

REORGANIZATION

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Hunterdon County Historic Court House,
71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822
January 07, 2019

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 2019.

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. The Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders announced: "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 emailing a copy to newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

Flag Salute

Girl Scout Troop #81292 was called to the front of the room, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Mrs. Doolan asked those in attendance to remain standing after the Pledge of Allegiance for a moment of silence and to keep in our thoughts and prayers the families of Sid Benjamin and Conner Golembiewski.

Invocation -- Rev. Nathan Tuckey

Mrs. Doolan asked Reverend Tuckey to provide today's invocation.

Swearing In

Mrs. Doolan asked Surrogate Elect, Susan Hoffman, to come to the podium to be sworn in to her sixth term as County Surrogate. The Honorable Michael F. O'Neill, J.S.C. swore in Susan Hoffman, as Surrogate while her husband, Larry Greene held the Bible.

Surrogate Hoffman thanked the Board and those present.

Judge O'Neill confirmed that Surrogate, Susan J. Hoffman is the longest service Surrogate in the State of New Jersey.

Mrs. Doolan asked Jeffrey Perron to come to the podium to be sworn in as Deputy County Surrogate. The Honorable Michael F. O'Neill, J.S.C. Judge O'Neill swore in Mr. Perron, as Deputy Surrogate while his wife held the Bible.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, J. Matthew Holt to come to the podium along with Freeholder John E. Lanza, to be sworn in as Freeholder, while his wife, Megan, held the Bible.

Freeholder Holt stated he owes a debt of gratitude to his colleagues; a greater debt of gratitude to the staff of Hunterdon County and in his fifth term, he owes a huge debt of gratitude to the voters of this County. A great many things are being done right to preserve the unique character and way of life in Hunterdon County; he believes the voters recognize that.

Most importantly, Mr. Holt owes a great debt of gratitude to his wife as this journey started in 1993 on a school board and ended up with 5 terms on the Freeholder Board; without her, none of that would have been possible. He thanked his wife and stated his appreciation.

Mrs. Doolan asked Freeholder Elect, Susan J. Soloway to come to the podium along with Senator Michael Doherty, to be sworn in as Freeholder, while her husband, Robert, held the Bible.

Freeholder Soloway addressed the elected officials, family and friends in attendance; thanking them for attending today to share this special occasion. She congratulated Freeholder Holt and Surrogate Hoffman that have joined me in being sworn in today; looks forward to working with them and governing with her new colleagues. Although she's the only one being sworn in today, into a position that is not re-elected, she's eager to learn from everyone's experience and to work together.

Ms. Soloway is honored to be elected to represent the residents of Hunterdon County; feels blessed to live and work and raise a family in this wonderful community. Her goal is to insure Hunterdon County remains as such long into the future. This is a dream come true for as long as she can remember, having fond childhood memories of sitting around the kitchen table talking about current events and politics. The dining room table was used as a gathering spot for local volunteers to assembly campaign literature. Time was spent going door to door canvassing with her mother when in grade school. Her father instilled in her a strong work ethic and gave her the confidence to dream big. As a sophomore in high school she attended her first conservative political action conference in Washington, D.C. and attended the dinner with Ronald Reagan. She's volunteered her time to candidates that she wanted to see get elected; eventually running for County Committee, which began her fight for taxpayers and her conservative values. Her commitment to the residents is that she will take the responsibilities of this Freeholder position and follow through on her promises to make the taxpayers first. Her decisions will be made with honor, integrity and common sense. Ms. Soloway will work cooperatively with her Freeholder colleagues

to continue the Board's effort hold in check the cost of government. Dollars are precious and must be used effectively, efficiently, and sparingly.

Ms. Soloway thanked the voters for their trust and support. She thanked her husband Rob, who not only put up with many weeknight dinners alone but spent hours and hours in the car driving her as she campaigned, door to door on weekends; and putting out campaign signs for her and her running mate, Matt Holt; even in the rain. If it weren't for his unconditional love, encouragement and support, she wouldn't be here today.

Ms. Soloway stated it with great honor and privilege that she takes this oath of office to become Hunterdon County's newest Freeholder. God bless those present today; God bless the citizens of this wonderful County and God bless America.

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

Mr. Van Doren moved and Mr. Holt seconded a motion nominating John E. Lana as the next Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. VAN DOREN, MR. HOLT, MS. SOLOWAY, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY.

