Easton, Pennsylvania

May 21, 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. (via telephone); 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Geissinger led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Kraft made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the May 7, 2015 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Presentation of Pennsylvania Land Trust Association 2015 Government Conservation Leadership Award

Mrs. Ferraro stated the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association on behalf of Pennsylvania's 75 leading conservation organizations, awarded Northampton County its 2015 Government Conservation Leadership Award for its demonstrated leadership and vision in the conservation of special places and landscapes.
Mr. Luis Campos, Director of Administration, also acknowledged receipt of the award and noted that Councilman Parsons, Ms. Maria Bentzoni, Farmland Preservation Administrator, and Mr. Bryan Cope, Open Space Coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the County.

Mr. Campos advised the County was a leader in expanding and improving open space and recreational opportunities and through its regional collaboration prioritized preserving these lands though local zoning, planning initiatives and advanced funding strategies.

Mr. Campos stated since the establishment of the 21st Century Open Space Initiative in 2002, the County had been awarded $5.94 million for 56 municipal park projects and $4.2 million for the preservation of approximately 1500 acres of natural areas and open space lands. He further stated the Farmland Preservation Program had protected approximately 14,000 acres of farmland since 1993 and 23 miles of open multi-use trail systems in 2015. He added the County had contributed $1 million for the procurement, development and restoration of municipal parks, $750,000 for farmland preservation and $400,000 for natural areas preservation.

Ms. Bentzoni advised this could not have been accomplished without the assistance of past and present members of County Council and Administration, as well as the agencies that have partnered with the County.

Mr. Cope stated he wanted to thank everyone that had participated in this program and planned on having pictures of them holding the award so at the end of the year a brochure could be put together.

Mr. Parsons advised Ms. Bentzoni, Mr. Cope and the members of their Advisory Boards have done an excellent job. He further advised while he was at the conference, he received compliments from individuals around the State on how the County handled its programs.

Mrs. Ferraro commented she remembered when farmland preservation started and without the excellent leadership of Ms. Bentzoni and Mr. Cope, it would not be where it was today so she wanted to thank them.
Ms. Marcella Hedrick, 3653 Ironstone Road, Bethlehem, PA stated she spent Tuesday at the polls handing out literature and talking with the poll workers. She further stated she wanted to acknowledge the exceptional poll workers at Epworth Church, who after assisting senior voters that were not able to see or had trouble interpreting things on the ballot got together and came up with a list of solutions.

Ms. Hedrick handed out the list of solutions (see Attachment #2), noting they did not cost anything and were fairly simple remedies. She added she would appreciate the members of County Council reviewing them and if they felt they were worth passing along to the appropriate individuals to do so.

Mrs. Ferraro stated they would be passed along to the Election Commission who had the power to make any changes.

Mr. Bill Mineo, 70 Ballek Road, Williams Township, PA provided a handout entitled, "PennEast Pipeline – Hexenkopf Williams Township" (see Attachment #3). He advised at the Williams Township Planning Commission meeting last night, he became aware there were two County and three private easements that protected an area of Williams Township known as Hexenkopf.

Mr. Mineo stated he would like Mr. Cope to examine the potential threats to these easements and if he determined that a sufficient threat existed, a letter be sent to the PennEast Corporation, the Federal Energy Regulation Commission and the Northampton County Conservation District requesting an alternate route be considered. He further stated the area was considered a sacred site by the Lenape Tribe and it was protected because of the steep slope and the wooded character of the area.

Confirmation of Appointments

Mrs. Ferraro stated the Personnel Committee met yesterday to review the County Executive’s appointments/re-appointments to the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board, Farmland Preservation Board, Gracedale Advisory Board and Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:
R. 28-2015 RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the following individuals shall be confirmed in their appointments/re-appointments as indicated hereafter:

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADVISORY BOARD**

**Appointment:**
Lucy E. Napper, Ph.D.
707 Saucon View Drive
Bethlehem PA 18015

**Terms to Expire:** 6/30/17

**Re-appointments:**
Reverend Christopher T. Santos
38 North Sixth Street
Easton PA 18042

Terrence V.R. Miller
645 Ferry Street
Easton PA 18042

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

**Re-appointment:**
Roger Unangst
7317 Bethlehem-Bath Pike
Bath PA 18014

**Term to Expire:** 6/30/18

**GRACEDALE ADVISORY BOARD**

**Appointment:**
Maryann Schmoyer
480 Rabbit Road
Bath PA 18014

**Term to Expire:** 4/19/17

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Appointment:**
Peter Albanese
706 Rudolph Road
Pen Argyl PA 18072

**Term to Expire:** 3/17/20

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 a vote of 9-0.

Executive Session

Mrs. Ferraro asked for a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Werner advised during yesterday's Personnel and Finance Committee meeting, District Attorney John Morganelli appeared and requested County Council's approval of personnel changes for three of his employees whose information he said he had no problem with making public and provided written detailed justification for each of them. He further advised Mr. Morganelli chose to offer this information because, as he stated, all salaries utilizing taxpayer dollars were a matter of public record.

Mr. Werner stated he complimented Mr. Morganelli on providing this information and now before entering into Executive Session was respectfully requesting the County Executive to follow Mr. Morganelli's example and offer the selected public information along with reasonable and valid reasons for the questionable raises he bestowed on certain employees.

Mrs. Ferraro remarked she would like to go into Executive Session right now and asked for a motion.

