A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: Ron Angle, President; John Cusick, Vice President; Thomas H. Dietrich; J. Michael Dowd; Margaret L. Ferraro; Bruce A. Gilbert; Lamont G. McClure, Jr.; Ann McHale; Barbara A. Thierry; Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council, and Frank E. Flisser, Clerk to Council.

Prayer

Elder Paul Macher, Faith Lutheran Church, Forks Township, led County Council in prayer to open the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Dowd made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the July 1, 2010 meeting shall be approved.

Mrs. Ferraro seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Bob Pfenning, 2830 Linden Street, Bethlehem, PA - advised he attended a meeting of the Bethlehem Redevelopment Authority and their Director’s Report indicated they had not received any additional direction from the City’s Administration or the financial and legal consultants working on this matter for the Authority regarding any bond sale and/or the required 60 day notice to all parties. Further, regular updates regarding this matter would continue to be provided to the board.
Mr. Pfenning stated on Monday, he attended the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) Finance Committee meeting and during the Courtesy of the Floor, he spoke to them about his concerns regarding the BethWorks Tax Increment Financing (TIF). He further stated he asked them for their feedback so he could determine what they were thinking and urged them to accept the change in the allocation distribution so the taxpayers would get something out of the deal up front. He noted that was met with dead silence. He further noted after the meeting, the Finance Chair did approach him and indicated the BASD had been discussing the matter so he asked a few questions, but received no answers.

Mr. Pfenning advised they also discussed the Martin Tower TIF and one of the board members indicated if they had known the things about the BethWorks TIF, they might not have done the Martin Tower TIF. He further advised another board member felt it was not the job of the BASD to promote economic development, but to educate its students.

Mr. Pfenning stated the BASD was not allocated any monies from the casino so their revenue came from property taxes, which they signed away in 2000 and it appeared they did not like how the money was going to be spent indicating there was an article where a board member referred to the development as an amenity and not a necessity.

Mr. Ken Nagy, Forks Township, PA - advised he read some information regarding the proposed health department in the paper and thought the cost projections provided were either for a health department located in Camelot or they were only being partially realistic. He further advised that because in the past few years, no one’s health care only went up 2.25% and they were talking about approximately 600,000 people.

Mr. Nagy stated the County just negotiated a labor contract with increases that exceeded the department’s cost increases. He further stated the Federal government was going to be imposing taxes on medical devices/supplies, which costs he did not think were included in the projections and the cost of medicine most surely would also increase.

Mr. Nagy advised he was present at the meeting where different Counties gave their presentations and the one point
that was made clear by all of them was that a health department could not be run only on grants. He further advised the Bucks County Health Department did not include all the scopes being proposed with this one and they were looking for more than $6 million from their taxpayers. He noted their fees had gone up 50% in the last two years.

Mr. Angle stated information received from Bucks County indicated in 2010, they put in $2,076,000 and in 2009, they put in $2,340,000.

Mr. McClure commented it did not make a difference whether it was $6 million or $3 million because he believed Mr. Nagy’s point was Northampton County did not have the money to support the health department.

Mr. Nagy advised he did not think the municipalities had the money to make any contributions either. Therefore, he believed the taxpayers would be looking at a double tax increase, one from the municipalities and one from the County.

Mr. Nagy stated everyone knew how much it costs to take care of the people at Gracedale, so you have to wonder how much it was going to cost to take care of 600,000 people.

On another subject, Mr. Nagy questioned with the County anticipating a tax increase and lay offs, how did it justify a 5% increase in salaries. He advised he felt the County continued to spend without regard to the economic situation of many of its taxpayers.

Mr. Nagy stated each department should be torn apart and made to justify itself. He further stated the salaries of the administrative jobs should be studied and not just compared to other Counties, but the private sector as well.

