Easton, Pennsylvania

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: John Cusick, President; Margaret L. Ferraro, Vice-President; Thomas H. Dietrich; Bruce A. Gilbert; Kenneth M. Kraft; Lamont G. McClure, Jr.; Scott Parsons; Barbara A. Thierry; Robert F. Werner; Frank E. Flisser, Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council.

Prayer

Mr. Cusick 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. McClure made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meetings shall be approved.

Mrs. Thierry seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. William Fitzpatrick, Bethlehem, PA - stated in November 2012, he was the victim of an attempted homicide and he wanted to express his profound admiration and gratitude for the people who helped him navigate the process. He further stated these individuals were not only professional, but compassionate and he would like County Council to support the Office of the District Attorney in any way they could.
Ms. Alicia Karner, Economic Development Administrator, Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) - advised she just wanted to address an issue that arose at yesterday’s budget amendment hearing. She further advised the Job Creation Grant Program was run through the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) for the purpose of keeping confidential projects confidential and gaming dollars were used to enhance the program.

Confirmation of Appointments

Mr. Cusick stated the County Executive submitted to County Council appointments/re-appointments to the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board, the Jail Advisory Board and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 98-2013 RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the following individuals shall be confirmed in their appointments/re-appointments as indicated hereafter:

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY BOARD

Appointment: Penny S. Van Tassel 108 Old Orchard Drive Easton PA 18045 Term to Expire: 1/1/16

JAIL ADVISORY BOARD

Appointment: Robin A. Rivera 3987 Lehigh Drive Northampton PA 18067 Term to Expire: 12/31/15
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LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Appointment:
(Citizens)
Robert A. Lammi
2809 Washington Street
Easton PA 18045

Term to Expire: 12/31/16

Re-appointments:
(Elected Officials)
John N. Diacogiannis
Hanover Township Supervisor
1360 Bonnie Avenue
Bethlehem PA 18017-1012

Terms to Expire: 12/31/14

Michael Reph
Bath Borough Council Member
249 East Main Street
Bath PA 18014

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


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

County Executive’s Report

Mr. John Stoffa, County Executive, advised at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), he learned the dividend the County would receive from its insurance was $145,583.

Mr. Stoffa stated the Bechtel Building had been sold for $1,575,000 and the Wolf Building was scheduled to be sold for the $1,925,000 agreed upon price with closing due the end of March.
Mr. Stoffa advised he felt the most important vote for County Council tonight was for the Johnston Estate property because it had the potential to provide 135 acres of open space. He further advised by preserving this land, County Council would be doing something that would be remembered for a long time to come.


Consideration of 2014 Personnel Requests:

District Attorney

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 99-2013 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following positions shall be eliminated in the District Attorney’s Office, effective January 1, 2014:

a. one (1) full-time position of Clerical Technician III (1.00 FTE), pay grade CR-13, salary range, $24,411 to $33,218.

b. one (1) part-time position of Assistant District Attorney (1.00 FTE), pay grade RS-07, salary $45,350 annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following positions shall be created in the District Attorney’s Office, effective January 1, 2014:
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a. one (1) full-time position of Administrative Specialist (1.00 FTE), pay grade CR-18, salary range, $30,731 to $41,821.

b. one (1) full-time position of Assistant District Attorney II (1.00 FTE), pay grade CE-04, salary range $66,638 to $94,812.

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

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

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

Court: Magisterial District Judges (MDJ)

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 100-2013 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following positions shall be created in the Department of Court Administration - Magisterial District Judges Offices, effective January 1, 2014:

a. three (3) full-time positions of Magisterial District Judge Technician (3.00 FTE), pay grade CN-17, salary range, $29,349 to $39,940.

b. one (1) part-time position of Magisterial District Judge Technician (1.00 FTE), pay grade CN-17, salary range, $29,349 to $39,940.

Mr. Cusick stated based on the caseload numbers that have been provided, he did not see a continuous increase in these offices so he could not support the additional positions.

President Judge Stephen Baratta advised the MDJ were under the Courts, but as these positions were to serve in the local offices, he brought MDJ Jacqueline Taschner to speak on the issue. He further advised the average filing per staff member for a number of these offices exceeded the Administrative
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Offices of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) recommendation by 300 or 400 a year.

MDJ Taschner stated her office covered Palmer Township, Forks Township and Tatamy Borough. She further stated her office had maintained a three person staff for many years, however, since she had taken office, the filings per person increased approximately 300-500 cases per person per year. She noted the AOPC guideline was 1200 cases per staff member so they were processing more than 1500 cases so she felt that justified a position.

MDJ Taschner advised last year there was money in the Court budget to get her staff new furniture and requested a new work station from AOPC with the anticipation of receiving the new staff member she had been requesting for years. She further advised AOPC granted her request, which they would not have done if they did not see a need for an additional staff member.

MDJ Taschner stated there was a lot that went on in her office that the statistics did not even address. She further stated in a big way they were a collection for the State and the County and if they wanted to be successful in bringing funds to this County, they had to have the staff to do that. She noted since January 1, 2013 until December 4, 2013, they issued 7,522 receipts for a total of $772,000, which could be increased if she had an additional staff member to assist with the paperwork.