Mr. Kraft advised he objected because he believed it was being used to circumvent talking about the issue in a public forum.

Mr. Werner agreed indicating this issue was something that did not have to be discussed in Executive Session as information had already been disseminated to the public.

In answer to Mr. Parsons' question as to whether a statement had to be given as to why County Council was moving into Executive Session, Mr. Lauer replied there did not have to be a statement of any detail, but his suggestion would be to hold the Executive Session and if someone believed there were issues that were discussed there that should be made public,
they could do that.

Mr. McClure stated he agreed with Mr. Lauer that if any particular member of County Council during the Executive Session felt it was not proper or legal, they could always leave and not participate, but he would not support the motion as he felt this was an issue to be discussed in public.

Mrs. Ferraro commented she felt they did receive the requested information and would like to go into Executive Session to see if there were any points that Mr. Lauer would like to discuss in detail.

Mr. Phillips advised he would like to go into Executive Session because there were some legal issues he wanted to discuss.

Mr. Benol stated he agreed with Mr. Lauer’s opinion so he made a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Mr. Geissinger seconded the motion.

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

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

The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Mr. Lauer advised County Council entered into Executive Session at 6:54 p.m. and returned at 7:52 p.m. wherein discussions were held regarding personnel matters and potential litigation resulting in a resolution being prepared regarding those issues.

Messrs. Kraft and Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 29-2015  WHEREAS, County Council has concluded that certain pay raises and step advances granted by the County Executive without approval by this body are unlawful; and

WHEREAS, County Council intends to correct the situation either by agreement or by access to the Courts.
NOW, THEREFORE, HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that County Council:

1. Concludes that the action taken by the County Executive in granting the pay raises and step advances listed in a recent submission by the County Executive to the County Council Solicitor are unlawful.

2. Herewith directs the County Executive to present to the County Council Personnel Committee justification for the aforesaid pay raises and step advances at its meeting to be held on June 17, 2015.

3. At the County Council meeting to be held on June 18, 2015, County Council will determine whether the pay raises and step advances should be approved and, if disapproved, shall determine the remedy to be imposed.

4. In the event that the County Executive shall fail to comply with this directive, County Council instructs its Solicitor to bring an action against the County Executive in the nature of a declaratory judgement action seeking to have the raises nullified and a surcharge imposed against the County Executive.

Mrs. Ferraro asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were no respondents.

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


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

Mr. McClure disconnected at this time.

Controller’s Report

Mr. Stephen Barron, Controller, stated there was an Auditor II position open in his office and they were waiting for the new Human Resources system to go live to receive applications.
Mr. Barron advised on the agenda there was a resolution requesting his office to perform an audit on the Payroll Division.

Mr. Barron stated after speaking with former County Solicitor Christopher Spadoni today, he would like to make an addition to the number three of that resolution because there was an issue with a recently adopted resolution regarding raises given to the clerical staff. He further stated Mr. Spadoni informed him that he had been retained by 17 employees in the Magisterial District Court system because they were at the top of their pay scale when the raises were instituted at 4.5% so even though they were considered in the resolution, they would not be receiving the increase according to the Administration.

Mr. Barron advised Ms. Catherine Allen, Deputy Director of Administration was alerted by Court Administration that these employees were at the top of the scale. He further advised the issue could be resolved by the entire pay scale being moved up 4.5%. He noted when Cost of Living Allowances were given employees at the end of the pay scale would receive them.

Mr. Barron stated this would be a significant finding in an audit report and he would have to bring it to County Council’s attention.

In response to Mr. Werner’s question as to whether these raises were planned last year, Mr. Barron advised he was not aware of them, but he was not part of the inner workings of the Administration.

Mr. Benol stated when he suggested that Mr. Barron be permanently placed on the agenda, he was looking for more of a controller’s report and not his personal opinions.

Mr. Barron advised he just wanted to let County Council know this would be a significant audit finding if his office was asked to do this audit.

In answer to Mr. Vaughn’s question as to the status of the Prime Care audit that County Council requested, Mr. Barron stated they had some great meetings with the personnel at the Prison who indicated they were very satisfied with the services being provided. He further stated they made requests for some information from Prime Care, but he did not know the status of their replies.
Mr. Barron advised he believed the deadline was either the end of June or July and it was coming along very well. He further advised they were going to be doing some benchmarking with what similar organizations did with regard to institutional medicine.

County Executive’s Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, stated the comments in today’s Morning Call by Mr. McClure with regard to the raises he provided for 14 members of the County workforce wherein he called that action criminal was completely ridiculous and nothing more than political nonsense that he spewed regularly and everyone was tired of it. He further stated the political pandering that went on week after week was ridiculous and had to stop because all it did was put everyone and the County in a negative light that was not deserved.

Mr. Brown advised he respectively disagreed with Mr. Lauer’s opinion, noting it was just an opinion. He further advised he shared the Administration’s perspective and the sound basis for its legal arguments with Mr. Lauer and even though his opinion differed, he did agree there was basis for them.

Mr. Brown stated neither Mr. Lauer nor County Solicitor Ryan Durkin were judges and this was not a courtroom so everyone needed to drop “this is illegal” nonsense and recognize that there was simply a difference of opinion that required a resolution.

Mr. Brown advised it was important to have a dialogue and even disagree about what should be done, however, how that discussion took place was important in bringing about positive resolutions. He further advised to that end, at the request of County Council, himself, Mr. Geissinger, Mr. Durkin and Mr. Lauer met and argued back and forth over the question at hand.

