



MINUTES

HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

May 5, 2026

I. **5:00 p.m. CONVENE:**

II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Resolution Entering into Executive Session.

Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Jeff Kuhl

Yes: John Lanza, Jeff Kuhl, Zachary Rich, Susan Soloway

No: None **Abstain:** **Absent:** Shaun Van Doren

III. **5:30 p.m. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

IV. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

V. **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNSEL ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VI. **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Director Lanza and Commissioner Rich called into the meeting and therefore did not provide reports.

As Co-Liaison for Veterans Affairs, alongside Deputy Director Kuhl, Commissioner Soloway reported that the Veteran Headstone Cleaning event held Saturday at Prospect Hills Cemetery in Flemington was a success, with nearly 30 volunteers participating, including many local students. She extended thanks to Director Lanza and Prosecutor Robeson for attending and supporting the volunteers. The next headstone cleaning event is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, at Rural Hill Cemetery in Readington Township. Commissioner Soloway also provided an update on the 2026 Teen Arts Festival, which included nearly 600 students from 14 schools and more than 50 volunteers, showcasing exceptional student talent and creativity. Selected visual art, creative writing, and film entries from the festival will be displayed at the Historic Courthouse beginning tomorrow through the end of the month, open Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Additionally, as Liaison to the Department of Information Technology, she announced

that Crown Castle will begin work on May 11 at the Route 12 County Complex in Raritan Township to upgrade the underground conduit and fiber network connecting county facilities. Commissioner Soloway noted that while minor disruptions may occur, efforts will be made to minimize inconvenience through project management, signage, and traffic guidance, with most work being completed through minimally invasive underground boring methods.

Deputy Director Kuhl added that the annual Teen Arts Festival was a tremendous success. He extended appreciation to Natalie Zaman and County staff for their efforts in organizing the event and continuing to expand its creativity and offerings each year. As liaison to the Planning and Land Use Department, Deputy Director Kuhl provided an update on the County's road safety initiative surrounding farm vehicles during the busy farming season. Officials emphasized the importance of driver awareness due to the increased presence of large, slow-moving farm equipment on narrow roadways. Farm Vehicle Safety Message Boards have been deployed throughout the county in partnership with several municipalities, including Delaware, Lebanon, Tewksbury, and Union Townships, through coordination with OEM, encouraging motorists to slow down, stay alert, and share the road. The message boards will continue rotating countywide to maximize visibility and safety. In addition, Deputy Director Kuhl thanked Economic Development and Tourism Director Marc Saluk for participating in Clinton Township Middle School's TREP\$ Marketplace program on April 21, which drew more than 1,000 attendees and showcased student-run small businesses designed to promote creativity, confidence, and entrepreneurial skills through hands-on learning experiences.

VII. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITION

1. Recognizing the Teachers and Educational Services Professionals throughout Hunterdon County for being named as 2025-2026 Governor's Educators of the Year. Recipients.
Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren
Yes: John Lanza, Jeff Kuhl, Zachary Rich, Susan Soloway, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**
2. Proclaiming May as Older American's Month in the County of Hunterdon.
Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** Susan Soloway
Yes: John Lanza, Jeff Kuhl, Zachary Rich, Susan Soloway, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**
3. Proclaiming May 2026, as Mental Health Awareness Month in the County of Hunterdon.
Motion: By: Susan Soloway **Seconded:** Shaun Van Doren
Yes: John Lanza, Jeff Kuhl, Zachary Rich, Susan Soloway, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**
4. Recognizing Jiaa Parikh upon completion of her Gold Scout Award Project.
Motion: By: Shaun Van Doren **Seconded:** Susan Soloway
Yes: John Lanza, Jeff Kuhl, Zachary Rich, Susan Soloway, Shaun Van Doren
No: None **Abstain:** None **Absent:**

5. Recognizing first responders throughout Hunterdon County upon being recipients of The 200 Club Valor and Merit Awards.

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

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

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

Dr. Todd Bonsall, Superintendent of Hunterdon County Vocational School District, provided an overview of the recent Principles of Teaching Students FCCLA, who participated in the NJFCCLA Leadership State Conference on March 25th and 26th. He added Hunterdon County Polytech earned top rankings in many competitions, with all students earning Gold awards.

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT, Limited to 2 minutes per person.**

(Comments exceeding 2 minutes will be entertained later in the agenda)

Judy Roff, a resident of Raritan Township asked the Commissioner Board what their stance was on AI Data Centers? She advised she did not see anything listed in the growth plan, mainly because the growth plan was written before AI Data Centers existed. Ms. Roff asked if there has been any discussion regarding AI Data Centers and she asked if growth plans can be amended? Deputy Director Kuhl advised Ms. Roff to leave her contact information and County Staff would get back to her regarding these questions.

