



MINUTES

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse
71 Main Street, Building 1, Second Floor
Flemington, New Jersey 08822

January 6, 2026

- I. **4:00 p.m. CONVENE:**
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Scout Troops 108B & 108G**
- III. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- IV. **INVOCATION - Chaplain Larry Coyne**
- V. **SWEARING IN OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECT, John E. Lanza**
Clerk of the Board, Rebecca Grohgans invited Commissioner Elect John E. Lanza to the podium where he was sworn in by his father, John R. Lanza, Esq.
- VI. **SWEARING IN OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECT, Zachary T. Rich**
Clerk of the Board, Rebecca Grohgans invited Commissioner Elect Zachary T. Rich to the podium where he was sworn in by New Jersey State Senator, Douglas J. Steinhardt.
- VII. **NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
Commissioner Rich nominated Commissioner Kuhl for Deputy Director of the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Van Doren 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**
Commissioner Kuhl nominated Commissioner Lanza for Director of the Board of County Commissioners, 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**
Clerk of the Board, Rebecca Grohgans, invited Deputy Director Nominee, Jeff Kuhl, to the podium where he was sworn in by New Jersey Assemblyman John DiMaio.

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

Clerk of the Board, Rebecca Grohgans, invited Director Nominee, John E. Lanza, to the podium where he was sworn in by The Honorable Judge John J. Burke III.

XI. COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Director Lanza thanked his family for their support, acknowledged the officials who administered the oaths of office, and recognized elected officials, county constitutional officers, municipal leaders, community partners, and party leadership in attendance. Appreciation was expressed to Hunterdon County voters for their continued trust, congratulations were extended to Jeff Kuhl on his election as Deputy Director, and gratitude was shared with fellow Commissioners for the opportunity to serve another term as Director. Director Lanza reaffirmed the Board's commitment to maintaining Hunterdon County as a safe, healthy, and family-friendly place to live, highlighting the County's debt-free status and the reduction of the county tax rate to its lowest level in 11 years, with an emphasis on protecting that rate moving forward.

Director Lanza outlined key priorities for 2026, including continuation of the "New Era of Partnership" with municipalities through shared services, direct grant support, and the launch of the Hunterdon County Improvement Authority to help towns reduce borrowing costs. Past municipal grants totaling nearly \$4 million were noted, along with a proposed \$500,000 grant fund for fire and EMS equipment. Updates were provided on the Emergency Services Training Center, with Phases 2 and 3 moving forward following USDA approval, funded without incurring debt and supported by federal grants. Additional priorities included farmland and open space preservation amid state housing mandates, support for small businesses and agriculture through Explore Hunterdon, expansion of tourism and film-ready initiatives, and continued policy roundtables with local leaders. The Director closed by thanking county employees, honoring members of the armed forces, and expressing optimism for a year focused on progress, partnership, fiscal responsibility, and taxpayers.

Commissioner Rich congratulated the Director on continued leadership, thanked Hunterdon County voters for their trust in reelecting him, and expressed appreciation to his family and Senator Steinhardt for their support. He noted his enthusiasm for continuing to work with fellow Commissioners to advance the shared goal of making Hunterdon County an outstanding place to live, work, and visit.

Commissioner Van Doren wished everyone a happy new year and congratulated Commissioners John Lanza and Zach Rich on their reappointments, noting their strong partnership and shared accomplishments, including construction of the county's first full-time vocational high school without incurring debt. He reaffirmed his commitment to continued collaboration on fiscally responsible budgeting, protection of recent tax-rate reductions, and acknowledged Sheriff Fred Brown on his recent swearing-in.

Commissioner Soloway congratulated Commissioners John Lanza and Zach Rich on their swearing-in, congratulated Director Lanza and Deputy Director Kuhl on their leadership roles, and thanked the Director for outlining the Board's vision. He expressed support for continued collaboration with municipal leaders to address shared policy challenges and concluded with New Year's well wishes.

