Easton, Pennsylvania       January 7, 2013

The 2013 organizational meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: John Cusick, President; Margaret L. Ferraro, Vice President (via speaker telephone); Thomas H. Dietrich; Lamont G. McClure, Jr.; Scott Parsons; Frank E. Flisser, Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council. Absent were Bruce A. Gilbert; Kenneth M. Kraft; Barbara A. Thierry and Robert F. Werner.

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.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Cusick asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to offer comments. There were no respondents.

Objection to Participation by Speaker Telephone

Mr. McClure indicated his objection to having Mrs. Ferraro participating via speaker telephone in that Mr. Kraft was diagnosed with influenza today and he wished to participate via speaker telephone as well, but he could not because due to the lack of technological capability.

Mr. Lauer stated earlier today he had ruled that it was appropriate for someone to participate in a meeting via a speaker telephone as long as they could hear and be heard during the meeting. He further stated having Mrs. Ferraro being able to participate via speaker telephone was not the issue, but whether the meeting should proceed because another member was denied that access and he would leave that up to the members of County Council.
Mr. Cusick advised Mrs. Thierry had indicated she was on her way so they could wait for her arrival in order to proceed.

Mr. McClure stated that he would withdraw his objection because he did not want to create a situation where there would not be a quorum, but this should not be allowed to happen in the future.

Selection of County Council Officers

A. President of County Council

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any nominations for President of County Council.

Mr. McClure nominated Mr. Kraft in absentia.

Mr. Cusick advised the nomination failed due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Dietrich nominated Mr. Cusick for the position of President.

Mrs. Ferraro seconded the nomination.

As there were no further nominations, Mr. Cusick asked for a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. McClure stated as a point of order, he would like to note that according to Roberts Rules, a second for nominations for the selection of officers was not necessary.

Mr. Lauer advised that was correct.

Mr. McClure stated that Mr. Kraft could be considered despite the fact there was no second.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the nominations.


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Mr. Flisser advised Mr. Cusick won with the vote being 3-1 with 1 abstention.

Mr. McClure called a point of order asking if this was a resolution.

Mr. Flisser stated it was not, it was a motion.

In answer to Mr. McClure’s question as to whether this was normally done by resolution, Mr. Flisser advised it was done both ways.

Mr. McClure advised historically the rule was that in order to be elected to an officer position on County Council, five votes were required.

Mr. Cusick stated this was a motion and a motion required a majority of the quorum.

Mr. Lauer advised this was presented as a motion and for a motion, a majority of the quorum was required so the motion passed.

**B. Vice President of County Council**

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

Mr. Cusick nominated Mrs. Ferraro for the position of Vice President in absentia.

Mr. Dietrich seconded the nomination.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any other nominations for the office of Vice President.

Mr. McClure nominated Mr. Werner in absentia.

As there were no further nominations, Mr. Cusick closed the nominations and called for the vote.

Mr. Cusick stated Mrs. Ferraro won by a vote of 3-1 with 1 abstention.

Mr. McClure advised in the time that he had served on County Council, he did not think a President or Vice President had ever been elected with three votes. He further advised he would like to know how often these offices were elected through motions and resolutions and the last time a President and Vice President were elected with three votes.

Adjournment

Mr. McClure made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Dietrich seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

Frank E. Flisser
Clerk to Council