Easton, Pennsylvania February 16, 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; Robert F. Werner; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council, Philip D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council.

Prayer

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Dietz made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Daniel Ramut, 156 Forest Line Road, Easton, PA - advised himself, along with Mr. Ares Vega, were representing the Easton Area High School Technology Student Association, which was an extra curriculum club with the purpose of educating and promoting the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Mr. Ramut stated they participated in various conferences at the regional, State and national levels. He further stated the State conference would be held at the Seven Springs Resort and they expected to have 33 participants. He then provided a
cost estimate of their Chapter’s participation in that conference (see Attachment #1).

Mr. Ramut advised as President it was his goal to involve as many students as possible in the competition, but that came at a price so he wanted to know if County Council would be able to assist him in achieving that goal.

Mr. Ramut made available the results from their most recent conference at Stroudsburg High School (see Attachment #2), noting these were the best results they had in ten years of competing. He also made available an article from Lehigh Valley Live/Express Times regarding their club (see Attachment #3).

Mr. Cusick suggested they contact their Board of Education to obtain some funding.

Mr. Ron Angle, Upper Mount Bethel, PA - stated he recently read an article in the Lehigh Valley Business Journal entitled, “Innovative public/private partnership in Norco could expand beyond bridge repair” (see Attachment #4). He further stated the article indicated this type of project had been done in California for 17 years, but he would not want Northampton County to copy the history of California’s finances.

Mr. Angle advised in order for a P3 to work well governments had to determine who was accountable for different scenarios that may delay the construction work and he discovered if something was found wrong at the job site the County had to pay the extra money. He further advised the article indicated this was a $37 million project, but as the County was already $1.5 million over it was already a $38.5 million project.

Mr. Angle stated Kriger Construction, Inc. (Kriger) was not qualified by virtue of not having the correct pre-qualifications code at the time the Request for Proposal (RFP) issuance. He further stated Kriger did not have the qualifications to build this many bridges, had zero P3 experience even though it was a RFP requirement and never performed a fixed-price contract.

Mr. Angle advised to come up with the money Kriger had lines of credit with three banks and if this was revealed to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, as required by the prequalification code, it would have rendered this company insolvent.
Mr. Angle stated he did not understand why the County did not require that at least a percentage of workforce should come from the County because he believed most of this work was going to be done with people from out of the region.

Mr. Angle advised County Council gave this contract to someone with no experience, had to get three banks involved and never met the requirements of the RFP. He further advised the only thing they did was provide a low bid and it had been proven that the low bid was not necessarily the best bid.

Mr. Angle stated when he heard the term public/private partnership he cringed because it meant the public would be on the hook for the bill and the private sector would make the money and he did not think this project was handled the way it should have been. He further stated there was talk about the Federal government getting involved in infrastructure so if the County waited they could have gotten them involved.

In conclusion, Mr. Angle remarked before this project was completed County Council was going to look bad because he saw so many pitfalls and they had no idea of what the final cost was going to be to the County.

Confirmation of Appointments

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 8-2017  RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the following individuals shall be confirmed in their appointments/re-appointments as indicated hereafter:

GRACEDALE ADVISORY BOARD

Re-appointments:  Terms to Expire: 4/19/19
Deborah Jean DeNardo
331 Diamond Street
P.O. Box 222
Pen Argyl, PA  18072-0222

Rosemarie Fehr
99 Birchwood Drive
Nazareth, PA  18064
James Irwin  
440 Spruce Lane  
Nazareth, PA 18064

Susan L. Lawrence  
744 Barrymore Lane  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Maryann Schmoyer  
480 Rabbit Road  
Bath, PA 18014

Kenneth Sun, MD  
382 Epps Street  
Box 266  
Wind Gap, PA 18091

LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Re-appointment:  
Fred A. Williams  
3816 Tiffany Drive  
Easton, PA 18045-3047

