Easton, Pennsylvania

March 19, 2015

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; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council.

Prayer

Mrs. Ferraro led County Council in a moment of silence to open the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Ferraro led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Parsons made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Jack Dalessandro, 705 Front Street, Bangor, PA - stated it was mentioned the County was looking to replace a currency machine with a credit card machine so someone did not have to spend time counting change, however, they would still need that machine because not everyone carried a credit card. He further suggested they get a coin wrapping machine or take the coins to the bank and let the bank count them.
Confirmation of Appointment

Mrs. Ferraro advised the Personnel Committee met yesterday to review the County Executive’s appointments/re-appointments to the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board, Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 15-2015  RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the following individuals shall be confirmed in their appointments/re-appointments as indicated hereafter:

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES ADVISORY BOARD

Appointment:  Term to Expire:  4/1/17
Terri Maynard
1150 Dotta Drive
Pen Argyl PA 18072

LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Re-appointment:  Term to Expire:  3/2/20
Timothy J. Brady
Camels Hump Farm
3817 Christian Springs Road
Bethlehem PA 18020

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Appointment:  Term to Expire:  12/31/19
Citizen
W. Eugene (Gene) Clater
107 Snow Hill Road
Northampton PA 18067

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

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

County Executive’s Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, stated he would like to remove from the agenda the ordinance introduction amending the Departments of Administration and Community and Economic Development as they would like to review the matter further.

Mr. Brown advised Mr. Richard Young, Director of Public Works, resigned his position as of March 27, 2015 and they were working on a transition plan for the projects he was overseeing.

Mr. Brown stated they were working with Mr. Robert Mateff, Director of Emergency Management Services, on the County’s emergency disaster and crisis communication plans to keep them updated.

Mr. Brown advised they have completed initial arbitration hearings with five of the nine unions that had opened contracts. He further advised they had two additional ones scheduled and two were not up for negotiation at this time.

Mr. Brown stated he would be doing a State of the County update at 7:30 a.m. at Gates Center at the Northampton Community College on March 26, 2015.

Mr. Brown advised the Sheriff’s Department was hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Louse Moore Park on March 28, 2015.

Executive Session

Mrs. Ferraro stated County Council would be entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. McClure arrived at the meeting at this time.

Mr. Lauer advised County Council entered into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. and returned at 6:55 p.m., at which time they discussed a personnel matter.
Mrs. Ferraro stated at the request of Messrs. Geissinger and Phillips, an ordinance was prepared that would amend Ordinance No. 526-2010, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 fund policy ordinance. She further stated the ordinance was being introduced at this meeting, and the public hearing, debate and possible vote was scheduled for the April 1, 2015 meeting.

Messrs. Geissinger and Phillips introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 526-2010 ALSO KNOWN AS THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD STATEMENT NO. 54 FUND BALANCE POLICY ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 526-2010, the ordinance titled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD STATEMENT NO. 54 (GASB No. 54) FUND BALANCE POLICY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE," was enacted by the Northampton County Council on November 19, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council that, Ordinance No. 526-2010, the ordinance titled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD STATEMENT NO. 54 (GASB No. 54) FUND BALANCE POLICY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALER AND EFFECTIVE DATE," shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with bold underline have been added and sections marked with strikeout have been deleted):

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton, Easton, Pennsylvania desires to establish a Fund Balance Policy consistent with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA, THAT:
Section I. TITLE

This ordinance shall be known as the Northampton County Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 Fund Balance Policy Ordinance.

Section II. DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases when used in this Ordinance shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

A. Fund Balance - As defined by the Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), fund balance is "The difference between assets and liabilities and deferred inflows and deferred outflows reported in a governmental fund."

B. Non-Spendable Fund Balance - Amounts that are (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. "Not in spendable form" includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash (such as inventories and prepaid amounts) and items such as long-term amount of loans and notes receivable, as well as property acquired for resale. The corpus (or principal) of a permanent fund is an example of an amount that is legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

C. Restricted Fund Balance - Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes stipulated by (a) external resource providers such as creditors (by debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

D. Committed Fund Balance - Amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action (ordinance) of the Northampton County Council, the County's highest level of decision making authority. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by the Northampton County Council taking the same formal action (ordinance) that imposed the constraint originally. Resources accumulated pursuant to
stabilization arrangements sometimes are reported in this category.