Health Department

With regard to the health department, Mr. Angle advised County Council had received their proposal, but he was not sure what they wanted done with the proposal. He further advised he
spoke with Mr. Dean Browning, Chairman, Lehigh County Commissioners, who indicated he was going to recommend no action be taken at their meeting tonight. He noted this proposal was not presented in such a way that he would be comfortable supporting the health department.

Mr. McClure stated a Health Commission meeting was scheduled for July 19, 2010, which he felt should be held so additional information could be received before any decisions were rendered.

Mr. Stoffa advised at this time, he felt the project should be put aside for a year or so to see if the economy changed as money was so tight everywhere. He further advised he commended the members of the Lehigh Valley Health Board for the work they have done and wished circumstances were different.

Mr. Angle stated he never saw anything that indicated the City of Bethlehem or the City of Allentown were in favor of the health department and if neither of the cities opted in, there was no health department.

Mr. McClure advised one of the things that consistently vexed him about this process was the City of Bethlehem had reserved to itself a veto over anything that was developed by the Lehigh Valley Health Board and no one had every been able to pin the City of Bethlehem down on what they would do at the end of the process.

When Mr. Angle stated he did not believe the majority of County Council supported the establishment of a health department, Mrs. McHale commented if County Council did not want to be part of the process, they should make their position known by drawing up an ordinance withdrawing from the Health Commission. She then questioned why they should wait and hold the meeting on Monday if County Council was not on board.

Mr. McClure advised it was a duly constituted legal body and there was business to be conducted by that body and part of that was whether or not it should continue to move forward in the process. He further advised he felt it was necessary to have the meeting so additional information could be obtained and then County Council could make their determination as to whether or not it wanted to continue its participation in the process.
Mr. Dowd stated he was not prepared to support a health department based upon what he had seen even though he had been a supporter of it since the beginning. However, by the same token, he was not prepared to vote no as he felt that would end it totally so he would prefer to put it aside and address the issue again in a year or two.

Mr. McClure advised he agreed the members of the Lehigh Valley Health Board have done an excellent job and the idea was a good one, but the County could not afford it at this time and he had not heard from many constituents encouraging it. He further advised he did not see any benefit for delaying the decision a year or two because he did not feel the County would be in a better position and he felt it showed a lack of leadership.

Mrs. Ferraro stated she agreed with Mr. Stoffa and Mr. Dowd in that she felt the project should be put on hold for a year or two because she felt there was a need for a health department.

County Executive’s Report

Mr. Stoffa advised there were approximately 122 vacancies that were not filled, but funded. He further advised over a six month period it would provide a savings of approximately $1.8 million not including the benefits.

Mr. Angle stated he would like to know, since the implementation of the hiring freeze, how many employees left and not replaced.

Payroll System

In response to a question Mrs. McHale asked at the Personnel and Finance Committees meeting yesterday, Mr. Vic Mazziotti, Director of Fiscal Affairs, advised this week’s paychecks were from the new payroll system.

Confirmation of Appointments

Mrs. McHale stated the Personnel Committee met yesterday and all of the re-appointments and appointments were unanimously
approved to be presented to the whole of County Council. She further stated Mr. Cusick indicated he would like a legal opinion regarding the terms because the Home Rule Charter indicated they should only be for two years. She noted the request was forwarded to Mr. Lauer.

Mr. Lauer advised he did review the matter briefly and understood what the Home Rule Charter indicated, but he was not clear as to what the documents that created some of these authorities, boards and commissions stated or what the State legislature indicated. He further advised he should have his opinion by next meeting.

Mrs. McHale introduced the following resolution:

R. 53-2010  RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the following individuals shall be confirmed in their re-appointments and appointments as indicated hereafter:

**HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

Re-appointment:  Term to Expire: 12/31/14
Marilyn A. Lieberman
1587 Pen Argyl Road
Pen Argyl PA 18072

Appointment:  Term to Expire: 12/31/13
John Stoffa
3519 Kreidersville Road
Northampton PA 18067

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY**

Re-appointments:  Term to Expire: 12/31/14
Shawn M. Donahue
1948 Quarter Mile Road
Bethlehem PA 18015-5138
In answer to Mr. Angle’s question as to whether they were going to vote on these appointments/re-appointments with the terms stated, Mrs. McHale replied it would be contingent upon the Solicitor’s opinion.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Angle called for the vote.


