The 2008 organizational meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: Wayne A. Grube, President; Diane Neiper Vice-President; Ron Angle; John Cusick; Charles M. Dertinger; J. Michael Dowd; Margaret Ferraro; Lamont G. McClure, Jr.; Ann McHale; Leonard N. Zito, Solicitor to Council and Frank E. Flisser, Clerk to Council.

Prayer

Mr. Dowd led County Council in prayer to open the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. McClure led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. McClure made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the December 6, 2007 and December 13, 2007 meetings shall be approved.

Mr. Dertinger seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Ron Angle, Portland, PA - asked what the cost was for the renovation of County Council’s Meeting Room.

Mrs. McHale advised the cost for the meeting room and the renovations of the County Council offices was a little more than $400,000.
Mr. Angle stated the amount as of today was $642,000 and climbing because of change orders.

Mrs. McHale advised she was not aware of the cost of change orders, however, some issues did develop due to the remodeling of such an old facility.

Mr. Angle stated he did not believe the renovations justified the monies expended. Therefore, he intended to sit in the public area with the real people who live in the real world.

Mrs. McHale advised County Council had saved this money in their Contingency Account and were quite conservative in the spending of the taxpayers’ dollars.

Selection of County Council Officers

Mr. Grube made the following statement:

“It is with extreme disappointment that I am resigning my present office as President of County Council for the future due to medical reasons. I will, however, continue to carry out my sworn duties as a County Council member. I want to thank all of my fellow Council people for the support and for the effort that they put forward. No one outside realizes how much time a President of this Council puts in. If they did know, it might be a little bit of a different story. So, for all of you, thanks and I hope to continue on working with you.”

President of County Council

Mr. Grube stated he would like to nominate Mrs. McHale for the office of President of County Council.

Mr. McClure seconded the nomination.

Mrs. Ferraro advised she would also like to second the nomination.

Mr. Grube asked if there were any other nominations. As there were none, he closed the nominations and called for the vote.

The nomination was approved by a vote of 8-0, with 1 abstention.

Mrs. McHale thanked everyone for their vote and she looked forward to serving as President of County Council. She noted would be reviewing the Committee structure and everyone would be informed upon its completion.

Vice-President of County Council

Mr. Grube asked if there were any nominations for the office of the Vice-President of County Council.

Mrs. McHale nominated Mr. Grube for the Vice-President.

Mr. Dertinger seconded the nomination.

Mrs. Ferraro stated she would also like to second the nomination.

Mr. Grube asked for any other nominations. As there were no other nominations, Mr. Grube closed the nominations and called for the vote.


The nomination was approved by a vote of 9-0.

Adjournment

Mr. McClure made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Dowd seconded the motion.

The motion passed by acclamation.