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

Mr. Lanza moved and Ms. Soloway 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. LANZA, MS. SOLOWAY, MR. HOLT, MR. VAN DOREN, MS. LAGAY.

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. Mr. Lanza's wife Kyra and children, Mark and Bridgett held the Bible.

Deputy Director Lanza thanked his colleagues for nominating him and making him the Deputy Director this year. Sometimes people ask what does the Deputy Director of the Freeholder Board do. At this time, Mr. Lanza confirmed with Director Lagay that she would be at the next meeting. Deputy Director Lanza stated that is the job. (Audience laughed)

Deputy Director Lanza stated this is a great honor and he appreciates the honor, noting it is his second time serving as Deputy Director. He thanked the Board for allowing him this honor.

Deputy Director Lanza thanked his wife, Kiera for her support which makes all this possible. His children, Mark and Bridgett, they make all this worth doing. He thanked his parents for being here today and he thanked them for the great privilege of raising him in Hunterdon County and thankfully, it is something he's able to do for his children.

Deputy Director Lanza congratulated this new colleague, Sue Soloway and welcomed her to the team. This is a team and he's confident that Susan is going to be a great member of the Team and he's looking forward to working with her.

Deputy Director Lanza thanked in-coming Freeholder, for the fifth time, Freeholder Holt for having him, swear him in. It is a great privilege to be able to swear him in. Matt, along with the County Clerk were the ones who encouraged him to get elected into office, in the first place. He remembers asking Mr. Holt the time commitment to which Matt said just two meetings a month; that is politician speak for the check is in the mail. Thankfully that is the only thing that hasn't been the unvarnished truth that he's ever heard from Matt Holt. It is special for Mr. Lanza to be able to swear Matt Holt into his final term.

Deputy Director Lanza stated looks forward to working with Freeholder Van Doren; he had a first great year on the Board; he is a great addition to this team.

Deputy Director Lanza stated the incoming Director and he ran five years ago, with the purpose of making Hunterdon County continue to be a great place to live, work, grow up and grow old. In those past five years, he would like to think, they kept good on that promise. Mr. Lanza looks forward to the next year, in continuing to try and make good on that promise.

Deputy Director Lanza thanked all present to coming – God Bless you all. Have a good night.

Mrs. Doolan asked County Clerk, Mary Melfi to swear in Suzanne Lagay as the County's Freeholder Director, as her stepson, Michael Galloway held the Bible.

Director Lagay thanked the Girl Scouts who did a lovely job of leading the Pledge of Allegiance, for being her today. She's aware that Freeholder Soloway is their Senior Scout Leader.

Director Lagay thanked her colleagues for their confidence in appointing her as their Director. Congratulations to Susan Hoffman, who is our Surrogate – the longest serving in the State of New Jersey; and to her new deputy, Jeff Perron.

Director Lagay stated Matt Holt is newly re-elected with Susan Soloway. She refers to Matt as her CWO, her Chief Wisdom Officer. Matt has been around the block enough times that when she goes to him, she has confidence that he's answering any question she might have, to the best of his ability; to the residents' best interests and to hers. She thanked Matt.

Director Lagay welcomes the County's newest Freeholder, Susan Soloway; who is one hell of a campaigner. She did a wonderful job and well-earned her role at this table and on the Freeholder Team.

Director Lagay is delighted to welcome her running mate, John Lanza, as the Deputy Director. Whether she is here or not, he plays a much more important role than he indicated.

Director Lagay welcomed those present to the 2019 Reorganization of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders. It is a strong, fiscally conservative governing body that you have chosen. Not too long ago, saying "no" was considered conservative governance. In retrospect, this Board has proven that with careful analysis, investing in the future is profoundly conservative. Director Lagay explained, this Board, which included our former Freeholder, John King, who is in the audience, has been saying "yes". This Board said "yes" to investing in economic development through its rapid, internal acceptance, outward communication and branding of Hunterdon County; the Economic Development Department and its Director, Mark Saluk, have brought regional, national and helped to bring international attention to Hunterdon County when Unicom Global, an international technology firm, based in Los Angeles, California, decided to locate its regional headquarters in Readington Township, in Hunterdon County. That company fits into Hunterdon's goal of attracting technology and innovative initiatives into this area. Hunterdon County Economic Development is now offering our municipalities an approach for shared service grants to further their economic development needs and goals. Four grants have been awarded through that program to date.

