

Holt: Nearly \$1 Million Budget Cut Lead Achievement For Freeholders In 2018

The Freeholders' reduction of the Hunterdon County budget by nearly \$1 million was the year's most significant achievement, Freeholder Director Matt Holt stated in a retrospective on his year as Director, during the last regular Freeholder Board meeting on December 18th.

"Having served previously as Director in 2011 and 2014, I can definitely say the third time is the charm. Working with my Freeholder colleagues this year has been a pleasure," Holt said.

Holt added, "In addition to cutting the budget by nearly \$1 million, the County continued our no debt, pay as you go capital programming for the fifth consecutive year. I believe we may be the only New Jersey County without any debt service payments.

This is a testament to the willingness of all Freeholders to embrace this philosophy – and particularly to Freeholder John King, who has been a no debt proponent from the beginning of his term."

Holt pointed to the success of the County's economic development program noting, "The decision by the international tech company Unicom to purchase the Merck property and move their regional headquarters here to Readington is a major accomplishment."

Holt recognized the County Health Division's performance, stating, "From Asian ticks, to E.coli in lettuce, to being recognized by the state as a model for emergency preparedness, the County's Health Division led the way in protecting the health of the people of the County."

Hunterdon's 9-1-1 Communications Center came in for praise by the Freeholder Director. "Our 9-1-1 team continued to provide

valuable and lifesaving services to the residents of Hunterdon County.

And there was no greater example than on March 16th of this year, when Public Safety Telecommunicator Frank Veneziale assisted in the delivery of a baby boy for an Alexandria couple, via the telephone, prior to the arrival of EMS.”

Freeholder Holt stated, “My colleagues, Ms. Lagay, Mr. King, Mr. Lanza and Mr. Van Doren are four individuals who always have the best interest of the people of Hunterdon County as their guiding light.

I am proud to be a part of this group and to have been chosen to serve in the role as Director this year.

Serving as Director, however, requires a significant amount of time, in addition to the commitments required of my professional career – and for allowing me that leeway, I express my most sincere appreciation to my wife, Megan.”

Holt concluded, “The voters saw it in their interest to re-elect me in November. I thank them. So, in January I will be back to begin serving my fifth term for the people of Hunterdon County. I look forward to it.”

Part 2 of Year in Review in the next edition of the Hunterdon Report: Battling JCP&L, Tourism for Milford, Library Back to East Amwell, and much more.