Mr. Brown stated there was no reason they could not continue to utilize this approach in the future to resolve disputes meaningfully without the political pandering, name calling, innuendos and under breath remarks that were expressed in this room and through the media.
With regard to the raises, Mr. Brown advised there were approximately $110,000 in salary increases between 2014 and 2015 shared by 14 individuals. He further advised this Administration saved approximately $8.5 million in salary and benefits last year without laying people off or cutting jobs.

Mr. Brown stated approximately 62% of the raises that were issued went to very long time, talented individuals at Gracedale that more than deserved the increases and attracted highly qualified employees capable of taking on the extraordinary challenges the facility was facing.

Mr. Brown advised the increases went to nursing, housekeeping and maintenance operations and each of these divisions have improved dramatically and employee satisfaction was up.

Mr. Brown stated each of these employees took on considerable responsibilities and they needed to provide increases to retain them in the County. He further stated as a direct result of these individuals and divisions, Gracedale achieved a zero citation notification from the Department of Health in January.

Mr. Brown advised tremendous effort was going into maximizing the dollars the County spent at Gracedale in an attempt to reduce and minimize its operating losses. He further advised if these actions were taken several years ago, Gracedale would not have financially reached the levels it had today and may not be facing the mounting losses it was trying to overcome.

Mr. Brown stated several of the other increases were provided to individuals in the Departments of Human Resources, Administration, Sheriff and Public Works, which were all critical departments for supporting the improvements required throughout the County.

Mr. Brown advised instead of wasting time and taxpayer dollars arguing over a few dollars here and there, the focus needed to be on the enormous operational financial challenges the County still faced. He asked County Council if they looked into the rise of healthcare costs over the past several years at a rate of $1.5 million per year with the same number of membership.
Mr. Brown asked why the growing pension burden on the General Fund tax dollar contribution, which had grown from $600,000 to more than $13 million for the past several years, was not a hot topic. He further asked where was the heated debate over the shrinking General Fund, noting County Council had allowed it to shrink from $70 million to less than $10 million, the growing capital needs, the looming healthcare excise tax and Swaption balloon payment that was just around the corner. He also wanted to know what County Council had done about the Prison and related issues there.

Mr. Brown inquired if County Council had taken any action to resolve the employee dissatisfaction that had plagued this County for years. He noted the employees were hungry for someone to step in and listen to their needs and support making the necessary changes required to improve their work and life balance. He commented this Administration was clearly demonstrating a willingness to do that with salary increases, department readjustments, technology and training.

Mr. Brown stated the issues facing this County were tremendous and they had to work hard together to resolve them. He further stated County Council could chose to remain focused on the pennies and fight over who had what right to do what, but it would never lead anywhere.

Mr. Brown advised if County Council wanted to keep the political pandering going, they could, but he did not want anything to do with it. He further advised he had been very clear from the beginning of his administration that his commitment was to operate this County in a cost effective way and they were off to a great start.

Mr. Brown stated his Administration would continue to execute the strategic plan created when he came into office and despite the constant resistance, interference and roadblocks created by County Council, they were producing excellent results. He further stated in 2014, this Administration was able to return approximately $17 million to the General Fund and reduced the 2015 budget by more than $17.4 million.

Mr. Brown advised they were making the hard decisions necessary to avoid the long term financial challenges like the $9.4 million healthcare excise tax the County was facing. He further advised they were holding the employees accountable for the work they were doing and providing all the necessary resources for them to succeed and as a result they were seeing
dramatic improvements across the board that translated into greater job satisfaction and better delivery of services to the taxpayers.

Mr. Brown invited County Council to get out of the current paradigm of County Council versus the County Executive and help put Northampton County on the map as a well-run, efficient and highly functional County.

Mr. Parsons stated he looked forward to moving this County forward and working with Mr. Brown, but he had to work with County Council, which meant he had to be transparent. He further stated the reason the discussion regarding the raises had continued for a number of months was because there was no transparency from the Administration. He added if Mr. Brown wanted County Council to work with him, he had to be transparent with them and let them help him.

Mr. Brown advised his Administration had provided any information County Council needed to make the decisions they asked them to make overall. He further advised depending on your stand at a given moment, transparency had a very different meaning. He noted there was nothing the Administration was doing that was not available to be looked at, noting their strategic plan was very clear and the actions they were taking were producing the results they were committed to produce. In addition, he welcomed any opportunity to meet with Mr. Parsons to discuss whatever he wanted to discuss in great detail.

Mr. Werner stated one of his issues was the bridge programs and millions of dollars involved, but it was recently discovered the County only got involved a few weeks ago.

Mr. Brown advised the condition of the Department of Public Works two years ago had to be considered and he made changes to it as soon as he could. He further advised he brought in another Director that resulted in some improvements, but not to the degree that was needed.

Mr. Brown stated the changes that were needed were not simple ones, but they did have a strategic plan to move forward. He further stated if County Council approved Mr. Stan Rugis as Director tonight, they would see a very rapid improvement not only in the projects being managed, but in information and detail about them and have better visibility into how they were being done.
Mr. Werner advised at one time, Mr. Brown had remarked that his newly appointed Deputy Director negotiated with such entities as local police departments and interacted with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) on water and bridge issues and had a whole realm of experience in the public sector. He then asked why this expertise was not utilized in 2015 when County Council urged him and the former Director of Public Works to pursue the bridge program with PennDOT.

