Easton, Pennsylvania

July 17, 2014

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: Margaret L. Ferraro, President; Glenn A. Geissinger, Vice-President; Mathew M. Benol; Lamont G. McClure, Jr. (via telephone); Scott Parsons; Hayden Phillips; Seth Vaughn; Robert F. Werner; Frank E. Flisser, Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council. Absent was Kenneth M. Kraft.

Prayer

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Vaughn 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 July 1, 2014 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Parsons seconded the motion.

Mr. Phillips stated at the end of the last meeting, he indicated he wanted privatization of the maintenance and housekeeping at Gracedale to be looked at. He further stated he would like the minutes to be amended to include privatization of the laundry service.

The minutes, as amended, were approved by voice acclamation, with Mrs. Ferraro abstaining.
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Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Steve Parkansky, Police Chief, Wilson Borough Police Department - stated he had been a police officer for approximately 30 years and he met Mr. David Dalrymple, the appointee for Sheriff, about 20 years ago. He further stated Mr. Dalrymple was a widely respected law enforcement professional and he would encourage approval of his appointment because the County Executive could not have chosen a better individual for this position.

Mr. Thomas Fisher, 2425 Oakdale Avenue, Palmer, PA - advised he was a lifelong resident of the County and agreed with Chief Parkansky. He further advised he met Mr. Dalrymple as a student athlete in 1982 and from that time on, he got to know his family, several of whom worked in law enforcement.

Mr. Fisher stated in his years of experience as an educator, he knew that organizations were built on people and he could not think of a more qualified person for the position of Sheriff for Northampton County.

Mr. Mike Macy, 415 East Walnut Street, Nazareth, PA - stated he had 30 years of experience as a local banker and had known Mr. Jim Hunter for many years and even served as his supervisor at one point. He further stated Mr. Hunter was able to mitigate risk, analyze financial information and after reviewing the facts, make the tough decisions.

Mr. Macy advised he found that Mr. Hunter was able to deal with all levels of individuals in an organization. He further advised he supported him as Director of Fiscal Affairs.

Mr. Mike Vangelo, 303 Frost Hollow Road, Easton, PA - stated he had been a police officer in Northampton County for 24 years and knew Mr. Dalrymple, as well as his sister. He further stated he just returned from a police training conference where they talked about collaboration between the different emergency response agencies. He noted he knew they would be able to collaborate with the Sheriff’s Department because of the relationship already established with Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Vangelo advised he felt this was a great appointment and one that he supported.
Ms. Ann Terres, 1580 Chaucer Lane, Bethlehem, PA - stated she was the Chairperson of the Gracedale Advisory Board and provided a document reflecting reasons for their request for an expansion of their board (see Attachment #1).

Ms. Terres advised per Medicare.gov, Gracedale received four out of five stars for quality measures so she wanted to thank Premier Healthcare Resources and the Gracedale staff for the work they put into receiving the four stars. She further advised she would also like to thank Gracedale’s many volunteers who served as the eyes and ears of the residents.

Mr. Rocco DelVecchio, 3066 Gloucester Drive, Bethlehem, PA - stated he was President and Chief Operating Officer of Lafayette Ambassador Bank. He further stated he had known Mr. Hunter for more than 20 years and he had an excellent reputation in the industry and community, noting he had volunteered at many organizations throughout the Lehigh Valley.

Mr. DelVecchio advised he would definitely be an asset to the position of Director of Fiscal Affairs and the County.

Ms. Maria Montero, Executive Director of the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs - advised she represented the one million Latinos in the Commonwealth. She further advised it was an honor that the County Executive had identified Mr. Luis Campos as a competent and excellent representative of not only the Latino community, but the County.

Ms. Montero stated she had known Mr. Campos for almost 20 years and he had been an exemplary worker dedicated to his community so she asked County Council to support him in his appointment as Director of Administration. She further stated having a Latino in this position meant a lot to her and the community and he would help to move the County forward.

Mr. Steve Wiencek, 485 Bunnytrail Drive, Bangor, PA - advised he was the Business Administrator for the Bangor Area School District and up until recently Chairman of the County Tax Collection Committee. He further advised he had a professional relationship with Mr. Hunter for more than 12 years and found him to be dependable and honest.
Mr. Wiencek stated Mr. Hunter was a valuable asset to the school board when he worked there, had the ability to say no when necessary, was a hard worker and dedicated to efficiency and accuracy. He further stated County Council and the residents of Northampton County would not be disappointed in his appointment.