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Presentation of the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce – Borough Business Revitalization Program

Mr. Angle stated Mr. Tony Iannelli, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Mike Schlossberg, Assistant Vice President – Technical and Community Manager, Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC), were present to make a presentation on the Borough Business Revitalization Program.

Mr. Iannelli advised as the Chamber grew, they decided it was time that they invested some of their time and energy in the County’s main streets. He further advised one component of this endeavor was the Borough Business Revitalization Program.

Mr. Schlossberg gave a power point presentation regarding this program (see Attachment #1). He stated the Borough
Business Revitalization Program began in 2005 with nine participating communities, four in Lehigh County and five in Northampton County, noting the Borough of North Catasauqua dropped out in 2008. He further stated the program itself was a private/public partnership and the goal was to revitalize the smaller urban communities by using a nationally recognized four point approach to revitalization.

Mr. Schlossberg advised the program ran with a five year contract with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, noting the State contributed $90,000 annually, the participating communities contributed fifty cents per capita, which totaled approximately $17,000 and the GLVCC picked up the remaining costs, which was approximately $23,000. He further advised in June 2010, the State contract expired so there was a loss of $90,000 and in order to continue the program, the participating communities were asked to contribute $10,000 annually. He noted six of the eight communities agreed to contribute that amount to stay in the program and the Borough of Pen Argyl entered the program for the first time.

Mr. Schlossberg stated at a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, the Borough Business Revitalization Program was recognized as the top regional Main Street Program in the State, noting they also received two awards in 2009. He further stated in the course of enacting this program, it required more than $780,000 in grant funding, coordinated more than 7,000 volunteer hours for a variety of projects and in total, added 130 jobs and 27 businesses.

Mr. Schlossberg advised their Facade Program was one of the programs they were most proud of, noting it was funded by State money and would provide a one to one match up to $5,000 for the exterior improvements to the facades of properties within each communities’ downtown. He further advised they have run the program for two years which resulted in 74 property renovations, $263,000 in State funding leveraging $395,000 of private funding. He noted the revitalization properties were basically the cornerstones to any urban revitalization effort and this program helped to make improvements that were sometimes completely out of the realm of reality a possibility and eventually a reality.

Mr. Schlossberg stated to show their value, this year, in
spite of a difficult budget year for the State, it awarded them $80,000, which was higher than other regional municipal programs and they felt it reflected the fact that they produced real results.

Mr. Schlossberg advised they were very proud of what they have done with this program and they would like to see it continued. He further advised this program, due to the lack of State funding, would be funded exclusively by municipal contributions and contributions from the Main Street Lehigh Valley Initiative and the GLVCC. He noted they did not turn a profit on this program and in fact, it cost them money.

Mr. Schlossberg stated their goal was to leverage the continued commitment of bodies like Northampton County and make the program continue to succeed.

Mr. Angle commented he felt it was one of the better programs in the Lehigh Valley.

In response to Mr. McClure’s question as to why they could not attract more boroughs into the program, Mr. Schlossberg advised it was a matter of budget.

In answer to Mr. Angle’s question as to how much funding they received from the Lehigh Valley Economic and Development Corporation, Mr. Schlossberg replied they did not receive any.

Mr. Angle made a motion that a recommendation be made to the Lehigh Valley Economic and Development Corporation that they help fund this program to the tune of $50,000.

Mrs. Thierry seconded the motion.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Angle called for the vote.


