

# 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 10:00 a.m. March 17, 2023 Virtual Meeting

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1. CALL TO ORDER

*NJAC President Jonathan L. Young called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and had a moment of silence in honor of the passing of Senator Ronald Rice.*

2. ROLL CALL *with a Quorum present*

Jonathan Young, NJAC President/ Camden County Commissioner  
Shaun Van Doren, NJAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Hunterdon County Commissioner  
Shanel Robinson, NJAC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Somerset County Commissioner Director  
James Kern III, NJAC Secretary-Treasurer/Warren County Commissioner Deputy Director  
Teri O'Connor, NJAC Immediate Past President & Monmouth County Administrator  
John Risley, Atlantic County Commissioner Chairperson  
Tracy Zur, Bergen County Commissioner  
Melinda Kane, Camden County Commissioner  
Jeffrey Pierson, Cape May County Commissioner  
Douglas Albrecht, Cumberland County Commissioner Director  
Heather Simmons, Gloucester County Commissioner Deputy Director  
Jerry Walker, Hudson County Commissioner Vice-Chairperson  
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator  
Dominick DiRocco, Monmouth County Commissioner Deputy Director  
Douglas Cabana, Morris County Commissioner  
Deena Leary, Morris County Administrator  
Michael Fiore, Ocean County Administrator  
Matthew Jordan, Passaic County Administrator  
Herbert Yardley, Sussex County Commissioner Deputy Director  
Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk  
Diane Gerofsky, Mercer County Surrogate  
Nancy Pinkin, Middlesex County Clerk  
Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff  
George Strachan, Gloucester County Improvement Authority Executive Director  
Jen Roselle, 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

### 3. COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDS

- A. President Young introduced Joseph DiBella with PERMA Risk Management to discuss the formation of a countywide Health Insurance Fund (HIF). Mr. DiBella provided an overview of HIFs and addressed the structural problems with the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP). He discussed the benefits of using a HIF, which include the ownership and governance by members as opposed to SHBP where local governments have no voice in the decision-making process; stable and renewable premium rates unlike what occurred this past year; and, early renewals to assist with budgeting timeframes instead of having to pay for certain data as is the current practice. Moreover, HIFs provide for lower operating expenses and annual profits; the flexibility to maintain or alter plan designs; the potential for dividend distributions; premium rates determined in the best interest of members by the fund's actuary; and, all professionals selected and appointed by fund commissioners subject to public bidding requirements. PERMA further submits that health insurance funds have a documented track record of stability and strong financial performance that offer an effective long-term solution for managing and delivering employee health benefits. Mr. DiBella plans to work with any interested county in helping that county join an existing HIF and then reconfiguring the HIF to take advantage of economies of scale.

### 4. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Secretary Treasurer Kern presented the Notes to File for the January 27<sup>th</sup> Reorganization meeting. The Board unanimously approved the Notes to File on a Cape May/Bergen County motion.
- B. Secretary/Treasurer Kern then presented the NJAC financials dated February 28, 2023. The Board unanimously approved the financials on a Cape May/Hunterdon County motion.

### 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. President Young discussed county government month and NACo's resolution to support the initiative. The Board unanimously supported the resolution on a Monmouth/Passaic County motion.
- B. President Young also addresses the NJAC committee assignments for 2023. The Board unanimously approved the assignments on a Cape May/Hunterdon County motion.
- C. President Young also discussed the momentum of the Northern New Jersey County Commissioners Association (NNNJCCA) and the Central New Jersey County Commissioners Association (CNJCCA) modeled after the successful Southern New Jersey County Commissioners Association (CNJCCA). President Young attended the recent meeting of CNJCCA, which was very well attended and hosted a terrific presentation about Union County's mobile shower and restroom.

## 6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Mr. Donnadio encouraged members to join NJAC at the Association's annual celebration of county government where the Association is expecting to sell out of exhibit space shortly and is anticipating record attendance.
- B. Mr. Donnadio also thanked NJAC Foundation President Heather Simmons for her leadership in helping secure \$90,000 in scholarships for county vocational technical school graduates continuing their education in the fall at a county college or state college or university.
- C. Mr. Donnadio closed his report with a review of NJAC's partnership cashVest and noted that Atlantic County has realized over \$700,000.00 in savings by using the program.

## 7. STATE HOUSE NEWS

*Executive Director Donnadio provided the following legislative updates.*

- It does not appear as if State leaders plan to provide any relief to local governing bodies participating in the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) to offset the 24% increase in health benefit premiums for plan year 2023.
- NJAC is working with election officials to quantify the expenses on a package of election reform bills signed into law last year. Mr. Donnadio gave the floor to Hunterdon County Clerk Mary Melfi to discuss what NJAC is looking for and what the issues may be for governing bodies. Clerk Melfi discussed the new law, which requires county boards of election to prepare ballots by voting district, and of which may impose an unfunded State mandate.
- NJAC met with the new 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, expanding the Working Test Period, reducing Special Reemployment Lists, and extending the timeframe in which seasonal workers may be employees.
- NJAC is expecting the Legislature to introduce a bill that would modernize the Open Public Records Act, based in part, on recommendations provided by county officials.
- NJAC and the county counsels recently met with the Director of the Office of Information Privacy to discuss several concerns with the implementation of Daniel's Law.
- NJAC is seeking to modify the NJ First Act to temporarily allow counties to hire employees who do not reside in the State of New Jersey as several communities located along the Delaware River have been having a difficult time in hiring and retaining new employees.
- NJAC is advocating for legislation to allow local governments to publish legal advertisements online or through digital media as 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.

8. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor discussed filming on county property and requested policies from other counties. Somerset County Commissioner Director and NJAC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP noted that she would share the County's policy. Gloucester County Commissioner Deputy Director Heather Simmons stated that Gloucester and Camden counties recently formed the South Jersey Film Office Cooperative with the goal of making South Jersey a major destination for film production. Commissioner Simmons noted that she would share details about the partnership.
- B. The Board discussed meeting in-person in September as a value added for business associate members and suggested conducting a hybrid meeting instead.

*The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. on a Cape May/Hunterdon motion.*

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donnadio".

John G. Donnadio, Esq.  
NJAC Executive Director