Easton, Pennsylvania January 3, 2011

The 2011 organizational 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 and Frank E. Flisser, Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council.

Prayer

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bernie O’Hare led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Courtesy of the Floor

As no one signed up to speak under Courtesy of the Floor, Mr. Angle asked if there was anyone who had any questions or comments. There were no respondents.

Selection of County Council Officers

President of County Council

Mr. Flisser asked for nominations for the position of President of County Council.

Mrs. Thierry advised she would like to nominate Mr. Angle for the office of President of County Council.

Mr. Gilbert seconded the nomination.

Mr. Flisser asked if there were any other nominations.

Mr. Dietrich stated he would like to nominate Mr. Cusick.
Mrs. McHale seconded the nomination.

As there were no other nominations for President, Mr. Flisser called for a preferential voice vote.

Before the vote, Mr. Cusick stated it was his understanding that a person could not vote for himself for office of President because there was a financial gain to be had, therefore, he was abstaining.


Mr. Flisser noted the vote was 4-4, with 1 abstention.

In answer to Mrs. Ferraro’s question as to whether Mr. Angle had to recuse himself, Mr. Lauer replied he did not know whether an individual had to recuse himself and he was not prepared to address that issue.

Mr. Cusick then withdrew his abstention and voted for himself.


Mr. Flisser advised by a vote of 5-4, Mr. Cusick was elected as President of County Council.

Mr. Cusick stated he wanted to thank his colleagues for their support. He further stated he did not covet the office, but several individuals approached him and thought he could do a good job so he hoped he would not let them down. He noted his intention was to allow everyone a fair voice. He further noted he read the County Executive’s priorities for next year and he planned to work with him as best he could to try to bring those things to fruition.

Mr. Cusick advised he looked forward to a productive year with the County Executive, Administration and his fellow members of County Council. He further advised it was a great honor and he enjoyed serving as Vice President last year. He noted the Committee Structure had been passed out, but if anyone had any
questions or comments regarding them, they could contact him.

Mr. McClure stated he did not think Mr. Angle and Mr. Cusick would be found in violation of the State Ethics Act because the benefit would be derived by either individual.

Mr. Lauer advised he did not come to the meeting expecting this to come up, but he did believe what Mr. McClure stated made sense based on his recollection of the issue.

Vice-President of County Council

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

Mr. Gilbert stated he would like to nominate Mr. Dowd for the office of Vice-President.

Mr. Angle seconded the nomination.

Mrs. McHale stated she would like to nominate Mrs. Ferraro.

Mr. Dietrich seconded the nomination.

As there were no other nominations for Vice-President, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.


By a vote of 5-4, Mrs. Ferraro was elected Vice-President of County Council.

Past President’s Message

Mr. Angle thanked the members of County Council for the privilege of allowing him to serve as President during what he felt was a very fruitful and worthwhile year. He advised it was an interesting election and he wished the incumbents well in their positions.

Mr. Angle stated he knew that Mr. Cusick would be setting up the different committees, but he wanted to point out that Mr.
McClure never attended a single committee meeting last year nor did he ever convene the committee he was the chair of. He then asked Mr. McClure if he felt he was providing reasonable service to the constituents that elected him.

Mr. McClure thanked Mr. Angle for his observation.

Mr. Angle asked Mr. Cusick if he had an agenda for the coming year.

Mr. Cusick advised he did not have an agenda, but intended to listen to everyone’s thoughts and ideas and try to move ahead with those that the people felt were appropriate.

In response to Mr. Angle’s question as to what he would like to see accomplished, Mr. Cusick stated he would like to see everyone work together in a civilized way to move the County Executive’s agenda forward and any items that any member of County Council wished to see move ahead.

In answer to Mr. Angle’s question as to whether he felt County Council did not operate in a civilized manner last year, Mr. Cusick replied he was not implying that, but he was asked what he would like to see accomplished.

Mr. Angle advised by the next meeting, he would like for Mr. Cusick to present his agenda and how he wanted to see the County move forward.

Mr. Cusick stated he would keep that request under advisement.

Adjournment

Mrs. McHale made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Cusick seconded the motion.

The motion passed by acclamation.

Frank E. Flisser
Clerk to Council