

## REORGANIZATION

### HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

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

**JANUARY 03, 2017**

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 15, 2016, 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 – Anthony Kearns**

Mrs. Doolan asked Anthony Kearns to provide today's invocation.

Mrs. Doolan thanked Prosecutor, Anthony Kearns, for being a part of Hunterdon County's reorganization.

#### **Swearing In**

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, John E. Lanza, to come to the podium along with his father, John Lanza E. Lanza, who swore in Freeholder Elect Lanza, while his wife, Kyra held the Bible.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, Suzanne Lagay, to come to the podium, along with County Clerk, Mary H. Melfi who swore in Freeholder Elect Lagay, while Scott's granddaughter, Lauren Paluck held the Bible.

Ms. Lagay stated that today belongs to the new Director and Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon.

Ms. Lagay thanked those present today, the County's taxpayers and residents who voted to return Mr. Lanza and her to the Freeholder Board. It is a privilege and honor, which is not taken lightly.

Ms. Lagay explained around three years ago, a small but deliberate group of people wanting her to run for Freeholder introduced her to Mr. Lanza. He is considered by many to be a strong political analyst. Mr. Lanza is decisive, clear, he is amazingly bright and he is a cherished friend.

Ms. Lagay stated that becoming director is a special role and while the Freeholders act together as a body, there is a decisive place and role for the Director, in terms of communication and a lot of decisions get made on a day to day basis. Being Director is a busy and engaging role and one that she enjoyed every minute of.

Ms. Lagay reported when she first came to the Board, the area of Economic Development was new to the County. Mr. Holt had done the groundwork to lead the way for Economic Development; which was sorely needed in Hunterdon County. Mr. Holt asked her to assist in leading Economic Development for the County three years ago. Now when she and Mr. Holt go out and talk to municipalities, non-profits, churches and other groups, people are interested. They have talked to about 2/3rds of the County's municipalities; the County has hired an Economic Development Director, Mark Saluk; and now people are understanding and are asking us to come and talk with them. Ms. Lagay feels Hunterdon County is on its way to developing its economy and in seeing what is needed to make this County, not only return to its viability but to insure it for the future.

Ms. Lagay reported each Freeholder has areas to which they are Liaisons and the Director typically works with Administration. She works closely with the County's employees; an executive team was developed to form a body to work together cohesively to work out struggles, major decisions and take responsibility for the County.

Ms. Lagay stated the County's taxpayers are in good hands with the County's employees. These people know their stuff, they work hard and you should be assured you are well taken care of by the almost 600 employees of Hunterdon County.

Ms. Lagay stated it was a privilege to serve as the Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders; she enjoyed it.

Ms. Lagay wished everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2017.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Doolan asked Mr. King to come to the podium to be sworn in as Deputy Freeholder Director. Mrs. Doolan asked County Clerk, Mary H. Melfi to swear him in. Mr. King's wife Helen and his mother Elsie held the family Bible.

Mr. King advised he has had a very fulfilling career, for a very short time in politics. He has realized that you don't accomplish much unless you know how to work with other people. It has been his privilege to work with this Freeholder Board and they have done an outstanding job.

Mr. King informed those present that he is looking forward to this year, because he knows the quality of leadership the County has and the quality of the people that serve.

Mr. King thanked everyone who provides him the opportunity to serve Hunterdon County.

Mr. King wished everyone present a very fine 2017.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Director, John Lanza to come to the podium to be sworn in by Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli. Director Lanza's wife, Kyra held the Bible.

Director Lanza explained he had a hard time trying to figure out what he would say today. It isn't like a best man speech, where you can check a few boxes; compliment the bride, thank the bride's parents; don't talk about the groom's ex-girlfriends. There are no such restrictions and rules at Freeholder Reorganization. There used to be one term, you did not get to talk about – it was the political equivalent of giving the best man's speech about the bachelor party where the groom went to jail. That term was Economic Development. It was political poison and it was extremely unpopular; so much so that when this County went into an economic downturn, the last part of the last decade, still no one talked about it. As commercial real estate went down, pressure on the homeowners went up and businesses left and still no one said anything. The results of saying nothing and doing nothing is what is outside this building across the street (Union Hotel). Thankfully, the governing body of Flemington Borough understands and is turning things around.

Director Lanza advised when this Freeholder Board reconstituted itself in 2014, the Board understood – starting with Matt Holt as the then Freeholder Director and everyone who succeeded him since. The Freeholder have understood the County is at a crossroads with two options: (1) continue doing nothing and saying nothing and getting nothing results; or (2) the Board can start not just talking about economic development but doing something about economic development and this Board hired an Economic Development Director, Marc Saluk and he is doing a great job.