E. Assigned Fund Balance - Includes spendable fund balance amounts established by management of the County the County Executive or Director of Fiscal Affairs that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are neither considered restricted or committed.

F. Unassigned Fund Balance - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the General Fund. Unassigned fund balance may also include negative balances for any governmental fund if expenditures exceed amounts restricted, committed, or assigned for those specific purposes.


H. Reservations of Fund Balance - Reserves established by the Northampton County Council (committed fund balance) or County management (assigned fund balance).

SECTION III. PURPOSE

A. The County hereby establishes and will maintain Fund Balance, as defined herein, in accordance with Governmental Accounting and Financial Standards Board Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions. Fund Balance shall be composed of non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned amounts.

B. A Fund Balance Policy is adopted in order to secure and maintain investment-grade credit ratings, meet seasonal shortfalls in cash flow, and reduce susceptibility to emergency or unanticipated expenditures and/or revenue shortfalls. Fund balance information is used to identify the available
resources to repay long-term debt, reduce property taxes, add new governmental programs, expand existing ones, or enhance the financial position of the County, in accordance with policies established by the Northampton County Council.

C. This Fund Balance Policy establishes:

1. Fund balance policy for the General Fund;

2. Reserves **Classifications** of fund balance for the General Fund;

3. The method of budgeting the amount of estimated unrestricted fund balance available for appropriation during the annual budget adoption process (prior to the actual, audited fund balance being known) and what actions may need to be taken if the actual fund balance is significantly different than the budgetary fund balance; and

4. Establish the spending order of operating revenues and fund balances.

SECTION IV. FUND BALANCE POLICY (GENERAL FUND)

A. **RESTRICTED NON-SPENDABLE** FUND BALANCE

There is no restricted fund balance in the General Fund. Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes stipulated by (a) external resource providers such as creditors (by debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation will be budgeted and reported in special revenue funds, capital project funds or debt service funds.

Non-spendable fund balance is established to report items that are not expected to be converted to cash such as inventory and prepaid items; items not currently in cash form such as the long-term amount of loans and notes receivable as well as property acquired for resale; and, items legally or
contractually required to be maintained intact such as the corpus (or principal) of a permanent fund.

B. RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE

Amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes stipulated by (a) external resource providers such as creditors (by debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enable legislation.

B.C. COMMITTED FUND BALANCE

1. Commitment of fund balance may be made for such purposes including, but not limited to:

   (a) major maintenance and repair projects; Accumulating resources pursuant to a financial stabilization arrangement.

   (b) meeting future obligations resulting from a natural disaster;

   (c) accumulating resources pursuant to stabilization arrangements;

   (d) establishing reserves for disasters; and/or

   (e) for setting aside amounts for specific projects.

2. Commitment of fund balance may be made from time to time by ordinance of the Northampton County Council. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by the Northampton County Council taking the same formal action that imposed the constraint originally (ordinance). The use (appropriation) of committed fund balances will be considered in conjunction with the annual budget adoption process or by budget amendment approved by ordinance of the Northampton County Council during the fiscal year.
G-D. ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

1. Assignment of fund balance may be:

(a) made for a specific purpose that is narrower than the general purposes of the government itself, and/or

(b) used to reflect the appropriation of a portion of existing unassigned fund balance to eliminate a projected deficit in the subsequent year's budget in an amount no greater than the projected excess of expected expenditures over expected revenues.

2. Assigned fund balance shall reflect management's intended use of resources as set forth in the annual budget (and any amendments thereto). Assigned fund balance may or may not be appropriated for expenditure in the subsequent year depending on the timing of the project/reserve for which it was assigned.

D-E. NON-SPENDABLE UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

Non-spendable fund balance is established to report items that are not expected to be converted to cash such as inventory and prepaid items; items not currently in cash form such as the long-term amount of loans and notes receivable as well as property acquired for resale; and, items legally or contractually required to be maintained intact such as the corpus (or principal) of a permanent fund.

1. Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and represents fund balance that has not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the General Fund.