Mr. Brown stated he believed Mr. Werner was informed the County was not eligible for the bridge program at that time according to PennDOT and he was not clear on their decisions going forward.

Mr. Werner advised Mr. Brown had indicated he had met with PennDOT officials hoping to get the County into the program so he wanted to know whom he met with and when, as well as why the Deputy Director was not involved.

Mr. Brown stated he believed the former Director of Public Works was handling it, but he would have to review the matter.

Mr. Werner advised he respectfully disagreed with Mr. Brown's remark about County Council throwing up roadblocks and echoed Mr. Parsons' comments. He further advised the resolution adopted tonight by the nine members of County Council spoke volumes about the frustration in trying to resolve something that was done behind closed doors without County Council being involved. He further noted County Council was not notified of the meeting he mentioned and there were probably some members that would have wanted to participate.

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Providing for the Conveyance of Easements From Private Property Owners to Northampton County Along Sycamore Drive in the Township of Lehigh to Accomplish the Replacement and Repair of County Bridge 198 Over Indian Creek

Mrs. Ferraro stated the following ordinance was introduced by Messrs. Geissinger and Phillips at the meeting held on May 7, 2015:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENTS FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS TO NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ALONG SYCAMORE DRIVE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LEHIGH TO ACCOMPLISH THE REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR OF COUNTY BRIDGE 198 OVER INDIAN CREEK
WHEREAS, Northampton County wishes to replace County Bridge 198, along Sycamore Drive over Indian Creek located in the Township of Lehigh; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish said replacement, Northampton County necessitates certain temporary and permanent easements upon the properties of the following record owners:

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<th>Record Owner:</th>
<th>Parcel ID:</th>
<th>Easement:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Crowe</td>
<td>J3 13 8 0516</td>
<td>Temporary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Crowe</td>
<td>J3 13 8 0516</td>
<td>Permanent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger and Marianne Heffelfinger</td>
<td>J3 13 16A 0516</td>
<td>Temporary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn and June Myster</td>
<td>J3 13 14 0516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn and June Myster</td>
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<td>Temporary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elvin and Rosemary Kleppinger</td>
<td>J3 5 7 0516</td>
<td>Temporary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameron Myster</td>
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<td>Cameron Myster</td>
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<tr>
<td>David and Suzanne Rizzo</td>
<td>J3 13 16 0516</td>
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<td>Glenn and June Myster</td>
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<td>Glenn and June Myster</td>
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<td>Temporary</td>
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WHEREAS, such record owners have each voluntarily and of their own free will endorsed the appropriate deed of easement agreements granting the necessary easement rights to Northampton County; 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, leases or authorizes the purchase, conveyance, or lease of any real property of the County"; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Administrative Code Section 13.15 provides that:

a. The County Executive has the authority to execute or cause to be executed on behalf of the County all deeds and contracts for the purchase, sale, or lease of real estate, subject to the procedures set forth in this article.

b. Sealed Appraisals. The County shall not purchase, sell, or lease real estate without first obtaining sealed appraisals from two (2) professional real estate appraisers. This requirement may be waived by the County Executive and approved by the Northampton County Council, by resolution, where it can be demonstrated that:
1. The costs of the appraisals are likely to exceed the value of the properties or project to which the appraisals pertain;

2. The nature of the project requiring a purchase, sale or lease of real estate does not justify the cost of appraisals or is otherwise deemed unnecessary;

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4. Other compelling reasons exist to waive the appraisals for example, "time is of the essence" to complete the sale, lease or purchase, and a reasonable statement of value is available.

5. In any of circumstances set forth in sections 13.15 b.1., 2., 3. or 4., County Council shall approve, by resolution, the County Executive proceeding without two sealed appraisals.

c. Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Estate

(1) 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.

(2) In presenting a proposal or a contract to purchase/sell/lease real estate to County Council for approval the County Executive shall make public the two sealed appraisals received by the County.

WHEREAS, each of the above-referenced record owners of the encumbered properties have agreed to grant the required easement rights to Northampton County in exchange for nominal consideration of a "dollar deed," and it is not necessary or appropriate for Northampton County to incur the delay and expense of obtaining sealed appraisals.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED that the County Executive shall enter into "dollar deeds" with the various property owners without obtaining sealed appraisals to avert any delays in replacing County Bridge 198, along Sycamore Drive over Indian Creek located in the Township of Lehigh.
Mrs. Ferraro asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were no respondents.

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

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

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

Consideration of the Request for the Controller to Perform an Audit on the Payroll Division Resolution

Mrs. Ferraro advised at the request of Mr. Parsons, a resolution was prepared calling for an audit by the Controller’s Office of the Payroll Division.

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolution:

R. 30-2015 WHEREAS, Northampton County Charter Section 202(8) provides that the County Council shall have, among others, the following powers: (8) to require periodic and special reports from elected officials and their subordinates; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that it hereby requests that the Northampton County Controller perform an audit on the Payroll Division and that it address, but not necessarily be limited to, the following issues:

1. The identity and job title of any individuals who have received pay raises that were not approved by County Council.

2. The identity and job title of any individuals being paid out-of-class pay for positions that have been filled.

3. The identity and job title of any individuals otherwise receiving compensation not consistent with the Home Rule Charter, Administrative Code, or Career Service Regulations.
In answer to Mr. Phillips' question as to whether he wanted to amend this resolution to include some wording with regard to Mr. Barron's suggestion, Mr. Parsons replied he felt the resolution, as written, covered it.

