

## **Hunterdon Commissioners Bid Adieu To The ‘Dean’ Of The Board**

### **Lanza: No County Board member’s tenure has been more consequential**

The members of the Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners offered their thanks as colleagues and County residents to retiring Commissioner Matt Holt, during the April 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Holt’s final meeting with the group.

Holt, presently the longest serving, or ‘Dean,’ of the Board, is retiring May 1st after fifteen years of County service and twenty-nine years of public service in county and local government in Hunterdon County.

Holt, recognized as the architect of the County’s sound fiscal framework, completed his final act by delivering the 2022 County budget, stating, “Even though I will be leaving the Board in a few weeks, I believe I have a duty to complete my assignment on the Budget Committee to deliver, along with Commissioner Van Doren, a 2022 budget that continues our conservative fiscal policies.

Not only is the tax rate frozen again, but the budget continues our no debt program for the eight consecutive year.”

Board Director John E. Lanza noted, “Some County Freeholders (Commissioners) have served longer. Others have gone on to higher office. But no County Board member’s tenure has been more consequential than Matt Holt’s.

In his time on this Board, the County corralled spending, eliminated its debt, and promoted economic development, while protecting the environment.

While I am personally saddened by the news that Matt will be retiring May 1st, I am very happy for Matt and Meagan as they enter a new chapter in their life, and I am most thankful for having had the opportunity to serve with Matt for the past eight years.”

Deputy Board Director Zach Rich stated, “I have greatly appreciated and benefited from Matt Holt’s guidance and advice when I joined the Board in 2020 and throughout my time here.

I thank him most of all for setting the example for how an individual entrusted by the people with public office should conduct themselves, with consideration for all viewpoints, seriousness of purpose, and integrity.”

Commissioner Susan J. Soloway, who was Holt's running mate in the 2018 and 2021 County elections, said, "I had the good fortune to have Matt as my running mate in two elections. I will be forever grateful for his guidance and advice to me as a candidate and as a member of this Board.

His conservative, business minded approach to county government is an approach worth continuing to emulate. Matt Holt has played a major role in establishing Hunterdon County as a great place to live and we all are thankful for having the chance to serve with him."

Commissioner Shaun C. Van Doren, who served in Tewksbury's local government when Holt served as first a council member and then Mayor of Clinton, stated, "Matt Holt and I met over 25 years ago when we both served in municipal offices. I have found no one better that has given wise counsel and advice over that time period.

Beyond our local and county service together, Matt has been a friend. His leadership with economic development and finance have made a great mark on our county. I wish Matt and Megan well on their new chapter."

In thanking his colleagues for their remarks at the conclusion of the April 19th Board meeting, Commissioner Holt stated, "My opportunity to serve the public has been incredibly fulfilling. Based on my experience with my colleagues, I have no doubt that this Board will continue to be great stewards of the taxpayers' dollars and that the county government will continue to operate effectively and efficiently into the future."