

## REORGANIZATION

### HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

**JANUARY 02, 2014**

The reorganization meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders was called to order at 4:00 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 2014.

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 19, 2013, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times 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 the Reverend David Errickson of Old Rock's Church to provide today's invocation.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Reverend Errickson.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, Suzanne Lagay, to come to the podium. County Clerk, Mary Melfi swore in Freeholder Elect Lagay, while Lt. Scott Gallaway, her two grandson's from California held the Bible.

Mrs. Lagay acknowledged that she is now standing on the side of the table with dignitaries, politicians and public servants that she respects and admires; with business people and community leaders who she stood side by side with when she was with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce; and with loved ones and friends. Mrs. Lagay stated this was her vision when she decided to run for the office of Freeholder.

Mrs. Lagay stated her roots are deep in Hunterdon County as her grandparents and mother were born and raised in Lambertville and it is a place where she visited often as a child. Her father was involved in the Lindberg Trail, the Trial of the Century. She recalls seeing a black and white newsreel where her father was visible walking down the steps of this historic Hunterdon County Court House.

Mrs. Lagay arrived in the County in the late 1990's and accepted the helm of the Chamber of Commerce in 2000.

Mrs. Lagay noted that this is not the County of her grandparent's or mother's youth and it isn't the county that she moved to but it is a beautiful county that we all love but if you look at the main streets and the shopping strip malls there are many empty buildings. Hunterdon is an affluent County and Hunterdon County's government has historically maintained fiscal conservancy and that will continue; yet the national economy, behaviors and trends are changing and the Hunterdon's ratable base is barely hanging on; in addition to the migration of Hunterdon's seniors out of the County to a more affordable lifestyle. Also, Hunterdon's youth is moving with the national trend towards cities where they can afford to live and find careers.

Mrs. Lagay stated in looking forward however, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, in the last quarter of 2013 introduced a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), as a leap forward to the goal of investing wisely in Hunterdon's future. The intended outcome of CEDS is to gather enough insight, experience, and opinion to launch a strategic plan; smart growth based on the experience of many dozens of people who will be interviewed and talked to but then it is the County's responsibility to make sure that those policies and behaviors of those findings actually meet the goals that are set as a result of those explorations.

Mrs. Lagay stated as the Board of Chosen Freeholders dedicates itself to run the County like a thriving business by knowing the real costs; to understand the costs of doing business and to guard the reserves. This Board will continue to take care of its valued employees and deliver excellent service to the taxpayers and customers; the Board will evaluate partnerships and financial sharing possibilities; the County will move toward using a stable ratable base and backfilling the waning businesses and economic base wherever possible. Mrs. Lagay feels the County will be able to keep the government lean, efficient and in touch with the marketplace.

Mrs. Lagay stated it has been said that the County of Hunterdon is sitting on a gold mine of tourism but Hunterdon County only ranks 18<sup>th</sup> out of 20 of its county neighbors. The Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce has embarked on a study with Rowan University to find out what is going on with tourism in Hunterdon County who has a colorful Cultural and Heritage history and it's full of arts and crafts and parks and recreation. They are trying to discover what will bring people to the County. The County is going to have to wait for those answers.

Mrs. Lagay feels if Hunterdon takes the information to be received from the CEDS interviews and share them with partners in the County who are examining issues that are critical to Hunterdon's success and workings on moving forward than Hunterdon can take a big step in moving towards its goal of using all resources and sharing services that are available. The wisdom has to be shared with each other and there has to be a partnership with municipalities and really share services.

Mrs. Lagay will help strike a budget that will meet the needs of the County and the residents while halting depletion of the County's reserves. She will respect and restore autonomy to the County's qualified employees, to work diligently with her colleagues, to reach out to municipal and business and community leaders for input where it is necessary and beneficial to the County, to keep the County government lean and noninterfering while undertaking the planning necessary for a vibrant future, to examine business friendly practices, and to maintain affordable taxes. The County can look for more areas of savings and areas of revenue generation. Transportation issues also have to be looked at in order to be able to move the residents in, out and within the County. The County needs to find a better way to serve the youth that is currently leaving the County and the seniors in order to keep them here. The County needs to support future leaders and burgeoning businesses by providing access to resources and the services they need to survive and thrive.

Mrs. Lagay feels as the national economy starts to stabilize the County needs to get on board to move from the status quo to closer observation of the external environment; from observations to conversations and from those conversations to action, now and in the next five years. We need to go from simply enjoying the County to ensuring its vibrancy. Vision without action is a daydream; action without vision is a nightmare.

Mrs. Lagay appreciates all the work that has gone before her with this Board and she is very enthusiastic about choosing a new County Administrator and a new Chief Financial Officer. The County recently hired a qualified Human Resources Director who is well on her way to understanding Hunterdon County and what it needs. This Freeholder Board shares values and it will continue to inform everyone what matters to the County.

