

**HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**  
**Hunterdon County Historic Court House**  
71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822  
**JANUARY 06, 2020**

**CONVENE:** "This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting a copy of the notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, 71 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before December 27, 2019, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Express Times, Courier News, Star Ledger and TAPinto (online), newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Moment of Silence**

**Invocation** – The Reverend David Erickson of Old Rocks Church

**Swearing-in of Freeholder Elect John Lanza** – John R. Lanza, Esq.

Freeholder John Lanza congratulated Sheriff Fred Brown and Freeholder Elect Zach Rich on their recent elections. Mr. Lanza thanked the people for their votes, faith, and support and is looking forward to another term on the Freeholder Board. Mr. Lanza also highlighted the County's strong fiscal record and record of no debt. Mr. Lanza also thanked his family and friends for being there and supporting him.

**Swearing-in of Freeholder Elect Zach Rich** – Doug Steinhardt, Esq.

Freeholder Rich thanked everyone for coming and supporting the Freeholder Board. Mr. Rich also congratulated Sheriff Fred Brown and Freeholder John Lanza on their re-election. Mr. Rich noted, "I look forward to working together in maintaining Hunterdon County as a special place, a unique gem in what is the diverse setting that is New Jersey."

**Nominations for Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.**

Freeholder Holt nominated Susan J. Soloway to the position of Deputy Director of the Freeholder Board. The motion was seconded by Freeholder Lanza. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

**Swearing-in of Freeholder Deputy Director.**

Ms. Susan J. Soloway – thanked everyone for coming and introduced family. Congratulated re-elected John Lanza and Fred Brown, welcomed Zach Rich to the Board. Pledged again, like the previous year, to continue her taxpayers' first philosophy from when she was on the Franklin Township Committee and understanding the responsibility that still holds with the Board and make sure it will be done efficiently as possible.

**Nominations for Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.**

Freeholder Soloway nominated Freeholder Shaun C. Van Doren to the position of Director of the Freeholder Board and the motion was seconded by Freeholder Rich. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

**Swearing-in of Freeholder Director.**

Mr. Shaun C. Van Doren – Good afternoon, Happy New Year, and welcome to the 2020 Hunterdon County Re-organization meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Myhre, for chairing the meeting to this point. And congratulations on starting your new term as Mayor in Frenchtown. I want to express my appreciation and thanks to my colleagues for the honor they have given in their selection of me to serve as Director this year. As an 8<sup>th</sup> generation of Hunterdon County, and having a deep commitment to public service, being selected for this position is a personal career highlight for me. Having been chosen Mayor of Tewksbury 3 times was high on my list only to be eclipsed by this selection. I will do all that I can to live up to your expectations. Let me recognize and thank my mother, Barbara, for her steadfast love and support, not to mention the herculean effort to hold the family bible during today's ceremony. Thank you to the West Amwell Boy Scout Troop for leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and Rev. Erickson for the invocation and benediction.

I congratulate Ms. Soloway on her election as Deputy Director. I look forward to working with you productively throughout the year to move the County's business forward for our residents. Congratulations to Sheriff Fred Brown, by far the best Sheriff in the State of New Jersey – having restored honor, integrity, pride and service to the Office of Sheriff, modernizing the office and saving you, the taxpayers of this County, hundreds of thousands of dollars since your

## Resolution # 2020 – 34

tenure began, and to our new Freeholder, Zach Rich, on joining the Board. Zach, I know that your experience leading West Amwell Township as Mayor and Committee member will provide you and us great benefits and I look forward to working with you. And it's great that I get to graduate to junior status, and you are lowering the median age of the Board. Sorry Freeholder Holt.

During my first two years on the Freeholder Board, I have benefited from sage advice and wise counsel not only from my colleague John Lanza, who I congratulate on his returning for a third term, but also from the dean of the Board, Matt Holt, whose always thorough assessment and in depth knowledge of issues and guidance has been so valuable to all of us who have served here and from former Freeholders Suzanne Lagay and John King, who dedicated themselves to doing what was right for the people of this County.

The people of Hunterdon County have been, are, and will continue to be well served by all of you.