The motion passed by a vote of 6-2, with one abstention.
Consideration of Northampton County Open Space Project - Open Space/Natural Features Project - Zeigafuse Property - Upper Mount Bethel Township

Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolution:

R. 54-2010  WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Initiative by enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended the fee simple acquisition, by Upper Mount Bethel Township of the Zeigafuse property, Upper Mount Bethel Township, County of Northampton, which is described more fully in Exhibit “A” (a copy of which is attached hereto); and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used to acquire properties as follows:

- Property Owner(s): Estate of Russell Zeigafuse
- Site Location: 130 Million Dollar Highway, Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County
- Parcel Identification: C11-15-5, C11-24-6
- Site information: approximately 4.0 acres of wooded, wetlands, seeps, springs and 1,400 feet of road frontage, Jacoby Creek flows through property; located within Mt. Bethel Fens natural area
- Appraised Value: $37,000.00
- County Grant Request: $18,500.00
- Other Grants: $18,500.00 Upper Mt. Bethel Township

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the
Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his/her designee, to take any and all steps necessary to complete the fee simple acquisition, by Upper Mount Bethel Township of the Zeigafuse Property, located at 130 Million Dollar Highway, Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, being approximately 4.0 acres, and also known as Northampton County Uniform Parcel Identifiers #C11-15-5, C11-24-6.

(2) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $18,500.00 as consideration for the fee simple acquisition by Upper Mount Bethel Township of the Zeigafuse Property.

Mr. Cusick stated the Open Space Committee did not make a recommendation on this property because they wanted input from Mr. Angle as he lived in that area.

Mr. Angle advised an issue he had with the proposal was the township had already bought and paid for the property with dedicated Earned Income Tax funds and were now looking for the County to retrieve some of the money.

In response to Mr. Angle’s question as to their explanation for looking to retrieve money after the fact, Mr. Cusick stated there were accommodations made for municipalities who found themselves in situations where they had to act prior to getting everything in order.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Angle called for the vote.


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 6-3.

Consideration of Northampton County Open Space Project - Open Space/Natural Features Project - Janette/Communale Property - Upper Mount Bethel Township
Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolution:

R. 55-2010  WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Initiative by enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended the fee simple acquisition, by the Nature Conservancy of the Janette/Communale property, Upper Mount Bethel Township, County of Northampton, which is described more fully in Exhibit “A” (a copy of which is attached hereto); and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used to acquire properties as follows:

Property Owner(s): Janette, Jo Anne, et al.

Site Location: 860 Blue Mountain Drive, Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County

Parcel Identification B10-2-17

Site information: approximately 50.0 acres (final acreage to be determined by survey being completed in the future), Lake Minsi Corridor/Kittatinny Ridge, wooded, vernal pools, two intermittent streams, spring; Statewide and locally significant natural area

Appraised Value: $360,000.00

County Grant Request: $164,250.00

Other Grants: $164,250.00 PA DCNR

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space
Initiative, or his/her designee, to take any and all steps necessary to complete the fee simple acquisition by the Nature Conservancy of the Janette/Communale property, Upper Mount Bethel Township, County of Northampton, being approximately 50 acres, and also known as Northampton County Uniform Parcel Identifier #B10-2-17.

(2) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $164,250.00 as consideration for the fee simple acquisition, by the Nature Conservancy of the Janette/Communale Property.

In answer to Mrs. McHale’s question as to whether the property could be developed, Mr. Cusick advised based on the pictures he saw, it was unlikely that someone could do significant development.

Mr. Dowd stated his concern was the owners were receiving $360,000 and their lives were not going to change because they were allowed to maintain their home and an area of property with access to this land. After learning the home was up for sale, he commented then this was a good selling point.

Mr. Angle advised what got him upset was there was a farmer who was in desperate need and his farm had been on the Farmland Preservation rolls for a number of years, but had not made it to the top of the list yet, however, the County was spending money to save land that could not be developed.

Mr. Cusick stated the members of the Open Space Committee in attendance at their meeting voted to present this property to the whole of County Council for approval.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-2.

