Easton, Pennsylvania August 3, 2017

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

Prayer

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Phillips 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 July 20, 2017 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Dietz seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation, with Mr. Geissinger abstaining.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Jack D’Alessandro, 705 Front Street, Bangor, PA - wanted to thank the Sheriff Deputies in helping to get his motorized scooter down four flights of stairs during the last meeting’s power outage. He also wanted to know why there were no signs indicating speed bumps in the parking garage.
Controllers’ Report

Mr. Stephen Barron, Controller, was not present at this meeting.

County Executive Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, indicated he did not have a report.

Consideration of a Resolution Approving of the Fiscal Year 2017 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan for the County of Northampton

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

R. 81-2017

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton has prepared an Annual Action Plan according to Federal requirements covering the period October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Annual Action Plan is to identify housing and community development needs, develop specific goals and objectives to address those needs over a one year period and is a requirement of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that the County must meet in order to receive Federal Housing and Community Development Block Grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY2017) includes the funding application for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), said application having been duly reviewed and considered taking into account a number of factors including blight in the community, needs of low and moderate income families, environmental conditions, fiscal considerations and the local maintenance effort for community development activities; and
WHEREAS, the activities that comprise the FY2017 Annual Action Plan will be funded through the County's FY2017 allocation of CDBG funds from HUD and by substantially amending past Annual Action Plans to re-allocate uncommitted funds to support current needs.

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

1. The FY2017 Annual Action Plan for the FY2017 CDBG funds and the substantial amendment is hereby approved.

2. It is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out community development activities with Federal financial assistance.

3. The County Executive and the Department of Community and Economic Development are authorized to execute and file the financial assistance application for one million three hundred eighty-three thousand four hundred twenty-two dollars ($1,383,422) as HUD has made this amount available to carry out the CDBG Program.

4. The County Executive is hereby authorized to provide such assurances and/or certifications as required by HUD and also provide any additional documents that may be requested.

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

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Submittal of an Application for Funding to the Community Investment Partnership Program

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

R. 82-2017

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has prepared an application for funding consideration to the Community Investment Partnership Program (CIPP). The application being submitted is for projects that are located in the Boroughs of Freemansburg (Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) municipal building improvements), North Catasauqua (ADA playground equipment), Tatamy (ADA municipal entrance improvements), West Easton (ADA sidewalk for municipal park) and at the Northampton Senior Citizens Center (ADA entrance doors). The application will cover the period January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 and will use the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) allocation to meet cash match requirements; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this application is to combine the CIPP & CDBG resources for five ADA projects within the selected County municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the County Executive is hereby authorized to file an application to the CIPP in the amount of one hundred twenty-eight thousand five hundred dollars ($128,500) and to accept the funding and provide any additional documentation requested to assure the five projects listed can be accomplished.

Mr. Tim Herrlinger, Director of Community and Economic Development, advised there were four municipalities and a senior center that required funds for Americans with Disabilities Act projects that could not be fully funded through the CDBG funds, therefore, they were asking to use funds from the CIPP as a match so these projects could be completed.
As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

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

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

Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Filing for an Emergency Shelter Grant

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

R. 83-2017

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDING FOR THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (PA DCED) will make available to the County of Northampton the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars ($150,000) from the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program covering the period September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the funding from the ESG program will be used to provide a program of homelessness prevention through a rapid re-housing activity for homeless veterans, families with children on the verge of becoming homeless as administrated through the County Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) will complete and submit the application and include in the project the coordination of these activities with the Lehigh Valley Continuum of Care (COC) Plan; and

WHEREAS, the activities that comprise the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY2017) ESG application includes the provision of a dollar for dollar matching funds requirement, the County will use seventy five thousand dollars ($75,000) from its FY2017 allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from HUD and
seventy five thousand dollars ($75,000) in County homelessness prevention funds to provide the match.

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

1. Approval is given to apply for a grant from the PA DCED FY2017 Emergency Solutions Grant program in the amount of one hundred fifty thousand dollars ($150,000) and provide the dollar for dollar matching funds.

2. The County Executive and DCED are authorized to execute and file the application and provide any assurances and/or certifications or additional documents that may be requested.

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


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

**Economic Development Committee Report**

Mrs. Ferraro stated the Economic Development Committee met earlier in the evening and received an excellent presentation regarding the growth of Nazareth Borough businesses. She further stated a report was also received by the City of Bethlehem regarding a new Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance on the north side.

**Liaison Reports**

Mr. Phillips advised he attended a meeting of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, as well as their transportation subcommittee. He further advised he attended the Council of Governments meeting at Gracedale and a Northern Trail Steering Committee to discuss the 35 mile trail between Portland and Bangor.
Mr. Phillips stated he, Mr. Dietz and Ms. Cynthia Miller, Lehigh Township Supervisor, attended a meeting wherein Mr. Barron reviewed his audit of the Lehigh Township Booking Center fees and he believed everyone had a little better understanding of the situation.

Adjournment

Mr. Benol 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