in the aftermath of the storm.
5. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS – Commissioner Young discussed the EMT shortage in Camden County and asked other Board members if they are also experiencing the same problem. Sheriff Golden indicated that he has heard of shortages from other sheriffs and through the Police Chiefs' Association.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 9:00 a.m. in-person.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 11:39 a.m. on a Camden/Cumberland motion.

Respectfully submitted by:



John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director