President Judge Baratta advised Mr. Cusick had referenced a MDJ office being vacant, it was actually opened and operating every day. He further advised they were consolidating two offices that would produce the same number of filings and the work was going to be spread around.

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

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "no"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes" and Gilbert, "yes".

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

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 101-2013 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that one (1) new full-time position of Clerical Specialist (1.00 FTE), pay grade CS-16, salary range $31,903 to $45,414, shall be created in the Department of Human Resources, effective January 1, 2014.

Mr. McClure stated a considerable amount of time was spent at yesterday's meeting discussing the necessity to add this position especially with regard to the additional responsibilities with respect to the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Cusick advised a case was made for it, but he was not going to support it because Mr. Stoffa initially did not recommend it. He further advised a new Administration would be coming in and they could bring it back before County Council next year if they felt it was absolutely necessary.

Mr. Kraft stated he did not feel this could be put on the back burner because the Affordable Care Act was starting and there was a tremendous amount of paperwork that could result in penalties if not done properly.

Ms. Patricia Siemiontkowski, Director of Human Resources, advised the reason why this was so critical to them was because this was a Federal mandate and they did not have a choice not to do it and if it was not done, the County could face some severe and significant penalties.

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

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "no"; Dietrich, "no"; Ferraro, "no"; Gilbert, "yes" and McClure, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 6-3.
Administration: Emergency Management and 911

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 102-2013 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following positions shall be created in the Department of Administration - Emergency Management and 911, effective January 1, 2014:

a. one (1) full-time position of Dispatch Shift Supervisor (1.00 FTE), pay grade CS-24, salary range, $46,108 to $65,603.

b. two (2) full-time positions of Telecommunicator (2.00 FTE), pay grade RU-20, salary range $34,623 to $49,263.

c. two (2) part-time positions of Telecommunicator (2.00 FTE), pay grade RU-20, salary range $34,623 to $49,263.

Mr. Dietrich stated many of his co-workers have been 911 dispatchers and when he asked them why they left, the answer mostly given was mandation due there not being enough dispatchers to cover shifts and he felt this would help alleviate that situation.

In response to Mr. Kraft's question as to how this request would alleviate their overtime budget, Mr. Robert Mateff, Director of Emergency Management Services, advised they initially thought of requesting four full-time dispatchers and one dispatch supervisor, but subsequently decided they were going to look at supplementing with some part-time dispatchers. He further advised they did have some qualified people leave under good terms to go onto other professions, but they may be able to bring some back.

Mr. Mateff stated the last time they added dispatchers was in 2006. He further stated they were set up in teams of four and would be adding the additional full-time positions to the overnight shifts and then supplement with the part-time individuals as needed.

Mr. Cusick advised it appeared they were still going to have some vacant positions, but this would allow them additional flexibility in the operation because it took so long to get
those positions filled. He further advised this would also reduce the overtime and bring down some of their costs.

Mr. Mateff stated if they did get to a full complement and maintained it for a period of time, they would not have to backfill those positions with someone that was either on a voluntary or mandated overtime situation. He further stated it was very important that these individuals cycled off shift because the job was very stressful.

Mr. Cusick advised he was unsure about this, but decided he was going to support it because public safety was not something to mess with.

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

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Thierry, "yes".

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

Administration: Conservation District

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

**R. 103-2013 RESOLVED**, By the Northampton County Council that the one (1) part-time position of Clerical Technician III (.50 FTE), pay grade RU-13, salary range, $12,542 to $17,842 shall be eliminated in the Department of Administration - Conservation District Office, effective January 1, 2014.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** By the Northampton County Council that the one (1) new full-time position Clerical Technician III (1.00 FTE), pay grade RU-13, salary range, $25,083 to $35,684 shall be created in the Department of Administration - Conservation District Office, effective January 1, 2014.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.
The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes" and Thierry, "yes".

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

Coroner

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 104-2013  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full-time position of Clerical Technician III (1.00 FTE), pay grade CS-13, salary range $27,784 to $39,550, in the Coroner’s Office shall be eliminated, effective January 1, 2014.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following positions shall be created in the Coroner’s Office, effective January 1, 2014:

a. one (1) part-time position of Clerical Technician III (.50 FTE), pay grade RU-13, salary range $12,542 to $17,842.

b. one (1) full-time position of Executive Secretary (1.00 FTE), pay grade CS-19, salary range $36,628 to $52,114.

c. two (2) part-time positions of Deputy Coroner (.20 FTE), pay grade CS-19, salary $7,326.

d. one (1) full-time position of Deputy Coroner (1.00 FTE), pay grade CS-19, salary range $36,628 to $52,114.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the full-time and part-time positions of Deputy Coroner, pay grade 19, salary range $36,628 to $52,114 shall be changed to pay grade CS-23, salary range $44,036 to $62,685.

Ms. Siemiontkowski stated the County had a reclassification job evaluation policy whereby the Department Head made a request to the Administration. She further stated since she had been here there had been a moratorium on reclassifications so when this request was made to her department, they checked with the Administration and discovered the moratorium was still on and they were directed not to conduct the job audits.
Ms. Siemiontkowski advised she felt it was important to follow policy, but if County Council wanted to entertain the idea of reclassification for them to revise the job descriptions to better describe the work of the position and upgrade the education requirements then the position could be appointed according to the new requirements and an appropriate pay grade could be established.