Deputy Director Kuhl thanked the Board for the appointment and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to continue advancing sound public policy. He reaffirmed his commitment to the New Era of Partnership initiative, shared New Year's well wishes, and thanked his wife Darlene for her continued support.

XII. **REORGANIZATION AGENDA**

Motion: By: Zach Rich **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

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

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

1. Approving the 2026 Commissioner Assignments.
2. Approving the County Working Hours for 2026.
3. Approving the 2026 Board of County Commissioner's meeting dates and time.
4. Establishing the 2026 Hunterdon County employee pay dates.
5. Designating the 2026 official newspapers for publication of County items referred to in N.J.S.A. 35:1-2.2 and 2.2a.
6. Recognizing the 2026 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 2026 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 2026.
13. Approving the agreements through the fair and open procurement process for Labor, Bond, and Special/Conflicts Counsel for 2026.
14. Authorizing the manual signatures for checks drawn for penalties against the County.

15. Approving the salaries for the Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners.
16. Approving the salaries for the unclassified employees in the Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor, be held over.
17. Approving the salaries for the County of Hunterdon, Bargaining Agreement between PBA 188 Investigators and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, be held over.
18. Approving the salaries for the County of Hunterdon, Bargaining Agreement between PBA 188 Sergeants and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, be held over.
19. Approving salaries for the County of Hunterdon, Bargaining Agreement between PBA 188 Lieutenants and the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, be held over.
20. Approving the salaries for employees covered under AFSCME Council 63, Local 2097 Unit of the County of Hunterdon.
21. Approving 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 salaries for employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between FOP Lodge #182 and the County of Hunterdon, to be held over.
26. Approving the longevity payments for employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the CWA Local 1036 Supervisory Unit and the County of Hunterdon, Division of Social Services.
27. Approving the longevity payments for employees covered under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the CWA Local 1036 Non-Supervisory Unit and the County of Hunterdon, Division of Social Services.

28. 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.
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 unclassified employees in the County of Hunterdon.
31. Approving the salaries for employees covered under the CWA 1036 Supervisory bargaining unit in the County of Hunterdon, Division of Social Services, be held over.
32. 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, be held over.
33. Approving the salaries for the employees covered under the CWA 1036 Supervisory bargaining unit in the County of Hunterdon, be held over.
34. Approving the salaries for the employees covered under the CWA 1036 Rank and File bargaining unit in the County of Hunterdon, be held over.
35. Approving the salaries and hourly rates for the unclassified/unaffiliated or non-contractual employees in the County of Hunterdon, be held over.
36. Approving the instructor salaries for the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Services.

XIII. APPOINTMENTS - CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** Susan Soloway

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

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

1. Approving the appointments to the Emergency Management Council.
2. Approving the appointments to the Hunterdon County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee.
3. Approving the appointments to the Professional Advisory Council on Mental Health/Professional Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (PAC/PACADA).
4. Approving the appointments to the Youth Services Commission (YSC).

5. Approving the re-appointment of Daniel Shea to the Cultural & Heritage Commission.
6. Approving the Reappointments to the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board.
7. Approving the appointment of Alan Hunt as an Alternate Staff Member to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) for the County of Hunterdon.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS - CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren

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

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

1. Authorizing the Director of the Board of County Commissioners to sign and accept, on behalf of the County, the FY 2026 PSAP Grant, in the amount of \$654,052.00 for firewall upgrades.
2. Acknowledging the action of the Hunterdon County Sheriff, Frederick Brown, to adjust the salaries for unclassified staff effective January 1, 2026.

XV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No public comments.

XVI. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

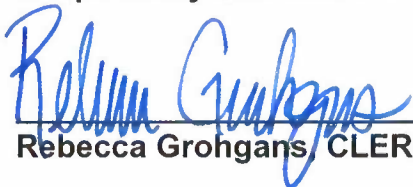
No additional Commissioner comments.

XVII. BENEDICTION - Chaplain Larry Coyne

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 4:38 p.m. on a motion by Deputy Director Kuhl, seconded by Commissioner Rich, followed by a voice carry.

Respectfully submitted and transcribed by:


Rebecca Grohgans, CLERK