

REORGANIZATION

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

JANUARY 06, 2015

The reorganization meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders was called to order at 4:10 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 2015.

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, 2014, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Star Ledger and HC News (Online), 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 Father Michael Saharic of St. Ann's Church to provide today's invocation.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Father Saharic.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, Robert G. Walton, to come to the podium. County Counsel, Shana L. Taylor, swore in Freeholder Elect Walton, while his wife, Kathleen and children, Michael, Alexander and Samantha held the family Bible.

Mr. Walton has been in elected office for just over eleven years and has taken the Oath of Office eleven times; first was as Mayor of Hampton; then as councilman; then as an interim term as Mayor; fourth was for a full term as Mayor; elected by his party for Freeholder; elected interim Freeholder; elected Deputy Freeholder Director; elected to a full term as Freeholder; elected Freeholder Director in 2012 and 2013; and today is the start of his second elected full term as Freeholder.

Freeholder Walton thanked his wife, Kathleen and his children, Michael, Alex and Samantha. Holding public office is an honor and a privilege but it does come with burdens and his family shares in those burdens and he thanks them for allowing him to serve.

Mr. Walton thanked his pastor, Father Saharic for being here today and thank you for your advice in my life. St. Ann's church is one of the most beautiful churches in all of Hunterdon County.

Mr. Walton recognized John Anderson, JCP&L, and thanked him for his new team which is a blessing to his family.

Mr. Walton thanked Matt Holt, his friend.

Mr. Walton explained this historic Court House, is why his father came to Hunterdon County. His father's first job was as a Law Clerk in this building. Mr. Walton's father had sworn him in the first six times he took office. His failing health did not allow him to attend the 2011 Freeholder meeting where Mr. Walton was nominated as Deputy Freeholder Director, a good friend, Dick Cushing swore him in. Even when his father could not attend the swearing in ceremony, Mr. Walton would see him immediately afterwards as George K. Walton loved politics and it's a love which was passed onto Mr. Walton. It has been a year and a half since his father passed, you have to remember his father survived catholic school in the 1950's and college in the 1960's. He survived serving in Vietnam, losing his wife, cancer (twice), clinical depression and emphysema; plus his father's first law office burned to the ground.

Mr. Walton stated his father and he were very much alike and shared the same goals, even though they were from different parties, they only had different approaches. His father was the epitome of a country lawyer, he never turned away a client because of their ability to pay. His father served as attorney for the Hunterdon County Construction Board of Appeals since the it began (1982) and the County's Finance Department was unable to find a bill from him for these services.

People don't ask my name, they ask if I am George Walton's son and they go on to say how much they loved him and that he was a great man. George Walton's son is a far better title than the one I take today. Mr. Walton's father was a public servant who sought fairness and justice, first and foremost, he was honest, sometimes to a fault; and he was very smart.

Mr. Walton advised when it came time for someone to swear him in, in 2015, he wanted someone who reminded him of his father. Someone who is kind, fair and just; someone who shares his father's values.

Mr. Walton stated his father retired from law shortly after he became a Freeholder, when the Board decided to go from outside County Counsel to in-house County Counsel. His father would always ask how Ms. Taylor was performing as County Counsel.

Mr. Walton feels his votes in the next three years will make his father proud, and that will serve the people of Hunterdon County well.

Freeholder Walton received a standing ovation.

Mrs. Doolan asked Shana Taylor to come to the podium to be sworn in as County Counsel for a second term. Freeholder Walton swore Ms. Taylor.

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

Mr. Walton moved and Mr. Lanza seconded a motion nominating John W. King as the next Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon.

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

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

Mr. King moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion nominating Suzanne Lagay as the next Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon.

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

Mrs. Doolan asked Mary Melfi, County Clerk to swear in Suzanne Lagay as the County's Deputy Freeholder Director, as Freeholder John Lanza held the Bible.

Former Freeholder Director, J. Matthew Holt, took to the podium, stating that on New Year's Eve, a time capsule was buried in the Court Street Park, making Hunterdon County's 300th Anniversary. It was shortly after that ceremony that Freeholder King asked Mr. Holt to swear him in. Aside from being a tremendous honor for Mr. King, it started a conversation regarding the Director position. The role of Director by how the Freeholder Board sets the duties, as overseeing Finance and the Administrative side of the County's activities, there are things that are done the same way but there are also things that are done differently in moving forward. The role of Director is oftentimes different from year to year. In 2012 the County was well served by Rob Walton and in 2013, the directorship did not change as the Board elected to have Mr. Walton retain the directorship. 2014 brought two new members of the Freeholder Board and Mr. Holt assisted as the Director in making it a very successful year. In moving forward, 2015 will be different than 2014, and the Freeholder Board feels that John King will be able to lead this body and continue in getting amazing talents from the staff in whatever has to be done.

Freeholder, J. Matthew Holt swore in John W. King as Freeholder Director while his wife, Helen held the Bible.

Mrs. Doolan again thanked Father Saharic for coming today to be a part of Hunterdon County's Reorganization.

Mrs. Doolan turned the meeting over to Director King.

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Lagay moved and Mr. Lanza seconded this:

See Page 01/06/15-2A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving 2015 Freeholder Departmental Chairmanships and Assignment Designations.

See Page 01/06/15-2A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Establish County Office hours.