When I joined the Freeholder Board two years ago, I pledged to put people ahead of politics. That had been my guiding principle during my 21 years of service on the Tewksbury Township Committee and continues to be here on the Freeholder Board. And putting the people first, to me, starts with understanding that the funds spent on mandated and necessary county services is the taxpayers' money. Simply put - taxpayers' money matters. I am committed to continue the conservative fiscal policies that have been the hallmark of this Board. Careful scrutiny of spending, oversight of government operations, and accountability are the characteristics that have resulted in holding the county tax rate steady, reducing budgets below that of a decade ago, and error free financial audits, with special thanks to our Chief Financial Officer Janet Previte, whose ability to carry out the charge given to her by the Freeholders each year makes us all proud to have her hands on the financial wheel of this County.

These achievements have come from teamwork between the Freeholders, the Department heads, and the county employees. And on my watch that teamwork and our conservative approach to the use of taxpayers' money will continue. Putting people first also means transparency of government action. Towards that end, there are several initiatives that I will be asking my colleagues on the Board to support.

We have made great strides over the past few years in making information known to and communicating with the public through the County's e-newsletter, website, and social media. And I believe more can be done. Greater use of social media for public awareness of programs and actions by County Departments, for the notice of meetings of our various public bodies, and for the opportunities available for public comment on government activities, will improve transparency. What transpires at the public meetings of the Freeholder Board is important to all residents. All meetings are recorded, and any member of the public can request a copy of the audio file of Freeholder meetings, we have absolutely nothing to hide. But let's make the recordings even more assessible for the public by having a link to the files available on the County website, beginning with today's meeting.

The quote from Franklin Delano Roosevelt that I delivered here two years ago is still very much key "The constant free flow of communication among us – enabling the free interchange of ideas – forms the very bloodstream of our nation. It keeps the mind and body of our democracy eternally vital, eternally young." My years on the Tewksbury governing body taught me that communication and partnership between the County and our municipalities is vital to the success of many projects and programs. It is incumbent on the County to ensure that municipal officials are aware of the many opportunities available that can benefit local budgets and taxpayers, from economic development grants, to shared services, to cooperative purchasing. As an example, last year the Freeholder Board extended electric power purchasing to our municipalities and there was a substantial savings for all involved - \$ 130K to the County and \$ 30K to the municipalities who participated. This year, I would like to see similar shared services efforts made for cooperative purchasing. I believe the results will achieve further cost savings for our municipalities and the County.

Toward the goal of greater cooperation, I believe the time is upon us for governing officials in Hunterdon County to gather periodically to share ideas, network, and just get to know one another. With my colleagues' agreement, I have asked Deputy Director Soloway to join me in developing a municipal officials education program for 2020. The goal would be to hold three sessions over the course of this year to educate our municipal officials on the workings of County government, from our Constitutional Officers to Department heads – what they do, what functions their offices provide, how they may be able to help our municipalities and have us, the Freeholders, hear from them on what we can try to do to make their jobs more efficient. There is much work to be done here at the County in 2020, and I believe we have the team, from the Freeholder Board to the Department Heads, to our dedicated employees, to make significant accomplishments. And we should not forget the countless number of volunteers who serve on various Boards, Committees and Commissions for whom we owe a debt of gratitude. We are always looking for new volunteers as there are always opportunities waiting so please go the

**Resolution # 2020 – 34**

County's website to check availability, contact Board Clerk Myhre or one of us on the Freeholder. This is your County government and we want you involved.

I look forward to advance the goals and beliefs we have – to ensure Hunterdon remains affordable to its residents, that our government functions as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, to be responsive to and responsible for our residents, whether its monitoring health outbreaks, providing social and senior services, ensuring the motoring public has safe roads and bridges, that we continue to plan for the future and supporting in every way possible economic development and economic viability to ensure we have a strong, vibrant business community. And the protection of the environment is equally vital as well – we'll continue to monitor the Penn East pipeline legal challenges through our special counsel and await whether the US Supreme Court will take up the case, and the NJDEPs class 1 stream rules, which must strike a balance between the environment and the environs in terms of what our municipalities needs and opportunities are. Again, my thanks to my colleagues for their confidence in selecting me to serve as Director.

And thank all of you for joining us to help make this occasion special. We all know that Hunterdon County is a unique and exceptional place to live, work, and visit, and our job here is to keep it that way. Let's get to work. Thank you.

**REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS**

"All matters listed under the Consent Agenda 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."

**Moved:** Ms. Soloway

**Seconded:** Mr. Lanza

**Roll Call (Ayes):** Ms. Soloway, Mr. Lanza, Mr. Holt, Mr. Rich, Mr. Van Doren

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3A** **RESOLUTION**  
Approving Freeholder Departmental Assignments Designations and Chairmanships for 2020.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3B** **RESOLUTION**  
Establish County Office hours.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3C** **RESOLUTION**  
Setting regular meeting time and days for the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3D** **RESOLUTION**  
Establishing the payment of vouchers in accordance with the payment schedule established by the County Finance Officer.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3E** **RESOLUTION**  
Establishing pay days for County Employees.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3F** **RESOLUTION**  
Naming of Depositories of funds for the County.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3G** **RESOLUTION**  
Approving Administrative Code Provisions concerning the establishment and Utilization of Bank Depositories.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3H** **RESOLUTION**  
Designating official newspapers for the publication of County items.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3I** **RESOLUTION**  
Establishing holidays for the County.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3J** **RESOLUTION**  
Authorizing the manual signature for checks drawn for penalties against the County.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3K** **RESOLUTION**  
Salaries for unaffiliated and non-contractual employees to be held over.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3L** **RESOLUTION**  
Longevity for unaffiliated and non-contractual employees for 2020.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3M** **RESOLUTION**  
Salaries for unaffiliated employees in the Prosecutor's Office to be held over.

**See Page 01/06/20 – 3N** **RESOLUTION**  
Salaries for the Prosecutor's Investigators, FOP 186, held over.





See Page 01/06/20 – 6A

**RESOLUTION**

Approving the regular appointment of George Glashoff to the promotional title of Road Repairer 3, in the Division of Roads, of the Department of Public Works.

See Page 01/06/20 – 6B

**RESOLUTION**

Approving the regular appointment of Jacob Nienow to the title of Laborer 1, in the Division of Bridges, of the Department of Public Works.

See Page 01/06/20 – 6C

**RESOLUTION**

Approving the regular appointment of Kevin Stull to the regular title of Road Repairer 3, in the Division of Roads, of the Department of Public Works, upon successful completion of his New Jersey Civil Service exam.

See Page 01/06/20 – 6D

**RESOLUTION**

Approving the regular appointment of William Weinreich to the promotional title of Road Repairer 3, in the Division of Roads, of the Department of Public Works.

See Page 01/06/20 – 6E

**RESOLUTION**

Approving a pay adjustment for Melissa Fogg, part-time Library Page, in the Hunterdon County Library in accordance with the 2020 New Jersey minimum wage rate adjustment.

**INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Mr. Van Doren introduced and thanked the following that were present at the meeting, the Senators, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scout Troops. Hunterdon County Surrogate, Former Freeholders, Hunterdon County Sheriff, Former Hunterdon County Clerk of the Board, Hunterdon County Acting Prosecutor, Chairman of Republican Party, local officials in Hunterdon County, Veterans who came, and military personnel's who have served or are serving

**FREEHOLDER COMMENTS**

Freeholder Holt congratulated the Board members and looking forward to another year

All other members of the Board thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and are excited for this year as a team.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joseph Becker – Bloomsbury, NJ – Thanked the Engineers of Hunterdon County for County Route 519, which was his private driveway where the work was taken place

**BENEDICTION** – The Reverend David Erickson of Old Rocks Church

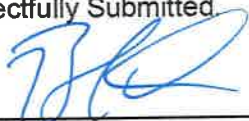
**INVITATION TO RECEPTION**

Freeholder Zach Rich invited the public to a reception after the meeting.

**ADJOURN**

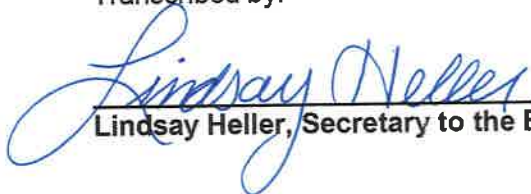
The Board Adjourned at 4:52 PM on a motion by Freeholder Lanza which was seconded by Freeholder Holt and carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brad Myhre, Clerk

Transcribed by:



Lindsay Heller, Secretary to the Board