

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice!

SHANEL Y. ROBINSON
NJAC President
Somerset County Commissioner

JOHN G. DONNADIO, ESQ.
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 21, 2025

Virtual Meeting

10:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- NJAC President Shanel Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Executive Director John Donnadio took roll call with a quorum present.

2. ROLL CALL

Shanel Y. Robinson, NJAC President & Somerset County Commissioner
Director
James R. Kern III, NJAC 1st VP & Warren County Commissioner
Alexander Mirabella, NJAC 2nd VP & Union County Commissioner
Dominick DiRocco, NJAC Secretary-Treasurer & Monmouth County Commissioner
Shaun Van Doren, NJAC Immediate Past President & Hunterdon County Commissioner
John W. Risley, Jr., Atlantic County Commissioner
Tracy Zur, Bergen County Commissioner
Mary Amoroso, Bergen County Commissioner Chairperson
Eve Cullinan, Burlington County Administrator
Jonathan L. Young, Sr., Camden County Commissioner
Kevin Smaniotto, Cumberland County Administrator
Robert Baselice, Hudson County Commissioner
Abe Antun, Hudson County Administrator
Teri O'Connor, Monmouth County Administrator
Deena Leary, Morris County Administrator
Matthew P. Jordan, Passaic County Administrator
Ron Tappan, Sussex County Administrator
Dan Benson, Mercer County Executive
Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk
Nancy Pinkin, Middlesex County Clerk
Claribel Cortes, Middlesex County Surrogate
Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff
Joseph O'Donoghue, Atlantic County Sheriff
George Strachan, Gloucester County Improvement Authority Executive Director

Joseph Hannon, Esq., NJAC Labor Relations Counsel
Bob Werkmeister, NJAC Transportation Consultant
John Donnadio, NJAC Executive Director
Loren Wizman, NJAC Business Development Director
Kim Nolan, NJAC Office Manager

3. SARAH ADELMAN, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- President Robinson introduced New Jersey Department of Human Services Commissioner (DHS) Sarah Adelman, who discussed the proposed federal cuts to Medicaid where the United State House of Representatives passed a budget resolution to cut \$1.5 trillion over ten years from the federal budget. These cuts would affect Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and more.
- Commissioner Adelman estimated that the budget resolution could reduce federal matching funds for NJ FamilyCare by \$5.2 billion with an additional \$4.2 billion in Medicaid funding at risk.
- The Commissioner noted that 1.8 million low and moderate-income people rely on NJ FamilyCare, 830,000 low-income residents receive SNAP benefits, and 31,000 low-income residents receive TANF assistance.
- Commissioner Adleman encouraged NJAC’s Board of Directors to urge the State’s congressional delegation to vote no on the cuts and assured the Board that DHS’ budget included State funding to the counties for SNAP following questions on the matter from Bergen County Commissioner Tracy Zur.

4. SECRETARY TREASURER’S REPORT

- A. President Robinson introduced NJAC Secretary/Treasurer Dominick DiRocco for presentation of the meeting minutes for NJAC’s December 13, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting. The Board unanimously approved the minutes on a Burlington County/Middlesex County Surrogate motion.
- B. Secretary/Treasurer DiRocco also presented NJAC Financials, which the Board unanimously approved on a Union County/Camden County motion.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- A. President Robinson presented two resolutions for discussion. The first resolution recognized “County Government Month.” The second resolution finalized NJAC committee assignments. The Board approved both resolutions on a Passaic County/Atlantic County motion.
- B. President Robinson encouraged Board members to begin thinking about NJAC’s legislative goals for the new Governor and members for the General Assembly in 2026.

- C. President Robinson introduced NJAC 2nd VP Al Mirabella as New Jersey's NACo Board member. Commissioner Mirabella encouraged NJAC Board members and county officials to attend NACo's annual conference in Philadelphia set for 7/11 – 7/14. NJAC plans to host a reception or a caucus meeting with additional details to follow. President Robinson and Bergen County Commission Zur concurred.
- D. President Robinson introduced Sussex County Administrator Ron Tappan and Clerk of the Board Christina Marks to discuss the challenges Sussex County is facing with the State's Development & Redevelopment Plan. Executive Director Donnadio plans to contact the New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy to facilitate a meeting in the hope of providing some relief for the County.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Executive Director Donnadio led his report with great news regarding the NJAC Foundation, which plans to award over \$100,000.00 in scholarships in 2025 with over \$700,000.00 awarded in the last 12 years.
- B. The Executive Director thanked Hudson and Mercer counties for recently hosting successful regional meetings and looked forward to seeing the South Jersey counties in Camden on Monday 3/24.
- C. Mr. Donnadio requested the Board to consider potential topics for the Association's free virtual workshops and year-end Summit.
- D. The Executive Director shared additional great news in that the NJAC Conference had sold out of exhibit space during the first week in March and that the Association is expecting over 700 attendees again this year.

7. STATE HOUSE NEWS *1st VP James Kern and Executive Director Donnadio provided the following legislative update.*

- A. ONLINE LEGAL NOTICES: With the temporary solution of posting legal notices online set to expire on June 30th, NJAC is advocating for the State Legislature to pass legislation that would allow local governments to post legal notices on their own websites.
- B. JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES: On Thursday, NJAC and county officials across the State, testified before the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee concerning the many challenges county governments are facing with housing juvenile offenders.
- C. PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS: NJAC opposes A-919 (*Jackson D-15/Wimberly D-35*), 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.
- D. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: At the request of Mercer County Executive Dan Benson, NJAC formed a Working Group on Transitional Housing to share resources and ideas, and make recommendations on how counties may provide vital housing services, temporary shelters, and permanent placement for those in need. With this in mind, NJAC is advocating for the Fiscal Year 2026 State budget to include new grant funding for emergency shelters and transitional housing.

- E. CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS: NJAC remains optimistic that the Legislature will consider legislation that would extend the Working Test Period from three months to four months.
- F. FISCAL YEAR 2026 STATE BUDGET: In addition to requesting additional funding for emergency shelters and transitional housing, NJAC plans to testify before the budget committees in both houses concerning the Governor's proposed reduction in funding for county 9-1-1 centers by \$5.0 million and county colleges by \$20.0 million.

8. OLD & NEW BUSINESS

9. ADJOURNMENT *The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.*