

New Hunterdon Freeholder Director Holt: Shared Services Major Effort For 2018

Lagay Selected Deputy Director

Calling on County officials and staff to be creative in seeking more tax saving shared services opportunities in Hunterdon County, veteran Freeholder Matthew Holt was elected Director of the Hunterdon Freeholder Board, at the annual Re-organization meeting on January 2nd at the Historic Courthouse in Flemington.

Freeholder Suzanne Lagay who served as Director in 2016, was elected by her colleagues as Deputy Director for 2018. Lagay and Holt join new Freeholder Shaun Van Doren and Freeholders John Lanza and John King, both former Freeholder Directors, on the five member Board.

In remarks after his swearing in as Director, Holt stated, “Hunterdon County has lead the way when it comes to sharing services that accrue to the benefit of taxpayers. The recent county jail consolidation with Somerset County that has saved millions in tax dollars is a prime example of shared services that work. And I believe more can be done.

One of our major goals for 2018 will be for the Board members, the Constitutional Officers, and the County staff to identify, carefully examine, and implement more potential shared services opportunities that can benefit the taxpayers.”

Holt, first elected to the Hunterdon Freeholder Board in 2006, previously served as Director in 2014 and 2011. A long time Hunterdon resident, Holt previously served as a Clinton School Board Member, as a Town of Clinton Council Member from 1995 to 2003, and as Mayor in 2004-2005.

Holt reflected, “When I first joined the Freeholder Board in 2007, the budget was \$100 million and the County held \$37 million in debt. Today, through the hard work of the Freeholders and the County staff, the budget is \$88 million and the County has zero debt. Many said it could not be done. But it was accomplished through dedicated effort and putting the taxpayers’ interests first.”

Holt has served for many years as Hunterdon County’s representative to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. The 13-county northern New Jersey regional group has responsibility for over \$2 billion annually in transportation improvement project funding and is vital to supporting Hunterdon County infrastructure projects.