Easton, Pennsylvania

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: John Cusick, President; Seth Vaughn, Vice President; Mathew M. Benol; Matthew H. Dietz; Margaret L. Ferraro; Kenneth M. Kraft; Hayden Phillips; Robert F. Werner; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council, and Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council. Absent was Glenn A. Geissinger.

Prayer

Mr. Cusick led County Council in a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cusick 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 March 17, 2016 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

As no one signed up for Courtesy of the Floor, Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

There were no respondents.

Controller's Report

Mr. Cusick stated Mr. Barron was not present tonight, but sent an e-mail indicating the outside audit was essentially completed and that the contract for the outside auditors ended
this year so a Request for Proposal would have to be prepared.

County Executive’s Report

Mr. Luis Campos, Director of Administration, advised the Milides Building parking lot would be off limits for everyone except those individuals coming in for training in preparation of the upcoming election.

Mr. Campos stated they requested an increase in the Election budget for 2016 to afford the staffing necessary to handle the Presidential election because they expected a high turnout of voters. He further stated besides ensuring appropriate staffing, they were also putting out more voting machines throughout the County.

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Amending Home Rule Charter Article VI Legislation, Section 602. Ordinances (b) Introduction, (d) Publication, (h) Final Publication Section 606. Public Record of Acts (c) Codification; Article VII Finance, Section 702. Capital Improvements Plan (c) Hearing and Notice, Section 704. Action on Budget (a) Hearing and Notice

Mr. Cusick advised the following ordinance was introduced by Messrs. Geissinger and Phillips at the last meeting:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER: ARTICLE VI LEGISLATION, SECTION 602. ORDINANCES (b) INTRODUCTION, (d) PUBLICATION, (h) FINAL PUBLICATION, SECTION 606. PUBLIC RECORD OF ACTS (c) CODIFICATION; ARTICLE VII FINANCE, SECTION 702. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (c) HEARING AND NOTICE AND SECTION 704. ACTION ON BUDGET (a) HEARING AND NOTICE

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Northampton County Council that:

SECTION I - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER

A. A proposed amendment to the Northampton County Home Rule Charter shall be prepared for presentation as a referendum question at the November 8, 2016 General Election, said referendum question shall be prepared and acted upon in accordance with the Northampton County Home
Rule Charter, Article XI, and all applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

B. The proposed question is:

Shall the electorate of Northampton County approve changes in the Northampton County Home Rule Charter Article VI Legislation and Article VII Finance to provide that any pertinent advertisement may be placed in one (1) newspaper of general circulation as well as posted electronically and to have the Codification, Capital Improvements Plan, and Budget posted on Northampton County's website instead of being distributed to each elected official, public libraries and offices of each city, borough and township in Northampton County.

Article VI Legislation Section 602. Ordinances (b) Introduction shall be amended to reflect the following:

Any two (2) members shall have the power to introduce a proposed ordinance at any meeting of the County Council. No second to this sponsoring shall be required. The Clerk of Council within seven (7) days after such introduction shall cause to be posted electronically a copy of the proposed ordinance. A copy of the proposed ordinance shall be retained in the Office of Clerk of Council for public inspection at reasonable times.

Article VI Legislation Section 602. Ordinances (d) Publication shall be amended to reflect the following:

Within seven (7) days after the introduction of a proposed ordinance, the Clerk of Council shall cause to be published in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the County and electronically --
(1) the proposed ordinance or a summary of it,

(2) that a copy of the proposed ordinance would be retained in the Clerk of Council's office and the times when it is available for public inspection; and

(3) a notice specifying the place and time for a public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

Article VI Legislation Section 602. Ordinances (h) Final Publication shall be amended to reflect the following:

Promptly after the enactment of an ordinance, the Clerk of Council shall cause to be published in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation and electronically, a summary of the ordinance, the effective date of the ordinance and a record of the vote of each member of the County Council on whether to adopt the ordinance and whether or not the ordinance was vetoed. A copy of the entire enacted ordinance shall be made available for public inspection in the Office of Clerk to Council and shall be distributed or sold to the general public at a price not to exceed the cost of reproduction.

Article VI Legislation Section 606. Public Record of Acts (c) Codification shall be amended to reflect the following:

The County Council shall provide by resolution for a codification of all ordinances, as amended, having the force and effect of law, and of this Charter, as amended. This codification shall be kept current on an annual basis. Each ordinance amending this codification shall be in a
form suitable for integration therein. The County Council shall cause this codification to be published electronically. This codification shall be distributed or sold to the public at a reasonable price determined by the County Council.

