

REORGANIZATION

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

JANUARY 05, 2016

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 09, 2015, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, The Express, Courier News, Trenton Times, Star Ledger and TAPinto 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."

Flag Salute

Pledge Allegiance.

Invocation – Rev. James DeVries

Mrs. Doolan asked Reverend James DeVries to provide today's invocation.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Reverend James DeVries for being a part of Hunterdon County's reorganization.

Swearing In

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, J. Matthew Holt, to come to the podium and asked Freeholder-Elect John E. Lanza, swore in Freeholder Elect Holt, while his wife, Megan held the Bible.

Mr. Holt gave his thanks to the people of Hunterdon County who voted for him, stating being elected to a fourth term is a great opportunity and he is very thankful. He thanked his colleagues, who are very even headed in their thoughts and very mutual in their convictions.

Mr. Holt thanked the staff of Hunterdon County, stating they do a tremendous job every day.

Mr. Holt thanked Pat Torpey, Chairperson of the Hunterdon County Republican Party; his leadership of the party has been tremendous.

Mr. Holt advised, as Hunterdon County goes into 2016, there is ticket led by Congressman Leonard Lance that includes Hunterdon County Clerk, Mary Melfi; Sheriff Fred Brown; and Freeholders Suzanne Lagay and John E. Lanza. He hopes everyone will support this team; they represent Hunterdon County to its best.

Mr. Holt thanked his parents who are also here this evening; as well as his wife, Megan. He thanked all those present to attending today's meeting.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, John W. King, to come to the podium, along with Assemblyman Jack Citarelli. Assemblyman Citarelli swore in Freeholder Elect King, while his wife, Helen held the Bible.

Mr. King thanked everyone present for coming out today to join in today's celebration. He wished congratulations to Freeholders Lagay and Lanza as they take the reins in 2016.

Mr. King wished sincere congratulations to Freeholder Holt for his friendship and guidance over the past few years has been invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Mr. King reported in 2015, the staff was challenged to address the issues with Corrections/Jail and employee healthcare benefits; combined they represent approximately 20% of the County's overall budget. The staff rose to that challenge and the necessary steps were taken to take control of the County's future; reducing costs by 20% by improving the quality of employee healthcare; reducing the size of government; and all without layoffs, or lack of service to the County's municipalities.

Mr. King asked those present to assist in thanking the County's staff/employees for making 2015 a success; as well as making 2016 a success also.

Mr. King noted that Assemblywoman Donna Simon is a tireless advocate for all things Hunterdon. She stands for tax reform and fairness; as do all the representatives of the 16th Legislative District and the residents of Hunterdon County are deeply grateful. He thanked all the representatives of the 16th Legislative District.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Holt moved and Ms. Lagay seconded a motion nominating John E. Lanza as the next Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon.

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

Mrs. Doolan asked Mr. Lanza to come to the podium to be sworn in as Deputy Freeholder Director. Mrs. Doolan asked Mr. Lanza's father, John R. Lanza to swear him in.

Mr. Lanza thanked everyone who was able to attend today's Reorganization meeting of the County. He appreciates everyone for coming. He will keep his speech brief because today's it is the Director's show.

Mr. Lanza stated it was a tremendous privilege to swear in his colleague, Matt Holt, today. Mr. Holt was one of the first to approach him regarding running for political office in Hunterdon County and since then, he has been a loyal ally, friend and a mentor. He looks forward to working with Mr. Holt again this year and he continues to look for his guidance going forward.

Mr. Lanza advised the Board is about to swear in a new director, this is a person he has gotten to know over the past 3 ½ years, Suzanne Lagay. She comes in at an appropriate time, because the County is in a time of intense cynicism by the public. People do not believe what you say, if you are elected to public office and that isn't necessarily earned; it's just part of the game. The perfect antidote is to populate our government with the types of people who are honest, trustworthy and hardworking; those are the types of people who can be believed because they achieve results. Suzanne is possibly the most honest human being you will ever find in public life. Mr. Lanza has gotten to know Suzanne as a human being over the last 3 ½ years and she is the type of person where anything she says, you can take to the bank. Suzanne will talk about things that are going to happen this year; as well as things she will accomplish.

Mrs. Doolan asked Mary Melfi, County Clerk to swear in Suzanne Lagay as the County's Freeholder Director, as her partner, W. Scott Gallaway held the Bible.