Municipal Park Acquisition and Development Projects - City of Easton - Bushkill Creek Corridor Previously Approved, Changing Parcels; Hanover Township - Village View Park Development; Hellertown Borough - Dimmick Park Grandstand Rehabilitation; Stockertown Borough - Recreational Trail Development; Portland Borough - Borough Hall Playground Rehabilitation

Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolutions and suggested they be voted on together, noting the members of the Open Space Committee in attendance at their meeting voted to present these proposals to the whole of County Council for approval.

City of Easton - Bushkill Creek Corridor Previously Approved, Changing Parcels

R. 56-2010  WHEREAS, on September 20, 2007, the Northampton County Council approved the City of Easton Bushkill Creek Corridor Trail Easement Acquisition & Development Project, via the adoption of resolution No. 98-2007; and

WHEREAS, the City of Easton subsequently requested certain changes in the parcels that comprise the scope of the project, and revised their application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Northampton County Council does hereby reaffirm its approval of, and support for, the City of Easton Bushkill Creek Corridor Trail Easement Acquisition and Development project, as set forth in Exhibit “A” (a copy of which is attached hereto). Further, resolution No. 98-2007 is amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with "strikeout" have been deleted and sections marked with "bold underline" have been added):

“Number 98-07

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Initiative by enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and
WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended approval of the City of Easton Bushkill Creek Corridor Trail Easement Acquisition & Development Project; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used to acquire properties as follows:

- Property Owner: Various
- Site Location: City of Easton, Bushkill Creek Corridor, Northampton County

- Park Development Description: Up to ~45 acres, Acquisition of property for greenway and trail development
- Appraised Value: $ pending
- Municipal Allocation: $559,209.00
- County Grant Request: $559,209.00
- Other Grants: $3,000,000.00 State Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the City of Easton Bushkill Creek Corridor Trail Easement Acquisition & Development Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his designee, is directed to take any and all steps necessary to administer and
complete Northampton County’s obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $559,209.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the City of Easton Bushkill Creek Corridor Trail Easement Acquisition & Development Project. It shall be understood that in accordance with the recommendations of the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board, the following conditions must be met prior to the release of County funds to the City of Easton:

1. Finalized Phase I Environmental Assessment
2. Completed survey for all parcels
3. Executed Agreement of Sale for all parcels approved by City Council
4. Completed title work on all parcels
5. Appraisals and/or Verifications of appraisals on all parcels
6. Map showing all parcels and acreages
7. Funding sheet showing source, amounts and anticipated receipt date

Hanover Township – Village View Park Development

R. 57-2010 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Initiative by enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended approval of the Hanover Township, Northampton County, Village View Park Development project, which is more fully described in Exhibit “A” (a copy of which is attached hereto); and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used as follows:

Property Owner: Hanover Township

Site Location: 4025, 4035, and 3945 Airport Road and
adjacent parcels
Hanover Township, Northampton County

Parcel Identifications: M5-4-25A, M5-4-17, M5-4-18, M5SE1-3-4, M5-4-25

Park Development Description: Construction of the entrance, soccer/multi-purpose fields, baseball fields, and playground areas

Appraised Value: No acquisition involved

Municipal Allocation: $213,160

County Grant Request: $213,160

Other Grants: $3,832,100 Hanover Township

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Hanover Township, Northampton County, Village View Park Development project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his/her designee, is directed to take any and all steps necessary to administer and complete Northampton County's obligation in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $213,160 as the Northampton County contribution to the Hanover Township, Northampton County, Village View Park Development project.

Hellertown Borough – Dimmick Park Grandstand Rehabilitation

R. 58-2010 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Initiative by enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended approval of the Hellertown Borough, Northampton County, Dimmick Park Grandstand Rehabilitation project, which is more fully described in Exhibit “A” (a copy of which is attached hereto); and
WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used as follows:

Property Owner: Hellertown Borough
Site Location: 504 Durham Street, Hellertown Borough, Northampton County
Parcel Identifications: Q07SW2C-10-002
Park Development Description: Rehabilitate grandstand: remove the lead based paint on the existing steel structure, retrofit with new aluminum decking and bleachers, and accommodate ADA access and viewing
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Municipal Allocation: $131,165
County Grant Request: $ 80,000
Other Grants: $120,000 Hellertown Borough

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Hellertown Borough Dimmick Park Grandstand Rehabilitation project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his/her designee, is directed to take any and all steps necessary to administer and complete Northampton County's obligation in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $80,000.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Hellertown Borough Dimmick Park Grandstand Rehabilitation project.