Article VII Finance Section 702. Capital Improvements Plan (c) Hearing and Notice shall be amended to reflect the following:

After submission of the capital improvements plan by the County Executive, the County Council shall hold at least one (1) public hearing on the capital improvements plan. The Clerk of Council within seven (7) days after such submission shall cause to be published in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the County and electronically a notice specifying the place and time of the public hearing and place and time when a copy of the capital improvements plan will be available for inspection. The Clerk of Council, within seven (7) days after such submission and at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the public hearing shall post electronically a copy of the capital improvements plan.

Article VII Finance Section 704. Action on Budget (a) Hearing and Notice shall be amended to reflect the following:

After the submission of the budget by the County Executive, the County Council shall hold at least one public hearing on the budget. The Clerk of Council within seven (7) days after such submission shall cause to be published in at
least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the County and electronically a notice specifying the place and time of the public hearing and place and times where a copy of the budget will be available for inspection. The Clerk of Council within seven (7) days after such submission and at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the public hearing shall post electronically a copy of the budget.

SECTION II - EFFECTIVE DATE

A. This ordinance shall become effective thirty days after the date of enactment.

Public Hearing

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

There were no respondents.

Mr. Cusick asked if any member of County Council had any questions or comments.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Phillips, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes" and Cusick, "yes".

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

Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 440-2005
Entitled, "An Ordinance Imposing a Hotel Room Rental Tax and Providing for the Collection and Enforcement of the Payment of Said Tax"

Messrs. Cusick and Dietz introduced the following ordinance:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 440-2005 ENTITLED 
"AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX AND 
PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE 
PAYMENT OF SAID TAX"

RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that ordinance 
no. 440-2005 shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections 
marked with strikeout have been deleted and sections marked with 
bold underline have been added):

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX AND 
PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE 
PAYMENT OF SAID TAX

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of 
Pennsylvania adopted an Amendment to the Act of August 9, 1955 
(P.L. 323 No. 130), known as the County Code, which provided for 
the imposition of a Hotel Room Rental Tax in certain Third-Class 
Counties and repealing the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act, said 
Amendment being approved by the Governor on July 5, 2005 
as Act No. 12 of 2005, HB No. 2428, Session of 2005;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8 of the aforesaid Amendment, 
the Act takes effect on or about September 3, 2005;

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton is a County as defined 
in Section 5 of the aforesaid Amendment to the Act;

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton desires to impose the 
tax authorized by the aforesaid Act and for distribution and use 
for the further development of tourism facilities and for 
community development initiatives as stated in the authorizing 
legislation.

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2016, Northampton County Council 
approved the Livable Landscapes Plan, which was written by the 
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and highlights six significant 
goals that focus on (a) natural resource protection; (b) park & 
trail systems; (c) greenways & blueways; (d) farmland 
preservation; (e) historic, cultural and scenic preservation, 
and (f) the promotion, education and advancement of the program.

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton desires to provide for 
the collection and enforcement of the collection of said tax.

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

The above-referenced purposes clauses are hereby recognized and designated as part of this Ordinance as more fully set forth herein at length.

Section II. DEFINITIONS

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


B. "County" - As used in this Ordinance it shall mean the County of Northampton.

C. "Facilities" - That which promotes the ease of any action, operation, transaction, course of conduct, or which makes easier the performance of the activities involved for the purpose of enhancing regional tourism. Facilities may specifically include the implementation of the Livable Landscapes Open Space Plan and the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative necessary for the implementation of open space, park, and agricultural preservation programs.

D. "Operator" - Any individual, partnership, nonprofit or profit-making association or corporation or other person or group of persons who maintain, operate, manage, own, have custody of or otherwise possess the right to rent or lease overnight accommodations in a building to the public for consideration.

E. All other terms defined in Section 5 of Act 12 of 2005 are hereby incorporated by reference as though more fully set forth herein at length and shall be construed and applied in accordance with the Act.
Section III. IMPOSITION OF TAX

There is hereby imposed throughout the County of Northampton a tax which shall be known as the Hotel Room Rental Tax on the consideration received from each operator of a hotel within the County of Northampton from each transaction of renting a room or rooms to accommodate temporary residents. The tax shall be collected by the operator from the patron of the room and paid over to the County as hereinafter provided.

Section IV. RATE

The tax imposed under the prior section shall be equal to 4.0% of the consideration received from each transaction of renting a room or rooms to accommodate temporary, not permanent, residents.