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

The vote: 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 8-0.

Introduction of an Ordinance Providing Term Limits for the Members of County Council

Mrs. Ferraro stated at the request of Mr. Vaughn, an ordinance was prepared calling for three (3) four year term limits for members of County Council. She further stated the public hearing, debate, and possible vote was scheduled for the June 4, 2015 meeting.

Messrs. Vaughn and Phillips introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF COUNTY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Home Rule Charter does not address the issue of term limits for the members of County Council; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council desires to set terms limits of three (3) four year terms for County Council members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that a member of County Council shall not serve more than three (3) four-year terms in succession. The limitation imposed by this ordinance shall not apply to terms previously served by current members of County Council, who shall, for purposes of this ordinance only, be deemed to be serving their first term.
Consideration of Personnel Request Resolutions

Mrs. Ferraro advised the Personnel Committee met yesterday to review personnel requests from the District Attorney’s Office and the Department of Human Services.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolutions:

District Attorney’s Office

R. 31-2015  WHEREAS, the Northampton County Executive proposed changes with respect to various clerical positions in Northampton County that were adopted by the Northampton County Council on April 16, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the District Attorney of Northampton County has provided justification for an adjustment to the following positions in his office and has indicated sufficient monies within his budget to cover same for the remainder of 2015:

The one full time position of Office Supervisor, pay grade CS 19 Step 6-F, salary $45,645 to pay grade CS 19 Step 7-G, salary $47,699.

The one full time position of Executive Secretary, pay grade CS 19, step 1-A, salary $36,628 to pay grade CS 19, 2-B, salary $38,276.

The one full time position of Administrative Specialist, pay grade CR 18, step 5-E, salary $36,648 to pay grade CR 18, step 6-F, salary $38,297.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the salary adjustments in the Office of the District Attorney.

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


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

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 32-2015  RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that one (1) part-time (.40 FTE) position of Human Resources Analyst III, pay grade HS-41-A, salary $23,674, in the Human Services Department, shall be eliminated effective the 22nd day of May 2015.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full-time (1.00 FTE) position of Human Resources Analyst III, pay grade HS-41-A, salary range $49,630 to $83,054, in the Human Services Department, shall be created effective the 22nd day of May 2015.

In response to Mr. Phillips’ question as to whether this was in the 2015 budget, Ms. Allison Frantz, Director of Human Services, stated it was in the budget as a part-time position, but they wanted to make it a full time position.

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


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

Department of Human Services - Gracedale

R. 33-2015  RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that one (1) part-time (.50 FTE) position of Staff Development Instructor, pay grade CS-27, salary $26,469, in the Human Services Department - Gracedale Nursing Home, shall be eliminated effective the 22nd day of May 2015.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that two (2) part-time (.40 FTE) Clerical Technician III positions, pay grade CS-15, salary range $15,234 to $21,675, shall be created in the Human Services Department - Gracedale Nursing Home, effective the 22nd day of May 2015.
As there were no questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.

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

The resolutions were adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Consideration of the Appointment of Director of Public Works Resolution

Mrs. Ferraro advised the Personnel Committee met yesterday to review the appointment of Mr. Rugis as Director of Public Works.

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 34-2015 RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that Stan Rugis shall be confirmed in his appointment as Director of the Department of Public Works, at a salary of Pay Grade Group VI, Step 3-C, salary $95,921, effective May 22, 2015.

Mr. Werner stated that Mr. Rugis was put in the middle of a lot of projects and was doing very well in handling them.

Mr. Geissinger advised he agreed with Mr. Werner and during a discussion regarding the Gracedale generator project at the Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Rugis was an integral part of the discussions and he was very impressed by him so he would support this appointment.

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

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.
Consideration of Open Space Initiative Project Resolutions

Mrs. Ferraro stated at the request of Mr. Parsons, resolutions were prepared for County Council’s approval for municipal projects for Hanover Township; Upper Nazareth Township; Washington Township; Bethlehem Township; Borough of Northampton; Borough of Nazareth; Borough of Freemansburg; Plainfield Township; City of Bethlehem and Lower Mount Bethel Township.

Mr. Parsons advised these projects were all part of the Open Space - Municipal Parks and they were approved as being within the regulations of that initiative.

Mr. Parsons introduced the following resolutions:

Hanover Township

R. 35-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Village View Park - Phase II Development Project located in Hanover Township; and

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

Property Owner: Hanover Township
Site Location: 4025 Airport Road, Allentown, PA
Park Development Description: Development of two (2) multi-purpose recreational fields; paved parking lot with ADA accessible spots; ADA accessible walking path; landscaping and erosion control measures.
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $182,477.71
County Grant Request: $182,477.71 (40.0%)
Municipal Contribution $284,214.60 (60.0%)
Other Grants: None
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Village View Park - Phase II Development Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $182,477.71 as the Northampton County contribution to the Village View Park - Phase II Development Project.

Upper Nazareth Township

R. 36-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Playground and Parking Improvement Project located in Upper Nazareth Township; and

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner:</th>
<th>Upper Nazareth Township</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Location:</td>
<td>Hillside Park; Newport Park; Creekside Park; Tuskes Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Development Description:</td>
<td>Bonded rubberized mulch at three (3) park playground areas; and paved parking lot with ADA accessible spots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value:</td>
<td>No acquisition involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Municipal Allocation:</td>
<td>$104,640.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$104,640.03 (43.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Contribution</td>
<td>$134,906.97 (56.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Playground and Parking Improvement Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $104,640.03 as the Northampton County contribution to the Playground and Parking Improvement Project.

