

## **Freeholders Reduce Budget By Nearly \$1 Million**

### **Fifth Consecutive Year Of Budget Reductions**

The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board, on May 29<sup>th</sup>, adopted a 2018 budget that is \$982,167 less than last year's budget, the fifth consecutive year the budget has been reduced.

The 2018 budget is \$87,779,652, down from 2017's \$88,761,820 fiscal plan.

Freeholder Director Matt Holt said, "The budget is lower for the fifth year in a row as a result of cost savings and financial planning. It is substantially lower than the nearly \$100 million County budget from over a decade ago.

The budget continues the Freeholders pay as you go policy for capital improvements, contains no debt or debt service, and provides for the numerous County shared service programs that save costs for our municipalities and taxpayers."

Freeholder John Lanza noted, "The budget protects services to Hunterdon's most vulnerable residents. It also continues to make needed investments in key areas, such as public safety, health services, and upgrades to our park system, which helps to maintain Hunterdon County's unique quality of life."

Freeholder Holt added, "County government seeing the dividends from investments in technology, which have resulted in the streamlining of government operations, shared services, and the use of private sector contractors, where appropriate, to help deliver cost savings.

Freeholder Lanza stated, "The County budget is in stark contrast with the state budget proposed by Governor Phil Murphy that increases state spending by nearly 8% and contains nearly \$1.5 billion in tax increases."