

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

June 28, 2024

Virtual Meeting

10:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- NJAC President Shaun C. Van Doren called the meeting to order at 10:02 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
Al 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
Dan O'Connell, Burlington County Deputy Director
Bobby Barr, Cape May County Commissioner
Hal Johnson, Cumberland County Administrator
Joseph Sileo, Cumberland County Commissioner
Brendan Gill, Essex County Commissioner
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator
John Pulomena, Middlesex County Administrator
Dominick DiRocco, Monmouth County Commissioner
Teri O'Connor, Monmouth County Administrator
Douglas Cabana, Morris County Commissioner
Deena Leary, Morris County Administrator
Michael Fiure, Ocean County Commissioner
Germaine Ortiz, Passaic County Commissioner
Matthew Jordan, Passaic County Administrator
Jack DeGroot, Sussex County Commissioner
Ron Tappan, Sussex County Administrator
Dan Benson, Mercer County Executive

Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk
Claribel Cortes, Middlesex County Surrogate
Nancy Pinkin, Middlesex County Clerk
George Strachan, Gloucester County Improvement Authority Executive Director
Amy Wagner, Union County Deputy Manager
Ronald Simone, Cape May County Assistant Administrator
Colleen Mahr, Somerset County Administrator
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

- Executive Director Donnadio asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of former Somerset County Sheriff Provenzano.

3. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Commissioner Mirabella presented the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The Board approved the meeting minutes on Cape May/Bergen motion. The Board also approved the financial reports on Camden/Somerset motion.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. President Van Doren provided a recap on NJAC's annual conference. The President commented that the cook-off was fantastic and that over 700 attendees and 92 vendors participated in this year's event. Executive Director Donnadio noted that he is always looking for suggestions to improve the event and asked for Board input.
- B. President Van Doren encouraged the Board to attend regional county meetings in the fall. The Northern New Jersey County Commissioners Association meeting is set for September 23rd and the Central New Jersey County Commissioner's meeting is scheduled for the 25th. NJAC is looking for volunteer counties to host these meetings in their respective regions.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Executive Director Donnadio led his report with an update on the NJAC Foundation and scholarship presentations, where the Foundation awarded over \$90,000 this year to county vocational technical school graduates who are continuing their education at a state college or university. Counties were encouraged to present students with their checks at commissioner meetings throughout the summer.

- B. Board Members were reminded of the upcoming NJAC virtual workshop on July 10th entitled “Avoiding Wage & Hour Pitfalls along with Compensatory Time in New Jersey.” Joe Hannon, NJAC’s Labor Counsel is conducting the workshop on the Association’s behalf.
- C. Executive Director Donnadio deferred to Commissioner Mirabella to discuss the upcoming conference of the National Association of Counties (NACo). Commissioner Mirabella has served as NJAC’s board member to NACo for the past three years and encouraged everyone to attend the event in Tampa Bay.
- D. The Executive Director concluded his report with a discussion on NJAC’s year-end Summit set for December 13th at the Trenton Country Club. This year’s event will examine Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity.

6. STATE HOUSE NEWS

Executive Director Donnadio and Commissioner Director Robinson provide the following report: the State House News report and discussed the following:

- A. STATE FY 25 BUDGET: The Legislature and Governor have agreed on an Fiscal Year 2025 State Budget, which includes \$10.0 in funding for county 9-1-1 centers \$2.1 million for county reentry service coordinators along with restoring \$20.0 million in aid for county colleges.
- B. OPRA: Governor Murphy signed into law legislation that would modernize and streamline the Open Public Records Act (ACT).
- C. ONLINE LEGAL NOTICES: The Executive Director thanked the counties that passed resolutions urging the Legislature to pass legislation that would allow local government to post legal notices on a newspaper’s website or digital publication. NJAC has been working on a draft bill and is optimistic that the Legislature will consider it in the fall.
- D. BODY WORN CAMERAS: NJAC is collecting data from all 21 counties on the unanticipated costs associated with the 2020 law that requires all law enforcement officers in the State to wear body worn cameras. NJAC plans to advocate for funding to offset these costs in next year’s State budget.
- E. JUVENILE DEFENDERS: NJAC is working with is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) on solutions to resolve the lack of bedspace available for juvenile offenders. One potential solution is to allow certain adults housed in juvenile detention facilities to waive into an adult facility if they so choose as currently law effectively prohibits this practice.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- No old business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Cape May County Commissioner Bobby Barr and Cape May County Assistant County Administrator Ronald Simone discussed new DEP proposed regulations, which impose a significant impact on coastal and bay communities. These regulations labeled “Protection Against Climate Threats” (NJPACT) by DEP, would add additional base height requirements on building and remodeling of residential properties in flood prone areas. The rules will be posted in July with a 90-day comment period. The rules would expand flood hazard areas and impose more restrictive redevelopment standards in flood areas. The rules are based on a Rutgers study which assumes five-foot sea level rise in 75 years, which has a 17% chance of occurring. Cape May has hired an environmental consultant, which reviewed the rules and the proposed maps. These rules would expand Cape Mays flood zones by 16-17% requiring people to raise their homes and hold flood insurance. The County has concerns about how this would impact seniors and persons with disabilities. NJAC promised to share the regulations with all 21 counties.
- B. Monmouth County Administrator Teri O’Connor recommended advocating for legislation that would allow for the electronic posting of meeting minutes rather than having to transcribe them. The county currently has a full-time person who just works on that task.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned on a Camden/Bergen motion at 11:00 a.m. with the next meeting set for 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 20th.