Easton, Pennsylvania

October 15, 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 (via telephone); 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Werner made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the October 1, 2015 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Parsons seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation, with Mrs. Ferraro and Mr. McClure abstaining.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Ben Hedrick, 3653 Ironstone Road, Bethlehem, PA - stated last night he had the privilege to tour the Juvenile Justice Center. He further stated like many people he did not understand its operation, but found it and the employees to be very impressive.

Mr. Hendrick advised Mr. Matthew Garvey, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, and Mr. Stephen Tone, Director, gave an excellent presentation. He further advised it was mentioned they could use a part time or full time nurse.
Mr. Hendrick stated he did not know if there was anything County Council could do, but he hoped they would look into the matter.

Ms. Courtney Russell, 1819 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA—advised she was a County resident as well as the Human Resources Program Manager for the City of Allentown and wanted to talk about Ms. Amy Baker Trapp, the nominee for the Director of Human Resources position. She further advised before Ms. Trapp’s time with the City of Allentown, the Human Resources Department was viewed negatively, but under her direction it became a service organization.

Ms. Russell stated Ms. Trapp made sure each member of the Human Resources team was professional, knowledgeable, trustworthy and well trained. She further stated she fixed and improved broken processes, brought consistency and ensured that all employees were treated fairly. She added it would be a missed opportunity if County Council did not confirm her appointment.

Mr. John Stribula, 2629 W. Chew Street, Allentown, PA—advised he was President of Allentown Local 302 of the International Association of Firefighters and Ms. Trapp was the best Human Resources Director he had worked with. He further stated they were skeptical of Ms. Trapp, but found her to be extremely intelligent and very professional so he would encourage Council to confirm her nomination.

Dr. Michelle Santiago, 57 Oak Lane, Northampton, PA—advised as a resident of Northampton County she wanted County Council to make the best decisions for the County. She further advised Ms. Trapp was very steadfast in what she believed, made decisions based on analytical thinking and demanded of others what she demanded of herself.

Dr. Santiago stated Ms. Trapp was very knowledgeable about Human Resources laws and ethics with regard to practice, training and management of employees. She further stated she was a good candidate and would endorse her for this position.

Mr. Michael Twining, 1707 Redwood Court, Allentown, PA—advised he was an employee of the City of Allentown and Vice President of Municipal Employees Supervisory Association that represented the non-bargaining employees of the City of Allentown. He further advised he had worked with three
Directors of Human Resources and the level of communication with Ms. Trapp was extraordinary.

Mr. Twining stated during Ms. Trapp’s employment there were issues with the Water Department and she handled them in a superb manner. He further stated she also had to deal with manager salary inequities and took it upon herself to find ways to solve them. He noted Northampton County would be gaining a top notch Director of Human Resources if her nomination was confirmed.

Mr. Julio Guridy, 3611 Aster Street, Allentown, PA - advised he was the former President of Allentown City Council. He further advised when Ms. Trapp began she was not familiar with the operation of the public sector, but learned very quickly and made tremendous improvements to the department’s functions. Furthermore, she had great work ethics, was exceptionally talented and well-spoken and he would strongly recommend her confirmation as she would be a tremendous asset to Northampton County.

Controller’s Report

Mr. Stephen Barron, Controller, stated tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow an exit interview with PrimeCare would be held in his office conference room. He further stated they were going to discuss the audit and things they discovered that the Administration may want to implement when the service goes out for bid.

County Executive’s Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, advised they were monitoring the State budget, but it did not seem like they were getting any closer to a settlement so they were continuing with the plan that was put into place. He further advised they have liquidated approximately $21 million worth of funds to keep the divisions of the Department of Human Services moving forward.

Mr. Brown stated he asked Mr. James Hunter, Director of Fiscal Affairs, and Mr. Doran Hamann, Budget Administrator, to look ahead to January 2016 and put a long range plan together.
In answer to Mr. Kraft's question as to whether there was an arbitration award to one of the unions with regard to health care, Mr. Brown advised the Gracedale American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees challenged the ability for the Administration to change the health care plan last January. He further advised the award came down favorable to them and the Administration had 30 days to respond.

In response to Mr. Kraft's question as to whether the rest of the unions were following suit, Mr. Brown replied he was not aware of any.

In answer to Mr. Kraft's question as to whether it was going to cost $2 million if they prevailed, Mr. Brown stated he had not seen the final numbers, but they were looking at what the impact would be and as soon as he had the numbers he would provide that information to County Council.

