

REORGANIZATION

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Hunterdon County Historic Court House
71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822

JANUARY 02, 2009

The reorganization meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders was called to order at 3:20 p.m., in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Clerk of the Board, Denise B. Doolan, welcomed everyone present to the annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon for 2008.

The Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders read the following meeting notice: "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been posted by prominently posting and maintaining so posted throughout the year on the first and second floor of the County Administration Building, Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements, and by mailing on or before December 16, 2008, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Lambertville Beacon, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Hunterdon Review, and Star Ledger, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing with the Hunterdon County Clerk a schedule of time, date and place of the holding of these regular meetings."

Pledge Allegiance.

Mrs. Doolan thanked the Honorable Leonard Lance for coming today to swear in the various individuals, into office.

The Honorable Leonard Lance swore in Surrogate Elect, Susan J. Hoffman, as her husband, Larry Greene, held the Bible.

Surrogate Hoffman addressed the Board and those present stating she has completed 25 years in office. Ms. Hoffman looks forward to her coming term in serving the public and in continuing to make information available to the residents.

The Honorable Leonard Lance swore in Freeholder Elect, Erik C. Peterson, as his wife and children, held the Bible.

Freeholder Peterson addressed those present saying Surrogate Hoffman had no competition and that says something about the way she runs her office, which she has been doing for the past 25 years.

Mr. Peterson advised this is the fourth time that Leonard Lance has sworn him in, first as a Freeholder, then Deputy Freeholder Director, as Freeholder Director and today for his second term as a Freeholder of the County of Hunterdon.

Mr. Peterson stated there are a lot of special people here today who are here for him, including friends and family. He appreciates their support.

Mr. Peterson is humbled and honored to stand here today in this historic court room as a Freeholder and thanked all for their trust in putting him here today. He thanked his wife and children for their support during his campaign.

Mr. Peterson stated children are the hope of the future. It takes action to make hope a reality. During this time when things are so uncertain, it's important to have hope for the future. The Freeholders, as a Board, have to make difficult decisions to cut spending to balance the budget, in order to ease the stress on the residents during this time of economic hardship. The County's administration and department heads were able to continue meeting the County's goals on a reduced budget, allowing people to keep more of their money, which is critical in allowing people to provide for their future. If taxes rise, it will snatch hope out of the hands of the taxpayers.

Mr. Peterson hopes there will be a time when the United States is not dependent on oil from foreign countries. These countries fund terrorists which want to do the United States harm. Energy independence such as solar power and bio-diesel needs to be strived for.

Mr. Peterson asked the Board to put hope into action and suggested beginning by asking the County's Purchasing Department to prepare a Request for Proposals to determine how Hunterdon County can become energy independent.

Mr. Peterson said the Open Space Tax should be used to strategically preserve land and farms to protect the environment and water resources.

Mr. Peterson stated he has high hopes for the future of the County, state and United States government. Each day he is reminded of his job at home and at work, to ensure that the hopes of tomorrow come into fruition.

Mr. Peterson thanked the voters for allowing him to serve again on the Freeholder Board.

Mrs. Doolan asked for nominations for Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded a motion electing William G. Mennen as Freeholder Director.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MELICK, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mrs. Doolan asked for nominations for Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Peterson seconded a motion electing George B. Melick as Deputy Freeholder Director.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MENNEN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mrs. Doolan swore in George B. Melick, as Deputy Freeholder Director, while his grandchildren held the Bible.

Mr. Melick thanked everyone for coming today, saying it's a pleasure to be here. He also thanked his family including his wife, Norma; daughter Rebecca and son John.

Mr. Melick recognized and thanked all of the Hunterdon County employees, acknowledging that the County has a good team of people. The County of Hunterdon will put in good hands in the future.

Mr. Melick thanked Henry Kuhl, Republican Chairman, for his full support.

Mr. Melick stated he hopes he is still a Freeholder in 2014, in order to help celebrate the Tri-Continental of Hunterdon County.

Mr. Melick wished all those present a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Doolan asked Senator Lance to swear in William G. Mennen as Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Senator Lance swore in William G. Mennen as Freeholder Director while his wife and children held the Bible.