E. MINIMUM LEVEL OF UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

1. Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and represents fund balance that has not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the General Fund.
2. If, after the annual audit, prior committed or assigned fund balance causes the unassigned fund balance to fall below 5% of General Fund budgeted operating expenditures, the Director of Fiscal Affairs will advise the Northampton County Council in order for the necessary action to be taken to restore the unassigned fund balance to 5% of General Fund budgeted operating expenditures.

3. The County Executive will prepare and submit a plan for committed and/or assigned fund balance reduction, expenditure reductions and/or revenue increases to the Northampton County Council. The County shall take action necessary to restore the unassigned fund balance to acceptable levels within two years.

SECTION V. RESERVATIONS CLASSIFICATIONS OF FUND BALANCE (GENERAL FUND)

A. COMMITTED FUND BALANCE

The Northampton County Council hereby establishes the following committed fund balance reserves classes in the General Fund:

1. Financial Stabilization - The Financial Stabilization Fund Balance is committed by the Northampton County Council as set forth recommended by the GFOA, who recommends, at a minimum, that General Purpose Governments, regardless of size maintain no less than one or two months of regular General Fund budgeted operating expenditures. A government's particular situation may require levels of reserves in the General Fund significantly in excess of the GFOA's recommended minimum levels.

2. Future Obligations - The Future Obligations Fund Balance is committed by the Northampton County Council, who entered into a swaption contract on July 3, 2004. The counter-party has the option to exercise the agreement on October 1, 2012. The calculated future net settlement required by the swap is a future obligation. The balance of
The Financial Stabilization Fund will be maintained at a minimum of 5% of current year budgeted general fund expenditures, including transfers out. The Financial Stabilization Fund is not to exceed 15% of current year, budgeted general fund expenditures, including transfers out.

3. It will be the responsibility of Northampton County's Director of Fiscal Affairs to report the current Committed Fund Balances in the County's Quarterly Financial Statements. Additions to the financial stabilization fund will occur by:

(a) An increase in additional real estate tax levied annually, or

(b) Commitment by ordinance of excess unassigned fund balance upon completion of the annual audit as described in Section VI, C.

4. The Financial Stabilization Fund will be available to fund a catastrophic event such as a natural disaster, disaster related event or unanticipated expenditure requirements such as, an unforeseen major building or bridge structural failure. Such an event must be of an unusual or infrequent nature.

5. The Financial Stabilization fund will only be accessed when the result of the emergency expenditures would likely exceed 2% of current year, budgeted general fund expenditures, including transfers out.

6. The Financial Stabilization fund cannot be considered in whole or in part, as available funds approval of the annual budget.

7. Appropriations from the Financial Stabilization fund may only be made by ordinance with 2/3 vote of the Northampton County Council.

8. The ordinance requesting appropriations from the Financial Stabilization funds must, at a minimum, include the following:
(a) Dollar amount requested.

(b) A description of the emergency situation requiring the appropriations.

(c) A description of the consequences of not releasing the funds.

(d) The dollar amount remaining in the Financial Stabilization Fund after the proposed appropriations of funds.

9. The County must begin to restore the Financial Stabilization Fund in the year following its use. The County Executive will prepare and submit a plan for a reduction of assigned fund balance, expenditure reductions and/or revenue increases to the Northampton County Council. County Council shall take action necessary to restore financial stabilization fund to the minimum balance within two (2) years. Additionally, the Northampton County Council shall take action necessary to replace all the appropriated funds within three-five (3-5) years.

10. It will be the responsibility of Northampton County’s Director of Fiscal Affairs to report the current Financial Stabilization Fund Balance in the County’s Quarterly Financial Statements.

B. ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

The Northampton County Council hereby establishes the following assigned fund balance reserves in the General Fund:

1. Assignment to Subsequent Year's Budget - The subsequent year's budgetary fund balance reserve is assigned by the County management Executive as set forth in the annual budget (and any amendments thereto) to appropriate a portion of existing unassigned fund balance to eliminate a projected deficit in the subsequent year's budget in an amount no greater than the projected excess of expected expenditures over expected revenues.
2. Assignment to Encumbrances - The Northampton County Home Rule Charter provides for capital expenditure appropriations to continue in force until the purpose for which it was made has been accomplished or abandoned, within a three year period from inception.

