

~323rd~
~ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING~
~BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS~
~OF THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER~

The 323rd annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Gloucester was called to order at 6:10 p.m. The resolution setting the date, time and place for Annual Reorganization meeting was read in its entirety, after which the Reverend Dorothy Johns of Almonesson United Methodist Church, was introduced to delivery the invocation.

Presentation of the Colors was offered by the Semper Fidelis Detachment of the Marine Corps League, after which the Pledge of Allegiance, led for the assemblage, with Miss Chelsea Musick singing the National Anthem.

A letter certifying the election of Frank J. DiMarco, Stephen M. Sweeney and Warren S. Wallace to the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Gloucester was read in its entirety.

Newly re-elected Freeholder Warren S. Wallace, escorted by his wife, Patricia, and his daughters, Shana and Tiffany, who will also hold the Bible was introduced, followed by the introduction of the Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney, New Jersey State Senate Majority Leader and Gloucester County Freeholder, for the swearing-in ceremony of Freeholder-elect Wallace. Freeholder-elect Wallace received his oath of office and took his seat.

Newly re-elected Freeholder Frank J. DiMarco escorted by his wife, Marlene, and Frank Jr. and Delaney, his children, who will also hold the Bible, was introduced, and followed by the introduction of the Honorable Nilsa Cruz-Perez, New Jersey State Assemblywoman, for the swearing-in ceremony of Freeholder-elect DiMarco. Freeholder-elect DiMarco received his oath and took his seat.

Newly re-elected Freeholder Stephen M. Sweeney was introduced, who then called upon his mother Rae, his father Bob and his brother Richard, who held the Bible. This introduction was followed by the introduction of the Honorable Robert Andrews, Member of Congress, for the swearing-in ceremony of Freeholder-elect Sweeney. Freeholder-elect Sweeney received his oath and took his seat.

At this time, the first official Roll Call of the 2009 Board of Chosen Freeholders was taken with the following Board members being present: Freeholder Joseph A. Brigandi, Jr.; Freeholder Giuseppe "Joe" Chila, Freeholder Robert M. Damminger, Freeholder Frank J. DiMarco, Freeholder Jean DuBois, Freeholder Stephen M. Sweeney and Freeholder Warren S. Wallace.

The Clerk then called for nominations for Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2009. Freeholder Damminger placed the name of Freeholder Sweeney into nomination, which was seconded by Freeholder Brigandi. There being no other nominations, Freeholder Sweeney was elected Director with a roll call vote, with himself abstaining from the vote and the other six freeholders voting in the affirmative. The Honorable Robert Menendez, United States Senator, was introduced for the swearing-in ceremony of Director Sweeney, after which the Director took his place on the dais.

Director Sweeney then called for nominations for Deputy Director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2009. Freeholder Brigandi placed the name of Freeholder Damminger into nomination, which was seconded by Freeholder Wallace. Hearing no other names, the Director called for a vote on the nomination, which was approved with a roll call vote, Freeholder Damminger abstaining and the other six freeholders voting in the affirmative. New Jersey State Senate Majority Leader and Gloucester County Freeholder Director Stephen M. Sweeney administered the oath of office to Deputy Director Damminger, after which both Freeholders returned to their seats.

Director Sweeney called upon Senator Robert Menendez, who extended his thanks to the freeholders for the privilege of attending this evening's reorganization meeting and the honor of administering the Director's oath of office. The Senator went on to congratulate Freeholders DiMarco and Wallace, as well as Director Sweeney on their re-elections and praised the governing body in Gloucester County lead by Director Sweeney. Senator Menendez spoke of the challenges facing all levels of government and promised the power of his office to help Gloucester County, closing by wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Director Sweeney then called upon Congressman Rob Andrews, who wished everyone a happy New Year, stating it is an honor to be in Gloucester County, and thanked those present for the privilege of representing them in Washington, DC. The Congressman extended his congratulations to Freeholders DiMarco and Wallace and Director Sweeney on their re-election and praised Director Sweeney's leadership both in Gloucester County and on a State level in the Senate. The Congressman went on to speak of what this country has lost over the past eight years, but hope for change is taking place over the next few weeks with the inauguration of a new president. Congressman Andrews spoke of various good projects in Gloucester County such as the DREAM Park, centralized EMS and the expansion of the Institute of Technology, adding all things are possible, which is the promise of 2009. The Congressman concluded by wishing everyone a happy, healthy prosperous and peaceful New Year from him and his family.