Director Lanza stated when the Freeholders started talking about Economic Development and doing something about, it was found that in spite of all the gifts the County has, such as being the healthiest County – thank you Health Department; we have the safest County in the State – thank you Prosecutor's Office, municipal and state police; we have some of the most educated workforce in the entire country; plus we are within 40 miles of the eastern border of Manhattan and 40 miles from the southwestern border of Philadelphia. The question is why is Hunterdon struggling economically and what was found is that the local government had an attitude problem. The position was taken that when business came in and was looking to expand, the attitude of the County and local government was "what are you doing" when the attitude should have been "what can we do". Hunterdon County has taken this opportunity to not only fix the attitude problem but to start doing things; to start outreach to local government and to non-profits and the business sector and to the state, all through what Mr. Saluk's efforts are right now. We are looking to make Hunterdon County all that it can be.

Director Lanza reported the County always hears often the negative things; all the reasons why we can't but this Board has resolved, since it constituted itself three years ago to figure out what Hunterdon can do. Because of where Hunterdon County is located it is an ideal place for business to succeed. Business has to understand that Hunterdon County is open for business and when that happens, there is nothing that can't be accomplished in the County.

Director Lanza stated the focus of this Freeholder Board is the promotion of Economic Development; the promotion of an environment in Hunterdon County whose inclination is never to say no but how can we. This Board is setting the stage for ten, fifteen and twenty years from now

where you can still afford to retire here; where your children want to come back and enjoy Hunterdon's quality of life.

Director Lanza stated he is optimistic when you consider all the gifts this County has, the location and the political will that exists today, there is nothing that can't be done. Economic Development helps take the pressure off the homeowner, as commercial rates go up and as businesses fill the vacant store fronts. 40% of commercial property is currently vacant and we need to work with what we have to fill the commercial spaces which increases the value of the commercial property and takes the pressure the homeowner making it more affordable to live here and it becomes easier to work here because there will be good jobs that you don't have to travel an hour to get to.

Director Lanza thanked everyone for coming to Reorganization. He appreciates everyone for being here and wishes for a prosperous 2017.

Mrs. Doolan turned the meeting over to Director Lanza.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Director Lanza recognized Amanda Walsh, who is here today representing Congressman Leonard Lance who is being sworn in gain, in Washington.

Director Lanza recognized former Representative Mike Pappas, Senator Mike Doherty, Assemblyman Eric Peterson, Assemblyman John DiMaio, Assemblyman and future Governor Jack Ciattarelli, former and future Assemblywoman Donna Simon, Somerset Freeholder and future Assemblyman Mark Caliguire.

Director Lanza recognized Hunterdon County's Constitutional Officers: County Clerk, Mary Melfi; Surrogate, Susan Hoffman; Sheriff, Fred Brown, and Governor's newly reappointed County Prosecutor, Anthony Kearns.

Director Lanza recognized Bethlehem Township Mayor, Paul Muir; Flemington Mayor, Philip Greiner; Frenchtown Mayor, Brad Myhre; Burlington County Mayor of Hainesport, Anthony Porto; Clinton Town Councilwoman, Beth Sosidka; Lebanon Borough Councilman, Robert Junge; Holland Township Committeeman, Robert Thurgarland; Shaun Van Doren the County's State Committeeman; West Amwell Township Mayor, Zach Rich; and the County's Republican Chairman, Pat Torpey.

#### **REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS**

Director Lanza 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 Ms. Lagay seconded these:

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving 2017 Freeholder Departmental Chairmanships and Assignment Designations.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Establish County Office hours.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Setting Holidays for the County.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for the Investigators in the Prosecutor's Office for 2017.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for the Sergeants in the Prosecutor's Office for 2017.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for the Lieutenants in the Prosecutor's Office for 2017.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Officers' Association, FOP Lodge #94 for 2017.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for non-Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1036, to be held over.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for employees covered under the Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1036, bargaining unit, to be held over.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Salaries for employees covered under AFSCME for 2017.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving salaries for the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Payments for instructors for Emergency Services.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Appointing Daniel Schultz as the County's 911 Coordinator.

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the appointment of AJM as the County's Risk Manager under PAIC (Public Alliance Insurance Company).

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

**See Page 01/03/17-1A**

**RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving appointments to the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2017.

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving appointments to the Human Services Advisory Council.

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving reappointments to the Greater Raritan Workforce Investment Board (GRWIB).

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving appointments to the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC).

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

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

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Approving the 2017 Temporary County Budget.

See Page 01/03/17-1A

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, Michael Franchini, unclassified Payroll Administrator, Finance Department, salary adjustment.

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

**FREEHOLDERS COMMENTS**

Mr. King noted that Freeholder Lagay did an outstanding job as Director in 2016 and for moving ahead with initiatives which will continue in 2017 with regard to Economic Development.

Director Lanza also thanked former Director Lagay for showing how Economic Development should be approached. She a person you can count on and can trust. She works hard and she is smart and she listens. You rarely get all four of these qualities in a politician; sometimes you only get one quality. Ms. Lagay has been a great friend and feels she has been the best running mate. Director Lanza is very grateful to be an apprentice under former Director Lagay this year.

Director Lanza invited all present to a reception to be held in Delaware Township at Trattoria Brunello. This is on the Lanza/Lagay tab so please come and join us.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise B. Doolan  
Clerk of the Board