

## REORGANIZATION

### HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

**January 04, 2011**

The reorganization meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders was called to order at 5:04 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 2011.

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 09, 2010, 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 asked Reverend David Errickson of Old Rocks Church in Lambertville, New Jersey to provide today's invocation.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Reverend Errickson.

Mrs. Doolan asked Sheriff Elect, Frederick Brown, to come to the podium to be sworn in. Mrs. Doolan swore in Sheriff Elect Brown.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, George B. Melick, to come to the podium to be sworn in. Mrs. Doolan swore in Freeholder Elect Melick, while his grandchildren held the Bible.

Mrs. Doolan asked the Honorable Robert Reed, JSC, to swear in Freeholder Elect William G. Mennen.

Judge Reed addressed the audience saying it has been his honor to serve the past six years as a Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey. He is especially honored to be asked to administer the Oath of Office to his friend, Will Mennen. Judge Reed stated that William Mennen by taking the Oath of Office will promise and swear to perform the duties of a Hunterdon County Freeholder to the best of his ability. He trusts and warrants that in taking that oath, will be a credit to himself, to his office and he will honor his family and he will serve the citizens of Hunterdon County.

Judge Reed swore in Freeholder Elect, William G. Mennen, as his wife, Lynn and children, Lauren, Hardy and Paige, held the Bible.

Freeholder Mennen thanked Judge Reed for swearing him in today,

Mr. Mennen thanked everyone for coming out today and wished all a Happy New Year. This is the fourth year in a row that his children have had the opportunity to be present for a swearing in and the opportunity to hold the Bible. One of his children asked if he was going to make the same speech as was made last year. Mr. Mennen stated he replied that he did not remember what he said last year and his child said they don't either.

Mr. Mennen thanked his good friend, Judge Reed for being here today to honor him by administering his oath this year. He thanked Reverend Errickson for his invocation. He thanked his friends and colleagues for being here this evening.

Mr. Mennen said there are a couple of members of this Board who are often times attributed to being sworn to the word "no"; two simple letters which make a very powerful word. When it comes to saying to increasing spending, this Board has said no; and this Board has said no to increasing the size of government. There is an undercurrent/message that gets lost when talking about "no". Mr. Mennen said he knows that saying "no" it isn't popular and it doesn't make friends. He does know at times it is necessary to say "no" and it is absolutely the right thing to do.

Mr. Mennen said it is his distinct honor to serve Hunterdon County for the last years and he is blessed to have the opportunity to serve for another three years. He knows the people of Hunterdon are incredibly fortunate to have five Freeholders on this Board who are committed to the service of the people of this County. He knows that for three years, being in leadership on this Board, having served as Deputy Director his first year on the Board, and for the last two years having the opportunity to serve as Director, he knows it is time to pass that torch. He knows that the people of Hunterdon County are incredibly fortunate to be served by 600 of the finest public employees anywhere in the State of New Jersey. The public employees in Hunterdon County are led, sometimes mothered, by the finest County Administrator anywhere in the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Mennen said no one on this Board would be able to do, what we do, were it not for the love, support and friendship of our families; he thanked his wife Lynn and his children: Lauren, Hardy and Paige, for their indulgence, patience and for giving up their dad, every once in awhile for nighttime meetings and other obligations.

Mr. Mennen knows this Board will continue to work together in the spirit of cooperation to foster goodwill and to do the people's business for all the citizens of the County of Hunterdon.

Mrs. Doolan asked the Honorable Richard Cushing to swear in Freeholder Elect, Robert G. Walton.

Mr. Cushing informed those present that it is rarely he gets to have the last word after Judge Reed.

Mr. Cushing stated he has had the good fortune to serve as the attorney for the Borough of Hampton working with Rob Walton, for many years. Rob is a fiscal conservative and he makes that very clear and he is also thoughtful in terms of fulfilling his duties as Mayor of Hampton and his duties as Freeholder. He considers it a great honor this evening to be able to administer the Oath of Office to Rob Walton.

Mr. Cushing swore in Freeholder Elect. Robert Walton, while his wife, Kathleen and his children, Michael, Samantha and Alexander held the Bible.

Mr. Walton thanked his family for their support and stated he is trying to make this a better place for everyone to grow up.