Mr. Mennen wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for coming today.

Mr. Mennen stated he stands here humble and brimming with gratitude. He is grateful for the voters' interest in government and grateful for the opportunity to serve the residents of Hunterdon County. He is also grateful for his colleagues and grateful that they have voted him as the Director for 2009. It is an honor to serve with each of his four colleagues.

Mr. Mennen noted that George Melick has 31 years of service to this County and will be an example to the Board; Mr. Sworen is always willing to roll up his sleeves for the people of Hunterdon County; Mr. Peterson brings to this Board new ideas; and Mr. Holt, while not here this evening, bring the ability to maintain focus on the core issues without falling prey to ancillary distractions.

Mr. Mennen is most grateful to his children, his wife, Lynn and her never ending support and humor.

Mr. Mennen thinks that 2009 will be a year full of opportunities; it definitely won't be devoid of opportunities. This Board must keep the tax rate in check, as there may not be sufficient funds as there are decreasing revenues. This Board has and will continue to work tirelessly for the taxpayers of Hunterdon County. Hunterdon County is one county with twenty-six municipalities and better communication with the municipalities is a must. As Freeholder Director, Mr. Mennen will hold a "Director's Summit" to meet with the mayors of all twenty-six municipalities to receive and relay information and this could also be used as a gripe session. The first "Director's Summit" session is to clear up any confusion on the County's Open Space and Farmland Preservation programs.

Mr. Mennen stated as Freeholder Director, he will be accessible and will maintain a schedule. There are many services that government provides but none are more important than education to the children. This Board must agree on a direction for Polytech. Mr. Mennen intends to hold a strategy session for the future of the Polytech Board. The time for action is now.

Mr. Mennen acknowledged the unsung heroes in the County, the 657 people employed by the County of Hunterdon who provide services to the County. This Board of Chosen Freeholders could not do what it does without the men and women of our County government. This is a family and we are proud to serve the citizens of this County. Hunterdon's 657 employees are dedicated public servants who work behind the scenes and they deserve gratitude and respect.

Mr. Mennen said this Board may disagree but it doesn't need to be disagreeable. The Freeholders have the opportunity to be open to new ideas and this Board should never forget that it takes this County into the future. Being a Freeholder is an endeavor and righteous undertaking. Mr. Mennen said he is positive that this Freeholder Board will make 2009 productive for Hunterdon County.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-3A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving Freeholder Liaisons and Assignment Designations for 2009.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-3B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Authorizing the establishment of County Office hours.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-3C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Setting regular meeting time and days for the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. SWOREN, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-3D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Authorizing the setting pay days and audit days.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-3E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Authorizing the naming of Depositories of funds for the County of Hunterdon.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSTAIN) MR. PETERSON.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-3F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Authorizing the designation of official newspapers for the publication of County items.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-3G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Authorizing the manual signature for checks drawn for penalties against the County.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-3H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Hold Over 2008 salary and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Correction Line Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 29.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. SWOREN, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Hold Over 2008 salary payments for eligible employees covered under the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Investigators, PBA Local 358.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2009 salary and longevity payments for Sergeants in the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving 2009 salaries for eligible employees covered under the Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1034.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-4D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Hold over 2008 salaries and longevity payments for eligible employees covered under the Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1034.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Hold over 2008 salaries for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 94.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Hold over 2008 salaries for unclassified employees in the Board of Elections.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-4G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Hold over 2008 salaries for elected, appointed, unclassified officials and non-contractual employees.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-4H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Hold over 2008 salaries for unclassified employees in the Prosecutor's Office.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-5A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Hold over 2008 salaries for eligible employees at the Correctional Facility, covered under FOP Lodge 133.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-5B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving the appointment of Gaetano M. DeSapio, as County Counsel.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-5C **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-5D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Appointing Cynthia J. Yard as the County's Public Compliance Officer.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. SWOREN, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-5E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Appointing Denise B. Doolan as the County's Fair Housing Officer.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-5F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to various Boards, Committees, Councils and Commissions.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Peterson seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-5G **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Emergency Services Council.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. SWOREN, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-5H **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Youth Services Commission.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.