Washington Township

R. 37-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Pedestrian Bridge and Trailhead Parking Project located in the Washington Township; and

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner:</th>
<th>Washington Township</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Location:</td>
<td>1021 Washington Boulevard, Bangor, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Development Description:</td>
<td>Oil and Chip existing parking lots and driveways located at the Recreation Complex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value:</td>
<td>No acquisition involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Municipal Allocation:</td>
<td>$87,016.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$20,550.00 (50.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Contribution</td>
<td>$20,550.00 (50.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Oil and Chip of Recreation Parking Lot Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $20,550.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Oil and Chip of Recreation Parking Lot Project located in Washington Township.

Bethlehem Township

R. 38-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Housenick Memorial Park Improvements - Phase II Project located in Bethlehem Township; and

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

Property Owner:
Bethlehem Township

Site Location:
Christian Springs Road

Park Development Description:
Site preparation and erosion control measures; development of walking paths; fencing and trail marker posts; and landscaping.

Appraised Value:
No acquisition involved

Phase II Municipal Allocation:
$398,508.74

County Grant Request:
$213,611.00 (50.0%)

Other Grants:
$213,611.00 (50.0%)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:
(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Housenick Memorial Park Improvements - Phase II Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $213,611.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Housenick Memorial Park Improvements - Phase II Project.

Borough of Northampton

R. 39-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 4th Street Playground Parcel Acquisition and Development Project - Borough of Northampton; and

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

Property Owner: Joseph R. and Elizabeth Crock

Site Location: 416 E. 4th Street, Northampton, PA

Park Development Description: Acquisition of 7,300+/- SF parcel; Development of parking area; site preparation and erosion control measures; and Landscaping.

Phase II Municipal Allocation: $166,691.86

County Grant Request: $30,500.00 (46.0%)

Municipal Contribution $26,900.00 / $8,500.00 in-kind from purchase of land (54.0%)

Other Grants: None

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:
(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the 4th Street Playground Parcel Acquisition and Development Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $30,500.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the 4th Street Playground Parcel Acquisition and Development Project.

Borough of Nazareth

R. 40-2015 Whereas, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Safety Fencing Replacement Project located in the Borough of Nazareth; and

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

Property Owner: Borough of Nazareth

Site Location: 475 N. Broad Street, Nazareth, PA

Park Development Description: Safety fencing replacement around community pool.

Appraised Value: No acquisition involved

Phase II Municipal Allocation: $96,495.21

County Grant Request: $12,500.00 (50.0%)

Municipal Contribution: $12,591.00 (50.0%)

Other Grants: None

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By the Northampton County Council:
(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Safety Fencing Replacement Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 as the Northampton County contribution to the Safety Fencing Replacement Project.

Borough of Freemansburg

R. 41-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Pedestrian Bridge and Trailhead Parking Project located in the Borough of Freemansburg; and

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner:</th>
<th>Borough of Freemansburg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Location:</td>
<td>Between east terminus of Birch Street and Monroe Street along Lehigh Canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Development Description:</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of existing footbridge across the Lehigh Canal; and Rehabilitation of existing parking lot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value:</td>
<td>No acquisition involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Municipal Allocation:</td>
<td>$44,267.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$19,152.00 (49.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Contribution</td>
<td>$6,898.00 (18.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants:</td>
<td>$12,500.00 (32.5%) Lehigh Valley Greenways Mini-Grant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Pedestrian Bridge and Trailhead Parking Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $19,152.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Pedestrian Bridge and Trailhead Parking Project.

Plainfield Township

R. 42-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Park and Trail Improvements Project located in Plainfield Township; and

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

Property Owner: Plainfield Township

Site Location: Community Park at Kesslersville; Municipal Park; Recreation Trail

Park Development Description: Playground set and fencing, lighting and landscaping at Community Park; ten station outdoor exercise 'system at community park; traffic control / barricade devices at Community Park; tennis courts improvements at Municipal Park; electrical upgrades at Municipal Park; playground area at Achenbach's Grove; and replacement of four (4) park benches along the Recreation Trail.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Park and Trail Improvements Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $61,195.38 as the Northampton County contribution to the Park and Trail Improvements Project.

City of Bethlehem

R. 43 - 2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Skateplaza Shade Canopy located in the City of Bethlehem; and

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

Property Owner: City of Bethlehem
Site Location: City of Bethlehem, Skateplaza
Park Development Description: Construction of a shade canopy within Bethlehem Skateplaza.
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $934,371.17
County Council Minutes  

County Grant Request: $25,000.00 (50.0%)  
Municipal Contribution $25,000.00 (50.0%)  
Other Grants: None

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Skateplaza Shade Canopy - City of Bethlehem Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $25,000.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Skateplaza Shade Canopy Project.

City of Bethlehem

R. 44-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Northampton-Lehigh Footbridge over the Monocacy Creek located in the City of Bethlehem; and

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

Property Owner: City of Bethlehem
Site Location: City of Bethlehem, Johnston Park
Park Development Description: Removal of existing wooden footbridge; construction of new footbridge across the Monocacy Creek.
Appraised Value: No acquisition involved
Phase II Municipal Allocation: $934,371.17
County Grant Request: $210,000.00 (50.0%)
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Northampton-Lehigh Footbridge over the Monocacy Creek Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $210,000.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the Northampton-Lehigh Footbridge over the Monocacy Creek Project.