See Page 01/06/15-2B **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/06/15-2C **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/06/15-2D **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Establishing pay days for County Employees.

See Page 01/06/15-2E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Naming of Depositories of funds for the County.

See Page 01/06/15-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving Administrative Code Provisions concerning the establishment and Utilization of Bank Depositories.

See Page 01/06/15-3B

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3C

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving a revised Table of Organization for the County.

See Page 01/06/15-3E

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity for unclassified and non-contractual employees.

See Page 01/06/15-3G

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for the Investigators in the Prosecutor's Office, be held over.

See Page 01/06/15-3I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for the Sergeants in the Prosecutor's Office, be held over.

See Page 01/06/15-3J

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3K

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3L

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3M

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Superior Officers' Association, FOP Lodge #133, to be held over.

See Page 01/06/15-3O

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3P

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-3Q

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for employees covered under AFSCME.

See Page 01/06/15-3R

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity payments for employees covered under AFSCME.

See Page 01/06/15-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity payment for employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement with Communications Workers of America for Non-Supervisory, Local 1034.

See Page 01/06/15-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Shana L. Taylor reappointed unclassified, full time County Counsel, for a three year term.

See Page 01/06/15-4C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Tom Mathews, Director of Public Works, salary adjustment.

See Page 01/06/15-4D

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Appointing George F. Wagner as the County's Appointing Authority.

See Page 01/06/15-4F

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-4G

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-4H

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-EI

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Emergency Management Council.

See Page 01/06/15-4J

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/06/15-4K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Hunterdon County Youth Services Commission.

See Page 01/06/15-4L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing custodians for various petty cash funds.

See Page 01/06/15-2M

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2015 Temporary County Budget.

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

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Director King introduced the County's representatives from the 23rd District: Senator Michael Doherty, Assemblymen John DiMaio and Erik Peterson.

Director King introduced the County's representatives from the 16th District: Senator Kip Bateman, Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli and Assemblywoman Donna Simon.

Director King recognized former Assemblyman Dick Kamin; former Freeholders, George Muller and Ronald Sworen; as well as the President of the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, Chris Phalen and the President, of Raritan Valley Community College, Michael McDonough.

Director King introduced the municipal officials present: Flemington Mayor, Phil Greiner; Zack Rich last year's Mayor of West Amwell; Paul Muir of Bethlehem Township; John Botin from Readington Township; Rich Chen from Raritan Township Committee; and Robert White from Milford Borough.

Director King introduced Hunterdon's Constitutional Officers: County Clerk, Mary H. Melfi; County Sheriff, Fred Brown; County Surrogate, Susan Hoffman and County Prosecutor, Anthony Kearns.

Director King asked all the County's Department and Division Heads to stand and be recognized, as well as the County's staff present.

Director King stated he and his peers find it reassuring that two among us have served as Director in the past four years. Their steady hands and leadership have set in motion the changes that will yield a greater and more prosperous Hunterdon County. The policies and philosophies they've practiced are not temporary and remain sound guidance for this Board. He asked those public to join him in thanking Freeholders Robert Walton and Matt Holt for their dedicated leadership.

Director King stated 2014 was a remarkable year in Hunterdon County, celebrating its 300th anniversary. The County has completed an exhaustive process to formalize a Comprehensive Economic Plan. Reaffirmed also was a commitment to the more than 7,500 Veterans in the County, with the recognition of their service and dedication of essential support resources. Investments have been made in people and technology that will have a dramatic and positive effect on the County's management and operations. This Board's commitment to promoting Hunterdon County's culture and heritage has resulted in the addition of a new Executive Director who has already hosted the first-ever meeting in Hunterdon County of the New Jersey State Council of the Arts, in this historic Courthouse.

Director King advised in 2015, the new, Countywide shared service for animal control will support 10 municipalities at its launch. The County will invest in even more technology and in the County's infrastructure, not only the County's roads and bridges but also some of the long neglected facilities. County buildings and parks are the public's properties and this Board will be good stewards. The One Stop Workforce Development Center will be open for business to serve our residents.

Director King reported both Polytech and Hunterdon's community college – Raritan Valley Community College, are critical in preparing students for careers and/or advanced studies and for meeting the needs to develop and retain our workforce, both of which are decisive goals of economic planning. Accordingly both schools have been asked to engage in cooperative planning to meet those needs. The results of those discussions and Polytech's strategic plan will be in this Board's hands by month's end.

Director King feels it seems only fitting that the County take this opportunity to announce that Freeholders Lagay and Holt have agreed to form a formal economic planning committee. Their charter will be to organize County priorities with Municipal and Private resources and to effect the goals of the County's Economic Development Strategy. The mission is to sharpen this Board's focus on economic planning, then it can more readily achieve the successes that will benefit the residents of the County. More can be learned about these successes through the new interactive website launched yesterday at, hunterdonced.com.

Director King stated this Freeholder Board is the best body politic he has had the privilege to be a part of. Each member here respects and trusts the others. The Board knows its obligation to its residents and the Board will aspire to excel together with the residents, as a team.

Director King thanked all who attended today's meeting and asked God to bless this country.

Director King invited all to the rooms on the lower level of the historic Courthouse for refreshments and to enjoy the art exhibit put together by Cultural and Heritage.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director King adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board