

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice!

SHAUN C. VAN DOREN
NJAC President
Hunterdon County Commissioner

JOHN G. DONNADIO, ESQ.
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2024

Trenton Country Club – Oakland Room
201 Sullivan Way, Ewing, New Jersey

1. CALL TO ORDER

- NJAC President Shaun C. Van Doren called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and Executive Director Donnadio took roll.

2. ROLL CALL *with a Quorum present*

Shaun Van Doren, NJAC President & Hunterdon County Commissioner
Shanel Robinson, NJAC 1st VP & Somerset County Commissioner Director
James Kern III, NJAC 2nd VP & Warren County Commissioner Director
Alexander Mirabella, NJAC Secretary/Treasurer & Union County Commissioner
Jon Young, NJAC Immediate Past President & Camden County Commissioner
Tracy Zur, Bergen County Commissioner
Eve Cullinan, Burlington County Administrator
Melinda Kane, Camden County Commissioner
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator
Teri O'Connor, Monmouth County Administrator
Virginia Haines, Ocean County Commissioner
Michael Fiure, Ocean County Administrator
Matthew Jordan, Passaic County Administrator
Jack DeGroot, Sussex County Commissioner
Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk
Paula Sollami-Covello, Mercer County Clerk
Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff
Claribel Cortes, Middlesex County Surrogate

Additional Attendees

John Carroll, Middlesex County Deputy County Administrator
Joseph Hannon, NJAC Labor Relations Counsel
John Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director

3. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Commissioner Mirabella presented the meeting minutes dated September 20, 2024. The Board approved the meeting minutes on a Bergen/Camden motion.
- B. Commissioner Mirabella presented NJAC's financials dated October 31, 2024. The Board approved NJAC's financials on an Ocean/Surrogate motion.
- C. Commissioner Mirabella presented NJAC's county membership dues for 2025. The Board approved the county dues on a Surrogate/Burlington motion.
- D. Commissioner Mirabella presented NJAC's annual budget for 2025. The Board approved the budget on a Monmouth/Burlington motion.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. President Van Doren presented NJAC's annual Reorganization Meeting and Board of Directors' schedule for 2025. The Board approved the dates on a Somerset/Warren motion.
- B. President Van Doren provided a recap of his year as President. He thanked NJAC staff, the Board of Directors, and Executive Officers for their commitment and advocacy as a nonpartisan organization. Executive Director Donnadio thanked President Van Doren for his steadfast leadership during a year with several legislative challenges. As it was his last meeting as an Executive Officer, the Executive Director also commended Camden County Commissioner Jon Young for his many contributions and service to NJAC.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Executive Director Donnadio led his report with an update on NJAC's Summit on AI & Cybersecurity where the Association assembled two outstanding panel discussions along with a terrific keynote speaker. The event sold out of exhibit booth space and registrations.
- B. The Executive Director also discussed NJAC's annual celebration of county government set for May 7th – May 9th. Board members were encouraged to share any recommendations on how to improve the event, where the Association will host a new commissioner workshop for the first time in several years.
- C. The Executive Director encouraged counties to host regional meetings in 2025. To increase attendance, the Board agreed that one of the Northern New Jersey County Commissioner Association (NNJCCA) and Central New Jersey County Commissioner Association (CNJCCA) meetings should be a luncheon and the other a dinner.
- D. Hunterdon County Clerk and NJAC Past President Mary Melfi suggested that NJAC review its Bylaws in 2025 as they have not been updated in well over a decade. The Board concurred and the Executive Director will review along with Clerk Melfi accordingly.

6. STATE HOUSE NEWS

Executive Director Donnadio and Commissioner Director Robinson provided the following legislative update:

- A. ONLINE LEGAL NOTICES: NJAC anticipates that the Legislature will shortly pass temporary legislation that would authorize local governments to publish legal notices in a newspaper's website or digital publication.
- B. HOUSING FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS: NJAC recently sent a letter to the Chair of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee respectfully requesting that the Committee consider holding a public hearing to address the challenges county governments are facing with housing juveniles taken into custody.
- C. WORKS TEST PERIOD: NJAC thanked Senator Polistina (R-2) for introduction legislation on behalf of NJAC to extend the Working Test Period (WTP) for local governments from three months to four months along with the ability to extend the WTP to six months at the discretion of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

7. OLD BUSINESS

- Camden County Commissioner & NJAC Immediate Past President Jon Young thanked the Board for their support over the years and expressed his gratitude on how everyone leaves politics at the door when it comes to serving on NJAC's Board.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- No new business

9. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am on a Camden/Somerset motion.