R. 45-2015 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative 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 Kiefer Ball Field / Playground / Fitness Trail Improvements located in Lower Mount Bethel Township; and

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

Property Owner: Lower Mount Bethel Township

Site Location: Bush Drive/Delhaven Road/Riverton Fields

Park Development Description: Kiefer Playground Equipment; Riverton Fitness Trail Equipment; Mulch at Kiefer Park.

Appraised Value: No acquisition involved

Phase II Municipal Allocation: $52,076.51

County Grant Request: $21,845.95 (50.0%)

Municipal Contribution $16,845.95 (39.0%)
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Village View Park - Phase II Development Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his 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 $21,845.95 as the Northampton County contribution to the Kiefer Ball Field/Playground and Fitness Trail Improvements Project.

In answer to Mr. Phillips' question as to how much of the funding was left, Mr. Cope stated out of the $1 million, approximately $55,000 left.

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question as to whether the pathway would be going through the whole vicinity of Housenick Memorial Park, Mr. Cope advised it was a small trail and within the Bethlehem Township park boundaries.

In answer to Mr. Benol's question as to whether there was any report given regarding the return of the County's investment in these projects, Mr. Cope stated the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission had a presentation called, "Return on Environment".

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

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

The resolutions were adopted by a vote of 8-0.
Mrs. Ferraro advised at the request of Mr. Vaughn, a resolution was prepared to oppose the expansion of the Compressor Station in Forks Township.

Ms. Julie Edgar, stated she had been advocating on shale gas issues with regard to public health. She further stated she ran a non-profit organization called Lehigh Valley Gas Truth that represented approximately 250 individuals in Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

Ms. Edgar advised the current Compressor Station was right near Klein Farms. She further advised compressor stations emitted a lot of pollutants in the air that were dangerous to the communities. She noted Columbia Gas Transmission LLC wanted to increase the horsepower by five or six times, but the actual emissions would be multiplied significantly.

Ms. Edgar stated the County already was rated one of the lowest areas for air quality so anything that could be done to protect the community and public health was extremely important.

Mr. Vaughn advised he attended an informational meeting and there were discussions regarding the cost/benefit analysis of the Compressor Station. He further advised from what he gathered the cost would far outweigh the benefits of this expansion.

Mr. Vaughn stated, in his opinion, as the legislative body they should provide the people with a voice. He further stated the Forks Township officials have voiced their opposition to this expansion and if they were not in favor of it, the County should express its support.

Mr. Phillips advised he was for fracking, domestic petroleum production and American energy independence so he felt this would slow down fracking and domestic petroleum production and he was adamantly opposed to it.

Mr. Geissinger stated the Federal government would be making the decision not the County, but he was willing to speak as the voice of the people of Northampton County. He further stated his objection was this resolution was taking into consideration things that were actually proven to be fact.

Mr. Geissinger made a motion to table the following resolution and Mr. Kraft seconded it:
WHEREAS, Columbia Gas Transmission LLC (Columbia Gas) is the owner of certain property located on Klein Road in Forks Township and has been utilized as a Gas Compressor Station since 1971; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Gas has recently received air Quality Permits from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to increase by eight times the horsepower of its Gas Compressor Station, but has not been required to install Electric Compressors; and

WHEREAS, Electric Compressors are a clean technology that emit no particulate air pollution and are recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Natural Gas Star Program; and

WHEREAS, the enlarged natural gas-fired compressors to be installed by Columbia Gas would be a prime source for ozone and particulate air pollution and would greatly increase air pollution beyond the Gas Compressor Station’s current level; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County already is ranked “F” for particulate air pollution by the United States EPA making the County the second most air polluted County in Southeastern Pennsylvania, and

WHEREAS, Forks Township adopted a resolution on December 4, 2014 objecting to any changes to the Gas Compressor Station that would increase the facility’s air pollution beyond current levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Northampton County Council that Northampton County requests the Pennsylvania DEP require Electric Compressors, Blowdown Re-injection and Vapor Recovery units be installed by Columbia Gas at the upgraded Gas Compressor Station located Forks Township.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote to table this resolution:


The motion passed by a vote of 5-3.
Consideration of an Inmate Roadwork Program Resolution

Mrs. Ferraro advised at the request of Mr. Vaughn, a resolution was prepared to initiate an inmate roadwork program.

Before the resolution could be introduced, Mr. Vaughn stated as he had not had an opportunity to discuss it with Mr. Daniel Keen, Director of Corrections, he was removing it from the agenda.

Consideration of the Resolution Supporting the Legalization of Medical Cannabis

Mrs. Ferraro advised at the request of Mr. Vaughn, a resolution was prepared supporting the legalization of medical cannabis.

Mr. Vaughn stated Senate Bill 3 sought to approve medical marijuana for certain chronic health conditions and he was in full support of it, noting State after State were adopting it. He further stated from research studies he had read proving its benefits and this would send a message to the State legislators that it was willing to empower the County’s physicians with more tools to treat people’s conditions.

Mr. Vaughn advised everyone must move past the stigma of it being an illegal drug and look at the benefits because the medications currently used to treat chronic pain syndromes had been dependency, tolerance and addictive issues associated with them.

Mr. Benol stated he saw people suffer from cancer and he felt this would be beneficial to them and others who would be eligible for it.