Director Lagay stated this Board said "yes" to a revised open space plan this year involving hundreds of residents like you; subject matter experts along with the County's highly qualified staff. Subsequent to that plan's acceptance, the Board then voted to make those allocated funds more easily accepted to the County's municipal partners and to our non-profit associations; therefore, enhancing and spreading that availability of those funds into our municipalities.

Director Lagay advised the Board has said "yes" to our employees, supporting our shared philosophy of attracting high performing, subject matter experts and keeping those we already have. Hiring competent leaders while promoting from within is critical to efficient future based, cost effective operations. Operating conservatively means retaining our trained employees; a revolving workforce is expensive, time consuming and inefficient. Towards that end, this Board has worked and will continue to negotiate with our unions to adjust minimum salaries where appropriate. The investment the County has made in its staff is key to helping achieve the organizational goals, including the top priorities, protecting our high quality of life that is enjoyed in Hunterdon County.

Director Lagay reported she is proud to work with this staff, 600 fold, in Hunterdon County. They continue to improve themselves; to offer more and more of their expertise and their ideas which only enhance the service Hunterdon performs for everyone. Director Lagay explained this kind of fiscal scrutiny and evaluation allows for sound conservation services to taxpayers while satisfying the real needs of the highly functioning organization. In 2019, we can expect future demonstrations of our conservative values and fiscal control in running the County, where you live, work and play.

Director Lagay advised Hunterdon County functions in a conservative culture of financial controls. Our financial team: Janet Previte, CFO, along with the County's Purchasing Division, the finance staff and the County's Executive Team who meet weekly have produced clean audits for the last several years. Looking forward to 2019, Hunterdon County will continue considering enterprise resource management toward the future cost effectiveness, operation efficiency which began in 2017 when the County first entered into an audit for energy. Hunterdon County saved over \$300,000 in those first two years. That process is coming due again this year, and it is expected to be cost effective for the County.

Director Lagay stated internally, the County's Information Technology is up for the Board's scrutiny this year, in the County's continued focus. Being looked at in 2019 is if the County is operating most efficiently, if we are positioned properly for the future and if the County can best support its employees. Transportation will come under the County's collective critical eye this year. A task force will shortly be formed to consider the County needs for transportation; getting those people we serve; the elderly and disadvantaged and challenged folks where they need to go; when they need to get there and getting them back home. This is not as easy as it sounds and it's time to take a look at how that is done most efficiently, effectively and cost effective. It seems like a no-brainer but in that evaluation is the consideration of vehicle purchasing, maintenance of vehicles, service and the cost of it all.

Director Lagay explained continued efficiencies with all departments are routinely and regularly reviewed with the County's managers who are being educated and trained; and given greater autonomy, responsibility, and therefore accountability to the taxpayers.

Director Lagay stated more about the efforts will be reported as the County moves into 2019 – no good plan survives first contact but as the task forces are developed and learn more in terms of operational efficiencies, the public will be kept informed.

Director Lagay welcomed along with her returning colleagues, Susan Soloway, who is the fourth woman to serve as a Hunterdon County Freeholders in 305 years. It is an exciting and ongoing challenge and she is sure Susan is up to it. Director Lagay feels that Freeholder Soloway's municipal experience will add to this Board's knowledge and be of service to the taxpayers.

Director Lagay again congratulated Matt Holt, Susan Hoffman, and John Lanza.

Director Lagay recognized former Freeholder John King, for his leadership and commitment to the people of Hunterdon County during his time on the Board.

Director Lagay thanked her family members, and anyone one who served in any capacity of public office or service wherever you choose to do that; it is our families who put up with a lot change, stretching and acknowledgement who sit at the dinner table alone many nights.

Director Lagay reported she had a surprise visit from her stepson, Michael Galloway.

Director Lagay is delighted to see everyone here. She thanked everyone for coming and for their interest in County government. She wished all a Happy New Year; a healthy, happy and prosperous 2019.

Mrs. Doolan turned the meeting over to Director Lagay.

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."

Freeholder Holt stated that Item #30 on the agenda appoints Brad Myhre as Acting Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders; prior to the Board voting on that, he wanted to acknowledge that Hunterdon County has the longest serving Surrogate in the County and Hunterdon may have the longest service Freeholder Board Clerk in the State as well. Earlier this year, Denise Doolan, informed him she would stay until the end of the year but it's time to take care of the family and she lived up to her word. For forty-two years she's served this County, exceptionally well. Earlier I informed her that her shoes would be hard to fill and Brad has big feet and it's a different set of shoes. The partnership will be amazing.

