

What's In A Name? Freeholders Become Commissioners In 2021

Pursuant to state law (PL 2020, c. 67) on January 1, 2021, the governing bodies of all the counties in New Jersey, formerly known as Boards of Chosen Freeholders, will be re-titled Board of County Commissioners.

The title change has been met with joy among some officials, ridicule by others, and general indifference by the public.

None of the duties and responsibilities of the county governing group will change.

Hunterdon County Freeholder, soon to be Commissioner, John E. Lanza stated at the December 15th Freeholder meeting, “Whatever we on this elected County Board are called; we will always be working for the benefit the taxpayers.

In the end the title change is not something that our Board members are going to be too concerned about - keeping the county effectively serving the people, particularly as we deal with the continuing COVID-19 health emergency – that’s our main concern.”

Freeholder Board Director Shaun C. Van Doren said the December 15th meeting, “is not only the final regular meeting of the Freeholder Board for 2020, but it is also the final regular meeting ever by this governing body, under the historic title Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, which dates back to at least the 1730’s.”

Van Doren, in recognition of the challenges presented by the pandemic and the other events that occurred during the course of the year, noted wryly about the title change, “If only that was the most dramatic thing that happened in 2020.”

The Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners will hold its re-organization meeting on Tuesday, January 5th, at 4 pm, at the Historic Courthouse in Flemington. Due to COVID-19 regulations, attendance is limited. The meeting may be live streamed at the County website www.Hunterdon.co.nj.us.