At this time, various honored guests, elected officials both past and present from local government, county government and state and federal government were introduced and thanked for their attendance.

The Freeholder Director gave the following annual address:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Family, Honored Guests: Thank you for taking the time to be here tonight at the Annual Reorganization Meeting of the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders. I am truly humbled by the continued support I receive from my Freeholder colleagues. I value their confidence in me to lead this Board, and I value their friendship. I am also grateful for the support I receive from so many of you (gesture to audience). Your friendship and your desire to help make Gloucester County a better place to live is the inspiration that keeps me moving ahead and tirelessly working on your behalf– and working hard is what the next 12 months is going to be about.

The world in which we live today is dramatically different than just 12 months ago. Companies are down sizing, the credit market is unstable and the real estate market is in a down turn. Although Gloucester County and its residents, for the most part, are in better economic health than many others, these are serious times that call for serious measures. In these difficult times government is asked to do more with less. You might ask yourself what is it that county government can do during these uncertain times to help provide stability to our residents and to our economy– and that is a very fair question. The answer is this: we can do three things: **First** – we will not raise the county tax rate in 2009. For the last eight years the Freeholders have not raised the county tax rate. In fact the tax rate today is 9 cents less than it was in the year 2000. Keeping the tax rate stable is one of the most important keys to the economic health of our taxpayers and our businesses. This Freeholder Board has made many tough decisions in the past to ensure that we leave Gloucester County better off for future generations. We have been fiscally conservative and because of our planning we are prepared to do what is necessary to hold the line on the

county's tax rate again this year. **Second** – The Freeholders will refocus our efforts on investing in the county's infrastructure and promoting economic development projects. I am optimistic that when our economy turns around, we are going to be in the best position for our residents and our region to prosper. We are prepared to keep our economy moving ahead in 2009. We have been diligent in the past to create jobs – our unemployment rates remain below the statewide average – and we are still experiencing growth. There are many important projects coming on line this year. This spring, under the direction of our Education Department, we will break ground on the expansion of the Gloucester County Institute of Technology. The students who graduate from our GCIT programs have extremely marketable skills that are in demand. The expansion of the school will add 450 seats to our technical school and will provide much needed educational opportunity to our young people in the field of healthcare, construction technology, transportation and culinary arts. This GCIT expansion will also offer an enhanced Academy program which will make it possible for academy students to graduate with an Associates degree from Gloucester County College in one year. In these economic times it is a great opportunity for a student to graduate from High School in 5 years with an Associates Degree. This program is a real benefit to our students and GCC is a great value to our community. When the weather breaks, Gloucester County is prepared to invest \$12.6 million in infrastructure projects. Roads, bridges, and highways from throughout the county will be improved. One of the largest projects that the county will continue to invest in are the improvements to Route 322. In 2009 we are committing \$4.5 million for the widening and signalization improvements to Route 322. The county's commitment to this project, as well as the state's \$15 million investment for the Route 322 Bypass that will get underway this year, is a commitment for the future prosperity of Gloucester County. Gloucester County has worked hard to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to economic development. We are ready for opportunity and the county is poised to take advantage of any federal or state funded infrastructure stimulus projects that come our way. There are no simple solutions for successful economic development, but a lack of readiness and a lack of infrastructure can ruin a chance to seize an economic development opportunity.

The \$3.6 million investment to repair and replace the Repaupo Creek Flood Gates will be completed this spring. I am very proud that Gloucester County took the lead to move ahead with fixing the dilapidated 1960's flood gate system that borders Logan and Greenwich Townships. The sluice gates posed a dangerous situation to the life and property of many of our residents and through the leadership of our Freeholders, we got the communities and the state to work together with us to finally address the flood gates and the levee. In 2009 Gloucester County will continue to move forward with the Port of Paulsboro – a project that will drive commerce throughout our region and will create thousands of new jobs for our residents. We are in the permitting and design phase and anticipate construction beginning later this year on the Paulsboro Port project. Keeping the tax rate steady,

investing in our infrastructure and creating job opportunities for our residents is vital to our economic future. But it is not enough. While we work to get our economy growing, we must make sure that the size of government does not grow. That is why the **Third** action that Gloucester County will take in 2009 will be to shrink the size of government.