Mr. McClure advised the estimates he had seen were between $2 million and $2.5 million. He then asked who spearheaded the health care changes and was tasked to understand the effects of changing the health care unilaterally when dealing with labor contracts.

Mr. Brown stated it was his responsibility and he was deeply involved in the process. He further stated they looked at the labor contracts and interpreted the various languages with them.

In response to Mr. McClure's question as to whether he relied on the C-3 Group for advice regarding this matter, Mr. Brown could not recall.

In answer to Mr. Werner's question as to whether there were any lawsuits pending, Mr. Brown stated nothing he could report on.

In response to Mr. Werner's question as to whether the lawsuit by Ms. Jill Mancini, former County Assistant Solicitor, was completed, Mr. Brown advised it was under appeal and still pending.

In answer to Mr. Phillips' question as to whether there would be enough clarity to determine how the health care issue would affect the 2016 budget, Mr. Brown stated it would not impact it because this contract only addressed 2015. He further
stated they were currently in negotiations for the 2016 contract.

When Mr. Kraft indicated the terms of a public contract were effective until a settlement was reached, Mr. Brown responded they were taking that into consideration.

Consideration of the County Executive’s Nominee to the Director of Human Resources Position Resolution

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 89-2015 RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that Amy Baker Trapp shall be confirmed in her appointment as Director of the Department of Human Resources, at a salary of Pay Grade Group V, Step 7-G, $104,328, effective October 16, 2015.

Mr. Werner advised Ms. Trapp’s resume indicated in 2010, she was the Assistant to the Vice President of Cintas Corporation and liaison to the Philadelphia region and that her focus was financial deficiencies and union avoidance so he asked her to address that.

Ms. Trapp stated Cintas’ philosophy of business was they did not want unions integrated into their business, but they did deal with unions.

Mr. Werner advised there have been a number of Directors of Human Resources within the last nine months and the only objection he had was the more than 29% increase in the salaries.

Ms. Trapp stated she respected his opinion and appreciated his concerns, but she felt it was important to consider a person’s experience and background. She further stated she did not want to be unreasonable so she reviewed budgets of other third class Counties including Berks and Lehigh County, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Human Resources positions in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton area and the mean was $126,000.

Ms. Trapp advised that even though past directors did not make this salary, she felt she brought something different to the table.

Mr. Parsons stated he was also concerned with the salary because he felt it was out of line with the County’s pay scale
and in fairness to all the other employees, he could not support her appointment.

Mr. Benol advised he had the same concerns as Mr. Parsons, but he wanted to stress that County Council did like to have the department heads attend meetings.

Ms. Trapp stated she appreciated those concerns and believed in visibility. She further stated she understood the responsibility they had to the taxpayers, but she was fully committed.

Mr. McClure told Ms. Trapp he felt she was very well qualified, but thought he heard her say that she would not accept the position if the salary was lowered.

Ms. Trapp advised she did not give an ultimatum, but she felt it was important to be paid fairly and reasonably. She further advised she did not think anyone would be disappointed in what she brought to the table and it would more than make up the difference in her salary.

Mr. McClure stated County Council still did not know the circumstances with regard to her immediate predecessor’s departure, but it appeared she was taking direction from the Department of Administration on specific human resources issues so if she was going to be receiving that same direction and guidance he did not believe the $104,000 salary was appropriate.

Ms. Trapp advised she was not good at being told what to do because she was the one who was responsible for what occurred. She further advised she did not know what happened previously, but she felt the Department of Human Resources had to strike a balance and be somewhat of an independent party because there were laws and contracts. She added she would never allow herself to be put into a position to do something that was unethical.

Mr. Phillips stated she was well qualified, but also felt the salary was not appropriate, but after hearing the comments from her and the previous speakers his thinking was changing.

Mr. Kraft advised he was 100% behind her and the salary and hoped his colleagues would agree with him.

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-2.

Consideration of the General Purpose Authority - St. Luke's Hospital Project Resolution

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

R. 90-2015

APPROVING THE FINANCING BY NORTHAMPTON COUNTY GENERAL PURPOSE AUTHORITY OF PROJECTS FOR SAINT LUKE’S HOSPITAL OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA AND ST. LUKE’S HOSPITAL - ANDERSON CAMPUS, AND DECLARING THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THE FACILITIES OF THE HOSPITAL TO HAVE SUCH FACILITIES FINANCED THROUGH THE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Northampton County General Purpose Authority (the "Authority") is a body corporate and politic existing under the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act 53 Pa. Cons. Stat. §§ 5601-5622, as amended (the "Act") by the County Council (the "County Council") of the County of Northampton, Pennsylvania (the "County"), with all the general powers granted by the Act for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the area; and