Stockertown Borough - Recreational Trail Development

R. 59-2010  WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Initiative by enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5,
WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council hereby approves the Stockertown Borough Recreation Trail Development project, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his/her designee, is directed to take any and all steps necessary to administer and complete Northampton County's
obligation in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $29,236.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Stockertown Borough Recreation Trail Development project.

Portland Borough – Borough Hall Playground Rehabilitation

R. 60-2010  WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Initiative by enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended approval of the Portland Borough, Northampton County, Borough Hall Playground Rehabilitation project, which is more fully described in Exhibit “A” (a copy of which is attached hereto); and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used as follows:

Property Owner: Portland School District
Site Location: Division Street, Portland Borough, Northampton County
Parcel Identifications: C11NE2A-04-001
Park Development Description: Remove existing equipment and install new swing set, climbing and play structures, and safety surfacing
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Municipal Allocation: $26,998
County Grant Request: $26,998
Other Grants: $9,000 Portland Borough

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:
(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Portland Borough Hall Playground Rehabilitation project. The Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his/her designee, is directed to take any and all steps necessary to administer and complete Northampton County's obligation in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $29,998.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Portland Borough Hall Playground Rehabilitation Project.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Angle called for the vote.


The resolutions were adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick advised a letter was being sent to those municipalities that had not yet chosen to participate in the Municipal Park Acquisition or Development Program advising them to either make a commitment now or forever lose the opportunity to do so. He further advised the deadline would be in September and those that were interested had to submit a letter of interest and a brief description of their project.

Consideration of Administrative Code Article XIII Contract Approval Resolutions - Cotton Goods for the Prison, Gracedale, and the Juvenile Justice Center; Wayne A. Grube Memorial Park General Construction; Northampton County Bridge # 216 Replacement; Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Claims Administration Services

Mr. Angle introduced the following resolutions and suggested they all be voted on at the same time, indicating the members of the Finance Committee in attendance at their meeting voted to present these contracts to the whole of County Council for approval.
Cotton Goods for the Prison, Gracedale, and the Juvenile Justice Center

R. 61-2010 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(1) requires approval of County Council for “any contract exceeding $100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised under the terms of the contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary.”

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2010, the Northampton County Council received a request on behalf of the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract in the amount of $183,089.40 for one year (with a total potential 3 year contract cost of $549,268.20), with multiple vendors (Tabb Textile Co. Inc.; Standard Textile; Charm-Tex, Inc.; Harbor Linen and Bob Barker Co.), for cotton goods for Gracedale Nursing Home, the Juvenile Justice Center and the Northampton County Prison.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation, to award a contract to: Tabb Textile Co. Inc.; Standard Textile; Charm-Tex, Inc.; Harbor Linen and Bob Barker Co. for cotton goods for Gracedale Nursing Home, the Juvenile Justice Center and the Northampton County Prison.

Wayne A. Grube Memorial Park General Construction

R. 62-2010 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for “any contract where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County’s General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness.”

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2010, the Northampton County Council
received a request on behalf of the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a contract, in the amount of $1,609,359.00, with Gateway Project Management, LLC for general construction at the Wayne A. Grube Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation, to award a contract to Gateway Project Management, LLC for general construction at the Wayne A. Grube Park.

Northampton County Bridge # 216 Replacement

R. 63-2010 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for “any contract where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County’s General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness.”