As we head into 2009, 30 positions have already been eliminated and salary and benefits have been reduced by 1.8 million dollars; and we plan on more cuts. We are looking at every single position and when a vacancy should occur we will weigh the need for that position to be filled. These are lean times when everyone must tighten their belt. The men and women who work for Gloucester County understand this, and are prepared to do what it takes so that we can all get through these tough times together. We will be reducing the county's fleet, and we plan to sell two county's buildings and a piece of land. Our decision to reduce the size of government will not impact the services we provide to our residents. In these tough times we feel the responsibility to make sure that our seniors and disabled citizens get the hot meals they need, that our children get the essential wellness programs and immunizations they require, and that our veterans – the men and women who serve this great nation – receive medical services at our clinic and all of the other important benefits they have earned. Everyday our administrators, department heads and agencies are charged with the mission of providing outstanding services and vital programs to our residents. They are asked to come up with ways to do more with less. And they accomplish their mandate to care for our citizens while thinking outside of the box to find solutions. Sometimes 'doing more with less' means looking at the bigger picture, like the regionalization of services. Regionalization and consolidating services is cutting the size of government. By regionalizing EMS, Gloucester County is not only providing a life-saving service – we are cutting the size of government. In one year alone the 12 municipalities who participate in GCEMS avoided \$2.6 million in costs. This is the bigger picture.

Gloucester County is the leader in New Jersey when it comes to saving taxpayers dollars through regionalization. We will continue to seek ways to save money by exploring more consolidation, sharing and regionalization. We have a successful regionalized EMS program, 911 dispatching, storm water management – we have consolidated school administrations at GCIT and our Special Services School District.

I believe that Gloucester County can continue to shrink the size of government by looking within – that we can make more strides in shared and consolidated services by joining with the many authorities that comprise our county. That is why tonight I am announcing that I am charging our administration with exploring the consolidation of insurance, human resources, Information Technology and other administrative functions of government with Gloucester County College, the Gloucester County Utilities Authority, the Improvement Authority, the Library, GCIT, and the Gloucester County Housing Authority. By

consolidating the efforts of these agencies with Gloucester County I believe we can save over \$1 million per year on administrative costs and insurance consolidation.

But Ladies and Gentlemen there is more work to be done. Tonight I invite every elected official in Gloucester County – Mayors and council members – to join with the Freeholder Board to support a Regionalized Tax Assessment Proposal. Establishing a regional system would save taxpayers an estimated \$1.5 million each year while maintaining assessments at fair market value. By creating one tax assessor we are saying yes to smaller, smarter government and moving another step ahead toward real property tax relief. Keeping the tax rate stable, investing in our infrastructure, creating jobs and cutting the size of government are the goals we set out to accomplish in 2009. A tall order for sure, but the men and woman who sit before you are up to the challenge. Nowhere in the State of New Jersey will you find a more progressive Board of Freeholders. Bob Damminger, Joe Brigandi, Joe Chila, Frank DiMarco, Warren Wallace and of course Jean DuBois are committed to a better Gloucester County. When we are presented with an issue, we come together as a Team to provide the leadership that is best for our residents. Together we work on your behalf for a cleaner and greener future. We are committed to our environment and preserving our farmlands and open spaces. In 2009 we will move ahead with preserving more than 1500 acres of farmland and open space. By bonding funds in advance, we will utilize the County's Open Space Funds. We have few opportunities left to purchase land and save it from development, and by buying this land now, we save it forever. In addition to our land preservation programs Gloucester County works to provide you with beautiful parks, great family programs and educational resources like the Gloucester County Library. We work to make sure that the potholes are filled, that the snow is plowed and that our roads and bridges are safe. We provide over 20,000 flu shots to our residents each year, as well as other essential health services. We have built a school for children with Autism and two schools for children with special needs. We honor our veterans by providing them with the finest Veterans Affairs Office in New Jersey, a first-rate VA Medical Health Clinic and the Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The list goes on and on.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with this Team on so many issues that benefit our residents. I treasure their support, and as a Team we will continue to work together so that our County emerges from these times better and stronger than ever before. I want to thank you all for your support and for allowing me to serve as your Freeholder Director. I want to thank our county administrator, my staff, and all of the workers of Gloucester County for working tirelessly everyday for our residents. And I want to thank my family and friends for their love and unwavering support. I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. Thank you.”