WHEREAS, the Act vests the Authority, inter alia, with the power of financing projects for the benefit of hospitals and health centers; and

WHEREAS, the Authority, at the request of Saint Luke’s Hospital of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation and St. Luke’s Hospital - Anderson Campus (collectively, the "Hospital"), proposes to undertake all or a portion of a project (the “2015 Project”) consisting of: (a) the acquisition, equipping, installation, and implementation of and/or additions to (including replacements and upgrades) electronic medical records system software and equipment, to include, without limitation: (i) a patient kiosk system; (ii)
software license purchases; (iii) in house and third party software implementation and development costs; (iv) associated consulting costs; (v) interest expenses and costs related to software development and implementation; (vi) custom configuration and interface costs; (vii) contingency and application costs and (viii) various other software, equipment, furnishings, facilities, systems, and construction and/or improvements related to the installation of the equipment described above, and such other related additional or substituted software, equipment, furnishings, facilities, and systems; (b) certain other information technology equipment and software and medical equipment and (c) the payment of certain costs and expenses in connection with the Lease Transaction; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital has requested that the Authority provide tax exempt lease financing in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $40,000,000 (the "Lease Transaction"), estimated to be sufficient to pay the costs of the 2015 Project; and

WHEREAS, the Act permits an authority to undertake the financing of hospital or health care projects for public hospitals, non-profit corporation health centers or non-profit hospital corporations serving the public which may duplicate or compete with existing enterprises serving substantially the same purposes provided that a declaration is made by the municipality which organized an authority for such a project that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the area to be served by the facilities to have such facilities provided by, or financed through, an authority; and

WHEREAS, the County Council, who is familiar with the Hospital, has determined that the Hospital is a public hospital, non-profit corporation health center or non-profit hospital corporation serving the public and is concerned about improving the health, safety and welfare of the people of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Authority’s undertaking of 2015 Project is hereby approved, it being understood that such approval shall not, directly or indirectly, obligate the taxing power of the County or otherwise obligate the County in any way whatsoever, and is given for the sole purpose of complying with the provisions of the Act relating to the undertaking of the 2015 Project by the Authority.
2. It is hereby declared desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the area served by the Hospital to have the 2015 Project and the project facilities financed through the Authority and the Authority is hereby requested and authorized to undertake the financing of the 2015 Project for the benefit of the Hospital through the Lease Transaction.

3. The proper officers and other personnel of the County and the Authority are hereby authorized and empowered to take all such further actions and execute such additional documents as they may deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

4. Any resolutions or part of resolutions conflicting with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed insofar as the same affect this resolution.

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


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0-1 abstention.

**Consideration of Community Investment Partnership Program Funding Recommendation Resolution**

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (NCDCED) solicited competitive applications for the 2015 Community Investment Partnership Program (CIPP) Community Improvement Grants as well as Community Planning and Technical Assistance Grants; and
WHEREAS, the NCDCED convened a grant review committee comprised of NCDCED Staff, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Staff, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation Staff, and a representative from Northampton County Council to review and make funding recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the grant review committee has presented its recommendations totaling $720,500 in grant funds for 22 projects to the Economic Development Subcommittee of Northampton County Council; and

WHEREAS, the CIPP Projects will be funded using the Northampton County Local Share Table Games Revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Northampton:

1. That the attached 2015 Competitive CIPP Projects Recommended for Funding is approved.

2. That the County Executive of the County of Northampton is authorized to execute grant agreements with the applicants not to exceed the approved amount for each grant.

When Mr. Vaughn indicated he had a question regarding the West Ward Landlord Training, Mr. McClure stated they should be voted on individually.

**Joint Stormwater Management Study**

Mr. Benol advised he could not see giving $25,000 for a study if Bethlehem Township was going to continue building like they were currently.

Mr. Kraft stated they were doing a study to determine where to build and how to remediate situations.

Mr. Benol advised he would like a commitment from Bethlehem Township that they were going to do what the study indicated had to be done.

Mr. Vaughn stated Bethlehem Township was concerned about the stormwater and would take the study seriously and implement the recommendations.
Mr. Parsons advised it was a joint study and the $25,000 was a match from the townships. He further advised the committee ranked this project number one in the Community Planning category.

Mr. Mark Hartney, Department of Community and Economic Development Administrator, stated one of the reviewers was Lehigh Valley Planning Commission who reviewed all stormwater applications.