Freeholder Holt wanted Mrs. Doolan to be publically and privately thanked for the years of service given to Hunterdon County. Mrs. Doolan thanked Freeholder Holt, the Board and those present.

Mr. Holt moved and Mr. Van Doren seconded these:

See Page 01/07/19-4A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2019 Freeholder Departmental Chairmanships and Assignment Designations.

See Page 01/07/19-4B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establish County Office hours.

See Page 01/07/19-4C

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-4D

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-4E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing pay days for County Employees.

See Page 01/07/19-4F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Naming of Depositories of funds for the County.

See Page 01/07/19-4G

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-4H

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-4I

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-4J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Setting Holidays for the County.

See Page 01/07/19-4K

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-4L

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-5A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for the Investigators, in FOP 186, in the Prosecutor's Office to be held over.

See Page 01/07/19-5B

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for the Sergeants, in FOP 186, in the Prosecutor's Office to be held over.

See Page 01/07/19-5C

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for the Lieutenants, in FOP 186, in the Prosecutor's Office to be held over.

See Page 01/07/19-5D

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-5E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for employees covered under the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Officers' Association, FOP Lodge #94 for 2019.

See Page 01/07/19-5F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Salaries for Correction Officers covered under FOP Lodge #29 for 2019.

See Page 01/07/19-5G

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, 2019 salaries for Rank and File Communications Workers of America, Local 1036, bargaining unit.

See Page 01/07/19-5H

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity for employees covered under the Rank and File Communications Workers of America, Local 1036 for 2019.

See Page 01/07/19-5I

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, 2019 CWA salaries for employees covered under the Social Services CWA bargaining agreement.

See Page 01/07/19-5J

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, 2019 salaries for employees covered under the Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1036, bargaining unit.

See Page 01/07/19-5K

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity for employees covered under the Supervisory Communications Workers of America, Local 1036 for 2019.

See Page 01/07/19-5L

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Longevity for unclassified and non-contractual employees.

See Page 01/07/19-5M

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-5N

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving salaries for the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

See Page 01/07/19-5O

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving agreements, through the fair and open procurement process, for Labor, Bond and Special/Conflicts Counsel.

See Page 01/07/19-5P

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-5Q

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-5R

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-6A

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Emergency Management Council.

See Page 01/07/19-6B

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-6C

RESOLUTION

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

See Page 01/07/19-6D

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving appointments to the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2018.

See Page 01/07/19-6E

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Establishing custodians for various petty cash funds.

See Page 01/07/19-6F

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, Approving the 2019 Temporary County Budget.

ROLL CALL: (AYES) MR. HOLT, MR. VAN DOREN, MS. SOLOWAY, MR. LANZA, MS. LAGAY.

Director Lagay guests and dignitaries that are present today; they are many, and this Board is very privileged to have Senator Tom Kean, Senator Michael Doherty, Assemblyman John DiMaio, County Clerk Mary Melfi, Sheriff Fred Brown, Surrogate Susan Hoffman, Prosecutor Anthony Kearns. Also with us are Brian Levine, the Somerset County Freeholder Director, Freeholder Pat Walsh from Somerset County, former Assemblyman Jack Citarelli, former Assemblywoman Donna Simon, former Freeholder Mark Calaguire, former Freeholder John King, and Assemblyman Erik Peterson.

Director Lagay introduced New Jersey Superior Court Judge Michael O'Neill who swore in the Surrogate and her Deputy and former Superior Court Judge Peter Costa.

Director Lagay thanked everyone for joining the Freeholders today; it is important to this Board and to the taxpayers and the Board is privileged to have you here today. Thank you.

Director Lagay stated there are many municipal mayors, councilmen/women and public servants – she asked them to stand and be recognized. It is a hard job that you do.

Director Lagay stated Freeholder Van Doren was not asked to speak today, but at every meeting he speaks and his work behind the scenes is very important to this Board. She thanked Freeholder Van Doren.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Lagay opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Sachau, Raritan Township resident stated she's been to many Freeholder meetings where she is practically the only person there. What the Freeholders do is very important. Ms. Sachau requested meeting notices be kept current on bulletin boards and the County's website.

BENEDICTION

Director Lagay asked the Reverend Nathan Tuckey to close the meeting in prayer.

Invitation

Freeholder Soloway invited all to a reception at the Market Roost, on Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Lagay adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise B. Doolan
Clerk of the Board