Each Freeholder was given the opportunity to make brief remarks, which they each did, thanking their families and friends, as well as the voters of Gloucester County, and each wished everyone a happy, healthy New Year.

The following fifty-seven (57) resolutions were moved by Freeholder Damminger, seconded by Freeholder Brigandi and unanimously adopted, with one consensus, roll call vote:

RESOLUTION 42873

A resolution adopting the Rules of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Gloucester for the year 2009.

RESOLUTION 42874

A resolution adopting Freeholder assignments for the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Gloucester for the year 2009.

RESOLUTION 42875

A resolution adopting a temporary budget for the year 2009.

RESOLUTION 42876

A resolution approving emergency temporary appropriations.

RESOLUTION 42877

A resolution adopting a schedule of regular meetings of the Board of Chosen Freeholders for the year 2009.

RESOLUTION 42878

A resolution fixing a fee to be paid by members of the public for receiving personal notice of meetings pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

RESOLUTION 42879

A resolution authorizing Cash Management Plan for the County of Gloucester pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14, et seq.

RESOLUTION 42880

A resolution establishing the official newspapers for the County of Gloucester for the year 2009.

RESOLUTION 42881

A resolution ratifying prior acts of the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

RESOLUTION 42882

A resolution authorizing the placement of Mosquito Control operations within the Department of Public Works.

RESOLUTION 42883

A resolution appointing a Fire Marshall for the County of Gloucester.

RESOLUTION 42884

A resolution authorizing the execution of a professional services contract with Nick L. Petroni, CPA, RMA, T/A Petroni & Associates, for the provision of professional accounting services for the period beginning July 1, 2009 and concluding June 30, 2010, which contract shall be open ended and shall have a minimum contract amount of zero and a maximum contract amount of \$125,600.00.

RESOLUTION 42885

A resolution authorizing the execution of a professional services contract with Parker McCay, P.A., for the provision of professional bond counsel legal services and other legal services of a specialized nature for the period beginning January 1, 2009 and concluding December 31, 2009, which contract shall be open ended and shall have a minimum contract amount of zero and a maximum contract amount of \$200,000.00.

RESOLUTION 42886

A resolution authorizing the execution of a professional services contract with Brown & Connery, LLP, for the provision of professional labor attorney legal services and other legal services of a specialized nature for the period beginning January 1, 2009 and concluding December 31, 2009, which contract shall be open ended and shall have a minimum contract amount of zero and a maximum contract amount of \$400,000.00.

RESOLUTION 42887

A resolution authorizing the award of a professional services contract to Conner Strong Companies, Inc., for professional benefits administrator and broker of record for health and employee benefits insurances for the County of Gloucester for the period beginning January 1, 2009 and terminating December 31, 2009 for a minimum contract amount of zero and a maximum contract amount of \$113,000.00.

RESOLUTION 42888

A resolution authorizing the execution of a professional services contract with Phoenix Advisors, LLC, for the provision of professional financial advisor services for the period beginning January 1, 2009 and concluding December 31, 2009, which contract shall be open ended and shall have a minimum contract amount of zero and a maximum contract amount of \$39,555.00.

RESOLUTION 42889

A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Lewis Adler for the provision of a County Hearing Officer and other legal services of a specialized nature for the period beginning January 1, 2009 and terminating December 31, 2009 for a minimum contract amount of zero and a maximum contract amount of \$10,000.00.

RESOLUTION 42890

A resolution appointing a Chairman and Secretary for the Gloucester County Construction Board of Appeals.

RESOLUTION 42891

A resolution appointing a member to the Gloucester County Industrial Pollution Control Finance Authority.

RESOLUTION 42892

A resolution appointing individuals to the Gloucester County Commission on Women.

RESOLUTION 42893

A resolution appointing members to the Central Communications Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION 42894

A resolution appointing members to the Local Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

RESOLUTION 42895

A resolution appointing members to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council.

RESOLUTION 42896

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Police Academy Advisory Board.

RESOLUTION 42897

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Youth Services Commission/Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition.

RESOLUTION 42898

A resolution appointing members to the Local Citizens Advisory Board of Transportation.