Section V. COLLECTION OF PAYMENT

A. The tax shall be collected by the operator from the patron and paid over to the County of Northampton. The County Executive is hereby authorized to establish rules and regulations governing the collection of the tax, which collection shall not occur more often than monthly and not less often than quarterly. Such rules and regulations may include procedures by which the County may investigate operators who are charged with the responsibility of collecting the tax. Such investigation shall include, but not be limited to, the failure or refusal to collect the tax or to produce any report or form in order to obtain facts and information on which to base an estimate of tax payable together with any interest, costs and attorney’s fees; the ability of the County Department of Fiscal Affairs to assess the tax with interest, costs and attorney’s fees based upon such estimate; giving notice of such assessment; providing for an administrative hearing thereon and collection action by the County Department of Fiscal Affairs in, and appeals by any operator to, the appropriate court of the 3rd Judicial District, Northampton County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Such procedure and action by the County Department of Fiscal Affairs may be in addition to pursuing violations under Section 9 hereafter.
B. If any amount of tax due is not remitted by the due date, interest at the rate of 1.5% shall be added for each month or fraction thereof during which the Hotel Room Rental Tax shall remain unpaid or not properly remitted in accordance with this Ordinance or any rules and regulations promulgated pursuant hereto.

Section VI. DISTRIBUTION

Money received under the prior section and interest accrued shall be distributed by the County as follows:

A. 68.75% of the money collected shall be distributed to the regional tourist promotion agency, which served Northampton and Lehigh Counties and which is designated by Northampton County Council to be eligible for grants from the Department of Community and Economic Development pursuant to the Act of April 28, 1961 (P.L. Ill, No. 50), known as the Tourist Promotion Law.

B. The County shall retain 18.75% of the money collection in Northampton County for the further development of tourism facilities and for community development initiatives, within the Northampton County that enhance regional tourism.

C. Northampton County shall retain 12.5% of the money collection in Northampton County for the further development of facilities and for marketing purposes within Northampton County and to enhance regional tourism.

Section VII. AUDIT REPORT

An audited report on the income and expenditures, (including revenue distributed contractually to other legal entities including the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation), incurred by a tourist promotion agency receiving any revenues from the tax authorized under this section shall be submitted annually by the Tourist Promotion Agency to the Northampton County Council.

All entities receiving hotel tax revenue must maintain a separate accounting of hotel tax receipts and disbursements.
Section VIII. COUNTY CONTROLLER AUDIT

The Northampton County Controller is hereby authorized to audit the income and expenditures of any individual, corporation, non-profit corporation, agency, or other entity receiving any revenue from the tax authorized under this section and shall submit an audit report to the Northampton County Council. All entities receiving hotel tax revenue must maintain a separate accounting of hotel tax receipts and disbursements.

Section IX. VIOLATION

A. Each time the operator of a hotel within the County of Northampton fails to collect the tax from a patron or to timely pay it over to Northampton County shall be a violation of this Ordinance. A violation shall constitute a misdemeanor of the third degree punishable by a maximum of one year imprisonment and/or a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Five Hundred ($2,500.00) Dollars.

B. All unremitted tax, fines, penalties and interest may be collected by suit, brought in the name of Northampton County, as provided under applicable state law.

C. All such violations and actions thereunder shall be in addition to any assessment and collection action taken pursuant to the within Ordinance and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Section X.

The County Executive or his designee shall execute any and all documents and take such action as is necessary to carry out this Ordinance.

Section XI.

Any Ordinance or part of any Ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this Ordinance.
Section XII.

Should any part of this Ordinance, or any regulation promulgated pursuant hereto, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise void then the remaining parts of this Ordinance, and regulations promulgated pursuant hereto, shall remain and be in full force and effect.

Section XIII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after the date of enactment.

Mr. Cusick stated the public hearing, debate and possible vote will take place at the May 5, 2016 meeting.

Consideration of Personnel Request Resolutions: a) Solicitor’s Office, b) Department of Human Services - Mental Health Division, c) Department of Human Resources, d) Department of Human Services - Gracedale - Dietary Division

Solicitor’s Office

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full time position of Executive Secretary, pay grade CS-19, Step 3-C salary $41,798, in the Solicitor’s Office, shall be reclassified to the position of Paralegal, pay grade CS-21, Step 4-D, salary $47,892, effective April 13, 2016.