Ms. Siemiontkowski stated this would create consistency in the County and the same tool that was used to appoint all the positions would be used to appoint these as well. She further stated under County Council’s direction, they would undertake that task and have something to present early next year with their recommendation as to the pay grade.

Mr. McClure advised one of the privileges of being on a governing body was they could confront the bureaucratic intransigent and modernize the Coroner’s office on their own. He further advised moratorium or not, the Coroner’s office needed to be modernized.

Mr. Dietrich stated he believed the moratorium took place at the same time as the hiring freeze, but it appeared the moratorium stayed and the hiring freeze ended.

Mr. Stoffa advised there were approximately 100 positions that should be reclassified, but the County could not afford to do it.

Mr. Kraft stated he felt this was necessary and indicated he would support it.

Mr. Cusick advised he also felt it was necessary, but would leave it for the new County Council to consider.

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


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 6-3.
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Public Works: Parks and Recreation

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 105-2013 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following positions shall be created in the Department of Public Works - Parks and Recreation Division, effective January 1, 2014:

a. one (1) part-time position of Park Attendant (1.00 FTE), pay grade CS-06, salary range $20,131 to $28,642.

b. two (2) full-time positions of Groundskeeper (2.00 FTE), pay grade RU-15, salary range $27,502 to $39,130.

Mr. Cusick stated the part-time position was recommended by the Administration, however, the two full-time positions were not so he wanted to separate them into two votes.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the one part-time Park Attendant position.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Dietrich, "no"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "no"; Werner, "yes" and Cusick, "yes".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-2.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the two full-time Groundskeeper positions.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Dietrich, "no"; Cusick, "no"; Werner, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes" and Thierry, "no".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 6-3.

Based on the votes, the entire resolution was adopted.

2014 Salary Resolutions
Part-Time Professional Employees

Mr. Cusick advised the next matter to be considered were the salaries for part-time professional employees, noting the budget contained a 2.25% salary increase for those employees.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 106-2013  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the 2014 salaries of part-time professional employees shall be as indicated on the attached pay scale.

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


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 5-4.

In answer to Mr. Cusick’s question as to whether a person should abstain from voting if they had a direct interest in the vote, Mr. McClure stated he believed Mr. Cusick was referring to the fact that his wife worked as an Assistant District Attorney.

Mr. McClure advised this issue had arisen before so he had researched the law and it indicated that if the person, in this case his wife, was a member of a class and not being treated any differently than any other member of that class than it was not a violation of the Ethics Act for him to vote on the issue. He further advised he wanted to point out the employees have been hit hard by the City of Easton Commuter Tax so to vote for any increase was the right choice.

Mr. Lauer stated he agreed that it was not a conflict for Mr. McClure to vote in this instance.

Full-Time Employees

Mr. Cusick advised the next matter to be considered were the 2014 salaries for full-time non-union employees, noting the budget contains a net 2.5% salary increase for those employees.
Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 107-2013  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that a salary increment, if applicable, shall be given to all Career Service and Exempt employees, not within Collective Bargaining Units, on the effective date of this resolution, whose job classifications are within the parameters of the Northampton County Career Service and Exempt Pay Scales, respectively.

This resolution shall become effective January 1, 2014.

Mr. Cusick stated the net 2.5% took into account the additional contribution for health care.

In response to Mrs. Thierry's question as to whether the unions were receiving the same increase, Ms. Siemiontkowski advised the increases ranged from 2.5% to 3%, noting the increase in the health care contribution also varied.

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

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

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

Adoption of the 2014 Budget

Consideration of Amendments to the Proposed 2014 Budget

Mr. Cusick stated County Council would now consider amendments to the proposed 2014 budget.

Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolution:

R. 108-2013  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the proposed 2014 Northampton County Budget shall be amended as indicated on the attached documents.
Mr. Cusick advised these amendments were a compilation of those offered and agreed to at various meetings held throughout the budget hearing process. He further advised they were discussed at yesterday's meeting and those being presented tonight were based on changes that were made at that meeting. He noted the amendments would be voted on individually, however, the ones that have already been addressed under personnel requests would not be considered again.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions regarding the amendment for the Department of Human Resources for an additional position and changes to their software.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietrich, "no"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes" and McClure, "yes".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-1.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the amendment for Fiscal Affairs - Information Services for hardware and software products.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes" and Thierry, "yes".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments on the amendment for Administration - Administrative Services removing funding for one personnel position.

When Ms. Camille Bartlett, Director of Administrative Services, asked if she could speak, Mr. Cusick stated this matter was addressed yesterday and unless a member of County
Council required any additional information, he would call for the vote.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes" and Thierry, "yes".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments with regard to the amendment for Administration - OSI-County Parks for trail crossing improvements.

Mr. Cusick advised the Administration had agreed after considerable discussion to stay with just the trail crossing improvements.

Mr. Dietrich stated he believed this was a big issue regarding public safety.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Thierry, "yes".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments with regard to the Administration - OSI-Environmentally Sensitive amendment.

Mr. Cusick advised the initial amendment was cut in half after considerable discussion yesterday.

