

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice!

TERI O'CONNOR
NJAC President
Monmouth County Administrator

JOHN G. DONNADIO, ESQ.
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2022

Video Conference Meeting

10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by NJAC President and Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Teri O'Connor, NJAC President & Monmouth County Administrator
Shaun Van Doren, NJAC 2nd VP & Hunterdon County Commissioner
Shanel Robinson, NJAC Secretary-Treasurer & Somerset County Commissioner Director
Tracy Silna Zur, Bergen County Commissioner Chairwoman
Eve Cullinan, Burlington County Administrator
Dan O'Connell, Burlington County Commissioner Director
Dominic Vesper, Camden County Deputy Administrator
Melinda Kane, Camden County Commissioner
E. Marie Hayes, Cape May County Commissioner
Jeffrey Pierson, Cape May County Commissioner
Darlene Barber, Cumberland County Commissioner Director
Heather Simmons, Gloucester County Commissioner Deputy Director
Frank DiMarco, Gloucester County Commissioner Director
Nicholas DeSilvio, Gloucester County Commissioner
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator
John Cimino, Mercer County Commissioner
Nancy Pinkin, Middlesex County Clerk
Dominick DiRocco, Monmouth County Commissioner
John Bonanni, Morris County Administrator
Douglas Cabana, Morris County Commissioner
Deborah Smith, Morris County Commissioner
John Kelly, Ocean County Commissioner Director
Mike Fiure, Ocean County Deputy Administrator
Tony DeNova, Passaic County Administrator
Ed Ramsey, Salem County Commissioner
Colleen Mahr, Somerset County Administrator
John Lovell, Sussex County Acting Administrator
Dr. Angela Garretson, Union County Commissioner
Al Mirabella, Union County Commissioner
James Kern III, Warren County Commissioner
Diane Gerofsky, Mercer County Surrogate

Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff
George Strachan, Gloucester County Improvement Authority Executive Director
Bob Werkmeister, NJAC Transportation Consultant
John Donnadio Esq., NJAC Executive Director
Allen Weston, NJAC Legislative Director
Loren Wizman, NJAC Director of Business Development
Kim Nolan, NJAC Office Manager

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Bonnie Lindaw, Atlantic County CFO & Treasurer
Alison Hansen, Cape May County Purchasing Agent
Cristi Mahabir, Passaic County Director, Human Resources
Marc Seemon, Passaic County Deputy Administrator
John Bruno, Somerset County Human Resources Director

HONORABLE DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI, COMMISSIONER, STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

President O'Connor turned the meeting over to Executive Director Donnadio who introduced Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti. The Commissioner reviewed the bi-partisan federal infrastructure law, which will bring additional transportation funding to New Jersey with \$4.1 million being anticipated for NJ Transit and about \$8.0 billion to NJ DOT inclusive of the regular apportionment.

The Commissioner also discussed the national electric vehicle program and the buildup of charging stations in the state to reduce range anxiety, the parameters for location of charging stations that are required to qualify for Federal Grant Programs and partnerships with border states in planning locations and buildouts regionally. The Commissioner also indicated there will be additional money to deal with State bridges which will be spread out throughout the state. Counties were informed that they can apply directly to US DOT for grants for federal infrastructure money. NJ DOT will help counties with the application process through the local aid group in the Department, as well as with letters of support. It was recommended that locals have their congressional delegations put in letters of support for grant applications as well. Finally, the Board was informed that NJ DOT is strengthening and reconfiguring their local aid staff to help with the roll out of the federal infrastructure bill. NJ DOT will also be working with their federal counterparts to do webinars and provide informational guidance to locals. The Commissioner then took questions from the board.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT – NJAC Secretary/Treasurer and Somerset County Commissioner Director Shanel Robinson reported on the following:
 - a. Meeting Minutes/NJAC Financials – The Board approved the meeting minutes of the March 18, 2022, NJAC Board of Directors meeting on a Cape May/Burlington motion. Additionally, the Board unanimously approved the NJAC Financial on an Ocean/Cape May County motion.
2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – NJAC President and Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor presented the following:

- a. Annual Conference Recap – President O’Connor reviewed the events of NJAC’s Annual Celebration of County Government and informed the Board that the event was a success financially. The Board was asked to begin submitting suggestions for next year’s event.
 - b. President Travels/Regional County Meetings – President O’Connor discussed the first meetings of the North Jersey and Central Jersey Commissioners’ Associations and expressed a desire for the groups to closely mirror the success of the South Jersey Commissioners’ Association. President O’Connor will continue to attend as many county meetings across the state with Executive Director Donnadio as possible.
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio presented the following:
- a. NJAC Foundation Scholarships - Mr. Donnadio reviewed the various scholarship presentations he has attended this year and thanked the counties for the wonderful job they have done highlighting the winners. Mr. Donnadio also thanked the scholarship foundations business partners who have made the program possible and allowed it to grow. Foundation President and Gloucester County Commissioner Deputy Director Heather Simmons also thanked the sponsors and discussed the deep talent pool of students in New Jersey.
 - b. NJAC Virtual Workshops – Mr. Donnadio reviewed the upcoming virtual workshop on July 6th which will be conducted on doing business with the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank.
 - c. NACo Annual Conference 7/21-7/25– Mr. Donnadio encouraged the board to attend this year’s annual NACo Conference in Colorado. NACo has been very helpful the last several years in navigating the large federal legislative packages that have come down as a result of the pandemic.
 - d. NJAC Year End Summit on Human Trafficking – NJAC will be hosting its annual Year-End Summit this year on the subject of Human Trafficking. The event will return to the Trenton Country Club on December 16th.
4. STATE HOUSE NEWS – NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio reported on the following:
- a. 9-1-1 Fee Diversion – It was noted that NJAC will continue to pursue the restoration of 9-1-1 funding through the State Budget until it comes to fruition. NJAC requested \$21.0 million in funding and it appears that the Legislature has included \$10.0 in its budget. Executive Director Donnadio thanked President O’Connor and Sheriff Golden for testifying at a recent committee hearing where 9-1-1 related legislation was considered.
 - b. FY 2023 State Budget – The Board was informed that the budget season has been unusually quiet this year, with lots of federal money flowing into the State. The Administration and Legislature seem intent to quietly negotiate how they would like to see this money spent.
 - c. Use of Legal Cannabis by Off Duty Law Enforcement – Despite repeated requests, NJAC does not anticipate any legal guidance from the Attorney General’s Office on the use of legal cannabis by off-duty law enforcement and leadership in the Senate has been unwilling to

revisit the law. Additional regulations from the Regulatory Cannabis Commission if forthcoming.

- d. Implementation of Daniel's Law – NJAC participated on call earlier this week with the Office of Information Privacy concerning the implementation of Daniel's. NJAC has been driving home the point that there is not just one custodian of records at the county level, where there are multiple autonomous agencies in but not of the county.
 - e. Opting Out of Civil Service - Over the summer, NJAC will be asking counties for specific examples of why it makes sense to be able to opt out of civil service in order to build our case. The Association will continue to be vocal on this issue although there may not be much movement on a full opt-out. There is hope that smaller concessions to specific problems posed by civil service participation will be realistic accomplishments.
 - f. Additional Legislative Matters – Executive Director Donnadio discussed legislation which would have moved Board of Election salaries outside of the 2% property tax cap. This provision was eventually removed from the bill during the legislative process as NJAC strongly opposed the measure as introduced. Mr. Antun suggested advocating for some additional state funding to go into the pension system because to offset the significant increases the counties have seen in their payments. Commissioner Director Robinson brought up the diversion of the Board of Social Work licensing fees. She indicated that approximately one million dollars have been diverted fill budget holes somewhere else. It is unclear at this time exactly what those fees are supposed to support.
5. NEW BUSINESS – Mrs. Cullinan reviewed how the American Jobs Center in Burlington County was still running by appointment only and not freely open to the public. She wondered if anyone else is having a similar issue and shares in her frustration. This has been a big challenge to the people in Burlington County looking for jobs. Commissioner Ramsey brought up frustration with the State's Motor Vehicles Commission regarding their office closures, extended wait periods and overall appointment process.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16th at 10:00 a.m. in person at the State House Annex.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 by President O'Connor on a motion from Ocean County and a second by Passaic.

Respectfully submitted by:



John G. Donnadio, Esq.
NJAC Executive Director