Mr. Cusick advised Mr. Ryan Durkin, County Solicitor, had requested the effective date be changed to the date the desk audit was performed which was January 13, 2016.

Mr. Kraft made a motion to change the effective date to January 13, 2016.

Mr. Dietz seconded the motion.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the motion.
The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Benol, "yes".

The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the following amended resolution:

R. 39-2016 RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full time position of Executive Secretary, pay grade CS-19, Step 3-C salary $41,798, in the Solicitor’s Office, shall be reclassified to the position of Paralegal, pay grade CS-21, Step 4-D, salary $47,892, effective January 13, 2016.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietz, "yes".

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

Department of Human Services - Mental Health Division

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 40-2016 RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full time position of Mental Health Program Specialist I, pay grade HS-39-B, salary $47,493, in the Department of Human Services, Mental Health Division, shall be reclassified to the position of Mental Health Program Specialist II, pay grade HS-41-B, salary $51,863, effective April 13, 2016.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

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

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 41-2016  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the five (5) full time positions of Clerical Specialist, pay grade CS-17, step 1-A, salary $34,910, in the Department of Human Resources, shall be eliminated when vacant.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the one (1) full time position of Benefits Administrator, pay grade CS-28, step 1-A, salary $57,926, shall be eliminated in the Department of Human Resources, effective April 13, 2016.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that two (2) full time positions of Recruitment Specialist, pay grade CS-17, Step 1-A, salary $34,910; one (1) full time position of Executive Secretary, pay grade CS-19, Step 1-A, salary $38,276; two (2) full time positions of Benefits Coordinator, pay grade CS-20, Step 1-A, salary $40,083; one (1) full time position of Leave Administrator, pay grade CS-22, Step 1-A, salary $43,948; one (1) full time position of Pension and Retirement Administrator, pay grade CS-22, Step 1-A, salary $43,948 and one (1) full time position of Human Resources Analyst, pay grade CS-28, Step 1-A, salary $57,926 shall be created in the Department of Human Resources, effective April 13, 2016.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the one (1) full time position of Human Resources Generalist, pay grade CS-30 shall be retitled Labor Relations Officer and the one (1) full time position of Personnel Analyst, pay grade CS-28 shall be retitled Human Resources Analyst in the Department of Human Resources, effective April 13, 2016.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

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

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 42-2016 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the job titles of Dietary Utility - Storeroom, pay grade GU-3 and Dietary Housekeeper, pay grade GU-2, shall be created in the Department of Human Services, Gracedale Division - Dietary. This resolution is effective as of April 13, 2016.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

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

Consideration of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between County of Northampton and Northampton County Detectives Association Resolution

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 43-2016 WHEREAS, Northampton County Charter Section 202 (12) provides that, "the County Council shall have the power to approve any collective bargaining agreements with officers and employees".

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the County of Northampton and the Northampton County Detectives Association shall be approved this 13th day of April 2016.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "no"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes" and Phillips, "yes".
The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-1.

Consideration of the Interest Arbitration Agreement between Northampton County and the AFSCME District Council 88 (Court Appointed Professionals Unit) Resolution

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 44-2016 WHEREAS, Northampton County Charter Section 202 (12) provides that, “the County Council shall have the power to approve any collective bargaining agreements with officers and employees”.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the Interest Arbitration Award Agreement between the County of Northampton and AFSCME District Council 88 (Court Appointed Professionals Unit) shall be approved this 13th day of April 2016.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.


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

Consideration of Resolution Allowing Northampton County to Submit a Grant Application to PA DCNR for a Master Site Development at the Gall Farm and Plainfield Township Recreation Trail Resolution

Mr. Dietz introduced the following resolution:

R. 45-2016 WHEREAS, Northampton County desires to undertake the Gall Farm and Plainfield Trail Master Site Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County desires to apply to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (“Department”) for a grant for the purpose of carrying out this project; and
WHEREAS, the application package includes a document entitled "Terms and Conditions of Grant" and a document entitled "Signature Page for Grant Application and Grant Agreement"; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County understands that the contents of the document entitled "Terms and Conditions of Grant," including appendices referred to therein, will become the terms and conditions of a Grant Agreement between the applicant and the Department if the applicant is awarded a grant; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County understands that by signing the "Signature Page for Grant Application and Grant Agreement" and submitting it to the Department as part of the grant application, the applicant agrees to the terms and conditions of the grant and will be bound by the Grant Agreement if the Department awards a grant; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County will have available the required $75,000 matching funds; funding will be provided as $50,000 from Act-13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund, $50,000 from Northampton County Community Development Block Grants and $15,000 from Plainfield Township. The County will receive 50% or up to $75,000 as a reimbursement from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a grant award at the completion of the project.