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

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

The grant was approved by a vote of 8-1.

West Ward Landlord Training

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question as to what this was, Mr. Hartney advised it was training for landlords in the City of Easton, but they hoped to open it up to other landlords in the County, to educate them on building codes and how to be a good landlord. He further advised they believed this would reduce the amount of enforcement actions that had to be taken.

In answer to Mr. McClure's question as to what was the basis for the request, Mr. Hartney stated they were looking to partner with a national consultant to help facilitate the training.

Mr. Vaughn advised landlords should have an understanding of what they were undertaking and when they purchased the properties inspections were made and if there were any violations they were given a certain amount of time to correct them.

In response to Mr. Phillips' question as to whether the landlords would be charged a fee, Mr. Hartney replied it was free to landlords.

Mr. Parsons stated this would inform landlords of the criteria required to be a landlord so they had no excuses. He further stated it was starting in the West Ward because that was
one of the biggest problem areas in keeping the buildings up to code.

Mr. Lauer advised that area of Easton had gone from all single family residences to mostly apartments and was becoming a problem for the city and the residents.

In answer to Mr. Phillips' question as to what problem this was going to solve, Mr. Hartney stated code enforcement and ensuring the landlords were educated so they could rent to individuals that followed the laws of the city.

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

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

The grant failed by a vote of 4-5.

**Sullivan Trail Streetscape Planning and Design**

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

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

The grant was approved by a vote of 7-2.

Mr. Hartney advised he was not comfortable representing these projects on behalf of the applicants so in order for County Council to get the best answers possible he would ask this be tabled until the appropriate representatives could be present.

Mr. Parsons stated if they were going to do that then all 41 applicants should be present to discuss their requests.

Mr. Kraft advised a committee was formed to make these recommendations so he did not think the representatives had to come before County Council.
Mr. McClure stated they were content with putting them on the agenda to be considered at one time, but each member of County Council should not have to vote up or down on the entire resolution if there were projects that they were against.

Mrs. Ferraro made a motion that if a project was voted down, a representative should be asked to come before County Council to present their case.

Mr. Parsons seconded the motion.

Mr. McClure advised he felt it was out of order for the Chairperson to make a motion.

Mrs. Ferraro rescinded her motion.

Mr. Benol suggested tabling the items that were in question.

Mr. Phillips indicated he would like to go through the list and then vote to either approve or table a project.

Mr. McClure made a motion to rescind all of the votes that have been taken thus far on the resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROJECTS FOR FUNDING".

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.

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

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

The motion passed by a vote of 7-2.

Mr. McClure made a motion to table the resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AND COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROJECTS FOR FUNDING".

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.
County Council Minutes

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

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

The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Consideration of the Resolution Waiving Roll-Back Taxes on Northampton County Tax Parcel #M7 7 1 0205 (Central Moravian Church)

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 91-2015  WHEREAS, Central Moravian Church, being the owner of 30.54 acres of land situate in the Township of Bethlehem and being known as Northampton County Tax Parcel #M7 7 1 0205, intends to subdivide said property for subsequent proposed conveyances, to wit: Lot 1, being a 9.0780 acres lot to be conveyed to Natural Lands Trust, Incorporated to be used exclusively and permanently for public recreational purposes; Lot 2, being a 4.0198 acres lot to be retained by/conveyed to Central Moravian Church in continuance and furtherance of the religious purposes of the Church; and Lot 3, being a .5209 acre site to be conveyed to the Township of Bethlehem for purposes of a public driveway; and Lot 4, being a 16.9232 acres lot to be conveyed to the Natural Lands Trust, Incorporated to be used exclusively and permanently for public recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, said Tax Parcel currently is enrolled under Act 319 of the "Clean and Green Act," 72 P.S. § 5490.1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Natural Lands Trust, Incorporated is a not-for-profit corporation which is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and it has executed a covenant guaranteeing that the parcels it will acquire will be used exclusively for recreational purposes available to the public free of charge; and

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton has concluded that the subdivision and the proposed conveyances, when completed, will satisfy the special circumstances set forth at 72 P.S. § 5490.8 of the "Clean and Green Act" which permit a taxing
jurisdiction to waive and forgive acceptance of roll-back taxes if the use of the land is changed for the purpose of granting or donating such land to, inter alia: (2) a municipality, (6) a not-for-profit corporation tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 provided that such corporation enters into an agreement with the municipality wherein the subject land is located guaranteeing that it will be used exclusively for recreational purposes, all of which shall be available to the general public free of charge, (7) a religious organization for uses in furtherance of its religious purposes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The County of Northampton shall and hereby does waive and forgive any receipt of roll-back taxes which otherwise might be levied under the "Clean and Green Act" upon completion of the above-cited conveyances to the Township of Bethlehem, the Natural Lands Trust, Incorporated and Central Moravian Church; and that an executed copy of this Resolution shall be submitted to the Assessor of Northampton County, Pennsylvania in order to evidence this waiver.

