

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice!

JONATHAN L. YOUNG
NJAC President
Camden County Commissioner

JOHN G. DONNADIO, Esq.
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 23, 2023

Virtual Meeting

10:00 a.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

- NJAC 1st Vice President Shaun Van Doren called the meeting to order at 10:02am and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL *with a Quorum present*

Shaun Van Doren, NJAC 1st Vice President & Hunterdon County Commissioner
James Kern, Secretary/Treasurer & Warren County Commissioner Deputy Director
Teri O'Connor, Immediate Past President & Monmouth County Administrator
John Risley, Atlantic County Commissioner Chairperson
Eve Cullinan, Burlington County Administrator
Dominic Vesper, Camden County Deputy Administrator
Jeffrey Pierson, Cape May County Commissioner
Harold Johnson, Cumberland County Administrator
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator
John Cimino, Mercer County Commissioner Vice-Chair
Dominick DiRocco, Monmouth County Commissioner Deputy Director
Douglas Cabana, Morris County Commissioner
Deena Leary, Morris County Administrator
Michael Fiure, Ocean County Administrator
Matthew Jordan, Passaic County Administrator
Ed Ramsey, Salem County Commissioner
Ron Tappan, Sussex County Administrator
Dr. Angela Garretson, Union County Commissioner
Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive
Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk
Diane Gerofsky, Mercer County Surrogate
Joseph Hannon, NJAC Labor Relations Counsel
Bob Werkmeister, NJAC Transportation Consultant
John Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director
Loren Wizman, NJAC Business Development Director
Allen Weston, NJAC Legislative Director
Kim Nolan, NJAC Office Manager

C. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR UPDATE

- 1st VP Van Doren introduced Department of Labor (DOL) Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo, who expressed his intent to keep the Board apprised of DOL programs and operations. The Commissioner reviewed unemployment rates, workforce participation levels, and the growth in employment – especially for small businesses. Additionally, the Commissioner reviewed requirements for tax incentives and DOL requirements in public contracting laws. Finally, the Commissioner noted the importance of apprenticeship programs and thanked counties for their compliance with DOL contracting requirements.

D. SECRETARY TREASURER’S REPORT

- 1st VP Van Doren introduced Secretary-Treasurer Kern to discuss the meeting minutes and financial reports, but noted that the NJAC financials were unavailable due to the untimely passing of NJAC’s bookkeeper Kevin Schoenleber.
- The Board approved the meeting minutes of the March 17th Board of Directors meeting on a Burlington/Cumberland motion.

E. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. 1st VP and Executive Director Donnadio provided a recap of the Association’s annual conference, which produced record attendance and revenues. Mr. Donnadio will visit new venues for the 2024 event as Caesar’s was full to capacity.
2. 1st VP Van Doren reminded the Board about the next round of regional commissioner meetings, with the Northern New Jersey Commissioners meeting on October 3rd in Warren County and the Central Jersey Commissioners meeting on October 4th in Hunterdon County.

F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. Mr. Donnadio discussed the start of this year’s scholarship presentations and thanked the counties that have invited NJAC to take part as well as the companies that have donated funds to make the scholarship program happen.
2. The Association’s next virtual workshop will be held on July 12th, but no topic has been decided upon yet. Mr. Donnadio welcomed suggestions from the Board.
3. This year, Mr. Donnadio is attending the annual National Association of Counties conference in Austin, Texas and welcomed county officials to join him.
4. NJAC’s Year-End Summit this year will focus on homelessness and board members were encouraged to recommend speakers and panelists for the event set for December 15th at the Trenton Country Club.

G. STATE HOUSE NEWS

Mr. Donnadio provided a legislative Update on the following matters:

1. STATE BUDGET: The State FY 2024 State budget does not include \$200 million in funding to offset the 24% increase in health benefit premiums as originally recommended by the Governor during his budget address in March. However, the budget does include \$10.0 in funding for local 9-1-1 centers.
2. LEGAL NOTICES: NJAC is advocating for legislation to allow local governments to publish legal advertisements on a newspaper's website or digital publication it is becoming increasingly more difficult to comply with the law as the newspaper industry has been laying off staff, reducing operations, or permanently closing.
3. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: NJAC is seeking relief from the NJ Work First Act, which requires public employees to reside in the State of New Jersey.
4. REORGANIZATION MEETINGS: The county clerks of the board have asked NJAC to advocate for changes that would allow counties to host reorganization meetings in the county seat or at a county facility as opposed to being "held at the place of holding the Superior Court" as required under current law.
5. CODE RED ALERTS: NJAC expects the Legislature to pass a bill that would require counties to establish Code Red Alert plans to shelter at-risk individuals during hot weather conditions.
6. CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS: NJAC has been working with the Chair/CEO of the Civil Service Commission to discuss the Association's recommendations to streamline Civil Service of which include establishing a pilot program in 2 counties to hire and promote employees and to expand the Working Test Period. The Commission also plans to reduce the Special Reemployment List and extend the time counties may hire temporary seasonal employees.

H. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

1. Immediate Past President Teri O'Connor requested NJAC to seek clarification on the potential costs associated with the new law enforcement licensing requirements.
2. Through an email to the Executive Director, Salem County indicated their difficulties in hiring and keeping qualified staff and are looking at strategies from other counties to help.

I. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at on a motion by Monmouth and Hudson counties at 11:04 a.m.