Mr. Parsons stated he had asked Ms. Maria Bentzoni, Farmland Preservation Administrator, to provide information as to whether Act 13 money could be used for these projects.

Ms. Bentzoni advised the Act 13 money could not be comingled with the environmental funds. She further advised it did not specify if it could be used for conservation easements
so that may limit any opportunity there. She noted they already had designs that had basically been approved by County Council for the balance of the Act 13 money, which was approximately $500,000.

Mr. Parsons stated that $100,000 of that $500,000 was used to update the County’s Open Space Initiative Guidelines.

Mr. Cusick advised there would still be a total of $1.4 million when both pots of money were combined. He further advised County Council just voted to spend a significant amount of money to add positions and if money was not found somewhere else, he would hope they were prepared to raise revenue to address those additional positions.

In answer to Mr. McClure’s request for an explanation of the vote, Mr. Cusick stated a vote in the affirmative would be to reduce the open space County contribution in the amount of $380,000, which was half of what he originally proposed, and a vote in the negative would be to maintain the $1 million contribution.

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


This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 5-4.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments with regard to Administration - Enhanced 911.

Mr. Cusick advised a cell tower rental agreement did not come to fruition so this would be a reduction in their revenue.

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


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This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick stated the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (Airport Authority) requested $250,000 and he suggested the County fund $125,000 of that request, but only if Lehigh County agreed to match that dollar amount.

Mr. Parsons advised he wanted to keep the Braden Airpark going, but he did not think it was the County’s responsibility to run the airport. He further advised he did not think Lehigh County would agree to the match.

Mr. Dietrich stated he would like to see this money go into a fund for future litigation if the sale of Braden Airpark became an issue.

In response to Mrs. Thierry’s question as to whether this was a one-time contribution, Mr. Cusick advised the County did provide funding to the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, as well as some other bi-County organizations. He further advised the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority sent a letter requesting $250,000 and as he did with the other groups, he split that amount in half and suggested they get the other half from Lehigh County. He agreed given the composition of Lehigh County’s current Board of Commissioners, it would not appear to be likely that they would provide the additional funding.

Mr. Dietrich stated when the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority requested money, it was to enable them to receive matching funds from the State.

In answer to Mr. McClure’s question as to why Mr. Cusick presented this request and was it something the County should do, Mr. Cusick advised the Airport Authority did have some problems and it was not something he felt the County should do. He further advised he believed the next County Executive should enforce the Articles of Incorporation and prevent the sale of Braden Airpark without County Council agreeing to it.

Mr. Cusick stated Mr. Stoffa indicated he would not pursue the matter should Braden Airpark be put on the market and moved the issue into next year. Therefore, he would hope that the next County Executive and County Council would follow the advice
of County Council’s Solicitor that any change or sale of Braden Airpark would have to be approved by the Northampton County Council and the Lehigh County Commissioners.

Mr. McClure advised he did not think anyone thought this would be a good idea, but he felt the contingency of the Lehigh County Commissioner matching the funds should be removed because it was just a symbolic gesture.

Mr. Kraft stated the Airport Authority may be able to receive some funds for Braden Airpark from the transportation bill that just passed.

In response to Mr. McClure’s question as to whether the passing of this amendment without the Lehigh County Commissioner contingency would advance the cause of Braden Airpark, Mr. Werner advised it would not. He further advised the issue regarding Braden Airpark had been brought to the attention of a lot of people and there was a possibility it could be taken over by an entity that would keep it as an airpark.

Mr. Werner stated he believed the Airport Authority should stand on its own feet and $125,000 was not going to put a dent in what they had to accomplish.

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


This portion of the resolution failed by a vote of 0-9.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments regarding Community & Economic Development (C&ED) – C&ED Administration – Main Street Initiative.

Mr. Cusick advised the amendment would move the Main Street Initiative to the C&ED Department. He further advised the proposed budget had this as a Hotel Tax grant, but moving it would give the County’s C&ED Department more control over how the funds were used.
As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments with regard to Community & Economic Development - Affordable Housing.

Mr. Cusick stated Ms. Lori Sywensky, Community Development Administrator, DCED, indicted yesterday that they used to give the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley $10,000 for affordable housing, but no longer did so it was being removed from the budget.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes" and McClure, "yes".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments regarding Community & Economic Development - Gaming Host County Tables - Northampton County IDA.

Mr. Cusick advised this matter was addressed by Ms. Karner earlier in the evening and was discussed yesterday. He further advised for the last several years, the County Executive had directed $400,000 to the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and then County Council had no control over how it was spent.

Mr. Cusick stated he understood Ms. Karner's argument, but noted the money would still be there, however, by moving it County Council would have considerably more discretion as to how these funds were spent.
Mrs. Ferraro advised the IDA used that money to leverage other funds.

Mr. Cusick stated they could still do that, but they would have to come to County Council for approval and they did have a significant fund balance as a result of previous actions.

Mr. McClure advised he wanted it known that there was no wrongdoing involved, but it was a matter of priorities. He further advised County Council did not know how the new County Executive and County Council would view economic development so it might be good to have $400,000 in the budget to provide them a foundation to grow from.

Mr. Parsons stated Ms. Karner had indicated that some companies wanted to remain anonymous so he wondered if that could be accomplished if that money was moved.