3. It will be the responsibility of Northampton County's Director of Fiscal Affairs to report the current Assigned Fund Balances in the County's Quarterly Financial Statements.

SECTION VI. BUDGETING

A. APPROPRIATION OF UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE

The actual amount of unrestricted fund balance (total of committed fund balance, assigned fund balance and unassigned fund balance) is not known until the completion of the annual audit which takes place four months after the end of the fiscal year being audited. However, an estimate of unrestricted fund balance must be made during the annual budget adoption process (October through December 17) which is prior to the end of the fiscal year, December 31.

B. ESTIMATED BEGINNING FUND BALANCE.

In order to achieve the most accurate estimate possible, the County Executive or designee shall project both Sources of Funds (revenues, prior years unrestricted fund balances carried forward and other financing sources) and Uses of Funds (operating and non-operating expenditures), including accruals, for each department in each governmental fund through December 31st of the then current fiscal year. These projections will be shown in a separate column for each fund in the proposed and final budget documents. The difference between the estimated actual sources of funds and estimated actual uses of funds is the calculated estimated beginning fund balance for the subsequent fiscal year. If planned for use in the subsequent fiscal year, committed unassigned and assigned fund balance may be included in the estimated beginning fund balance.
C. ESTIMATED ENDING FUND BALANCE.

1. For the year being budgeted, a calculation of estimated ending fund balance shall also be made. This calculation shall be the difference between the budgeted sources of funds and the budgeted uses of funds as described above.

2. Since the uses of funds are restricted, committed or assigned in all other governmental fund types there is no policy to the amount of ending fund balance unless the project is completed and the fund should be closed. In this situation, a residual equity transfer will be made to zero-out any remaining fund balance.

3. If, after the annual audit, the actual General Fund unassigned fund balance is greater than 10% of budgeted operating expenditures, including transfers out, in the General Fund, the excess may be used in one or a combination of the following ways:

(a) Committed, in accordance with the funding policy in Section V, to increase the financial stabilization fund; or

(b) Left in the General Fund to earn interest and roll forward into the subsequent year's beginning fund balance; or

(c) Appropriated by ordinance of the Northampton County Council for a one-time expenditure or opportunity that does not increase recurring operating costs; or

(d) Committed to increase a formal stabilization arrangement or reserve (including but not limited to economic stabilization, contingency reserves or disaster reserves); or

(d) Appropriated for start-up expenditures of new programs undertaken at mid-year, provided that such action is considered in
the context of council-approved multi-year projections of revenues and expenditures.

SECTION VII. SPENDING ORDER OF OPERATING REVENUES AND FUND BALANCES

The County will first use Federal, then State, and lastly County revenues to meet its financial obligations. The County uses requires restricted amounts to be spent first when both restricted and unrestricted revenue or fund balance is available unless there are legal documents/contracts that prohibit doing this, such as in grant agreements requiring dollar for dollar spending. Additionally, the County would first use committed assigned fund balance, followed by assigned fund balance and then unassigned fund balance when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

SECTION VIII. ANNUAL REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF FUND BALANCE POLICY

Compliance with the provisions of this policy shall be reviewed as a part of the annual budget adoption process, and the amounts of restricted, committed, assigned, non-spendable and the minimum level of unassigned fund balance shall be determined during this process.

SECTION IX. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It will be the responsibility of the Northampton County Director of Fiscal Affairs to keep this policy current.

SECTION X. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy shall take effect thirty (30) days after the date of enactment of this ordinance.
SECTION XI. REPEALER

That any Ordinances, or part of Ordinance, conflicting with this Ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Ordinance.

SECTION XII. SEVERABILITY

If any sentence, clause, section or part of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Northampton County Council that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

Consideration of a Personnel Request Resolutions: Court Administration Department; Sheriff’s Department

Mrs. Ferraro advised the Personnel Committee met yesterday to review the personnel requests from the Court Administration and Sheriff’s Departments.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolutions:

R. 16-2015 RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council one (1) full time position of Adult Probation Officer II, pay grade CP-25, salary $59,404, shall be created in the Department of Court Administration, effective the 1st day of April 2015.