RESOLUTION 42899

A resolution appointing a member to the Gloucester County Library Commission.

RESOLUTION 42900

A resolution appointing members to the Senior Services Advisory Board.

RESOLUTION 42901

A resolution appointing members to the Emergency Management Council.

RESOLUTION 42902

A resolution appointing a member to the Gloucester County Utilities Authority.

RESOLUTION 42903

A resolution appointing members to the Human Relations Commission for Gloucester County.

RESOLUTION 42904

A resolution appointing members to the Solid Waste Advisory Council.

RESOLUTION 42905

A resolution appointing members to the Tri-County Water Quality Control Board.

RESOLUTION 42906

A resolution appointing members to the College Board of Trustees Search Committee.

RESOLUTION 42907

A resolution appointing members to the Pitman Golf Course Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION 42908

A resolution appointing members to the Cable Advisory Committee for the County of Gloucester.

RESOLUTION 42909

A resolution appointing members to the School Safety & Youth Violence Committee.

RESOLUTION 42910

A resolution appointing members to the Workforce Investment Board.

RESOLUTION 42911

A resolution appointing Gloucester County members to the New Jersey Association of Counties.

RESOLUTION 42912

A resolution appointing a member to the Gloucester County Improvement Authority.

RESOLUTION 42913

A resolution appointing persons to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION 42914

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Department of Correctional Services Advisory Council.

RESOLUTION 42915

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

RESOLUTION 42916

A resolution appointing members to the Advisory Board for the County Veteran's Cemetery.

RESOLUTION 42917

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Planning Board.

RESOLUTION 42918

A resolution appointing members to the Domestic Violence Advisory Council.

RESOLUTION 42919

A resolution appointing members to the Solid Waste Task Force.

RESOLUTION 42920

A resolution appointing members to the Tolerance Project.

RESOLUTION 42921

A resolution appointing members to the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION 42922

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Mental Health Board.

RESOLUTION 42923

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Disabled Persons Advisory Council.

RESOLUTION 42924

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Human Services Advisory Council.

RESOLUTION 42925

A resolution appointing members to the Tri-County Differential Response Oversight Committee.

RESOLUTION 42926

A resolution appointing members to the County Interagency Coordinating Council for Children.

RESOLUTION 42927

A resolution appointing members to the Gloucester County Tourism Action Committee.

RESOLUTION 42928

A resolution appointing representatives to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

RESOLUTION 42929

A resolution appointing members to the Emergency Medical Services Council.

Director Sweeney made the following Director's appointments for the year 2008:

Freeholder DuBois as Freeholder member to the Emergency Medical Services Council.

Freeholder DuBois as Freeholder member to the Mental Health Board.

Director Sweeney and Freeholders Brigandi and Damminger as Freeholder members to the Board of School Estimates.

Freeholder Wallace as Freeholder liaison to the Local Citizens Advisory Board of Transportation.

Freeholder Brigandi as Freeholder Liaison to the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce.

Richard Westergaard as the Freeholder's representative to the Southern New Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council.

Freeholder Wallace as Freeholder member to the Youth Services Commission.

Freeholder Wallace as Freeholder liaison to the Disabled Person Advisory Council.

Freeholder Damminger as Freeholder liaison to the Agriculture Development Board.

Freeholder Wallace as Freeholder liaison to the Human Services Advisory Council.

Freeholder DiMarco as Freeholder liaison to the Cultural & Heritage Commission.

Freeholder DuBois as Freeholder liaison to the Commission on Women.

Freeholder Chila as Freeholder liaison to the Housing Authority.

Freeholder Damminger as Freeholder liaison to the Utilities Authority.

Director Sweeney as Freeholder liaison to the Improvement Authority.

Freeholder Chila as Freeholder liaison to the Human Relations Commission.

Lisa Morina as the Freeholder's representative to Main Street Woodbury.

The Reverend Wayne Howard of True Spirit Ministries, was called upon to deliver the benediction.

Director Sweeney invited everyone to join him at a reception immediately following this meeting at Auletto Caterers in Deptford.

Upon the motion of Freeholder Damminger and the second of Freeholder Brigandi, the meeting was unanimously adjourned, with a roll call vote, at 7:26 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. DiLella". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ROBERT N. DiLELLA, CLERK

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