Mr. McClure advised they could request the funding without revealing the details of the transaction.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "no"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "no"; Thierry, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

This portion of the resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-2.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments with regard to Community & Economic Development - Hotel Room Rental Tax 2000 Grants and Hotel Room Rental Tax 2005 Grants.

Mr. Cusick stated this amendment dealt with changes in the Hotel Tax. He further stated part of them were revised estimates that came from the Administration and the other involved changes in the grants.

Mr. Cusick advised the L.V. Arts Council was reduced by $6,100 to match Lehigh County's contribution; the National Canal Museum was given $3,000 more to fund some additional programs; the Main Street Initiative was being moved into the C&ED Department and the Historic Bethlehem Partnership had requested
funding for additional programs.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the two revised estimates for the increase in taxes and future grants, which were received from the Administration.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

This portion was passed by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the reduction to the L.V. Arts Council.

Mr. McClure stated he objected to the reduction since the only reason was to match Lehigh County so he felt there was not an appropriate basis for it and this was the kind of organization the County should be supporting.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Kraft, "no"; McClure, "no"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes" and Gilbert, "yes".

This portion was passed by a vote of 7-2.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the increase in funding for the National Canal Museum from $9,000 to $12,000, which was their request.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Thierry, "yes".

This portion was passed by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick advised County Council voted to add the Main Street Initiative to the C&ED Department so now it had to be subtracted from the Hotel Room Rental Tax Grants. He then called for the vote.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes" and Werner, "yes".
This portion was passed by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the increase to the Historic Bethlehem Partnership from $25,000 to $65,000.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "no"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "no"; Werner, "yes" and Dietrich, "no".

This portion was passed by a vote of 6-3.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments regarding Court Systems & Corrections - Coroner.

Mr. Cusick stated the personnel issue was previously addressed, but the Operating amendment called for an increase of $50,000 for Professional Services.

In answer to Mr. McClure's question as to whether this was recommended yesterday, Mr. Cusick advised it was as it was agreed it was a core function of County government.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes" and Kraft, "yes".

This portion was passed by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick stated Public Works - Parks & Recreation - Personnel was previously addressed.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments regarding Human Services - Human Services-Administration reflected an increase for the sale of the Gracedale beds of $700,000 and a deduction in personnel of $4,400; Human Services Facility reflected an increase of $1,828,800 for the sale of the Wolf Building; Children, Youth & Families reflected a decrease of $200,000 for furniture at the new facility and Drug & Alcohol reflected changes to revenue.
In response to Mr. Werner's question as to whether the $200,000 was being included in the Children, Youth & Families budget, Mr. Cusick advised that was being eliminated because all of the funding had been spent in this budget cycle.

In answer to Mr. Parsons' question as to whether the amounts for the sale of the beds and Wolf Building should be done as budget amendments when the sales actually took place, Mr. Cusick stated the numbers came from the County Executive and Mr. Doran Hamann, Acting Director of Fiscal Affairs, placed them in the amendments.

Mr. McClure advised these were estimates and the Home Rule Charter indicated it was the responsibility of the County Executive to make revenue estimates even though they may not come to fruition. He further advised the sale of the Wolf Building was close to being completed. He noted he understood about the beds and the caution that was expressed yesterday, but there was nothing wrong with being optimistic.

With regard to the beds, Mr. Parsons stated he understood it went into the General Fund, but it was a one-time deal. He further stated the money for the Wolf Building was spent to buy the new Human Services Building.

Mr. McClure advised County Council could not change the revenue estimates and the only remedy would be to vote against the budget as a whole.

In response to Mr. Gilbert's question as to whether he was concerned that the money would be comingled, Mr. Parsons stated he believed this made the General Fund look better than it might be.

Mr. Werner advised the sale of the bed could take more than two years so he agreed it should not be included in this budget.

Mr. Cusick stated based on the information received, all indications were that this sale should take place during the next calendar year, therefore, the only question was whether the revenue estimate was accurate.

Mr. Dietrich advised they approved the budget based on the information provided, but if the revenues estimates proved not to be accurate, the Administration presented three budget
amendments during the year.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Werner, "no"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "no" and Thierry, "yes".

This portion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments regarding Capital Projects - Capital Improvement Projects - County-wide - Disaster Recovery Phase III; Courthouse Complex - HVAC Equipment (Computer Room), Paving Parking Lot; Jail - Window Security Bards, HVAC Equipment; Parks & Recreation - Coroner's Office; Archives Building - Building Improvements; Jail - Bathroom/Shower; Gracedale Nursing Home - Elevator #2, High Voltage System, Curbs & Sidewalks and Kitchen Flooring.

Mr. Cusick stated most of these amendments were to redirect dollars to repair of the Computer Room.

In answer to Mr. Dietrich's question as to whether the projects where the funds were being diverted from were null and void, Mr. Cusick advised it was not so much they were null and void, but there was an indication from the Administration that it was unlikely they would be done next year.

Mr. Dietrich stated the funds for the kitchen floor at Gracedale were put into last year's budget because it was deemed too important to wait to be put into a bond issue and now those funds were being diverted.