Michael Broom, a resident of Thatchers Hill Road, in Raritan Township, shared that he and his wife wanted to voice their support and appreciation of the plans for the 9/11 memorial on Thatchers Hill Road. Mr. Broom stated they are longtime residents and are looking forward to having a walking path there. Mr. Broom asked for additional details regarding how the path will be created and maintained. Deputy Director Kuhl advised there will be a presentation regarding the 9/11 Memorial at the Board's next meeting on May 19th. He added the plan includes a mowed walking path, a small gazebo and monument. Mr. Broom suggested installing coin-operated binoculars to view the Manhattan skyline. Administrator Myhre advised Deputy County Administrator, Shana Taylor, has the plans and can answer any additional questions he may have.

IX. **PURCHASING, Ray Rule, QPA**

1. Approving Requisition #R26-2937, with Open Systems Integrators Inc., for the Justice Center courtroom addition security system, in an amount not to exceed \$124,353.06

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

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

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

2. Approving a contract award for County RFP 0007-2026, with Charles Nechem Associates, Inc., for a professional services contract for the purpose of providing employee assistance program services for Hunterdon County employees, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

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

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

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

3. Approving a contract award with ACCSES NJ, for Janitorial Services for Various County Buildings under New Jersey State Contract 77110, in an annual amount not to exceed \$489,132.36.

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

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

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

X. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM, Director Marc Saluk**

1. Authorizing Hunterdon County to participate in the New Jersey Tourist Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) program, administered by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, to allow installation of signs identifying key tourism and economic development locations along eligible County roadways, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 16:41D and subject to property-owner consent and all applicable municipal ordinances.

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

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

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

XI. **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Brad Myhre**

1. Approving a Temporary Speed Limit Reduction for County Route 625 (Mechlin Corner Road), in the Township of Union.

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

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

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

2. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director to sign the Confidential Term Sheet related to Statewide Litigation against DuPont & 3M Company.

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

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

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

XII. **APPOINTMENTS**

1. Approving the appointment of Nancy Dominiani as a member to the Hunterdon County Mental Health Board (MHB), term to be effective May 5, 2026, through May 4, 2028.

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

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

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

XIII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

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

1. Approving the Claims Register dated May 05, 2026.

2. Approving the executive session and regular meeting minutes from the April 21, 2026 meeting.
3. Approving the hire and provisional appointment of Brian Eick as a Recreation Program Coordinator in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Division of Parks and Recreation. (Filling a vacancy)
4. Approving the hire and seasonal appointment of Elizabeth Hitchcock as a Seasonal Parks Ambassador in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Parks Division. (Filling a vacancy)
5. Approving the hire and seasonal appointment of Kristen Fitzgibbon as a Seasonal Parks Ambassador in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Parks Division. (Filling a vacancy)
6. Approving the hire and seasonal appointment of Michael Rowe as a Seasonal Parks Ambassador in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Parks Division. (Filling a vacancy)
7. Approving the hire and seasonal appointment of Ameila Sentveld as a Seasonal Parks Ambassador in the Hunterdon County Department of Administrative Services, Parks Division. (Filling a vacancy)
8. Approving the status change of Michele Menditto to the full-time position of Emergency Response Specialist in the Department of Health, Division of Public Health Preparedness.
9. Acknowledging the action of the Hunterdon County Sheriff, Frederick Brown, to hire and appoint Thomas A. Fitzpatrick as a Sheriff's Investigator in the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Department.
10. Approving the title change of Victor Perez, to the title of Human Services Specialist 1 Bilingual in the Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services.
11. Approving a title change for Kenllelyn Felix, to the title of Human Services Specialist 1 Bilingual in the Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services.
12. Approving the promotion and regular appointment of Holly Deglman to the title of Librarian 1 in the Hunterdon County Library. (Filling a vacancy)
13. Approving the provisional promotion of Arlyn Nicholson to the title of Social Work Supervisor in the Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services. (Filling a vacancy)