Mr. Sworen moved and Mr. Melick seconded this:

See Page 01/02/09-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving petty cash funds.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. SWOREN, MR. MELICK, MR. PETERSON, MR. MENNEN.
(ABSENT) MR. HOLT.**

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:

Director Mennen reported that the County's Constitutional Officers present today are the Surrogate, Susan Hoffman, County Clerk, Mary Melfi and the Sheriff, Deborah Trout. Also present is John DiMaio, Warren County Freeholder; former Hunterdon County Freeholder, Paul Sauerland; Hunterdon County Republican Chairman, Henry Kuhl, Congressman-elect; Leonard Lance; Assemblyman Mike Doherty and Assemblywoman Marcia Karrow.

Director Mennen advised there are numerous municipal elected officials present and asked each to stand and be recognized.

Director Mennen further advised there are a number of County employees present and he asked each one to stand and be recognized, saying these are the hard working people who make the Freeholder Board look good.

Director Mennen asked if Senator Lance would like to say a few words.

Senator Lance congratulated the Freeholder Board on its reorganization. He recognized and congratulated William Mennen on becoming Director. He congratulated Mr. Peterson for being sworn in for a second term and congratulated Mr. Melick on becoming Deputy Director. Senator Lance congratulated Freeholders Sworen and Holt for the work they do.

Senator Lance explained his nomination to the United State Congress is a very emotional nomination, tomorrow he will leave the New Jersey Legislature and on Tuesday, he will be sworn in as a new congressman. He has served Hunterdon and Warren Counties in the legislature for 18 year; his family has been in Hunterdon County since 1739; and this room in this Hunterdon County historic Court House has always been a place of significance to him since his father sat as a judge and his mother was the Welfare Director, his parents lives centered in this room.

Senator Lance thanked former Senator William Schluter, as he has always been a source of inspiration.

Senator Lance advised that Deputy Freeholder Director Melick was correct to thank Republican Chairman, Henry Kuhl, and he also thanked Mr. Kuhl for 35 years of leading the Republican Party in Hunterdon County, with great success.

Senator Lance thanked his wife, Heidi and the people of Hunterdon County for their support, from the bottom of his heart.

Director Mennen invited Assemblyman Doherty to speak.

Assy. Doherty wished everyone a Happy New Year, saying it is a pleasure to be here and congratulated Mr. Mennen and Mr. Melick on their new roles on the Board of Freeholders and recognized Mr. Peterson for having served as Director in 2008. Assy. Doherty stated Hunterdon County is blessed to have men who serve the public, as they do. He recognized Freeholders Sworen and Holt, saying that Hunterdon County will be served well by this entire Board.

Assy. Doherty congratulated Hunterdon County Surrogate, Susan Hoffman, on 25 years of service.

Assy. Doherty feels that 2008 was rough, economically for taxpayers, but the Freeholders in Hunterdon County worked hard for the taxpayers and did not raise the tax rate.

Assy. Doherty again wished everyone a Happy New Year and best of health in the new year.

Director Mennen invited Assemblywoman Karrow to speak.

Assy. Karrow wished everyone a good afternoon and a hearty congratulations to the entire Freeholder Board and Senator Lance, the Congressman-elect.

Assy. Karrow advised that she and Ms. Hoffman ran together in 1993; she ran with Mr. Melick in 1998 and stated it is an honor to congratulate him on becoming Deputy Freeholder Director; she and Mr. Mennen became running mates in 1007, and congratulated him on becoming Freeholder Director. Assy. Karrow congratulated Mr. Peterson on his new term on the Board.

Assy. Karrow stated that the people of New Jersey understand how the local and county governments pull in their budgets. The Freeholders of Hunterdon County have reigned in spending during these tough economic times; and as a county resident, she is very proud of that fact.

Assy. Karrow wished everyone a healthy and blessed 2009; and wished everyone prosperity. The Freeholders' partners in Trenton are fighting to make sure the County has an easier time.

INVITATION TO RECEPTION:

Director Mennen invited everyone to partake in light refreshments on the first floor of the historic Court House.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Muller adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board.