



MINUTES

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Meeting Room
71 Main Street, Building 1, Second Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

January 2, 2024

I. 4:00 p.m. CONVENE:

"This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice has been given by posting throughout the year a copy of the Revised Annual Meeting Notice on Bulletin Boards on the First and Second Floor of the Main Street County Complex, Building #1, Flemington, New Jersey, a public place reserved for such announcements. A copy was mailed on or before December 18, 2023, to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Star Ledger, Trenton Times, Courier News, TAPinto (online) and the Express Times, newspapers designated to receive such notices and by filing a copy with the Hunterdon County Clerk."

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Scout Troop 108B/108G

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

IV. INVOCATION - Chaplain Larry Coyne

V. SWEARING IN OF COUNTY SURROGATE, HEIDI ROHRBACH, ESQ.

Hunterdon County Surrogate, Heidi Rohrbach, Esq. thanked everyone who attended the Hunterdon County Re-Organization and Justice LaVecchia for swearing her in.

Surrogate Rohrbach stated, over the years she has heard and experienced the importance and necessity of well-thought-out public policy and committed public service to our country, our state, our county and our communities. She initially noticed this from her husband, Leonard Lance, in elected office, both in Trenton and Washington. More recently, she has observed this in her part-time activities at the county and municipal levels. She stated many individuals in attendance know the faithful and selfless public service provided at all levels of government due to their past or presence in elected office, judicial service, government service and volunteerism.

Surrogate Rohrbach looks forward to serving individual Hunterdon County residents and their families in their time of need as Surrogate. Surrogate Rohrbach stated she is confident that she, and the people with whom she will be working will do so with confidence, passion, kindness, and dignity for all. She thanked the Hunterdon County Republican Committee and Gabe Plumer who encouraged her to run for Surrogate.

She also thanked the voters regardless of their political party, and all those who have provided her unwavering support in this endeavor, County Clerk, Mary Melfi, Sheriff Fred Brown, each of the County Commissioners, as well as the Hunterdon County Administrative staff. Lastly, she thanked her dear husband Leonard Lance, who means everything to her.

VI. SWEARING IN OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECT, SHAUN C. VAN DOREN

Commissioner Van Doren thanked everyone for attending the Re-Organization Meeting of the Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners and wished everyone a happy and healthy new year. Commissioner Van Doren stated this was his third time taking the solemn oath of office. He added it is a sacred bond and commitment to all the residents of Hunterdon County, and it is one he does not take lightly. He thanked the voters of Hunterdon County for their confidence in him and providing him with the opportunity to serve a third term. Commissioner Van Doren recognized his mother who was in attendance and held their 144-year-old family Bible for his oath. Commissioner Van Doren stated his mother, Barbara Van Doren is the matriarch of the Van Doren family, still residing in her family home in Oldwick. He added his mother has been steadfast in both her love and support, for which he is truly grateful. Commissioner Van Doren thanked his closest friend and County Clerk, Mary Melfi for swearing him in once again. He stated she continues to strive for excellence in the service she and her staff provide to the public on a daily basis in the County Clerk's office, and despite what some like to post on social media as conspiracy theories and falsehoods, has ensured the elections in Hunterdon County have been secure in every aspect. He thanked Mary Melfi as well as Beth Thompson, Board of Elections Administrator for their service. Commissioner Van Doren thanked all who made today's ceremony happen in the Historic Courthouse during restoration renovations. He stated the county continues to make capital investments in the facilities and are committed to spending tax dollars on new and existing facilities, including the Justice Center on Park Avenue, the Fire School in Clinton Township, a new Vocational School on the campus of North Hunterdon High School in Clinton Township and significant renovations to the Park System Headquarters on Route 31, the new inclusive playgrounds and adding new open space and preserving farmland. Commissioner Van Doren reiterated Hunterdon is the only county which currently has no debt - no other county in New Jersey can make that claim. Commissioner Van Doren wished much success to Heidi Rohrbach, the new County Surrogate. He stated she starts a term with many challenges in the office of Surrogate but he knows she will rise to them, overcome them, and improve and expand the Hunterdon County Surrogate's office to make it better than it has ever been. In closing, Commissioner Van Doren stated we're in this together, working to make County government more efficient, more convenient and cost less. A County every resident should be proud to call their home, a County their children and grandchildren should cherish as a happy, healthy, safe, and vibrant community.

Commissioner Van Doren invited everyone to a reception at Capuano's following today's ceremony - a reception not paid for by the taxpayers, but one compliments of

our new Surrogate Heidi Rohrbach and Commissioner Van Doren.

VII. **NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Susan Soloway

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

Commissioner Van Doren nominated Commissioner Soloway for Deputy Director and Commissioner Rich seconded, followed by a voice carry.

The Deputy Director nomination was closed by a voice carry.

VIII. **NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Susan Soloway

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

Commissioner Lanza nominated Commissioner Kuhl for Director and Commissioner Soloway seconded, followed by a voice carry.