Mr. Ed Reagan, 1364 Fox Ridge, Easton, PA - advised he was here to speak as a resident of the County and as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania. He further advised Northampton County was only one of two counties in the Commonwealth that did not elect its Sheriff. He noted he was appointed by County Council, which could cause an issue if he had to investigate any malfeasance by them.

Mr. Reagan stated Pennsylvania had uniform firearm laws, which meant no County or local government could have any of its own regulations, but Northampton County still had regulations dealing with the Parks Division that were unenforceable. He further stated when he mentioned this to the previous Sheriff, he was told they checked with the County Solicitor and there was no violation.

Mr. Reagan advised there was a case that overturned the Chicago handgun ban and incorporated the Second Amendment as a protected civil right through the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. He further advised if the County had an employee who was not going to follow pre-emption in the laws of the Commonwealth in applying the same way every other County did, it would open the County up to a civil rights violation lawsuit so that concerned him as a citizen and taxpayer.

Mr. Reagan stated when he came in for his gun permit, he had to wait 45 days, but the law stated 45 days or background check and he already had a permit. He further stated in every nearby County when a person walked in for a Permit to Carry whether it was a new application or renewal, they did a check through the Pennsylvania Instant Check System and issued the permit the same day. He noted a right delayed is a right denied.

Mr. Reagan advised his other concern was the fact the previous Sheriff stopped issuing non-resident permits. He further advised the State law stated if a person lived in a State that did not have a reciprocity agreement with
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Pennsylvania, a non-resident permit had to be issued if they passed a background check. He noted the previous Sheriff was violating that State law by whitewashing it as a tax savings to the residents of this County by not issuing non-resident permits.

Mr. Reagan stated he was not speaking against Mr. Dalrymple, but about this County equally enforcing rights and opening itself up to civil rights violation lawsuits. He further stated his concern about hiring a retired New Jersey State Police Trooper was he knew the laws of that State, which was one of six in the United States that had no State constitutional right to bear arms.

Mr. Reagan advised if someone lived in a municipality where there was no local police department, Mr. Dalrymple was going to have to sign the National Firearms Act paperwork because in Pennsylvania, National Firearms Act items were legal. He further advised him it concerned him that right may be denied because someone knew the laws of New Jersey and not Pennsylvania.

Mr. Reagan stated he hoped County Council would take his concerns into consideration and one of things he planned to do was to look at changing the Home Rule Charter so the Sheriff was accountable to the citizens of the County and not to those who appointed him.

Mr. Bob Cartwright, Portland, PA - advised he saw Mr. Hunter's appointment in the newspaper and since he felt very strongly about his appointment, he wanted to address County Council.

Mr. Cartwright stated his adult years were spent in public service and did not know Mr. Hunter personally only professionally. He further stated when their local church was closing, which would result in the food pantry closing, he contacted the local bank because there was another church that was interested in taking over the food pantry. He noted Mr. Hunter took it upon himself to ensure the food pantry stayed opened.

Mr. Cartwright advised Mr. Hunter belonged to various volunteer organizations and his reputation in the Slate Belt was above reproach. He further advised he came tonight because he wanted to let everyone know that he strongly and firmly believed
that he was the right candidate for this job and no one would ever second guess their decision to hire him.

Mr. Julio Guridy, 3611 Aster Street, Allentown, PA - stated he was addressing County Council in support of his friend, Mr. Campos and commended the County Executive for his foresight to appoint Mr. Campos as Director of Administration.

Mr. Guridy advised he first met Mr. Campos 14 years ago while he was obtaining his Master’s Degree in government where he expressed a deep interest in government and the governmental process. He further advised since that time, he had cultivated strong ties within the community and accumulated an impressive resume.

Mr. Guridy stated he had the privilege of watching Mr. Campos transform from a student to a successful business person, Chairman of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board and family man. He further stated he had a tremendous work ethic and was a very resourceful and determined individual and took his professional responsibilities very seriously.

Mr. Guridy advised he had no hesitation in endorsing Mr. Campos as Director of Administration for Northampton County because he had all the traits and practical experience required. He urged County Council to support Mr. Campos for this position and thanked them for the work they did for the County.

Mr. Tom Groves, Vice President, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - stated he had known Mr. Campos for ten years both professionally and personally. He further stated he knew him to be a leader of the upmost integrity, hardworking, ambitious, good family man and someone who knew how to help the community.

Mr. Groves advised he would highly recommend Mr. Campos for his appointment for Director of Administration.

Mr. Juan Vidal, Board Member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - advised he had known Mr. Campos for more than ten years and throughout those years, he had worked with him in various capacities where his community leadership skills were observed. He further advised he was a man of great passion, integrity and family man.
Mr. Vidal stated he was a leader in the community and he believed he would be a great asset to Northampton County. He further stated he was honored to endorse him to become the next Director of Administration.

Ms. Susana Ramos Recinos, Board Member for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - advised it was her honor and privilege to be in front of County Council to endorse Mr. Campos, noting she had known him for more than a year through the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She further advised she was confident that he had the right leadership qualities to be part of the County Executive’s team and represent the Spanish community.

Mr. Victor Salicetti, Treasurer for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - stated he had known Mr. Campos for more than seven years and found him to be a great leader in the community and family man. He further stated he had demonstrated from early in their relationship that he understood the value of relationships in the community, strived under adversity, possessed a tremendous work ethic, understood the bottom line and had a knack of bringing opposing groups together.

Mr. Salicetti advised Mr. Campos would make an excellent Director of Administration and was eager to join the County Executive’s administrative team. He further advised his extensive relationships in the community would prove valuable to Northampton County and to the County Executive.

Mr. Salicetti stated it was without hesitation that he endorsed Mr. Campos as Director of Administration and he hoped County Council would vote for his appointment.

County Executive’s Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, advised he did not have anything to report.

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Providing for an Amendment to the Number of Individuals Serving on the Gracedale Advisory Board
Mrs. Ferraro stated the following ordinance was introduced by Messrs. Werner and Geissinger at the meeting held July 1, 2014. She further stated once the ordinance was enacted, a resolution approving the Gracedale Advisory Board bylaws would be prepared for consideration at the August 7, 2014 County Council meeting.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 546-2012 AND PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE GRACEDALE ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 546-2012, the ordinance titled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ARTICLE XV AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE GRACEDALE ADVISORY BOARD," was enacted on March 20, 2012; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the enactment of Ordinance No. 546-2012 the Gracedale Advisory Board (Board) requested an increase in the number of individuals who can serve on the Board, from a minimum of nine up to a maximum of fifteen.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED that the following section of Ordinance No. 546-2012, shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with bold underline have been added and sections marked with strikeout have been deleted):

WHEREAS, the Gracedale Advisory Board is being created in paragraph no. 18, which is set forth below. Further, the Gracedale Advisory Board shall be comprised of a minimum of nine (9) members up to a maximum of fifteen (15) members, one of which shall be a member of the Northampton County Council. In addition, in accordance with Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 1004. Administration (b) Rules of Procedure., the Gracedale Advisory Board shall have the power to establish its rules of procedure, including methods of recruiting regular attendance at meetings. Such rules of procedure shall not become effective unless the County Council, by resolution, approves them.
Public Hearing

Mrs. Ferraro asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

There were no respondents.

Mrs. Ferraro asked if there were any comments or questions from the members of County Council.

As there were no questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

The vote: Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; McClure, "no"; Parsons, "no"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Benol, "yes".

The ordinance was adopted by a vote of 6-2.

Confirmation of the County Executive Personnel Appointments:  a. Director of Administration, b. Director of Fiscal Affairs, c. Sheriff

Mrs. Ferraro advised at the Personnel Committee meeting held on July 16, 2014, County Executive’s appointments were reviewed and the Committee members voted to present them to County Council for consideration.

Director of Administration

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

R. 62-2014 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that Luis E. Campos shall be confirmed in his appointment to the position of Director of Administration, at the salary of $87,838, Step 1-A of the Career Exempt Pay Scale, Group VI, effective July 17, 2014.

As there were no questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.
The vote: Ferraro, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes" and Geissinger, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Director of Fiscal Affairs

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

R. 63-2014 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that James W. Hunter, Jr. shall be confirmed in his appointment to the position of Director of Fiscal Affairs, at the salary of $87,838, Step 1-A of the Career Exempt Pay Scale, Group VI, effective July 17, 2014.

Mr. Parsons stated he knew Mr. Hunter for a long time and he looked forward to working with him. He further stated he was a hard worker and of excellent character.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

The vote: Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes", Benol, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Parsons, "yes" and McClure, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Sheriff

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

R. 64-2014 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that David J. Dalrymple shall be confirmed in his appointment to the position of Sheriff, at the salary of $91,422, Step 4-D of the Career Exempt Pay Scale, Group V, effective July 17, 2014.

Mr. Benol advised he knew Mr. Dalrymple a long time and the only complaint he heard was the fact he was from New Jersey. He further advised it was long held by people that Phillipsburg and
Easton were the same town separated by a river so the concerns about him being from New Jersey was unfounded.

Mr. Werner stated the concern was not about Mr. Dalrymple’s qualifications, but it was more about the principles of residency and the Home Rule Charter.

Mr. Geissinger advised the issue was raised earlier about the differences between the laws of the State of New Jersey and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with regard to the carrying of firearms. He further advised during the interview process, Mr. Dalrymple indicated that his job was to enforce the laws not to create, improve or make them.

Mr. Geissinger stated after reviewing his resume, he was emphatically in support of Mr. Dalrymple because he felt he was a man of his word and would enforce the laws of the Commonwealth when it came to the carrying of firearms.

In answer to Mr. Parsons’s question as to whether the Courts participated in the process and what were their thoughts, Mr. Brown advised he submitted his three recommendations to the Courts according to the Home Rule Charter. He further advised the Courts recommended two additional individuals and all five were interviewed.

Mr. Brown stated after he and President Judge Stephen Baratta interviewed all of the finalists, they came to the same conclusion. He further stated at that point, the Courts deferred to the Administration to make the final selection and make the recommendation to County Council.

In response to Mr. Parsons’ question as to whether there was any State law that would prevent this appointment due to residency, Mr. Brown advised he did not know of any and was not advised of any. He further advised the intent of the process was to identify the best candidate and he did not think his residency across the river was a sufficient enough reason to disqualify him.

Mrs. Ferraro stated she talked to Judge Baratta and he was fully supportive of this appointment.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.
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The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-1.

Mr. Dalrymple advised he wanted to thank everyone involved in the process. He further advised he was honored to be an employee and endeavored to serve to the best of his ability.

Mr. Campos stated he wanted to echo Mr. Dalrymple’s remarks. He further stated he wanted to thank the members of County Council and the County Executive for nominating him because he always wanted to return to government work.

Mr. Campos advised he wanted to give back to the County that had given him so much and looked forward to continuing the efforts he started. He further advised he wanted to work with each member of County Council individually and the communities.

Mr. Hunter stated it was an honor and privilege to be able to serve this County and to be part of the process. He further stated he wanted to thank County Council for their confirmation and to the people who spoke on his behalf.

Mr. Hunter advised he wanted to thank Mr. Brown for his confidence and putting him into this position. He further advised he would not let County Council down and he was looking forward to working with everyone.

Consideration of the Outside Legal Counsel Authorization
Resolution: Kennedy PC Law Offices

Mrs. Ferraro advised the Finance Committee met on July 16, 2014, to review the request for an increase in the Kennedy PC Law Offices outside legal counsel services contract for Gracedale collections.

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 65-2014 WHEREAS, on April 18, 2013, Northampton County Council adopted Resolution No. 14-2013 which authorized the awarding of a $30,000 contract to Kennedy PC Law Offices for outside legal counsel to assist Gracedale with the collections
of unpaid patient accounts; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2013, County Council adopted Resolution No. 81-2013 which authorized an increase in the contract with Kennedy PC Law Offices to an amount not to exceed $150,000; and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2014, the County Solicitor requested a proposed second increase in the contract with Kennedy PC Law Offices up to the amount of $225,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council that it does hereby concur with the request of the County Solicitor for the proposed second increase in the contract with Kennedy PC Law Offices up to the amount of $225,000, as set forth in the attached documentation (refer to attachment "A").

Mr. Geissinger stated the administration at Gracedale felt that Kennedy PC Law Offices was doing an excellent job in helping the County collect debts that have been outstanding for a long period of time. He further stated they also indicated the County was getting a significant return on its investment so it was the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve this resolution.

Mr. Werner advised the County’s investment was a little more than $100,000, but the return was expected to be more than $800,000. He further advised their fees were reasonable and they have done an outstanding job on accountability.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Phillips, "yes" and Vaughn, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Mrs. Ferraro stated these contract approval requests were reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting.

Borton Lawson

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 66-2014 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 June 20, 2014, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing Contract Amendment #22, Contract Number C04-118, in the amount of $21,336.00, with Borton Lawson Engineering to conduct a Phase II Bog Turtle Survey with regard to the replacement of Bridge No. 213

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 approve Contract Amendment #22, Contract Number C04-118, in the amount of $21,336.00, with Borton Lawson Engineering to conduct a Phase II Bog Turtle Survey with regard to the replacement of Bridge No. 213 to be funded through the 2013 Bond Issue.

Mr. Geissinger advised it was a Federal requirement to conduct this study given the possible impact on the turtle’s habitat so it was recommended this resolution be approved.

Mr. Benol stated he did not see how a $21,000 study should hold up a bridge project so he could not justify voting for it.

Mr. Werner advised if the County did not do the study then the bridge would not get repaired.

Mr. Geissinger stated the County was looking for State or other funding to take care of some of these projects, therefore, he felt the study was necessary and it was prudent for County Council to move it forward.
As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Benol, "no"; Ferraro, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-1.

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 67-2014  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 3, 2014, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a contract, in the amount of $75,000.00, with Pennoni Associates, Inc. for the evaluation testing of five (5) County bridges using THMPR technology.

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 approve a contract with Pennoni Associates, Inc. for the evaluation testing of five (5) County bridges using THMPR technology.

Mr. Geissinger advised this particular technology was unique to Pennoni and given some of the testing they have done in other Counties, they have proven an ability to save significant funds by identifying those structural defects or non-defects in bridges and create an environment where certified engineering could go forth on these bridges and prioritize them according to any defects they had. He further advised the Finance Committee recommended moving this contract forward because the $75,000 could save the County significantly.
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As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.


Mrs. Ferraro stated on July 15, 2014, the Open Space Committee met to review these Open Space Grant applications and voted to present them to the whole of County Council for consideration.

Mr. Parsons advised a presentation was made at the meeting for all of these projects. He further advised all the projects came from the Phase II funding of the Municipal Park Grants.

In answer to Mr. Phillips’ question as to where these funds originally came from, Mr. Parsons stated there was a five year plan that included a $5 million grant whereby a total of $1 million would be distributed among the municipalities depending upon their population for five years. He further stated each grant had to be matched by either the municipality or other funding and the project had to be done within two years. He noted this was a way for the County to give back to the municipalities and improve their park systems.

Mr. Phillips advised he was all for giving back, but he was concerned because in 2012, the County’s unrestricted reserve was $24.7 million and in 2013, the County spent $13 million in expenses more than it took in revenues and the County’s unrestricted reserve was down to $11.8 million.
Mr. Phillips stated the County Executive had indicated the County was on par for similar spending in 2014. He further stated the auditor indicated the County should have between $33 million to $66 million in the unrestricted reserve.

Mr. Phillips advised in the past, the unrestricted reserve was a source that would allow the County to avoid increasing taxes. He further advised now it was a concern because that financial well was no longer there and had to be replenished.

Mr. Phillips stated these projects came to approximately $400,000 and he would rather see that money designated for unrestricted funds so the County would be in much better shape when it entered its budget process.

Mr. Geissinger advised he respected where Mr. Phillips was coming from, but it was his understanding these funds came from the .5 mill that was added specifically at the request of the taxpayers for farmland preservation, open space and parks. He further advised the citizens of the County have indicated that as long as those funds were within a certain parameter, they wanted these kinds of projects to improve their quality of life.

Mr. Geissinger stated he was not in support of buying a golf course earlier this year because he did not feel that project was within the intent of the taxpayers. He further stated these were projects to improve parks and trails in the communities and some of the funding was coming from outside the County.

Mr. Geissinger advised one of the reasons he was supporting these projects was the return on investment, noting it had been proven time and again when a community took advantage of these types of opportunities, it improved the quality of the community.

Mr. Phillips stated in the 2002 referendum, there was supposed to be a $30 million bond for open space, which was approved by a large percentage, but it was a non-binding referendum and he knew this because the County never got the bonds.

Mr. Phillips advised Mr. John Stoffa, the former County Executive, decided not to encumber the County with a bond and decided instead to have a .5 mill tax increase for open space.
He further advised there was nothing that obligated the County to do anything.

Mr. Phillips stated the County was in a much different financial situation than it was in 2002 and he believed taxes were going to have to be raised. He further stated he was trying to mitigate the amount of that tax increase.

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolutions:

**Lehigh Township – Delps Park Development, Phase II**

*R. 68-2014 WHEREAS*, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space 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 Delps Park Development, Phase II project, located in Lehigh Township; and

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner:</th>
<th>Lehigh Township</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Location:</td>
<td>1200 Delps Road, Danielsville, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Development Description:</td>
<td>1-mile perimeter pathway/fitness trail, soil and sediment control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value:</td>
<td>No acquisition involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Municipal Allocation:</td>
<td>$176,767.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$105,616.58 (44.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants:</td>
<td>$133,456.07 (56.0%) Lehigh Township</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Delps Park Development, Phase II Project, located in Lehigh Township. 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 obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $105,616.58 as the Northampton County contribution to the Delps Park Development, Phase II Project, located in Lehigh Township.

Hellertown Borough - Water Street Park Improvements

R. 69-2014 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space 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 Water Street Park Improvements Project located in the Borough of Hellertown; and

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

Property Owner: Borough of Hellertown
Site Location: Water Street (northside) between Saucon Creek and Rail Trail

Park Development Description: Park entrance safety enhancements, utility connections to restroom facility, paved parking lot, ADA accessible trail, site furnishings, rain gardens, native plantings and riparian buffer enhancements

Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $99,047.61
County Grant Request: $99,047.61 (50.0%)
Other Grants: $44,714.00 (22.0%) Hellertown Borough, $50,007.81 (26.0%) Grants, $4,326.00 (2.0%) In-Kind
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Water Street Park Improvements Project located in the Borough of Hellertown. 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 obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $99,047.81 as the Northampton County contribution to the Water Street Park Improvements Project located in the Borough of Hellertown.

Forks Township - Community Park Playground Resurfacing

R.70-2014 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space 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 Community Park Playground Resurfacing Project, located in Forks Township; and

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner</th>
<th>Forks Township</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Location:</td>
<td>500 Zucksville Road, Easton, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Development Description:</td>
<td>Resurfacing of 8,150 square foot playground area with rubber surfacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value:</td>
<td>No acquisition involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Municipal Allocation:</td>
<td>$247,216.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$50,500.00 (50.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants:</td>
<td>$50,500.00 (50.0%) Forks Township</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Community Park Playground Resurfacing Project, located in Forks Township. 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 obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $50,500.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Community Park Playground Resurfacing Project, located in Forks Township, PA.

Forks Township - Community Park Water Access for Athletic Fields

R. 71-2014 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space 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 Community Park Water Access for Athletic Fields Project, located in Forks Township; and

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

Property Owner: Forks Township

Site Location: 500 Zucksville Road, Easton PA

Park Development Description: Well drilling, pump installation and booster pump, mounting kit for pump, portable water reel

Appraised Value: No acquisition involved

Phase II Municipal Allocation: $247,216.48

County Grant Request: $12,500.00 (50.0%) Other Grants: $12,500.00 (50.0%) Forks Township
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Community Park Water Access for Athletic Fields Project, located in Forks Township. 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 obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $12,500.00 Northampton County contribution to the Community Park Water Access for Athletic Fields Project, located in Forks Township, PA.

Forks Township - Community Park Athletic Field Lighting

R. 72-2014 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space 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 Community Park Athletic Field Lighting Project, located in Forks Township; and

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

Property Owner: Forks Township
Site Location: 500 Zucksville Road, Easton PA
Park Development Description: Lighting at three additional fields
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $247,216.48
County Grant Request: $68,750.00 (50.0%)
Other Grants:  
$43,750.00 (31.8%) Forks Township  
$25,000.00 (18.2%) Forks Township Athletic Association
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Community Park Athletic Field Lighting Project, located in Forks Township. 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 obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $68,750.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Community Park Athletic Field Lighting Project, located in Forks Township, PA.

Forks Township – Penn's Ridge Park Basketball Court Resurfacing

R. 73-2014 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space 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 Penn's Ridge Park Basketball Court Resurfacing Project, located in Forks Township; and

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner:</th>
<th>Forks Township</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Location:</td>
<td>2755 Penn's Ridge Blvd, Easton PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Development Description:</td>
<td>Resurfacing of two basketball courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value:</td>
<td>No acquisition involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Municipal Allocation:</td>
<td>$247,216.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$6,050.00 (50.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants:</td>
<td>$6,050.00 (50.0%) Forks Township</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Penn's Ridge Park Basketball Court Resurfacing Project, located in Forks Township. 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 obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $6,050.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Penn's Ridge Park Basketball Court Resurfacing Project, located in Forks Township, PA.

Borough of Northampton - Uptown Park Development & Gazebo

R. 74-2014 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space 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 Uptown Park Gazebo/Pavilion Project located in the Borough of Northampton; and

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner:</th>
<th>Borough of Northampton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Location:</td>
<td>1922 Main Street, Northampton, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Development Description:</td>
<td>Installation of gazebo/pavilion, concrete pathways, decorative lighting, pedestrian fencing and block retaining wall, landscaping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value:</td>
<td>No acquisition involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Municipal Allocation:</td>
<td>$166,691.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$35,250.00 (26.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
County Council Minutes

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Other Grants:

$32,750.00 (24.6%) Borough of Northampton
$65,000.00 (48.9%) Monroe County Local Share Account

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Uptown Park Gazebo/Pavilion Project, located in the Borough of Northampton. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the Office of 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 obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $32,250.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Uptown Park Gazebo/Pavilion Project, located in the Borough of Northampton, PA.

Williams Township - Raubsville Park Concession Stand & Restrooms

R. 75-2014 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space 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 Raubsville Park Concession Stand and Restrooms Project, located in Williams Township; and

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

Property Owner: Williams Township
Site Location: 45 Young Street, Easton, PA
Park Development Description: Construction of a concession stand, restrooms, storage area, installation of a well, sanitary sewer system and utilities
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
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Phase II Municipal Allocation:  $98,812.70
County Grant Request:  $35,000.00 (18.0%) 

Other Grants:  $32,149.00 (17.0%) Williams Township 
               $125,000.00 (65%) Monroe County Local Share Account

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Raubsville Park Concession Stand and Restrooms Project, located in Williams Township. 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 obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $35,000.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Raubsville Park Concession Stand and Restrooms Project, located in Williams Township.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

Mr. Benol advised the fields in Forks Township were used by a lot of people and various sport teams from all over the area.

Mr. Benol stated he understood the concerns of Mr. Phillips so he would like to see open space people come up with some numbers to show the return on these investments. He further stated he felt with these projects taxpayers could actually see where their money was going and how it was being spent.

Mr. Brian Cope, Open Space Coordinator, advised they were doing a study with Lehigh Valley Planning Commission called, "Return on Investments" for the whole Lehigh Valley.
In response to Mr. Werner's question as to how many communities have benefitted from these projects, Mr. Cope stated last year there were 15 projects with 11 municipalities being awarded funding and this year, there were 14 projects with 10 municipalities. He further stated this year, the County's $1 million was matched by $1.3 million.

Mr. Werner advised he understood Mr. Phillips' concerns, but he believed the County's communities were growing because businesses, professionals and families were coming here because they saw things that they liked and were reinvesting in these communities.

Mr. Parsons stated since he was on County Council, he was able to see the smaller municipalities benefitting from a County program.

The vote: Parsons, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Phillips, "no"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Benol, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-1.

Introduction of the Area Agency on Aging Greater Easton Senior Center Lease Agreement Ordinance

Mrs. Ferraro advised at the Finance Committee meeting, the Greater Easton Senior Center Lease Agreement was reviewed and two sponsors were needed to introduce it tonight. She further advised the public hearing, debate and possible vote would be held at the August 7, 2014 County Council meeting.

Messrs. Vaughn and Parsons introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEASE A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3201 SULLIVAN TRAIL, EASTON, PA

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII, Section 13.15 Purchase, Sale and Lease of Real Estate Section c. (1) Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Estate, provides, "The
County Executive, or his designee, may negotiate a contract for the purchase, sale or lease (with the County as lessor or lessee) of real estate. Any such purchase/sale/lease shall be approved by County Council, and no such contract shall bind the County nor shall any conveyance be lawful, until County Council approves of the terms of the purchase/sale/lease."; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDEIGNED AND ENACTED by Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the County Executive of the County of Northampton, Easton, Pennsylvania, to lease a portion of the property located at 3201 Sullivan Trail, Easton, PA 18040, the portion of the property consists of approximately 8,000 rentable square feet of space. The terms and conditions of the lease shall be in accordance with the lease agreement, a copy of which are attached hereto and made a part hereof as Attachment "A".

Effective Date: This ordinance shall become effective thirty days after the date of enactment.

Consideration of the Area Agency on Aging Donation Acceptance Resolutions: a. Centenarian Celebration, b. Memorial Donations

Mrs. Ferraro stated the Area Agency on Aging requested approval to accept two donations being offered to them.

Centenarian Celebration

Mr. Benol introduced the following resolution:

R. 76-2014 WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 202 (10) provides that the County Council shall have, among others, the following powers: "to accept on behalf of the County any gifts of real property and to provide for the acceptance by any agency on behalf of the County of other gifts," and
WHEREAS, the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board is planning a celebration to honor Northampton County residents who have reached age 100 or older and will be soliciting donations for this celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby direct the Administrator of the Area Agency on Aging Division to accept said donations and/or gifts on behalf of the County of Northampton. Further, the Administrator of the Area Agency on Aging Division shall supply County Council with a list of donors after the solicitation is complete.

As there were no questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

The vote: Benol, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Memorial Donations

Mr. Benol introduced the following resolution:

R. 77-2014 WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 202 (10) provides that the County Council shall have, among others, the following powers: "to accept on behalf of the County any gifts of real property and to provide for the acceptance by any agency on behalf of the County of other gifts;" and

WHEREAS, the Area Agency on Aging has received monetary donations in memory of Ms. Cecile Becker.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the Administrator of the Area Agency on Aging Division to accept, on behalf of the County of Northampton, the monetary donations received in memory of Ms. Cecile Becker.
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As there were no questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

The vote: Benol, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; McClure, "yes"; Parsons, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Human Services Committee Report

Mr. Vaughn advised at the Human Services Committee meeting held earlier this evening, Mr. Millard D. Freeman, Gracedale Administrator, provided a very positive report regarding Gracedale and provided documents reflecting some statistics pertaining to its operation. He further stated Mr. Millard indicated the census was higher than ever and with the reorganization of the laundry services, it would operate more efficiently. He added with the change in incontinent products, there would be less laundry.

Mr. Vaughn stated there was also going to be a reorganization of tasks to save on nursing patients per hour, which would save on overtime and payroll budget.

Mr. Vaughn advised there were going to be other changes that would hopefully result in more savings and put Gracedale on the path to prosperity.

Mr. Werner stated Mr. Freeman indicated Gracedale received a four star rating. He further stated because Gracedale reached the percentage it had to, it would not be forced into selling the beds.

Mr. Geissinger advised he wanted to applaud the County Executive and those involved in reorganizing the fiscal reporting at Gracedale in such a way that it provided accurate dashboards as far as where the money was being spent, how it was being spent and the individual line items that were affected from a financial standpoint. He further advised this would provide true metrics during the budget process.
Adjournment

Mr. Geissinger made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Parsons seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

__________________________________________
Frank E. Flisser
Clerk to Council