Mrs. Lagay thanked her running mate, John Lanza for this enthusiasm and his incredible knowledge of the workings of politics. She thanked all her supporters and stated she is grateful for her sister Faith arrived from Chicago to be with her; her partner Scott and his son, Lt. Scott Galloway from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, John E. Lanza, to come to the podium. John R. Lanza, Esquire, and father to Freeholder Elect Lanza swore in his son. Freeholder Lanza's wife Kyra and his son, Mark, held the Bible.

Mr. Lanza expressed gratitude for his family who is with him today. He thanked everyone for their support and kind words and for being here today on a day that is so special to Suzanne and him. Having this ceremony in the historic Court House has special significance to him as he recalls when he was six or seven years old, his father had a case here and his mother took him and they sat in the balcony seats watching all that went on and here he is thirty years later and his parents, his wife and his son is here. While he does not remember what was said thirty years ago; his son will not remember anything thirty years from now.

Mr. Lanza thanked those present and that he is grateful for there here. He is grateful to be able to share this with his family today.

Mr. Lanza noted that reorganization meetings are usually held on New Year's Day but this the year of Hunterdon County's Tricentennial which had its huge kickoff yesterday in this building. The reason for having this celebration today wasn't out of deference to the 300<sup>th</sup> celebration which will be ongoing but there is also symbolism that this meeting is taking place the day after. Yesterday was about the Tricentennial and the County's rich history, proclamations from the King and about things from days gone by. Today, we are not talking about our forefathers or our ancestors; we are talking about our descendants. We are not talking about the inheritance we received; we are talking about the legacy that will be left for those that come after us. Today, we are talking less about the three centuries of Hunterdon County before; today we are talking about the fourth century of Hunterdon County.

Mr. Lanza explained the mission which was discussed during his campaign with Suzanne, was that everything they do, sitting in these Freeholder seats which belong to 128,000 people and not this Board, is geared toward a greater vision; a vision for the 4<sup>th</sup> Hunterdon Century. A vision that sees this County as a great place to grow up in but is also something that would become a place where people look forward to grow old and a place where people will prosper. This is the vision he has for the 4<sup>th</sup> Hunterdon Century. So, today we are celebrating the history of Hunterdon County in a building that is an icon of Hunterdon County's past while at the same time ushering in the 4<sup>th</sup> Hunterdon Century where we can celebrate Hunterdon County's future.

Mrs. Doolan announced at this time there will be nominations for Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon.

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. King seconded a motion appointing J. Matthew Holt as the Director of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders for 2014.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. WALTON, MR. KING, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. HOLT.**

Mrs. Doolan announced at this time there will be nominations for Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the County of Hunterdon.

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay made a motion appointing John W. King as the Deputy Director of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. KING, MR. WALTON.**

County Prosecutor, Anthony Kearns swore in Deputy Freeholder Director, John W. King, while his wife, Helen held of the Bible.

Deputy Director King stated after being on the Freeholder Board for one year, his feet are officially wet. He's looking forward to working with this fine group of knowledgeable and energetic individuals that are on this Freeholder Board.

Mr. King thanked everyone for coming out to today's meeting saying that it is great to see such a great representation of the County's legislators and municipal officials; as well as County employees.

Mr. Holt came to the podium and pointed out that the County's Constitutional Officers are swearing in the Freeholders today.

County Surrogate, Susan Hoffman swore in Freeholder Director, J. Matthew Holt, while his wife, Megan held of the Bible.

Director Holt pointed out Denise Doolan, sitting in the Judge's area above the Board of Chosen Freeholders and she should, for 21 years she has been the Clerk of the Board, and it's only appropriate on Reorganization that she opens the meeting and keeps this Board guided. Denise has been with the County of Hunterdon for 38 years and this Board would not be where it is without her.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Director Holt for his kind words.

Director Holt recognized Freeholder Rob Walton has served the County as Freeholder Director for the past two years, for 2012 and 2013. There is nobody who has the knowledge and interest that Rob has and he is pleased that Rob will be taking another run for Freeholder in 2014.

Director Holt recognized George B. Melick, who has served on this Board for the past 36 years as a Freeholder. He is the longest, consecutive Freeholder in the State of New Jersey.

Director Holt said after talking with a friend over lunch one day, he realized there are four groups of people: Family and Friends; County Employees; Reports and Politicians. Family and Friends will always be there and show support; County Employees maybe cynical after the past five years of events in the County; Reporters and fellow Politicians want to hear what you have to say but they heard it before.