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

1. The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Gall Farm and Plainfield Trail Master Site Development Plan grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Further the Northampton County Executive or his/her designee is directed to take any and all steps necessary to administer and complete Northampton County's obligations in this project.

2. The "Signature Page for Grant Application and Grant Agreement" may be signed on behalf of the applicant by the official who, at the time of signing, has the title of Open Space Coordinator.

3. If this official signed the "Signature Page for Grant Application and Grant Agreement" prior to the passage of this Resolution, this grant of authority applies retroactively to the date of signing.
(4) If the applicant is awarded a grant, the “Signature Page for Grant Application and Grant Agreement,” signed by the above official, will become the applicant/grantee’s executed signature page for the Grant Agreement, and the applicant/grantee will be bound by the Grant Agreement.

(5) Any amendment to the Grant Agreement may be signed on behalf of the grantee by the official who, at the time of signing of the amendment, has the title specified in paragraph 2 and the grantee will be bound by the amendment.

Mr. Bryan Cope, Open Space Coordinator, stated this was the first step in developing the Gall Farm and was in cooperation with Plainfield Township.

In answer to Mr. Cusick’s question as to what Plainfield Township’s involvement was, Mr. Cope advised they wanted to do a master site redevelopment plan for the trail and the trail ran directly through the Gall Farm. He further advised they spoke with the Regional Advisor for the Department and he recommended they do it together.

In response to Mr. Cusick’s question as to whether the fencing had been put in place, Mr. Phillips stated the more dangerous areas have been fenced in and they were working to fence in another area.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.


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

Capital Projects and Operations Committee Report

Mr. Phillips advised there will be a Capital Projects and Operations Committee meeting tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. wherein a presentation would be made regarding the 911 Study.
Economic Development Committee Meeting Report

Mrs. Ferraro stated an Economic Development Committee meeting was held earlier in the evening and Mr. Tim Fallon from PBS 39 was present and thanked the County for the funding they have been receiving.

Mrs. Ferraro advised Ms. Kassie Hilgert and Ms. Joann Ring were present from ArtsQuest and a decision was reached to fund ArtsQuest to the end of the year to help with the revamping of Christkindlmarkt and some other projects.

Mrs. Ferraro stated the topic of another grant for 2017 arose, but it will be discussed at a later date.

Mrs. Ferraro advised a letter was received from the Conservation District regarding the 2016 Envirothon, but a decision will be made as to whether it would still be held in view of the recent passing of Ms. Chryss Buchman, Conservation District Manager.

Parks and Open Space Committee Report

Mr. Dietz stated the Parks and Open Space Committee will be meeting next Wednesday, April 20, 2016, following the Governance Committee.

Governance Committee Report

Mr. Cusick advised the Governance Committee meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on April 20, 2016, to discuss reviewing the Administrative Code.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Liaison Report

Mr. Phillips stated he had been attending meetings of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and also their meetings regarding freight traffic.
Mental Health Early Intervention Meeting Report

Mr. Vaughn advised he attended the Mental Health Early Intervention meeting where their financials for the year were presented.

Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation Liaison Report

Mr. Vaughn stated he attended the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation Board meeting where Mrs. Ferraro received an award.

Mr. Vaughn advised they received a presentation from a new company that would be coming to Northampton County called Norac, which was a French company that manufactured pastries.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Lauer stated Mr. Kraft had asked him if a tax that was imposed on a municipality was in conformity with the enabling legislation that permitted that kind of tax. He further stated he took a look at it and would be submitting a report.

Mr. Lauer advised he was requested to draft a resolution that would recognize some discomfort with the responses received from NTT regarding certain activities they had undertaken or not undertaken. He further advised part of the resolution would be to authorize the issuance of a subpoena for a representative of NTT to appear before either County Council or at a committee meeting.

Mr. Lauer stated it was his understanding that since that time some efforts were made opening that line of communication so this resolution was not being presented at this time and he would like to know if County Council wanted that process to proceed.

Mr. Phillips advised there had been correspondence with NTT and they have made some offers so since there had been conversation and in the spirit of cooperation he would like to hold off on the resolution at this time.

Mr. Werner agreed that things seem to moving along so he would also want to wait.
Adjournment

Mr. Kraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Dietz seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

______________________________
Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council