Mr. Walton thanked Sheriff Brown, Freeholder Melick and Freeholder Mennen for being his running mates. He thanked Mr. Mennen for his leadership. He informed those present that Hunterdon County has reduced the size of government and not increased taxes for the already overtaxed County residents. This doesn't happen by accident; it requires careful planning, careful forethought and a lot hard work. He stated that Mr. Mennen's leadership has been unmatched in this state and the good people of Hunterdon County are better off because of Mr. Mennen's service.

Mrs. Doolan asked for nominations for Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mr. Mennen moved and Mr. Walton seconded a motion appointing J. Matthew Holt, to be Director of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

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

Mrs. Doolan asked for nominations for Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Mennen seconded a motion appointing Robert G. Walton as Deputy Freeholder Director.

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

Mrs. Doolan asked Mr. Cushing to swear in Mr. Walton as the Deputy Freeholder Director.

Mr. Cushing swore in Mr. Walton as Deputy Freeholder Director as his wife, Kathleen and his children, Michael, Samantha and Alexander held the Bible.

Mr. Walton stated it is an honor for him to be in a leadership position. He thanked his colleagues for their support and vote.

Mr. Walton stated a rough year is ahead of this Board. There are many functions to County government and he believes there is one that is more important than all the others. While all employees are valued equally but there are County employees who dispatch fire, police and rescue services and in his opinion, that those employees carry a greater burden and have a higher responsibility and must be held to a higher standard. When a dispatcher at Emergency Services dispatch for someone in need, it could be life and death. There is a liability and accountability for dispatchers and uniformity and that must be what County Emergency Services is in going forward.

Mr. Walton stated this Hunterdon County has inherited a mess from prior generations. For every man, woman and child in Hunterdon County they owe collectively \$53,000 in debt to various levels of government; \$45,000 is owed to the federal government and \$6,000 is owed to the state. Hunterdon County is very frugal and the average municipality has a debt of around \$800 per person; the County better at \$185 per every person.

Mr. Walton stated the federal government has for every 1,000 people 8 jobs. In Hunterdon County, local government (county and municipal) there are 12 jobs for every 1,000 people and that is the reason why there are such high property taxes in this state and County.

Mr. Walton stressed the importance of shared services, consolidation of functions and perhaps the consolidation of municipalities. The question is how can take less money from the County taxpayers. He feels that shared services could be the answer by having a smaller, more efficient local government. We need to lead by example and work to bring those changes into effect. He provided examples of municipalities that are achieving shared services. County government needs leaders in this effort. This can't be left for the next generation to solve; the job rests with

each of us. The offices of Freeholders, mayors and council/committee persons have to work together to change a small portion of the mess, in order to write the history of this County in our generation. Mr. Walton said he looks forward to everyone's support.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Mennen to swear in J. Matthew Holt as the Freeholder Director.

Mr. Mennen swore in J. Matthew Holt as the Hunterdon County Freeholder Director. Megan Holt held the Bible.

Director Holt informed those present that over the past couple of weeks he wrote five or six pages out but when he looked at the agenda and realized that six people were being sworn in, he decided to become a fan of brevity. As Mr. Mennen said there is the power of words and it only works if you don't put too many together at the same time.

Director Holt recognized the in the audience the County employees and the members of the local municipal governments. There have been hard times in the past few years but together we got through it. Director Holt said in looking at the state of real estate, housing and jobs, times are going to remain tough but we can get through this together. Together we are changing how government works in Hunterdon County. He is confident we can get through the next few years and come out of this currently economy, stronger and better than we were when it started.

Director Holt wished everyone, on behalf of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, a wonderful new year and he thanked everyone for taking the time to be here today.

Director Holt's final thought: Let us all not be judged by our words but rather by our actions and our accomplishments.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Judge Reed and Mr. Cushing for being here today.

Mrs. Doolan turned the meeting over to Director Holt.

Director Holt recognized Senator Michael Doherty, Assemblyman Erik Peterson, and acknowledged that Assemblyman DiMaio sent a letter of congratulations.

Director Holt thanked Judge Reed for being here this evening.

Director Holt recognized Congressional Officers, Surrogate, Susan Hoffman, Sheriff, Frederick Brown and his Deputy, Bob Smith; as well as Deputy County Clerk, Mary Hurford in the absence of the County Clerk, Mary Melfi. He recognized County Prosecutor Anthony Kearns.

Director Holt recognized Republican Chairman, Henry Kuhl and thanked him for his leadership for decades.

Director Holt thanked Mr. Mennen for taking his past two years as Freeholder Director. He knows how much time Mr. Mennen put into the job.

Director Holt congratulated Freeholder George Melick who continues to be the longest serving Freeholder in the State of New Jersey.