Ms. Lagay explained she is a believer that actions speak louder than words; so she will take a couple of minutes to inform those present of the actions the County is engaged in and will be engaged in, in 2016.

Ms. Lagay stated the County of Hunterdon is healthy and it is getting healthier; steps have been taken to make sure spending levels are back to what they were, as recently as 8 years ago. The County has invested in technology, which has already proven itself – not just in the County's financial areas but in building assessments and vehicle GPS. The County's investment in technology is returned to the County and making the County a more efficient government on the behalf of the taxpayers.

Ms. Lagay reported the County has created an intelligent strategy for building a stable County for the future; a public/private partnership has been created, which is referred to as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Program. Hundreds of County residents have been worked with in the formation of that document and in the last year, in building those strategies to implement that program.

Ms. Lagay advised the County has invested in its employees; there is a strong executive team. There is a management team and leaders who talk with each other and exchange ideas. A two-way communication has been created, which was not present before.

Ms. Lagay reported that all members of the Freeholder Board are committed, energetically committed toward and working with the County's employees for the residents, in terms of having a healthy, economic and efficient government; being stewards of County land; supporting employees and those who service the residents/taxpayers. Hunterdon County is in good hands.

Ms. Lagay thanked the staff of Hunterdon County, who has met every challenge this Board has put in front of them over the past few years.

Ms. Lagay thanked her colleagues for their constant creativity, their decisive actions and their commitment and steadfastness to serve Hunterdon County; and especially for their wisdom which they generously share. Ms. Lagay is proud to stand with her colleagues and she is eager to welcome her running mate, John Lanza as Deputy Freeholder Director.

Ms. Lagay is proud to stand in front of those present, as she takes her oath today, to be impartial and to serve the entire County to the best of her ability.

Ms. Lagay thanked Scott who understands all this, and who supports her, with the time and energy that it takes.

Ms. Lagay thanked Hunterdon's Constitutional Officers who continue to serve the people as the Sheriff, Clerk and Surrogate.

Ms. Lagay wished everyone a very happy, healthy, successful, safe and satisfying New Year.

Mrs. Doolan turned the meeting over to Director Lagay.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Ms. Lagay introduced Congressman Leonard Lance and his wife, Heidi Rohrbach Lance.

Ms. Lagay introduced members of the 23rd Legislative District: Senator Michael Doherty and Assemblyman Eric Peterson.

Ms. Lagay introduced members of the 16th Legislative District: Assemblymen Kip Bateman, Jack Citarelli and Assemblywoman Donna Simon.

Ms. Lagay again recognized the Constitutional Officers of Hunterdon County: County Clerk, Mary Melfi; Surrogate, Sue Hoffman and County Sheriff, Fred Brown.

Ms. Lagay asked all municipal officials, mayors, council and staff present to stand and be recognized for their service.

Ms. Lagay asked all County Department Heads, Division Managers, and staff to stand and be recognized.

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS

Director Lagay announced: "All matters listed are considered to be routine by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately."

Mr. King moved and Mr. Lanza seconded these:

See Page 01/05/16-1A **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Approving 2016 Freeholder Departmental Chairmanships and Assignments.

See Page 01/05/16-1B **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Establish County Office hours.

See Page 01/05/16-1C **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/05/16-1D **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/05/16-1E **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Establishing pay days for County Employees.

See Page 01/05/16-1F **RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, Naming of Depositories of funds for the County.

See Page 01/05/16-1G **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/05/16-1H **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/05/16-1I **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/05/16-1J **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/05/16-1K **RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/05/16-2A

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2B

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2C

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2D

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2E

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2F

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for employees covered under the Supervisory Communications Workers of America, bargaining unit.

See Page 01/05/16-2H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for employees covered under AFSCME to be held over.

See Page 01/05/16-2I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving salaries for the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

See Page 01/05/16-2J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Payments for instructors for Emergency Services.

See Page 01/05/16-2K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Carol Petrocci appointed permanent, full time Family Service Worker, Division of Social Services, Human Services Department.

See Page 01/05/16-2L

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2M

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2N

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the New Jersey Association of Counties.

See Page 01/05/16-2P

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2Q

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Emergency Management Council.

See Page 01/05/16-2R

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-2S

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/05/16-3A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2016.

See Page 01/05/16-3B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing custodians for various petty cash funds.

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

Invitation

An invitation was extended to all those present to join the Board for light refreshments at the new establishment located on Reaville Avenue, called La Fresca.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Lagay adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board