The Director nomination was closed by a voice carry.

IX. **SWEARING IN OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

X. **SWEARING IN OF DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Director Kuhl wished everyone a happy and healthy new year. He thanked his colleagues for the honor of selecting him to serve as Director of the Board this year.

Commissioner Director Kuhl stated he plans to continue to ensure the county government operates effectively and efficiently and to expand the county's support for and partnership with our local governments for the benefit of the public. He thanked his family for their continuous love and support. Director Kuhl thanked Congressman Tom Kean for swearing him in today. Congressman Kean's support of Hunterdon County is greatly appreciated. Director Kuhl also thanked Chaplain Larry Coyne for providing the invocation and benediction this evening. Director Kuhl congratulated his colleague Shaun Van Doren on his re-election to his third term as a County Commissioner and congratulated Hunterdon County Surrogate Heidi Rohrbach on her election. He conveyed the Hunterdon County voters have again proven themselves knowledgeable and thoughtful when supporting candidates for public office. Director Kuhl thanked Commissioner Zach Rich for manning the helm during 2023 as Director.

Commissioner Rich and the Board had many great accomplishments last year and Director Kuhl appreciates the running start on many projects and policy initiatives that will be addressed in 2024. He congratulated Commissioner Soloway for being selected as Deputy Director and looks forward to working with her this year. Additionally, Director Kuhl looks forward to continuing to work with Commissioner Lanza, and the County's group of Constitution Officers. Director Kuhl thanked all of the elected

officials in attendance and acknowledged Hunterdon County Republican Committee and Chairman, Gabe Pulmer.

Commissioner Director Kuhl shared that Hunterdon County is a special place for him and his family. Director Kuhl was born and has lived his entire life in Hunterdon County. He is the 6th generation of his family to live in Raritan Township. Maintaining Hunterdon County as the safest, healthiest and best county to live and work is not only in the interest of our residents and businesses, but also the Kuhl family. Having served on a local governing body, Director Kuhl knows that the municipal governments are the ones on the front lines in protecting the quality of life and keeping Hunterdon County a great place to live. As Director, he is proposing some policy goals in 2024 that will leverage the county's financial strength to assist and support the local governments with the goal of building a stronger future for all residents of the county. Director Kuhl shared the goals and project he plans to implement and complete as Director of the Board. This includes aiding the county's municipalities with important infrastructure projects, including various road projects, safety signage, stormwater management, and many other municipal projects. Additionally, assisting the municipalities to further enhance park and recreational opportunities as well as conservation. Supporting the economic development tourism program, preserving land and other new initiatives that the Board will be unveiling in the weeks ahead. Director Kuhl closed by stating "I have been a lot of places in my life, but I have never been anywhere else that I would want to call home but Hunterdon County, God's country as my father called it, and I am sure many of you feel the same."

XI. **COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Deputy Director Soloway congratulated Director Kuhl and thanked her colleagues for selecting her to serve as deputy director. Deputy Director Soloway reiterated what Director Kuhl mentioned previously; their accomplishments would not be possible if it was not for the love and support of their families. Deputy Director Soloway stated she stands behind Director Kuhl's statement that municipal governments are the ones on the front lines in protecting the quality of life and keeping Hunterdon County a great place to live and fully supports the project and policy initiatives that will be addressed in 2024. She thanked Congressman Kean for swearing her in as Deputy Director, and congratulated Commissioner Van Doren on his re-election and Surrogate Rohrbach on her election as County Surrogate. Deputy Director Soloway thanked everyone for attending.

XII. **RE-ORGANIZATION AGENDA**

Motion: By: Zachary Rich **Seconded:** Susan Soloway

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

1. Approving the 2024 Commissioner Assignments.
2. Approving the County Working Hours for 2024.
3. Approving the 2024 Board of County Commissioner's meeting dates and time.

4. Establishing the 2024 Hunterdon County employee pay dates.
5. Designating the 2024 official newspapers for publication of County items referred to in N.J.S.A. 35:1-2.2 and 2.2a.
6. Recognizing the 2024 County Holidays Schedule.
7. Approving Administrative Code provisions concerning the establishment and utilization of bank depositories.
8. Naming of depositories of funds for the County.
9. Approving the 2024 Temporary Budget for the County of Hunterdon.
10. Establishing the payment vouchers in accordance with the payment schedule established by the County Chief Financial Officer.
11. Establishing custodians for various petty cash funds.
12. Approving agreements through the fair and open procurement process for Engineering and Architectural Services firms for 2024.
13. Approving the agreements through the fair and open procurement process for Labor, Bond, and Special/Conflicts Counsel for 2024.
14. Authorizing the manual signatures for checks drawn for penalties against the County.
15. Establishing the salaries for the unclassified employees in the Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor.
16. Acknowledging the salaries for the County of Hunterdon, Bargaining Agreement between PBA 188 Investigators and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office.
17. Acknowledging the salaries for the County of Hunterdon, Bargaining Agreement between PBA 188 Sergeants and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office.
18. Acknowledging the salaries for the County of Hunterdon, Bargaining Agreement between PBA 188 Lieutenants and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office.
19. Approving the salaries for the Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners.