Director Holt recognized all the municipal officials present thanking them for their work.

Director Holt recognized all the County Department Heads present thanking them for their work also, and he thanked all the County employees for their hard work.

At this time, Senator Doherty and Assemblyman Peterson were given a chance to speak.

Director Holt recognized County Counsel, Gaetano M. DeSapio, County Administrator, Cynthia J. Yard and the Clerk of the Board, Denise Doolan.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Melick moved and Mr. Sworen seconded these:

**See Page 01/04/11-3A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the 2011 Freeholder Departmental Chairmanships and Assignment Designations.

**See Page 01/04/11-3B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establish County Office hours.

**See Page 01/04/11-3C**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/04/11-3D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establishing pay days for CWA Supervisory and Non-Supervisory employees.



**See Page 01/04/11-4A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establishing pay days for certain unclassified and non-contractual employees.

**See Page 01/04/11-4B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establishing pay days for certain unclassified, non-contractual management employees.

**See Page 01/04/11-4C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establishing pay days for employees covered under the FOP #29 (Corrections Officers; FOP #186 (Investigators, Sergeants and Lieutenants in the Prosecutor's Office) and FOP #94 (Sheriff's Officers and Sergeants).

**See Page 01/04/11-4D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establishing the payment of vouchers in accordance with the payment schedule established by the County Treasurer.

**See Page 01/04/11-4E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Naming of Depositories of funds for the County.

**See Page 01/04/11-4F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Administrative Code provisions for the establishment and utilization of Bank Depositories.

**See Page 01/04/11-4G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving a County Budget Appropriations Limits and establishing a CAP Bank.

**See Page 01/04/11-4H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Designating official newspapers for the publication of County items.

**See Page 01/04/11-4I**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/04/11-4J**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salary and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Correction Line Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 29, be held over.

**See Page 01/04/11-4K**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salary and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Correction Superior Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 29, effective January 1, 2010.

**See Page 01/04/11-4L**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salary and longevity payments for eligible employees covered under the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Investigators, Sergeants and Lieutenants, PBA Local 358, be held over.

**See Page 01/04/11-4M**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for unclassified, non-contractual employees in the Prosecutor's Office, be held over.

**See Page 01/04/11-4N**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for unclassified, non-contractual senior management appointed employees in the Sheriff's Office, be held over.

**See Page 01/04/11-4O**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salary and longevity payments for Sergeants in the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office be held over.

**See Page 01/04/11-4P**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 94, be held over.

**See Page 01/04/11-4Q**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salary and longevity payments for Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1034 effective January 1, 2011.



**See Page 01/04/11-5A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salary and longevity payments Non-Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1034 effective January 1, 2011.

**See Page 01/04/11-5B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salary and longevity adjustments for unclassified, non-contractual employees, be held over.

**See Page 01/04/11-5C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Appointments to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

**See Page 01/04/11-5D**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/04/11-5E**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/04/11-5F**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/04/11-5G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving appointments to the Emergency Management Council.

**See Page 01/04/11-5H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving appointments of Office of Emergency Management Deputies to the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management Council.

**See Page 01/04/11-5I**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establishing various Petty Cash funds for 2011.

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

**FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS**

Mr. Sworen is looking forward Director Holt's leadership this year and to working through the difficult issues. He is glad to hear that an emphasis will be placed on shared services.

Mr. Melick thanked his family, especially his wife, Norma. He further thanked all the County employees. He said the Freeholders talk about crunching the numbers but it is the Finance Team of the County Administrator, Human Resources Director, County Treasurer and Finance Director who are crunching those numbers for the Freeholders. Mr. Melick advised he is in and out of the office quite often and he sees these people working hard to help the Freeholders.

Mr. Melick thanked Chairman Kuhl for his hard work over the years for the each person running for office.

Mr. Melick thanked everyone present to coming out tonight and sharing reorganization with the Freeholders. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Mennen stated that Hunterdon County has 600 of the finest public employees to be found anywhere.

Mr. Mennen thanked Director Holt for agreeing to take on the responsibility of Director this year. He offered his assistance in anyway possible in executing his duties as Director.

Mr. Mennen recognized Fred Brown and wished him Godspeed. He expressed that personally, he is elated he is in having Mr. Brown take the helm of Sheriff. He is looking forward to working together.

Mr. Mennen congratulated Tony Kearns and again said he is looking forward to working with him in the spirit of cooperation.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board