Mr. Phillips asked what dollar amount was being waived and suggested it be put into the resolution.

Mr. Lauer advised County Council was asked to adopt a resolution identical to the resolution that was adopted by the local municipality and school district so he did not have that information.

Mr. Kraft stated the tax amount for the County was so insignificant compared to Bethlehem Township and the Bethlehem Area School District.

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

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-1.
Consideration of Resolution Recognizing November as Epilepsy Awareness Month

Mr. Vaughn introduced the following resolution:

R. 92-2015  WHEREAS, Epilepsy is a neurological disease, sometimes referred to as a seizure disorder and is characterized by recurring seizures; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy in their lifetime and more than 209,000 Pennsylvanians live with epilepsy or a seizure disorder; and

WHEREAS, up to 50,000 Americans die each year from seizures and related causes, including Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy; and

WHEREAS, the two independent affiliates of the Epilepsy Foundation in Pennsylvania, lead the fight to stop seizures, find a cure, and overcome the challenges created by epilepsy through efforts including education, advocacy and research to accelerated ideas into therapies; and

WHEREAS, the Epilepsy Foundations in Pennsylvania are dedicated to ensuring that all people with seizures and epilepsy are able to participate in all life’s experiences; and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy Foundation programs provide technical assistance, training and support to Pennsylvania’s school nurses, teachers and students on seizure recognition and first aid; as well as provide patient education, public awareness, information and referral services for children and their families living with seizures; and

WHEREAS, both of the Epilepsy Foundation affiliates in Pennsylvania are celebrating over 40 years of service and dedication to Pennsylvania communities; and

WHEREAS, the prevention and control of epilepsy can be achieved through continued community education and awareness programs; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has historically supported the creation and expansion of epilepsy support services and awareness programs through Federal and State appropriations; and
WHEREAS, the epilepsy community recognizes November as Epilepsy Awareness Month to promote epilepsy awareness and education throughout the world.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Northampton County Council that it does designate November as Epilepsy Awareness Month.

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

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

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

CIPP Resolution

Mr. McClure made a motion that any member of County Council that had a specific question or questions about any of the potential grants should communicate that to the County Executive and if his answer was insufficient, he should request the grant recipient be present at the next County Council meeting to answer them.

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.

Mr. Parsons asked that Mr. Hartney be the contact person and Mr. McClure so stipulated the change.

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

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

The motion passed by a vote of 8-1.
Council Clerk’s Report

Mrs. Zembo reminded the members of County Council to be present at 4:00 p.m. on October 21, 2015 for their official picture.

Council Solicitor’s Report

Mr. Lauer advised Mr. Phillips asked him to address an issue relating to the resolution that was adopted at the last meeting that allowed the questionable raises given by the County Executive to remain in effect for the balance of the fiscal year, but an examination of those raises would be held during the budget process and if they were not approved, they would not continue into the new year.

Mr. Lauer stated Mr. Phillips indicated during the first budget hearing pertaining to General Government included the salary of the Deputy Director of Administration. He further stated during the discussion it was stated by the Administration that all the questionable raises were included in the 2016 budget and there was not going to be any further presentation regarding them.

Mr. Lauer advised he was asked what County Council’s options were and Section 704 of the Home Rule Charter essentially indicated the County Executive prepared the budget and submitted it to County Council who had the right to amend any area except for three that did not apply in this case before adopting it. He further advised after the budget was adopted, the County Executive had a period time wherein he could veto it with County Council having the power to override it.

Mr. Lauer stated if the budget was not amended, the one submitted by the County Executive became the budget, but County Council had the right to amend it any time during the year.

Mr. Phillips advised the County Executive provided a list of employees who received raises that County Council deemed inappropriate and unlawful. He further advised those raises would be discussed during the amendment portion of the budget hearings and those that were not approved would be removed from the proposed budget.
CIPP Projects

Mr. Parsons stated he had two binders on his desk that contained all of the applications for a CIPP grant and were available if anyone wanted to review them.

Adjournment

Mrs. Ferraro made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

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Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council