20. Establishing the salaries for employees covered under AFSCME Council 63, Local 2097 Unit of the County of Hunterdon.
21. Establishing the salaries for employees covered under AFSCME Council 63, Local 2097 Unit in the Division of Social Services in the County of Hunterdon.
22. Approving the salaries for employees in the County of Hunterdon Bargaining Agreement between FOP 94 Sheriff's Officer Association and the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office.
23. Approving the salaries for the employees in the County of Hunterdon, Bargaining Agreement between FOP 94 Sergeants and the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office,
24. Approving the salaries for the employees in the County of Hunterdon, Bargaining Agreement between FOP 94 Corrections Officers and the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office.
25. Approving the longevity payments for employee covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the CWA Local 1036 Supervisory Unit and the County of Hunterdon, Division of Social Services.
26. Approving the longevity payments for employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between CWA Local 1036 Rank and File Non-Supervisory Unit and the County of Hunterdon.
27. Approving the salaries and hourly rates for the unclassified/unaffiliated or non-contractual employees in the County of Hunterdon.
28. Approving the longevity payments for unclassified employees in the County of Hunterdon.
29. Approving the longevity payments for employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between CWA Local 1036 Rank and File/Non-Supervisory Unit and the County of Hunterdon.
30. Approving the longevity payments for the employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the CWA Local 1036 Supervisory Unit and the County of Hunterdon.
31. Approving the salaries for the employees covered under the CWA 1036 Rank and File bargaining unit in the County of Hunterdon, Division of Social Services.
32. Approving the salaries for employees covered under the CWA 1036 Supervisory bargaining unit in the County of Hunterdon, Division of Social Services.

33. Approving the salaries for the employees covered under the CWA 1036 Supervisory bargaining unit in the County of Hunterdon.
34. Approving the salaries for the employees covered under the CWA 1036 Rank and File bargaining unit in the County of Hunterdon.
35. Approving the instructor salaries for the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Services.
36. Approving the salaries for employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between FOP Lodge #182 and the County of Hunterdon.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

1. Approving a letter of Support for the Town of Clinton for their application to the New Jersey DEP for an Inclusive Playground.
2. Approving a letter of Support for the Borough of Lebanon for their application to the New Jersey DEP for an Inclusive Playground.
3. Approving the Appointment of Craig Kollmer as full-time Assistant Superintendent of Bridges in the Department of Public Works, Division of Bridges for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 in accordance with NJSA 27:14-24. Filling a vacancy.
4. Authorizing Kyle Young to receive a stipend of \$5,000 which shall be divided equally among the bi-weekly pay periods for 2024, for designation as a CDL Trainer, in accordance with a Side Letter of Agreement with The County of Hunterdon and CWA Local 1036 Supervisory and Nonsupervisory Units.
5. Authorizing Garrett Dunlap to receive a stipend of \$5,000 which shall be divided equally among the bi-weekly pay periods for 2024, for designation as a CDL Trainer, in accordance with a Side Letter of Agreement with The County of Hunterdon and CWA Local 1036 Supervisory and Nonsupervisory Units.
6. Approving the unclassified appointment of Bonnie Abbate as a Private Clerk in the Hunterdon County Office of the Surrogate effective January 8, 2024. Filling a vacancy.

XIV. APPOINTMENTS - CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: By: John Lanza **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren

Yes: Jeff Kuhl, Susan Soloway, John Lanza, Zachary Rich, Shaun Van Doren

No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

1. Approving the appointments to the Emergency Management Council, terms to be effective January 01, 2024, through December 31, 2024.
2. Approving the appointments to the Hunterdon County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, terms to be effective January 01, 2024, through December 31, 2024.
3. Approving the appointments to the Professional Advisory Council on Mental Health/Professional Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (PAC/PACADA), terms to be effective January 01, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
4. Approving the appointments to the Youth Services Commission (YSC), terms to be effective January 01, 2024 through December 31, 2024.
5. Approving the Re-Appointments of Carol Cronheim and Donald Sherblom to the Cultural & Heritage Commission, terms to be effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.
6. Approving the Re-Appointments of David Bond, Bob Hoffman, and David Kyle to the County Agriculture Development Board (CADB), terms to be effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.
7. Approving the appointment of Alan Hunt to the Hunterdon County Planning Board, term to be effective through December 31, 2026.

XV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Flemington Borough Mayor, Marcia Karrow, thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support and partnership over the years.

XVI. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

XVII. BENEDICTION - Chaplain Larry Coyne

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 4:50 pm on a motion by Deputy Director Soloway and seconded by Commissioner Lanza, followed by a voice carry.