R. 17-2015 RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that one (1) part-time (.50 FTE) position of Court Security Officer, pay grade CS-19, salary $18,314, shall be eliminated in the Sheriff’s Department, effective the 20th day of March 2105.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that four (4) part-time (1.00 FTE) positions of Security Screening Officer, pay grade CS-12, salary $26,538, shall be eliminated in the Sheriff’s Department, effective the 20th day of March 2105.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Clerical Technician III, pay grade CR-13, salary range $24,411 to $33,218, shall be created in the Sheriff’s Department, effective the 20th day of March 2015.

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

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

The resolution was adopted by 9-0.

Consideration of the Revised Human Services Pay Scales Resolution

Mrs. Ferraro stated the Personnel Committee met yesterday to review the revised Human Services pay scales for certain Human Services (non-union) Administrative and PSSU (Union) employees.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 18-2015 WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council adopted resolution #9-2014 which adopted 2013 and 2014 pay scales for certain Department of Human Services Civil Service (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council adopted resolution #26-2014 which adopted 2014 pay scales for certain Department of Human Services Civil Service (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council adopted resolution #88-2014 which adopted 2014 pay scales for certain Human Services (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2015, the Department of Human Resources indicated that due to changes in State maximum allowable salaries, it became necessary to revise the 2014 and 2015 pay scales for certain Human Services Civil Service (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the 2014 and 2015 pay scales for certain Human Services Civil Service (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees shall be revised to read as indicated on the attached document (refer to Exhibit "A"). The 2014 and 2015 revisions shall be retroactive to July 1, 2014.

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

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

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

Human Services Committee Report

Mr. Vaughn advised the Human Services Committee met earlier this evening and received an update on Gracedale. He further advised it continued to maintain a fairly consistent bed census of 675.

Mr. Vaughn stated Governor Tom Wolf’s budget was allotting a zero percent increase in the Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement rates that would have an impact on the revenue streams for Gracedale.

Mr. Vaughn advised Gracedale was going to send out a Request for Proposals for the sale of its unused beds shortly. He further advised the pharmacy was up and running with two PhD pharmacists that were helping with the polypharmacy issues.

Mr. Vaughn stated the KRONOS on shift upgrades have all been implemented and they have seen significant improvements in nursing hours per patient that was helping with labor costs. He further stated the NTT computer system would go live on Tower 5 on April 1, 2015.

Courts and Corrections Committee Report

Mr. Benol advised the Courts an Corrections Committee met yesterday and it was learned the Drug and Alcohol Court was going live on April 2, 2015.
Gracedale

In response to Mr. Phillips’ question as to whether a review was made regarding the privatization of the laundry, housekeeping and maintenance at Gracedale, Mr. Vaughn stated Mr. Millard Freeman indicated there would be some cost savings, but he would have to him provide the hard numbers.

Mr. Werner advised information had been received regarding a trust and endowment program for Gracedale that would be provided to the Administration and members of County Council.

Mrs. Ferraro stated she just wanted to clarify the County was not turning Gracedale into a 501(c)(3), but a stand-alone foundation to raise tax deductible funds to help support Gracedale.

Parks and Open Space Committee Report

Mr. Parsons advised the Parks and Open Space Committee met on March 16, 2015, where it was to receive an analysis from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding the economic impact of open space, however, it had to be rescheduled.

Mr. Parsons stated due to the appraisals that were received, a project in Upper Mount Bethel Township would be coming back to the County for an amendment that would save some money.

Mr. Parsons advised there were also some discussions regarding several municipal park projects that had to be returned to the Open Space Advisory Board for more information.

Department of Human Resources

Mr. Werner stated he met with Ms. Linda Markwith, Human Resource Generalist and Ms. Shawna Shriver, Personnel Analyst, of the Department of Human Resources to discuss testing and hiring procedures. He further stated he wanted to thank them personally for taking their time to meet with him and he found them to be very knowledgeable.

Mr. Werner advised he learned there was a new system being implemented that would save the County thousands of dollars in time and efficiency.
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Council Clerk's Report

Mrs. Zembo stated due to the upcoming holiday, the next meeting of County Council would be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 instead of Thursday, April 2, 2015.

Adjournment

Mr. Geissinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Parsons seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council