Mr. Cusick advised the Gracedale Administrator indicated they would like to replace it, but it was not something that had to be done immediately.

Mr. Werner stated the kitchen floor at Gracedale was not a safety or health issue, but it should have been done during routine maintenance.

Mr. Steven DeSalva, Director of Public Works, advised most small projects at the Courthouse and Gracedale were usually handled by the Operations and Maintenance Division, but some of
them were more involved. He further advised the replacement of the floor had to be done in conjunction with the replacement of equipment in that area.

Mr. DeSalva stated a bid was put out in 2012, but only one bidder responded so they decided it should go for another bid, but in the meantime necessary repairs were made until such time as the floor could be replaced.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes" and Werner, "yes.

This portion was passed by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments regarding 2009 Bond Issue Projects - Bridge Reconstruction, which reflected an increase in the amount of $44,000 in the remaining project balance.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "absent"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

This portion was passed by a vote of 8-0, with one absent.

Based on the votes for the various amendments, this resolution was adopted.

Adoption of the 2014 Northampton County Budget as Amended

Mr. Cusick advised County Council would now consider a resolution to adopt the 2014 budget, as amended.

Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolution:
R. 109-2013 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following 2014 Northampton County Budgets (incorporated by reference hereto) shall be adopted, as amended, this 5th day of December 2013.

1. General Fund
2. Special Revenue Funds
3. Capital Project Funds

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "no"; Ferraro, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes" and Thierry, "no".

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

Adoption of the 2014 Capital Improvements Plan

Consideration of Amendments to the Proposed 2014 Capital Improvements Plan

Mr. Cusick stated these amendments were discussed at yesterday’s meeting and were a compilation of the amendments offered and agreed to at various meetings held throughout the budget hearing process.

Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolution:

R. 110-2013 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the proposed 2014 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan (Plan) shall be amended as indicated hereafter:

1. All capital improvements projects listed on pages 181-182, that have a useful life of 20+ years, shall be moved from the heading Operating Funds to the heading Bond Proceeds.

2. The refurbishment of Bridge No. 168, at an estimated cost of $1,500,000.00 to restore pedestrian and vehicular traffic, shall be added to the heading Bond Proceeds on page 181.
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As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes" and McClure, "yes".

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

Adoption of the 2014 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan

Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolution:

R. 111-2013 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the proposed 2014 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan (Plan) shall be adopted, as amended, this 5th day of December 2013.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

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

Adoption of the 2014 Real Estate Tax Millage Rate Ordinance

Mr. Cusick asked Mr. Hamann to provide the County’s financial picture at this time.

Mr. Hamann advised there would be an additional $2,507,100 being budgeted in the General Fund and $92,200 in expenditures, with the total impact being $2,599,300. He further advised after subtracting the proposed budgetary Fund Balance of $18,850,800, it would leave $16,251,500. He noted when $16 million was subtracted from the $32 million, it left a Stabilization Fund of $16 million.

Mr. Cusick stated the following ordinance was introduced by Messrs. Cusick and Gilbert at the meeting held November 7, 2013. He further stated the public hearing was conducted at the County
Council meeting held November 21, 2013. He noted the 2014 rate was the same as the 2013 rate of 10.8 mills.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGE RATE IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON FOR THE YEAR 2014

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED that the millage rate for real estate tax purposes for the year 2014 shall be set at 10.8 mills on every dollar of assessed valuation of taxable real estate or $1.08 on every $100.00 of assessed valuation.

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

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Thierry, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

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

Consideration of the Ordinance Providing for Amendments to the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative Guidelines:

a. Public Hearing; b. Consideration of the Resolution Amending the Ordinance Providing for Amendments to the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative Guidelines

Mr. Cusick advised the following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Ferraro at the meeting held November 21, 2013:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council adopted ordinance #423-2004, the ordinance titled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE, ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, CREATING THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD AND ESTABLISHING ITS DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE," at the meeting held November 4, 2004. The ordinance was signed by the County Executive on November 5,
2004 and it became effective as such on December 5, 2004. The
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE GUIDELINES
were subsequently amended via the enactment of ordinances #468-
2007, #533-2011, #552 of 2012, and #559-2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the
Northampton County Council that the following section (bold
underline) shall be added to the third paragraph under the
heading of PROGRAM SUMMARY, Part 1, Open Space and Natural Areas
Program and would read as follows:

Based on the availability of funds and the grant application
meeting the program’s basic eligibility requirements, the
applicant may be eligible for a grant equal to 50 percent of the
property’s appraised value or $300,000, whichever is less. Joint
applications can be grants of up to $300,000 per
applicant. However, and not withstanding anything herein to the
contrary, grant applications seeking funding in excess of 50% of
the appraised value or in excess of $300,000 may be considered
on a case by case basis.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton
County Council that the following section (bold underline) shall
be added to Item No. 6. Under Frequently Asked Questions, and
would then read as follows:

6. What is the maximum grant award under the Open Space and
Natural Areas Program?

The maximum grant shall not be more than 50 percent of the
property’s value or $300,000, whichever is less. Joint
applications can be for grants of up to $300,000 per applicant.
However, and not withstanding anything herein to the contrary,
grant applications seeking funding in excess of 50% of the
appraised value or in excess of $300,000 may be considered on a
case by case basis. The fair market value of a property or
easement is determined by the appraisal report submitted with
the application. The appraisal must be done by a state certified
appraiser. The attached application materials provide guidelines
for the required appraisal report.

Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days
after the date of enactment.
Public Hearing

Mr. Bill Mineo, Open Space Advisory Board - stated the Open Space Advisory Board discussed and approved the changes as a necessary component of their future plans. He further stated these changes would allow for clarification and a better and more efficient approach.

Ms. Vicki Bastidas, Open Space Advisory Board - advised the Open Space Initiative Guidelines were more than ten years old and the cost of real estate had increased so it was much more difficult to pay for those projects they would like to bring in.

With regard to the two properties being presented tonight, Ms. Bastidas stated they were taking a small park and doubling the size. She further stated if County Council allowed this park to be sold to developers for a strip mall and apartments, it would degrade the park. She noted this park was not only centrally located, but played a part in the storm water management in Bethlehem.

Mr. Donald Miles, Elected Chairman of Lehigh Valley Sierra Club - advised the Sierra Club was the oldest and largest environmental organization in the world. He further advised the Sierra Club had worked closely with the Friends of Johnston for several years.

Mr. Miles stated the land at issue, other than the Lehigh River itself, was probably the most environmentally sensitive and significant land in the Bethlehem area. He further stated it was a primary storm water recharge area for the Monocacy Creek for storm water that came from the upstream development that had blossomed over the last few decades and helped the City of Bethlehem from being flooded.

Mr. Miles advised it had nine ecosystems located within it and the acquisition of this land would greatly increase the size of the area and protect the entire environmentally sensitive land that was involved. He further advised if this land was not preserved, it would probably become a shopping center and apartments because it was very close to Route 191.

Mr. Miles stated the Sierra Club and the 600 members that lived in the Bethlehem and Northampton County area urged the resolutions be adopted.
Ms. Maria Bentzoni - advised this ordinance would allow the Open Space Advisory Board and the County, as administrators, to bring projects to County Council only on a case by case basis.

Mr. Bob Adams, Bethlehem Township, PA - stated he was a member of the Sierra Club and hoped this ordinance passed because this would give this land a chance to be preserved.

As there were no further questions or comments from the public, Mr. Cusick asked if any member of County Council had any questions or comments.

There were no respondents.

Consideration of the Resolution Amending the Ordinance Providing for Amendments to the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative Guidelines

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution that would amend the Open Space Initiative Guidelines:

R. 112-2013  WHEREAS, Bill No. 652-2013, the ordinance titled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE GUIDELINES" was duly introduced at the November 21, 2013 meeting of the Northampton County Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bill No. 652 shall be amended by adding the following sections:

a. In the Part 2 Municipal Park Acquisition and Development Program Section of the Open Space Initiative Guidelines, under the heading USE OF GRANT FUNDS:

(1) Under the section "examples of eligible uses of program funds", the fifth bulleted section shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked by **bold underline** have been added and sections marked by strikeout have been deleted):

- To allow for security and safety systems to protect and maintain improvements.

(2) Under the section "following uses and costs are NOT eligible under this program", a sixth bulleted section shall
be added as indicated hereafter (sections marked by **bold underline** have been added):

- **To acquire, install and/or maintain security cameras at municipal park facilities.**

Mr. Parsons advised he disagreed with this amendment because he believed funds for security cameras should come out of a parks budget.

Mr. Cusick stated he felt that municipal park improvement funds should be used for upgrading things like basketball courts and playground equipment and security cameras was a public safety issue.

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

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "no"; Thierry, "no"; Werner, "no"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes" and Ferraro, "no".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 5-4.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the following amended ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council adopted ordinance #423-2004, the ordinance titled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE, ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, CREATING THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD AND ESTABLISHING ITS DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE," at the meeting held November 4, 2004. The ordinance was signed by the County Executive on November 5, 2004 and it became effective as such on December 5, 2004. The NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE GUIDELINES were subsequently amended via the enactment of ordinances #468-2007, #533-2011, #552 of 2012, and #559-2012.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council that the following section (bold underline) shall be added to the third paragraph under the heading of PROGRAM SUMMARY, Part 1, Open Space and Natural Areas Program and would read as follows:

Based on the availability of funds and the grant application meeting the program's basic eligibility requirements, the applicant may be eligible for a grant equal to 50 percent of the property's appraised value or $300,000, whichever is less. Joint applications can be grants of up to $300,000 per applicant. However, and not withstanding anything herein to the contrary, grant applications seeking funding in excess of 50% of the appraised value or in excess of $300,000 may be considered on a case by case basis.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council that the following section (bold underline) shall be added to Item No. 6. Under Frequently Asked Questions, and would then read as follows:

6. What is the maximum grant award under the Open Space and Natural Areas Program?

The maximum grant shall not be more than 50 percent of the property's value or $300,000, whichever is less. Joint applications can be for grants of up to $300,000 per applicant. However, and not withstanding anything herein to the contrary, grant applications seeking funding in excess of 50% of the appraised value or in excess of $300,000 may be considered on a case by case basis. The fair market value of a property or easement is determined by the appraisal report submitted with the application. The appraisal must be done by a state certified appraiser. The attached application materials provide guidelines for the required appraisal report.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council that in the Part 2 Municipal Park Acquisition and Development Program Section of the Open Space Initiative Guidelines, under the heading USE OF GRANT FUNDS:

(1) Under the section "examples of eligible uses of program funds", the fifth bulleted section shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked by bold underline have been added and sections marked by strikeout have been deleted):
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- To allow for security and safety systems to protect and maintain improvements.

