

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

September 20, 2024

Virtual Meeting

10:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- NJAC President Shaun C. Van Doren called the meeting to order at 10:05 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
Jon Young, NJAC Immediate Past President & Camden County Commissioner
Maureen Kern, Atlantic 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
Harold Johnson, Cumberland County Administrator
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator
Teri O'Connor, Monmouth County Administrator
Douglas Cabana, Morris County Commissioner
Deena Leary, Morris County Administrator
John Kelly, Ocean County Commissioner
Virginia Haines, Ocean County Commissioner
Michael Fiure, Ocean County Administrator
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

Invited Guests

Allison Chris Myers, CEO/Chair, NJ Civil Service Commission
Kelly Glenn, Chief Executive Director, NJ Civil Service Commission
Grace Kelly, NJAC Civil Service Consultant

Additional Attendees

Sandy Henley, Burlington County Chief of Staff, Human Resources
Ronald Simone, Cape May County Assistant Administrator
Amy Swanson, Gloucester County Confidential Aide
Antonio Lombardi, Middlesex County Legislative Coordinator
Brian Murray, Morris County Assistant County Administrator
John Bruno, Somerset County Human Resource Director
Christopher Infinito, Warren County Confidential Aide
Anita Wemple, Community Planning & Advocacy Council CEO/President
Andrew Ramos, Enterprise Fleet Management Account Executive
Ryan Marshall, RSA Security Account Executive
Ashley Dube, Difference Card Sr. Director of Eastern Markets
Meghan Presutti, Difference Markets Sr. Consultant
Susan Starwalt, UZURV Sr. Director of Business Development
Kelly Velasquez-Carcih, Valley Bank SVP of Government Services
Joseph Hannon, NJAC Labor Relations Counsel
John Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director
Loren Wizman, NJAC Business Development Director
Kim Nolan, NJAC Office Manager

3. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION UPDATE

- Allison Chris Myers, CEO/Chair of the NJ Civil Service Commissioner (CSC) provided a comprehensive update on the steps she's taken to streamline the hiring process for local governments since leading the organization in 2023. CEO/Chair Myers discussed reducing the special reemployment list, decreasing the number of competitive titles, establishing delegated testing sites, expanding the Working Test Period (WTP) through a pilot program in Atlantic County, and reaching out to local governments across the State through the CSC's local advisory boards.

4. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Commissioner Mirabella presented the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The Board approved the meeting minutes on a Somerset/Passaic motion. The Board also approved the financial reports on Union/Surrogate motion.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. President Van Doren encouraged the Board to attend NJAC's regional county meetings in the fall. The Northern New Jersey County Commissioners Association meeting is set for September 23rd at the Brownstone in Passaic County, and the Central New Jersey County Commissioner's meeting is scheduled for the October 21st at Somerset County's new business hub.
- B. President Van Doren informed the Board that NJAC is accepting nominations to serve as an Executive Officer. To maintain NJAC's non-partisanship, the nominee must be from the Republican Party with additional details forthcoming.
- C. President Van Doren rearranged the agenda to provide sufficient time for Mercer County Executive Dan Benson to discuss the significant challenges county governments are facing with housing individuals in need of temporary and long-term shelter. Bergen County Commissioner Zur, Passaic County Administrator Jordan, and Hudson County Administrator all concurred with the Passaic County Administrator commending the program in Bergen County. The Board charged the Executive Director with forming a working group to address the issue and present solutions accordingly.

6. 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 in scholarships this year to county vocational technical school graduates who are continuing their education at a county or state college or university. Counties were encouraged to present students with their checks at commissioner meetings throughout the summer.
- B. The Executive Director encouraged the Board to enroll in the County Administrators Certificate program in collaboration with Rutgers Center for Local Government services. The two-day program covers labor, management, procurement, and ethics.
- C. The Executive Director also discussed NJAC's year-end Summit on Artificial Intelligence & Cybersecurity set for December 13th at the Trenton Country Club.

7. STATE HOUSE NEWS

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

- A. ONLINE LEGAL NOTICES: NJAC anticipates that the Legislature will shortly introduce 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 met with the Administrative Office of the Courts, and is meeting on Monday, as member of the Juvenile Justice Commission's newly formed Detention Utilization Subcommittee, to address the many challenges counties are facing with housing juveniles.]

- C. WORKS TEST PERIOD: NJAC is advocating for legislation that would 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). This important and timely change to the law would provide personnel departments in local governments across the State with additional time to adequately evaluate and recommend qualified employees for full-time employment. The goal of this legislation is to make permanent, the Atlantic County Working Test Period Pilot Program set to expire in January of 2025.
- D. TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION NJAC is in the process of reviewing regulations that take effect in January of 2025, which require, in part, that each manufacturer selling medium and heavy-duty vehicles in the State of New Jersey to sell a certain amount of zero emission vehicles.
- E. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH STANDARDS: NJAC remains concerned with legislation, which would establish the “Occupational Heat-Related Illness and Injury Prevention Program” in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). NJAC is concerned that this legislation would impose an overly burdensome and impractical level of bureaucracy on county governments as employers by requiring the Commissioner of DOLWD to establish and enforce compliance of stringent occupational heat-related rules and regulations.
- F. BODY WORN CAMERAS: For the State Fiscal Year 2026 State Budget, NJAC is seeking to establish a permanent and dedicated source of funding to support the unanticipated expenses associated with the implementation of 2020 legislation that requires all uniformed law enforcement officers in the State to wear body worn cameras.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- No old business.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- No new business

10. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m. with the next meeting set for 9:00 a.m. on 12/13 at the Trenton Country Club in Ewing before the Association’s Year-End Summit on Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity.