Easton, Pennsylvania

June 5, 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; Kenneth M. Kraft; Lamont G. McClure, Jr.; Scott Parsons; Hayden Phillips; Seth Vaughn; Robert F. Werner; Frank E. Plisser, Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council.

Prayer

Mrs. Ferraro led County Council in prayer to open the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Ferraro 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 May 15, 2014 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Parsons seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

As no one signed up for Courtesy of the Floor, Mrs. Ferraro asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address County Council.

Mr. Bob Schmidt, 30 Browns Drive, Easton, PA – advised he was the Chairman of the Williams Township Land Preservation Board. He further advised two properties in Williams Township were being presented for preservation approval at tonight's meeting and he wanted to say Williams Township had shown a
strong commitment to land preservation and appreciated the assistance it received from the County. He noted these two properties were excellent candidates for preservation.

Ms. Sandra Yerger, 2734 Easton Road, Lower Saucon Township, PA stated she was the Chair of the Lower Saucon Township Environmental Advisory Council that oversaw the Open Space Subcommittee. She further stated open space was also very important to the residents of Lower Saucon Township.

Ms. Yerger advised she also sat on the Lower Saucon Township Planning Commission and it was important to them that the property being presented tonight remained open space because of the storm water impact it had on the properties below it.

County Commissioner's Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP): Doug Hill, Executive Director

Ms. Ferraro stated Mr. Doug Hill, CCAP Executive Director, was present this evening to make a report.

Mr. Hill advised CCAP was a non-profit/non-partisan association based in Harrisburg that provided legislative education, insurance, training, technology, research and other services to the Counties of Pennsylvania. He then furnished a handout entitled, "The Voice of Pennsylvania Counties" that provided information on what CCAP was about and some things they were working on (see Attachment #1).

Mr. Hill stated the point of his visit was to get a sense of what the local issues were so CCAP could represent Northampton County better.

Mr. Hill advised the main issue for CCAP was the State budget, noting the potential deficient was approximately $1.3 - $1.5 million. He further advised they have been working with the Administration and State agencies because their priority was to restore funding that had been cut or remained stagnant for a number of years at the County level.

Mr. Hill stated part of the wireless telephone surcharge funding for the 911 system was set to end on June 30, 2014 so they have been working for the last two years with the Administration, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, 911 professionals and the telecommunication industry to try and rewrite the law. He further stated the objective was to rewrite
the law so it was technology agnostic to anticipate and deal with new technology as it developed and provide a fee structure that would have a logical nexuses to the services provided and properly fund the system.

Mr. Hill advised they had hoped to have all that accomplished by June 30, 2014, but due to current circumstances, they decided to present legislation to extend the deadline. He further advised they planned to continue their efforts and to have something on the Governor’s desk by April 2015.

County Executive’s Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, stated he was going to start the County’s budget process next month.

Mr. Brown advised 76% of the County’s workforce were unionized. He further advised six contracts expired at the end of 2013, one expired at the end of 2010, two would expire at the end of 2014 and two would expire at the end of 2015 so they would be dealing with nine contracts over the next several months.

Mr. Kraft stated the Home Rule Charter indicated that an acting position had to be filled within a certain length of time so he wondered how long Mr. Brown planned to leave the Director of Fiscal Affairs and Sheriff positions acting.

Mr. McClure advised he did not believe the Home Rule Charter or Administrative Code indicated a time limit on a position being acting, but a cabinet level official had to be confirmed by County Council.

Mr. McClure stated the Acting Director of Fiscal Affairs and Acting Sheriff have not been confirmed by County Council and if they were being paid at the cabinet official level without confirmation that was problematic because it violated the Home Rule Charter. He further stated since an employee’s pension was based on their three best years, there were also legacy costs associated with this situation.

Mr. McClure advised he hoped Mr. Brown would present nominees for these positions in the very near future because this could become another situation where a judicial determination would have to be made and that was no way to run a government.
Mr. Kraft stated County Council's authority was being evaded by having temporary or acting individuals in these cabinet positions.

When Mrs. Ferraro advised Mr. Doran Hamann, Acting Director of Fiscal Affairs, had been in that position for a number of years, Mr. Kraft advised that was because former County Executive John Stoffa had attempted to appoint someone, but he was voted down and since his term was nearing an end, it was felt they could wait until the new County Executive presented someone.

Introduction of the Ordinance Providing for Amendments to the 2014 Budget

Mrs. Ferraro stated the first budget amendment for 2014 was being submitted for County Council’s consideration. She further stated the entire amendment dealt with the recognition and adjustment of Federal and State dollars and did not involve County tax dollars.

Mrs. Ferraro advised the ordinance would be introduced at this meeting and reviewed at the June 18, 2014 Finance Committee meeting. She further advised the public hearing, debate, and possible vote was scheduled for the June 19, 2014 County Council meeting.

Messrs. Geissinger and Phillips introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2014 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BUDGET: COURTS - JUVENILE PROBATION; DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - HOMELESS ASSISTANCE; HUMAN SERVICES FACILITY; BLOCK GRANTS; CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES, AREA AGENCY ON AGING; MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS; DRUG AND ALCOHOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>ORG</th>
<th>ACCOUNT</th>
<th>ACCOUNT TITLE</th>
<th>CURRENT BUDGET</th>
<th>INCREASE (DECREASE)</th>
<th>REVISED BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>41600</td>
<td>PCCD</td>
<td></td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66999</td>
<td>Pooled Professional Services</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>59,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Services - Homeless Assistance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>41480</th>
<th>Homeless Assistance</th>
<th></th>
<th>319,400</th>
<th>23,300</th>
<th>342,700</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44010</td>
<td>Interest On Investment</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>(400)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69999</td>
<td>Pooled Subcontracted Services</td>
<td>320,200</td>
<td>22,900</td>
<td>343,100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Services - Human Services Facility**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>48750</th>
<th>Sale of Real Estate</th>
<th></th>
<th>1,828,800</th>
<th>96,200</th>
<th>1,925,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61999</td>
<td>Pooled Occupancy Costs</td>
<td>868,800</td>
<td>96,200</td>
<td>965,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Services - Block Grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>41130</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th></th>
<th>229,000</th>
<th>(50,000)</th>
<th>179,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69999</td>
<td>Pooled Subcontracted Services</td>
<td>229,000</td>
<td>(50,000)</td>
<td>179,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Services - Children, Youth & Families**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>41180</th>
<th>Temp Assist Needy Families</th>
<th></th>
<th>781,800</th>
<th>142,400</th>
<th>924,200</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41540</td>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>19,700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41550</td>
<td>Medical Assistance</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>21,900</td>
<td>73,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41650</td>
<td>State SIL Grant</td>
<td>205,500</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>219,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52100</td>
<td>69999</td>
<td>Pooled Subcontracted Services</td>
<td>3,613,000</td>
<td>184,900</td>
<td>3,797,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Services - Area Agency On Aging**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>41224</th>
<th>Title V</th>
<th></th>
<th>56,600</th>
<th>2,700</th>
<th>59,300</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41490</td>
<td>HSDF</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>(50,000)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41650</td>
<td>State Block Grant</td>
<td>4,771,700</td>
<td>703,900</td>
<td>5,475,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41130</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44010</td>
<td>Interest on Investments</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>(3,500)</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55100</td>
<td>69999</td>
<td>Pooled Subcontracted Services</td>
<td>222,100</td>
<td>(50,000)</td>
<td>172,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55400</td>
<td>69999</td>
<td>Pooled Subcontracted Services</td>
<td>499,500</td>
<td>705,000</td>
<td>1,204,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Services - Mental Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>41330</th>
<th>Base Allocation</th>
<th></th>
<th>2,936,400</th>
<th>164,500</th>
<th>3,100,900</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41360</td>
<td>CHIPP</td>
<td>8,148,000</td>
<td>192,200</td>
<td>8,340,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41722</td>
<td>Gaming Authority Grant</td>
<td>34,800</td>
<td>38,500</td>
<td>73,300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41480</td>
<td>Homeless Assistance</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>22,500</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41600</td>
<td>PCCD</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,200</td>
<td>17,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42505</td>
<td>Health Choices</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>(4,400)</td>
<td>20,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44010</td>
<td>Interest on Investment</td>
<td>26,900</td>
<td>(14,000)</td>
<td>11,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>58100</td>
<td>69999</td>
<td>41160</td>
<td>41240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59400</td>
<td>41330</td>
<td>Base Allocation</td>
<td>2,358,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41400</td>
<td>Early Intervention</td>
<td>2,933,400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41570</td>
<td>MR Waiver</td>
<td>854,700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(15,100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44010</td>
<td>Interest On Investment</td>
<td>13,700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41550</td>
<td>Medical Assistance</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60200</td>
<td>69999</td>
<td>Pooled Subcontracted Services</td>
<td>2,034,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Human Services - Drug & Alcohol**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>61000</th>
<th>69999</th>
<th>41160</th>
<th>41240</th>
<th>41315</th>
<th>41340</th>
<th>41373</th>
<th>41490</th>
<th>41800</th>
<th>41722</th>
<th>42106</th>
<th>43030</th>
<th>62100</th>
<th>69999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61000</td>
<td>41160</td>
<td>Prevention Block Grant</td>
<td>206,300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41240</td>
<td>Treatment Block Grant</td>
<td>601,800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41315</td>
<td>Act 152</td>
<td>498,100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41340</td>
<td>BHSI</td>
<td>266,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40,300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41373</td>
<td>Compulsive Gambling</td>
<td>69,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13,300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41490</td>
<td>Human Services Development</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41800</td>
<td>PCCD</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39,700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>41722</td>
<td>Gaming Authority Grant</td>
<td>80,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>77,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>42106</td>
<td>Act 198 Fee</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66,800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43030</td>
<td>DUI Fines</td>
<td>217,900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>106,100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62100</td>
<td>69999</td>
<td>Pooled Subcontracted Services</td>
<td>810,393</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary - Budget Amendment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59000</td>
<td>41400</td>
<td>Human Services - Developmental Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61000</td>
<td>41160</td>
<td>Human Services - Drug &amp; Alcohol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Effective Date:**

In accordance with Northampton County Home Rule Charter 705 (e) this ordinance shall become effective upon the date of enactment.

**Consideration of Open Space Projects:**

a. Natural Areas/Environmentally Sensitive: (1) Morrow Property Conservation Easement - Williams Township; (2) Koch Property Conservation Easement - Williams Township; (3) Woodland Hills Fee Simple Acquisition - Lower Saucon Township; b. Municipal Park Grants: (1) City of Easton - Hugh Moore Park Improvements Project (2) City of Easton - Nevin Park Fountain Revitalization; (3) Bethlehem Township - Municipal Park Fitness Trail Rehabilitation; (4) Moore Township - Community Park Development
Phase II; (5) Bushkill Township – Ballas Tract Master Site Plan Development

Mrs. Ferraro stated the Open Space Committee met on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, to review the following projects.

Morrow Property Conservation Basement – Williams Township

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 45-2014 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 the conservation easement acquisition by Williams Township for the Morrow property, Williams Township, Northampton County; and

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

Property Owner(s): Kenneth & Helen Morrow
Site Location: 155 Hexenkopf Road, Easton, PA 18042
Parcel Identification: P9-7-20
Site Information: Approximately 18 acres: wooded acreage within the Hexenkopf Slopes Significant Natural Areas
Appraised Value:
County Grant Request: $30,403.80 (35%)
Other Grants: $13,030.20 (15%) Williams Township
$43,434.00 (50%) PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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 conservation easement acquisition by Williams Township of the Morrow property, being approximately 18 acres, located at 155 Hexenkopf Road, Easton, PA 18042,
Northampton County, and also known as Uniform Parcel Identifier Numbers P9-7-20.

(2) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $30,403.80 as consideration for the conservation easement acquisition by Williams Township of the Morrow property.

In response to Mr. Vaughn’s question as to why there was only one appraisal for each of the properties, Mr. Bryan Cope, Open Space Administrator, advised that was all the guidelines required. He further advised at the end of the process, a second appraisal would have to be obtained in order to receive Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) funding.

Mr. Phillips stated the County was deficient spending so it was not in a position to spend taxpayer dollars on these projects.

Mr. McClure advised these projects were budgeted for in the 2014 budget, which was a no tax increase balanced budget. He further advised he was sure it was explained why these environmental projects were so important to preserve at the Open Space Committee meeting.

Mr. McClure stated the County was not deficient spending. He further stated the money from the Fund Balance was a result of over taxation and less of it was going to be used to balance the budget.

Mr. Phillips advised the County would not be paying its expenses this year with this year’s revenue so that was deficient spending.

Mr. McClure stated a Fund Balance, which was essentially a surplus, was created by over taxation. He further stated deficient spending would occur when the County was no longer over taxing and its Stabilization Fund dropped below where it should be.

In answer to Mr. Vaughn’s question as to whether the County’s Fund Balance was shrinking every year, Mr. McClure advised it was not and for most of his time on County Council, especially when the economy was at its worst, the County ran $16 million surpluses every year. He further advised at the end of the year, the County would still have its $25 million
Stabilization Fund and a Fund Balance.

In response to Mr. Parsons' question that some of this money was coming from the State, Mr. Cope replied it was all County money.

Mr. Parsons stated the Open Space Advisory Board and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission reviewed these projects. He further stated a long range plan had been established where they tried to connect as much property as possible and it was helping the residents of the County achieve what they wanted to achieve.

Mr. Cope distributed a document showing the Morrow and Koch properties (see Attachment #2).

Mr. Geissinger advised he was a proponent of farmland and open space preservation, however, he was not in favor of these three particular projects because he did not feel there was a conservation necessity given the amount of space that was already preserved around them. He further advised it was his opinion the $423,000 for these three projects would be better spent on other pieces of land.

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

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

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

Koch Property Conservation Easement - Williams Township

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 46-2014 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 the conservation easement acquisition by Williams Township for the Koch property, Williams Township, Northampton County; and
WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used to acquire properties as follows:

Property Owner(s): James Koch
Site Location: 1350 Raubsville Road, Easton, PA 18042
Parcel Identification: P9-7-2
Site Information: Approximately 57 acres: wooded acreage within the Hexenkopf Slopes Significant Natural Areas
Appraised Value:
County Grant Request: $92,887.20 (35%)
Other Grants: $39,808.80 (15%) Williams Township $132,696.00 (50%) PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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 conservation easement acquisition by Williams Township of the Koch property, Williams Township, being approximately 57 acres, located at 1350 Raubsville Road, Easton, PA 18042, Northampton County, and also known as Uniform Parcel Identifier Numbers P9-7-2.

(2) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $92,887.20 as consideration for the conservation easement acquisition by Williams Township of the Koch Property.

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

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 6-3.
Woodland Hills Fee Simple Acquisition - Lower Saucon Township

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 47-2014 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 the fee simple acquisition by Lower Saucon Township for Woodland Hills, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County; and

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

Property Owner(s): Alex Patullo

Site Location: 4166 Lower Saucon Road, Hellertown, PA 18055

Parcel Identification: P8-6-20-0719

Site Information: Approximately 148 acres: tributary to Saucon Creek, close proximity to Granite Hill Significant Natural Area, naturalizing environment

County Grant Request: $300,000.00 (16%)

Other Grants: $737,500.00 (42%) Lower Saucon Township

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his/her designee, to take any and all steps necessary to complete the fee simple acquisition by Lower Saucon Township of Woodland Hills, being approximately 148 acres, located at 4166 Lower Saucon Road, Hellertown, PA 18055, Northampton County, and also known as Uniform Parcel Identifier Numbers P8-6-20-0719.
(2) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $300,000.00 as consideration for the fee simple acquisition by Lower Saucon Township of Woodland Hills.

Mr. Benol asked whether research was done into the history of the properties before they were presented because from information he received this property was for sale for a while, but there were no buyers.

Mr. Cope stated the township was putting up the majority of the money and there was nothing of this magnitude in that area so it was more of a regional preserve. He further stated it was an initiative the township had identified through several plans, one of them being a joint comprehensive plan with Upper Saucon Township, Lower Saucon Township and the Borough of Hellertown.

When Mr. Benol asked if an informative session could be scheduled whereby explanations could be provided as to what the voters voted on, why the money was put aside and what happened to the money that was not spent, Ms. Maria Bentzoni, Farmland Preservation Administrator, replied they would be willing to set something up.

Mr. Parsons advised the township was going to own this property and there were going to be environmentally sensitive areas, walking trails and a natural preserve park, noting this was what open space was about.

Mr. Kraft stated a $300,000 investment from the County got a $1.5 million investment from others who wanted to see this property preserved.

Ms. Bentzoni advised this was a very unique circumstance. She further advised in farmland preservation, when a developer approached them to unload some of their inventory for preservation rather than have it sit, they saw it as a golden opportunity.

Ms. Bentzoni stated this property was presented by the township and would prevent a 50 house subdivision from going on it so it was a win not only for the township and the storm water issues, but for the community as a whole.
In answer to Mr. Geissinger's comment that some of this property would be developed, Ms. Bentzoni advised 11 acres were being subdivided because there were existing buildings on it they were not interested in.

Ms. Yerger stated the plans have not been finalized, but it was going to be a religious retreat and was not part of this request. She further stated there was a 50 house subdivision on the books, but due to the storm water issues, she felt that it would not be the smartest thing for this property.

In response to Mr. McClure's question as to how many children would be involved in a 50 house subdivision that could affect the school district, Ms. Yerger advised they estimated approximately two children per household. She further advised they could check the township's emergency service records because whenever there was a heavy rain event, this area was a real concern.

Mr. McClure stated they were not bailing out a golf course, but were preventing flooding.

Ms. Yerger advised since this property stopped operating as a golf course, it had turned itself into a wildlife habitat again, noting there were wildflower meadows, milkweed for the monarch butterflies and it also started to remediate the storm water issue.

Ms. Bentzoni provided copies of pictures of the area being discussed (see Attachment #3).

In answer to Mr. Benol's question as to whether there were any flooding issues before this was a golf course, Ms. Yerger stated not like there were now. She further stated this used to be farmland and it had a lot of significant woodlands to absorb the storm water.

Mr. Benol advised this was a self-created flooding issue because it occurred when the property was purchased. He further advised townships approved developments to come in and when flooding issues occurred, it became a taxpayer or property owner responsibility to rectify them. He added if this was not happening before this property was purchased then the property owner created it.
Ms. Yerger stated there were always some storm water issues, but it was exacerbated by the golf course.

In response to Mr. Vaughn’s comment that a developer would have to propose some type of remediation system if this property’s storm water issues would be exacerbated by a subdivision, Ms. Bentzoni replied that was correct.

Mr. Vaughn advised he did not see an incentive for a developer to develop the property because it would cost a lot for him to get approval and it would be of less value because it would be difficult to develop.

Ms. Bentzoni stated it may be difficult, but it did not mean the obstacles could not be overcome.

When Mr. Vaughn commented they had not been overcome in how many years, Ms. Yerger advised it was approximately three years since the developer started the subdivision process.

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

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

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

City of Easton – Hugh Moore Park Improvements Project

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 48-2014 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 Hugh Moore Park Improvements Project located in the City of Easton; and

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

Property Owner: City of Easton

Site Location: Hugh Moore Park, 2750 Hugh Moore Park Road, Easton, PA

Park Development Description: Improved entrance, walking path, new playground, outdoor classroom, tree plantings, signage

Appraised Value: No acquisition involved

Phase II Municipal Allocation: $450,064.65

County Grant Request: $175,000.00 (50%)

Other Grants: $175,000.00 (50%) Hugh Moore Park Trust

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Hugh Moore Park Improvements Project, located in the City of Easton. 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 $175,000.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Hugh Moore Park Improvement Project, located in the City of Easton.

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

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

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

City of Easton - Nevin Park Fountain Revitalization

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:
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 City of Easton Nevin Park Fountain Revitalization Project, located in the City of Easton; and

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

Property Owner: City of Easton
Site Location: Nevin Park
Park Development Description: New decorative fountain
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $450,064.65
County Grant Request: $35,000.00 (23.91%)
Other Grants: $75,000.00 (City of Easton) (51.23%)
$36,400.00 (College Hill Neighborhood Assoc.) (24.86%)

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

1. The Northampton County Council hereby approves the City of Easton Nevin Park Fountain Revitalization Project located in the City of Easton. 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 City of Easton Nevin Park Fountain Revitalization Project.
As there were no questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

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

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

Bethlehem Township – Municipal Park Fitness Trail Rehabilitation

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 50-2014 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 Bethlehem Township Municipal Park Fitness Trail Rehabilitation Project, located in Bethlehem Township; and

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

Property Owner: Bethlehem Township
Site Location: Farmersville Road, Bethlehem Township
Park Development Description: Replacement of 20 fitness stations along the 1.3 mile paved walking/running trail
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $398,508.74
County Grant Request: $24,118.48 (50.0%)
Other Grants: $24,118.49 (50.0%) Bethlehem Township

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:
(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Bethlehem Township Municipal Park Fitness Trail Rehabilitation Project, located in Bethlehem 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 $24,118.48 as the Northampton County contribution to the Bethlehem Township Municipal Park Fitness Trail Rehabilitation Project, located in Bethlehem Township.

Mr. Vaughn stated a lot of people used this trail and it was in bad shape so he would support this project.

Mr. Cope advised the township first planned on using mulch as their base, but after a discussion at the Open Space Advisory Board meeting, they decided to use a pour in place system or rubberized matting.

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

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

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

Moore Township - Community Park Development Phase II

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 51-2014  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 Moore Township Recreational Park Rehabilitation Phase II projects, located in Moore Township; and
WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used as follows:

Property Owner: Moore Township
Site Location: 635 English Road, Bath, PA 18014
Park Development Description: Installation of dugouts, walkway, trail, double seal roadway
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $154,466.22
County Grant Request: $57,247.12 (50.0%)
Other Grants: $57,247.13 (50.0%) Moore Township

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Moore Township Recreational Park Rehabilitation Phase II projects located in Moore Township. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the Office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, 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 $57,247.12 as the Northampton County contribution to the Moore Township Recreational Park Rehabilitation Phase II projects located in Moore Township.

Mr. Benol stated these fields were used by a number of municipalities and he supported the project.

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

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 52-2014  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 Ballas Tract Master Site Plan Development Plan Project located in Bushkill Township; and

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

Property Owner: Bushkill Township
Site Location: Ballas Tract, Kromer & Jacobsburg Road
Park Development Description: Pavilion, parking lot, walking trails
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $137,336.89
County Grant Request: $137,336.00 (35%)
Other Grants: $96,146.00 (35%) Bushkill Township
$41,190.00 (15%) Bushkill Township

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

1. The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Ballas Tract Master Site Plan Development Project, located in Bushkill 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 $137,336.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Ballas Tract Master Site
Plan Development Project, located in the Bushkill Township.

Mr. Cope advised Bushkill Township was just awarded the Parks and Forest Award for Government. He further advised they have been very progressive and one of the leaders of open space preservation.

Mr. Parsons stated this was an excellent project and he fully supported it.

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

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

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

2014 Emergency Solutions Grant Application Resolution

Mrs. Ferraro advised the Economic Development Committee met earlier this evening to review this resolution. She then introduced the following resolution:

R. 53-2014

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A PROPOSAL FOR FUNDS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009, consolidated three separate homeless assistance programs administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act into a single grant program, revising the Emergency Shelter Grants Program and renaming it the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has received FFY 2014 ESG Program funds and is making these funds
available to units of local government to provide emergency shelter and to assist people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton desires to submit an application to DCED for ESG Program funds on behalf of five (5) housing service providers that have expressed interest in administering these funds to benefit Northampton County residents: Catholic Charities, Easton Area Neighborhood Center, New Bethany Ministries, Safe Harbor Easton, and Victory House of Lehigh Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that:

1. The proposed activities to be funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania ESG Program are hereby eligible and approved.

2. The County Executive, on behalf of the County of Northampton, is authorized and directed to execute an ESG Program application in the amount not to exceed $260,000 to the Pennsylvania DCED (PA DCED).

3. The subrecipient agencies, Catholic Charities, Easton Area Neighborhood Center, New Bethany Ministries, Safe Harbor Easton, and Victory House of Lehigh Valley, will assume the responsibility for securing the required matching amount of project funds.

4. The County of Northampton will reimburse the Commonwealth for any expenditure found to be ineligible and will require reimbursement from any subrecipient found to use funds for ineligible expenditures.

5. The Northampton County DCED is authorized to provide such assurances, certificates and supplemental data or revised data that PA DCED may request in connection with the application.

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

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

Consideration of the Gift Acceptance Resolution

Mrs. Ferraro stated at the request of Mr. Kraft, a gift acceptance resolution was drafted for consideration.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 54-2014  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;"

WHEREAS, the residents and the officers of the Treatment Center in West Easton are putting in a community garden and are seeking donations of garden equipment, plants and garden products for the project. All proceeds of the harvest will be distributed to local County food banks, such as West Easton Borough, Second Harvest and Harvest Now.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby direct the Director of Corrections and/or the Warden to accept said donations and/or gifts, on behalf of the County of Northampton. Further, the Director of Corrections or the Warden shall provide County Council with a monthly report which lists donations and gifts which were accepted.

Mr. Kraft advised the Correction Officers donated monies to provide the items necessary to establish a garden at the West Easton Treatment Center, but when it became public, members of the community wanted to help. He further advised any gifts or donations had to be approved by County Council, but as that process took time, they wanted to find some mechanism whereby they could accept the donations and then provide an accounting of them on a monthly basis. He noted this resolution only pertained to items being donated for the garden.
Mr. Lauer stated he did not see anything wrong with this method of resolving the issue.

Mr. Phillips advised he did not have any objections as long as there was accountability.

In answer to Mr. McClure’s question as to why the items could not be given in advance of the garden being established, Mr. Kraft stated they wanted to start the garden and by the time approval could be received from County Council, valuable planting time would be lost.

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


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

Legislative Breakfast

Mr. Vaughn advised the Director of Human Services set up a Legislative Breakfast to introduce the County’s legislators to the division heads, who gave a purview of what was going on in their divisions. He further advised he felt there was good exchange of ideas and information.

Gracedale - Ambulance Request for Proposal

Mr. Geissinger stated that he and Mr. Benol attended a meeting regarding the request for proposals for ambulance transportation at Gracedale. He further stated that contract would be forthcoming to County Council for approval.

In response to Mr. Kraft’s question as to the number of bidders, Mr. Geissinger replied there was only one bid.

Mr. Geissinger advised it was announced at the meeting that there would be a new dashboard available shortly that would reflect what was happening at Gracedale in real time.
Parks and Open Space Committee Report

Mr. Parsons stated the projects presented tonight were reviewed at a Parks and Open Space Committee meeting and he wanted to compliment the Open Space Advisory Board members who spent numerous hours reviewing these projects, as well as Mr. Cope and Ms. Bentzoni. He further stated there would be more municipal park grants presented to County Council in the near future.

Economic Development Committee Report

Mrs. Ferraro advised the Economic Development Committee met earlier in the evening and it was revealed that two new businesses would be coming to the County. She further advised there was a discussion regarding the Emergency Solutions Grant that was approved by County Council.

Mrs. Ferraro stated Mr. David DeRemer, Chairman, and Mr. Dan Beers, member, of the Northampton County Housing Authority provided a report on the restructuring of assignments due to the retirement of Ms. Colleen Altimere.

Mrs. Ferraro advised Ms. Barbara Kowitz, Executive Director, Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, provided an update on her organization.

Mrs. Ferraro stated Mr. Michael Stershic, President, Discover Lehigh Valley, provided a packet pertaining to his organization.

Council Solicitor’s Report: Update on the Sunshine Act

Mr. Lauer advised he was asked to explain to County Council what the Sunshine Act was, how it applied and its limitations. He further advised he prepared a document that highlighted some points regarding the Sunshine Act (see Attachment #4).

Mr. Lauer stated it was agreed by Mrs. Ferraro that County Council members should review this material so it could be discussed at the next meeting, if necessary.
Adjournment

Mr. McClure made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Geissinger seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

Frank E. Flisser
Clerk to Council