(2) Under the section “following uses and costs are NOT eligible under this program”, a sixth bulleted section shall be added as indicated hereafter (sections marked by **bold underline** have been added):

- To acquire, install and/or maintain security cameras at municipal park facilities.

Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after the date of enactment.

Mr. McClure advised he would support these guidelines and he urged his fellow County Council members to do the same.

Mr. Cusick stated he agreed with Mr. McClure because there were unique circumstances by which properties were brought before County Council for preservation so there was a need for consideration on a case by case basis.

Mr. Werner advised he also agreed and it had been ten years so he believed there should be a more proactive approach in addressing things and this was a step in the right direction.

Mr. Parsons stated the Open Space Advisory Board was taking on the task of reviewing the guidelines so there may be more changes brought forward next year.

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

The vote: Ferraro, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Werner "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes" and Kraft, "yes".

The ordinance was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Consideration of Pending Open Space Initiative Projects: a. Central Moravian Church Property; b. Leckonby Estate Property

Central Moravian Church Property

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 113-2013 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 Natural Lands Trust, of the Central Moravian Church Property, Bethlehem Township, Northampton County; and

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

Property Owner(s): Central Moravian Church
Site Location: 3816 Christian Springs Road
Bethlehem, PA
Northampton County
Parcel Identification: Part of M7-7-1
Site Information: 26 acres
Appraised Value: $870,000 / $615,000
Municipal Allocation:
County Grant Request: $367,500.00
Other Grants: $367,500.00 Requested from 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 Natural Lands Trust, of the Central Moravian Church Property being 26
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acres, located at 3816 Christian Springs Road Bethlehem, PA, Northampton County, and also known as part of M7-7-1.

(2) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $367,500.00 as consideration for the fee simple acquisition, by the Natural Lands Trust, of the Central Moravian Church Property.

Mr. Cusick advised this action would preserve history and there were many organizations that were behind preserving this land.

Mr. Werner stated there had been many conversations regarding the impact this would have on the surrounding communities.

Mr. McClure advised the Open Space Advisory Board recommended this land be preserved.

Mr. Parsons stated an outstanding presentation was given at the Parks and Open Space Committee meeting and it was an unbelievable piece of property with many plans for it. He further stated the Open Space Advisory Board unanimously recommend the preservation of this property.

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

The vote: Parsons, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietrich, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Thierry, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

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

Leckonby Estate Property

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 114-2013 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 Natural Lands Trust, of the Leckonby Estate Property, City of Bethlehem and Bethlehem Township, Northampton County; and

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

| Property Owner(s):            | Estate of Amanda J. Leckonby, John A. Zapf II, Executor |
| Site Location:                | 1311 Santee Mill Road                                       |
|                               | Bethlehem, PA 18017                                           |
|                               | Northampton County                                        |
| Parcel Identification:        | Parts of M6-8-1-0204 and M6-8-1-0205                       |
| Site Information:             | 18.1925 acres                                                |
| Appraised Value:              | $580,000/$440,000                                           |
| Municipal Allocation:         |                                                              |
| County Grant Request:         | $290,000.00                                                  |
| Other Grants:                 | $290,000.00 Requested from 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 Natural Lands Trust, of the Leckonby Estate Property, City of Bethlehem and Bethlehem Township, Northampton County being 18.1925 acres, located at 1311 Santee Mill Road Bethlehem, PA 18017, Northampton County, and also known as parts of M6-8-1-0204 and M6-8-1-0205.

(2) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $290,000.00 as consideration for the fee simple acquisition, by the Natural Lands Trust, of the Leckonby estate property.
Mr. Parsons advised the Open Space Advisory Board unanimously recommended the preservation of this property and there was funding for both of these projects.

Mr. Werner stated that Ms. Bentzoni and Mr. Brian Cope, Open Space Coordinator, have done an excellent job with regard to open space and farmland preservation.

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

The vote: Parsons, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Gilbert, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Thierry, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietrich, "yes".

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

Economic Development Committee Report

Mrs. Ferraro advised the Economic Development Committee met earlier in the evening and Ms. Kim Lilly, Executive Vice President for Discover Lehigh Valley, talked about their financial situation and strategies and Mr. Michael Stershic, President, reviewed the convention center study.

Mrs. Ferraro stated that Ms. Karner gave a recap and summary of the accomplishments of the DCED. She then wished Ms. Karner well in her new position with the City of Bethlehem.

Comments from County Council

Mr. Cusick advised he wanted to thank all the newly elected members of County Council and County Executive for attending the CCAP conference and hoped they gained something from it.

Mr. Kraft stated he would not be able to attend next week's meeting so he wanted to let the members of County Council know that it was a pleasure serving with them.
Adjournment

Mr. McClure made a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Thierry seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

Frank E. Flisser
Clerk to Council