Mr. Werner advised he also supported this because he saw it being used to treat individuals and it was a harmless act of consideration.

Mr. Geissinger stated he was concerned as to what may occur when it was opened up to usage and since it had not yet been fully examined, he could not support it at this time.
Mr. Vaughn advised he understood Mr. Geissinger’s concern and if Pennsylvania was the first State he might agree, but it would be the 28th State and according to individuals in the health care industry, Pennsylvania was behind the times.

Mr. Geissinger stated by creating a law that allowed a substance where the effects were not fully understood would create a lot of problems. He further stated the District Attorney had consistently indicated that 75-80% of all crime in this County was committed because of drug or alcohol abuse so he could not in good conscience support this.

Mrs. Ferraro advised this was debate being handled in the State legislature and there were so many ramifications that have been explored. She further advised if it was such a good idea then the Federal Drug Administration would make it a legalized drug.

After learning the following resolution was not presented to the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board, Mr. Phillips made a motion to table this resolution until they could review it and Mr. Kraft seconded the motion:

WHEREAS, the Senate-passed version of SB 3 represented months of discussions, changes and compromises with one goal in mind: helping those with medical challenges - especially children with seizure disorders to benefit from a medicinal strain of cannabis. Some children suffer hundreds of seizures a day, making normal childhood development impossible and forcing parents to helplessly watch their children suffer. Prescribed narcotic cocktails of highly addictive and dangerous drugs have little effect on these disorders and often offer only a few weeks or months of pause in the decline of a child’s health; and

WHEREAS, prohibitions in the Senates Legislation include:

a. No individual may smoke medical cannabis
b. No individual may undertake any task under the influence if it would constitute negligence or professional malpractice
c. No individual may operate or drive a motor vehicle, aircraft, motor boat or heavy machinery with more than 10 nanograms of THC in their system
WHEREAS, twenty seven individual states have legalized cannabis for valid medical purposes, such as cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, Cachexia (wasting syndrome), chronic pain, severe nausea, seizures (including but not limited to those characteristic of Epilepsy), severe and persistent muscle spasms, Multiple Sclerosis, Chrohn’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council supports the efforts of the Pennsylvania State Senate and Pennsylvania House of Representatives to pass State Bill 3.

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


The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Consideration of the Administrative Code Article XIII Contract Approval Resolution for Manpower - Temporary Personnel Services; Professional Construction Contractors, Inc. - Replacement of Bridge 198; Hanover Engineering - Louise Moore Homestead Improvements; C3 Group - Risk Management Services

Mrs. Ferraro stated the Finance Committee met yesterday to review the Administrative Code Article XIII requests.

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolutions:

Manpower - Temporary Personnel Services

R. 46-2015

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c. (1) requires approval of County Council for "...any contract exceeding $100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised
under the terms of the contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary"; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2015, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract, in the estimated amount of $210,000 with Manpower for temporary personnel services for a term of three years, noting the total amount of the award will depend on actual temporary employee placements.

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 Manpower for temporary personnel services.

Professional Construction Contractors, Inc. – Replacement of Bridge 198

R. 47-2015 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 May 14, 2015, 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 $544,710.50, with Professional Construction Contractors, Inc., for replacement of Bridge 198 located on Sycamore Drive over Indian Creek in Lehigh Township.

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 Professional Construction Contractors, Inc., for replacement of Bridge 198.

Hanover Engineering – Louise Moore Homestead Improvements

R. 48-2015 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 May 14, 2015, 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 $93,700.00 with Hanover Engineering, for additional engineering for the office ($77,700) and additional engineering for the maintenance garage ($16,000).

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 Hanover Engineering for additional engineering for the office and maintenance garage.

C3 Group - Risk Management Services

R. 49-2015 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 May 15, 2015, 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 $382,500, with C3 Group, LLC for risk management services for the County of Northampton.

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 C3 Group, LLC for risk management services for the County of Northampton.

In answer to Mr. Kraft’s question as to how many bids were there for the risk management services, Mr. Geissinger advised there were three bids.

In response to Mr. Kraft’s question as to whether there were no respondents from someone in Northampton County, Mr. Luis Campos, Director of Administration, stated he generally took that factor into consideration, however, two of the three bidders were disqualified.

In answer to Mr. Kraft’s question as to the bid specifications, Mr. Geissinger advised the full specifications were in the packet provided to County Council.
As there were no further questions or comments, Mrs. Ferraro called for the vote.


The resolutions were adopted by a vote of 7-1.

Voting Machines

In response to Mr. Benol’s question as to whether there were any issues with the voting machines, Mr. Campos stated the issue was presented to the Election Commission after the fact, but it was approved by them. He further stated the moving of the voting machines went well and he would provide a full report at the next meeting.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Geissinger advised he reviewed the contracts that were approved tonight as well as one that was not presented because it created a rather lengthy discussion regarding the generator issue at Gracedale so he and Mr. Werner indicated it should be moved to the next Capital Projects and Operations Committee meeting.

Capital Projects and Operations Committee Report

Mr. Phillips stated the Capital Projects and Operations Committee would be meeting on June 16, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., at Tower 1 at the Gracedale Complex so they could actually look at the area where the generators would be located.

Mr. Werner advised that for three years and $3.6 million, County Council had been trying to have the generators fixed at Gracedale and at the Finance Committee, it was learned it was nowhere near being completed.
Adjournment

Mr. Parsons made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council