14. Amending Resolution 2026-314; CWA Rank & File 2026 Salaries to correct salary amounts and hire dates.
15. Amending Resolution 2026-315; 2026 Salaries for CWA Local 1036 Supervisors.
16. Amending Resolution 2026-316; 2026 Salaries for CWA Local 1036 Rank & File Division of Social Services to correct start dates and salary amounts.
17. Amending Resolution 2026-318; 2026 Unclassified Salaries to correct salaries, titles and effective dates.
18. Authorizing the Qualified Purchasing Agent to solicit competitive bids to Furnish and Deliver Calcium Chloride Solution for Snow and Ice Control for Roads and Bridges.
19. Authorizing the Qualified Purchasing Agent to solicit competitive bids to Furnish and Deliver Rock Salt for Snow and Ice Control for Roads and Bridges.
20. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director to sign Change Order #6 for Rehabilitation of the Echo Hill Park Dam, in an increase of \$950.00.
21. Approving a request from the High Bridge Business Association to host their annual Soap Box Derby on Saturday, June 6, 2026, on County Route 513 between Fairview Avenue and West Main Street in the Borough of High Bridge.
22. Approving a request from the Borough of High Bridge to host a Criterium Race on August 8, 2026, with road closures for the following roadways: Fairview Avenue / Church Street (County Route 513) in the Borough of High Bridge.
23. Approving a request from the Township of Readington to host a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2026, utilizing County Route 523, in the Township of Readington.
24. Approving a request from Whitehouse Fire Company No. 1, Inc. to host a coin toss on June 5, and June 6, 2026, with rain dates of June 12, and 13, 2026, at the following location: County Route 523 in front of 271 Main Street, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889.
25. Approving the temporary closure of Hunterdon County Bridge N-1 on June 14, 2026, from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
26. Approving the Trout in the Classroom DEP Permit for the Sunnyside section of the South Branch Reservation, as recommended by the State Fisheries Biologist for the maintenance of trout streams.

27. Authorizing the Director or Deputy Director and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners to sign an Interlocal Public Health Services Agreement with the Township of Raritan.
28. Amending Resolution 2026-268; Approving a Contract Award to Meco Inc., for the Resurfacing of County Route 650 in the Township of Raritan.
29. Authorizing the Director of the Board of County Commissioners or the County Administrator to sign a modified grant agreement for the CDBG - CV1 Grant Program.
30. Authorizing the Director, Deputy Director, County Administrator and County Counsel to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer of property known as Block 46, Lot 32 and Block 33, Lot 10 and newly created lot 10.01 in the Township of Clinton to/from the State of New Jersey to Waste Management and the County of Hunterdon, including the transfer of real and personal property and any assignments of any permits, licenses or other government approvals.

XIV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Guy Citron, a resident of Tewksbury Township, addressed the Board regarding comments made by Assemblyman Erik Peterson during a March 23 rally in Trenton, which he characterized as promoting hate speech and election denialism. Mr. Citron expressed disappointment with the Board's previous response to his concerns, emphasizing the importance of public accountability and transparent leadership rather than private communication. He stated that his comments were not politically motivated but were focused on the Board's silence regarding the legislator's statements. Mr. Citron urged the Commissioners to publicly address the content of Assemblyman Peterson's speech through an official statement and clarify their position on issues of hate speech and election denialism.

Mr. Ron Levy, a resident of Delaware Township, stated that he viewed several minutes of Assemblyman Peterson's speech and said he heard the Assemblyman deny that the Governor was legally and properly elected while blaming immigrants in New Jersey for malfeasance. Mr. Levy characterized the speech as hate speech and stated he was shocked by its content.

Ms. Judy Roff, a resident of Raritan Township, echoed Mr. Citron's comments and stated that while growing up, she was taught to speak up when individuals were bullied because of their ethnic group, race, or religion. She said she and her son followed that principle and emphasized the importance of speaking out when hearing something wrong.

Ms. Nancy Diminiani, a resident of Readington Township, thanked the Board for appointing her to the Mental Health Board. Ms. Diminiani stated that she previously served on the NAMI Board for several years, founded a widow support group, and has served as a 9-8-8 suicide hotline counselor for the past six months.

XV. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Van Doren noted highlights from his remarks since he was late and unable to provide them earlier in the agenda. As liaison to the Department of Human Services, he provided updates recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month and Older Americans Month, highlighting upcoming Mental Health First Aid for Veterans training sessions on May 20 and May 26 at the Senior Center Annex, as well as the annual Senior Expo on May 29 at the Senior Center in Flemington. Commissioner Van Doren noted these programs expand access to vital services for veterans and seniors and commended Human Services staff for their efforts. He added the Health Department staff participated in the New Jersey Association of Counties Annual Conference, where Hunterdon County's public health preparedness strategies and Points of Distribution (POD) plans were being presented as a statewide model for emergency response. In closing and as liaison to the 250th Committee, Commissioner Van Doren announced upcoming commemorative events, including a Liberty Pole raising ceremony in Tewksbury Township on May 16 and a guided walking tour of Historic Oldwick, both intended to engage residents in local history as part of preparations for the nation's 250th anniversary.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Reconvene if necessary)

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 6:23 pm on a motion by Commissioner Van Doren, seconded by Commissioner Soloway, followed by a voice carry.

Respectfully submitted and transcribed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Grohgans', is written over a horizontal line.

REBECCA GROHGANS, CLERK