Director Holt explained his friend convinced him he knows the groups and asked what the message is that he wants to convey. The message isn't that roads and bridges need to be fixed or that a new Administrator has to be hired. The message is that actions speak louder than words. Hunterdon is entering its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this great county and somewhere in the next year, five years or at the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, someone better be looking back and saying this Freeholder Board did it right and made some decisions that continue to propel this County to what it is and what it will be in the future. This Board needs to take actions and leave a legacy. Actions speak louder than words.

Director Holt stated that Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli was overhead at an event saying to Freeholder King that this Freeholder Board is going to be quite a team; between the County employees and this Freeholder Board, it is going to be quite a team. A few weeks later, Director Holt advised Assemblyman Ciattarelli that the people who work for Hunterdon County and those who volunteer are great and make the County look great. Hunterdon County is celebrating its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the young and old of Hunterdon County have to be educated about what is great about this County.

Mrs. Doolan handed the meeting over to Director Holt.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. King moved and Ms. Lagay seconded these:

**See Page 01/02/14-3A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the 2014 Freeholder Departmental Chairmanships and Assignment Designations.

**See Page 01/02/14-3B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establish County Office hours.

**See Page 01/02/14-3C**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-4A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-4B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establishing pay days for County Employees.

**See Page 01/02/14-4C**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-4D**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-4E**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-4F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries and Longevity for unclassified and non-contractual employees to be held over.

**See Page 01/02/14-4G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries and Longevity for unclassified employees in the Prosecutor's Office to be held over.

**See Page 01/02/14-4H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries and Longevity for unclassified employees in the Sheriff's Office to be held over.

**See Page 01/02/14-4I**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-4J**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for the Sheriff's Sergeants Association, FOP Lodge #94, to be held over.

**See Page 01/02/14-4K**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries and Longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Correctional Line Officers' Association, FOP Lodge #29, to be held over.

**See Page 01/02/14-4L**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Correction Superior Officers' Association, FOP Lodge 133, to be held over.

**See Page 01/02/14-4M**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for non-Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1034, to be held over.

**See Page 01/02/14-4N**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1034, to be held over.

**See Page 01/02/14-4O**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, 2014 Salary and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Investigators, PBA Local 186.

**See Page 01/02/14-4P**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, 2014 Salary and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Sergeants, PBA Local 186.

**See Page 01/02/14-4Q**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, 2014 Salary and longevity payments for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Lieutenant Investigators, PBA Local 186.

**See Page 01/02/14-5A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for employees covered under AFSCME for 2014.

**See Page 01/02/14-5B**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Appointing Shana L. Taylor, County Counsel, as the County's Public Compliance Officer.

**See Page 01/02/14-5C**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Appointing Catherine Kopec, Human Resources Director, as the County's Appointing Authority.

**See Page 01/02/14-5D**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Appointing George Wagner, Director of Public Safety and Health Services, as the County's Interim, Acting County Administrator.

**See Page 01/02/14-5E**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Lou Garbaccio appointed unclassified, full time Chief Financial Officer, Department of Finance/Administrative Services.

**See Page 01/02/14-5F**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Marva Salvato appointed full time, Senior Account Clerk, Department of Public Works.

**See Page 01/02/14-5G**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Kathleen Hynes appointed full time, Principal Account Clerk, Department of Human Services.

**See Page 01/02/14-5H**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Dana Bivona, Social Worker Aging, Department of Human Services, Division of Senior Services, Disabilities and Veterans Services, salary correction.

**See Page 01/02/14-5I**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-5J**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-5K**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-5L**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/02/14-5M**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving OEM Deputies for the Office of Emergency Management Council.

**See Page 01/02/14-5N**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Appointments to the Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board.

**See Page 01/02/14-5O**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing a change of petty cash custodian for the Public Works Department.

**See Page 01/02/14-5P**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Authorizing a change of petty cash custodian for the Finance Office.

**See Page 01/02/14-5Q**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establishing custodians for various petty cash funds.

**See Page 01/02/14-5R**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Administrative Code Provisions concerning the establishment and utilization of Bank Depositories.

**RESOLVED**, Approving the 2014 Temporary County Budget.

**ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. KING, MS. LAGAY, MR. LANZA, MR. WALTON, MR. HOLT.**

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Freeholder Rob Walton introduced the municipal mayors who were in attendance and Henry Kuhl, Chairman of the Hunterdon County Republican Committee.

Freeholder Lanza introduced the Hunterdon County Congressmen and Assembly members in the audience; as well as the County's Constitutional Officers.

Freeholder King recognized the legislative representatives at today's meetings.

Freeholder Lagay acknowledged the presence of the former elected officials for the County of Hunterdon.

Director Holt recognized each and every County Employee who took time to attend today's reorganization meeting and asked those present to give them a hand of applause for the great work they do.

Director Holt also stated that those who give so selfishly of themselves to volunteer to be on the County's various Boards, Committees and Councils should be recognized.

**Freeholders' Comments**

There being no comments from the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Director Holt adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board