

# 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

*September 15, 2023*

Virtual Meeting

10:00 a.m.

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. NJAC President Johnathan Young called the meeting to order at 10:00am and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL *with a Quorum present*

Jonathan L. Young, NJAC President & Camden County Commissioner  
Shanel Robinson, NJAC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Somerset 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  
Tracy Zur, Bergen County Commissioner  
Eve Cullinan, Burlington County Administrator  
Douglas Albrecht, Cumberland County Commissioner Director  
Harold Johnson, Cumberland County Administrator  
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator  
Dominick DiRocco, Monmouth County Commissioner Deputy Director  
Douglas Cabana, Morris County Commissioner  
Deena Leary, Morris County Administrator  
Herbert Yardley, Sussex County Commissioner Deputy Director  
Ron Tappan, Sussex County Administrator  
Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk  
Paula Sollami Covello, Mercer County Clerk  
Diane Gerofsky, Mercer County Surrogate  
Claribel Cortes, Middlesex County Surrogate  
Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff  
George Strachan, Gloucester County Improvement Authority Executive Director  
Bob Werkmeister, NJAC Transportation Consultant  
John Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director  
Loren Wizman, NJAC Business Development Director  
Kim Nolan, NJAC Office Manager

2. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO) LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Eryn Hurley, Director of Government Affairs for NACo, provided an overview of NACo's legislative agenda, which includes implementing the American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; administering the bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act; reforming the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy and through Mental Health, Substance Use Treatment Legislation and Other Criminal Justice Reforms; securing the Inclusion of county priorities in Farm Bill Reauthorization Legislation; boosting advanced broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local decision making; and more.

3. SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. The Board approved the NJAC financial reports dated August 31<sup>st</sup> as presented by Secretary James Kern on a Cumberland/Monmouth motion.
- B. The Board approved the meeting minutes of the NJAC Board of Directors meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> as presented by Secretary/Treasurer Kerns on Somerset/Burlington motion.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. President Young discussed the success of the regional county meetings and encouraged everyone to participate.
- B. President Young also discussed the importance of regionalizing and sharing services and the significant role county governments must play moving forward.
- C. President Young, Executive Director Donnadio, and NJAC Transportation Consultant Bob Werkmeister addressed the fact that the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) is expiring in June of 2024 and that NJAC should begin advocating to restore the TTF and Local Aid Allocations to counties and municipalities that carry 55% of the State's overall traffic.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Executive Director Donnadio thanked board members for making public check presentations to NJAC Foundation scholarship winners.
- B. Mr. Donnadio also discussed the County Administrators Certification Program in collaboration with the Rutgers Center for Local Government Services set for 10/20 and 10/27 and thanked Monmouth County Administrator/NJAC Immediate Past President Teri O'Connor and Burlington County Administrator Eve Cullinan for teaching the management portion of the program.
- C. Mr. Donnadio further discussed the Association's free virtual workshop on "Reauthorizing the Transportation Trust Fund" set for Wednesday 11/1.
- D. Mr. Donnadio encouraged board members to attend the Association's year-end summit on "Homelessness" set for Friday 12/15 at the Trenton Country Club.

6. STATE HOUSE NEWS

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

- A. LEGAL NOTICES: NJAC is advocating for legislation to allow local governments to publish legal notices in a newspaper's website or digital publication.

- B. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: NJAC is seeking relief from the NJ Work First Act, which requires public employees to reside in the State of New Jersey.
- C. REORGANIZATION MEETINGS: NJAC is also advocating for legislation that 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.”
- D. 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.
- E. PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS: NJAC is also concerned that the Legislature will pass a measure, which would effectively prohibit the use of privatization contracts by requiring county governments to pay new employees’ wages and benefits at a rate not less than the wages and benefits paid to displaced employees.
- F. CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS: NJAC has been working with the Chair/CEO 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 employee and to expand the Working Test Period. The Commission also plans to reduce the Special Reemployment List and extend the timeframe in which seasonal workers may be employed.

7. NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

- No New or Old Business

8. ADJOURNMENT

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