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2010, the Northampton County Council received a request on behalf of the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a contract, in the amount of $296,970.80, with Grace Industries, Inc. for the replacement of Northampton County Bridge #216.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation, to award a contract to Grace Industries, Inc. for the replacement of Northampton County Bridge #216.

Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Claims Administration Services

R. 64-2010 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(1) requires approval of County Council for “...any contract exceeding $100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-
Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised under the terms of the contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary.”

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2010, the Northampton County Council received a request on behalf of the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a contract in the amount of $381,000.00 with PMA Management Corp. for workers compensation and employers liability claims administration services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation, to award a contract to PMA Management Corp. for workers compensation and employers liability claims administration services.

With regard to the last contract, Mrs. McHale stated she wished there had been more respondents to the Request for Proposal because she felt the County could have gotten more discounts, but noted she would support this contract.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Angle called for the vote.


The resolutions were adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Consideration of a Request to Fill a Vacant Position - Public Defender

Mr. Angle advised at the Personnel Committee meeting, Chief Public Defender Michael Corriere indicated his office had three potential vacancies and the Administration was recommending that two of three positions be filled. He further advised Mr. Corriere had indicated that one of the three individuals had
In response to Mr. McClure’s question as to whether these positions were already budgeted for, Mrs. McHale stated they were.

Mr. Angle advised there was no recommendation by the members of the Personnel Committee in attendance at their meeting because they wanted to know if County Council wished to approve all three positions or go with the Administration’s recommendation and only approve two of the positions.

Mr. McClure stated he was glad that the issue of not carrying unfilled vacant positions from budget year to budget year was being addressed, but these positions were already budgeted for and he felt it was in the sound discretion of the County Executive to fill these positions without interference from County Council. He further stated he felt County Council voting on these positions was an improper intrusion into the County Executive’s authority when County Council already passed a budget that included these positions.

Mr. Angle advised Mrs. McHale had made the same point at the Personnel Committee meeting, however, his argument was a meeting was held with the County Executive and as a courtesy to County Council, he agreed that he would bring before County Council any vacant positions to determine if they should be filled. He further advised it was also agreed that if the County Executive felt there were positions he felt had to be filled, County Council would take that into consideration.

Mr. Gilbert stated he felt County Council should go with the Administration’s request to fill only the two vacancies. He further stated he wanted to make it clear that by having County Council approve the filling of vacant positions was not in any way an effort to usurp the process, but it was only County Council’s attempt to determine as to where and how money was being spent.

Mr. Gilbert introduced the following resolution:

R. 65-2010  RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive to fill the two (2) vacant positions of part-time
Public Defender, pay grade RS-7, annual salary $43,377.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Angle called for the vote.

The vote: Gilbert, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; McClure, "no"; McHale, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Angle, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes" and Dowd, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-1.

Consideration of a Request to Fill a Vacant Position - Mental Health, Early Intervention and Developmental Programs Division

Mr. Angle advised Mr. Ross Marcus, Director of Human Services, indicated at the Personnel Committee meeting that this position was fully funded by the State and the members of the Committee in attendance voted to recommend this proposal to the whole of County Council for approval.

Mr. Angle introduced the following resolution:

R. 66-2010 RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive to fill the one (1) vacant full-time position of MH Program Specialist I, salary range $39,999 to $68,286, Department of Human Services, Mental Health, Early Intervention and Developmental Programs Division.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Angle called for the vote.

The vote: Angle, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Dowd, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; McClure, "no"; McHale, "yes" and Thierry, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-1.

Consideration of Supporting Municipal H2O PA Grant Applications

Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority and Bethlehem Authority
Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolutions and suggested they be voted on together.

Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority

R. 67-2010

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF THE EASTON AREA JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE H20 PA PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority (EAJSA) has provided public notice that it will apply to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for grant funding under the H20 PA Program; and

WHEREAS, EAJSA has indicated that it will use the grant funding for four (4) projects, which include:

$ Project A: Supplemental Alkalinity System at the Waste Water Treatment Plant

$ Project B: Waste Water Treatment Plant Primary Sludge Pump Station Upgrade

$ Project C: Waste Water Treatment Plant Valve Upgrades and Automation

$ Project D: Adamson Street Sewer Main Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned projects will improve the infrastructure of sewage facilities in the Easton region and will improve the quality of life of those residing in the Easton Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council that it does hereby endorse and support the EAJSA’s application for grant funding under the H20 PA Program. It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the EAJSA.
Bethlehem Authority

R.68-2010

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF THE BETHLEHEM AUTHORITY FOR GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE H20 PA PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Authority has provided public notice that it is applying to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for grant funding under the H20 PA Program; and

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Authority has indicated that it will use the grant funding for repairs and improvements to the City of Bethlehem’s water system infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, projects in Northampton County include the following:

$ The repair and replacement of malfunctioning valves at the City of Bethlehem’s 2 MG SW Reservoir in Lower Saucon Township,

$ Replacement of aged water lines in the Staffore Estates development in Hanover Township,

$ Replacement of aged water lines in the Birchwood estates development in Bethlehem Township; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned projects will improve the City of Bethlehem’s water system infrastructure in various areas and will enhance the quality of life for residents of the City of Bethlehem and surrounding communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council that it does hereby endorse and support the Bethlehem Authority’s application for grant funding under the H20 PA Program. It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Bethlehem Authority.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Angle called
for the vote.


The resolutions were adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Introduction of the Ordinance Authorizing the Leasing of Office Space by the County of Northampton

Mr. Angle stated an ordinance regarding the leasing of this office space was previously presented to County Council, but was not passed. He further stated Mr. Gilbert and the Administration had a meeting with the owner to negotiate a new lease, which they did. He noted that the members of the Finance Committee in attendance at their meeting voted to recommend this lease for approval. He further noted the public hearing, debate and possible vote would take place at the August 5, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Gilbert and Mrs. Thierry introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE LEASE FOR DISTRICT COURT 3-3-02, LOCATED AT 31C WEST FIRST STREET, WIND GAP, PA

WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 602 (a)(6) provides that the Northampton County Council shall enact an ordinance for any act which conveys, leases, purchases or authorizes the conveyance, lease or purchase of any real property of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton has requested to renew the Lease Agreement with Joseph DePue for the property located at 31C West First Street, Wind Gap, PA, County of Northampton for the operation of a District Court of the Minor Judiciary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and all related functions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby agree to renew
the lease of said property, for the sum of Two Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Five Dollars ($2,475.00), from Joseph DePue, located at 31C West First Street, Wind Gap, PA, County of Northampton, in accordance with the Lease Agreement which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “A”.

Cost Cutting Suggestions

Mr. Angle advised he had received a lot of suggestions regarding cost cutting efforts which he planned to compile and present to County Council.

Human Services Committee Report

Mr. Dietrich stated the Human Services Committee met and discussed the Health Choice Division, which did not receive any taxpayer dollars. He further stated they were awaiting the release of the Gracedale report before scheduling the next meeting.

Conservation District Liaison Report

Mrs. Ferraro advised their annual clam bake was coming up, but she suggested the tour be taken as well. She further advised at the next meeting she planned to present a proposal to give them $500 for their Act 48 Continuing Teacher Education Program.

Lehigh Valley Health Commission Meeting

Mrs. McHale reminded everyone that the Lehigh Valley Health Commission would be meeting at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, July 19, 2010, in the County Council meeting room.

Solicitor’s Report

Mr. Lauer stated he would be presenting his opinion regarding the terms for members of the authorities, boards and commissions at the next meeting.
Mr. Lauer advised himself and Mr. Karl Longenbach, Solicitor for Northampton County, met with solicitors from the Bethlehem Area School District, the City of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Redevelopment Authority to discuss some of the issues regarding the TIF.

Adjournment

Mr. McClure made a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Thierry seconded the motion.

The motion passed by acclamation.

Frank E. Flisser
Clerk to Council