TERM TO EXPIRE: 3/2/22

MENTAL HEALTH, EARLY  
INTERVENTION & DEVELOPMENTAL  
PROGRAMS ADVISORY BOARD

Re-appointment:  
Michael W. Kaufmann, M.D.  
3479 Bingen Road  
Bethlehem, PA 18015

TERM TO EXPIRE: 1/23/20

PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

Appointment:  
Thomas Foster  
4876 Concord Drive  
Easton, PA 18042

TERM TO EXPIRE: 2/3/19

Re-appointments:  
William H. Alexander  
2821 5th Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18020

TERMS TO EXPIRE: 2/3/19
Mr. Kraft advised Mr. Williams was present and he wanted to thank him for serving on the Lehigh-Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA).

Mr. Cusick stated he would also like to thank Mr. Williams for his long and dedicated service to LANTA.

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

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

Controller's Report

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

County Executive Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, advised he would be presenting his State of the County address on March 2, 2107, at 7:30 a.m., at the Hotel Bethlehem.

Presentation Regarding 911 Merge

Mr. Todd Weaver, Director of Emergency Management Services, stated in 2016, the Northampton County 911 received approximately 97,000 calls, 161 texts and 296,000 non-emergency calls. He further stated they responded to 56 HAZMAT and various other incidents and provided personnel and resources for five special events, resources for three and held eight exercises throughout the County.

With regard to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) for chemical facilities, Mr. Weaver advised 199 plans were reviewed and accepted last year reporting more than 700 chemicals located in the County.

Mr. Weaver stated Act 12 was enacted in July of 2015 and increased the $1.25 fee per unit that actually called 911 to $1.65. He noted these funds no longer came to the County, but went to the State with 83% going to all 911 Centers, 15% to the State Interconnectivity Fund and 2% to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for administrative costs. He further stated by June 30, 2019, the County must have substantial movement toward consolidation with Bethlehem.
Mr. Weaver advised representatives from his department and the Bethlehem 911 Center meet with PEMA regularly, noting early on they had a meeting with Director Richard Flinn to voice their concerns about the merger. He further advised they also went to PEMA's 911 Advisory Board meetings to stress the fact this was a mandatory consolidation and to lobby to make sure that funding was set aside to assist in the consolidation.

Mr. Weaver stated they met frequently with Mr. Robert Novatnack, Bethlehem’s Emergency Management Coordinator, 911 Coordinator and retired Fire Chief, and discovered similarities in policies and the way things were handled. He further stated they have met with the County’s and Bethlehem’s Departments of Human Resources to discuss how personnel issues could be worked out during the consolidation. He added the County would need to start hiring personnel in 2018 because a new employee with no training took a year to train, but they may be able to bring over some personnel from Bethlehem.

In answer to Mr. Dietz’s question as to how many people would they have to hire, Mr. Weaver advised they were looking at 10-18 depending on the operation.

Mr. Weaver stated they applied and were approved for approximately $8.1 million in funds out of the State Interconnectivity Fund grant. He further stated they initially applied for $18 million, but the State only wanted to give funds for what would be completed during a grant period.

Mr. Weaver advised those funds would be used for the ES1net (Emergency Services IP Network) that would connect all four Comm Centers together so the equipment could communicate with each other. He further advised it would also expand the current regional phone system they had with Allentown, Lehigh and Bethlehem because they could not forget the Comm Centers that were going to be answering calls until 2019.

Mr. Weaver stated at the same time the ES1net and the phone system was going in they applied for a CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) Share Project grant to install a new CAD system throughout the Lehigh Valley so Northampton County could look at what calls were going into Lehigh County and vise versa.

Mr. Weaver advised they were also approved for a Regional Consolidated Services grant that allowed a consultant to look at the personnel, equipment, trunk requirements and help facilitate needs. He further advised they would also be applying for
additional funding during the next round for other projects that have to be done for the consolidation.

Mr. Weaver stated the last project was the Lehigh Valley Radio Design Study that would look at the entire radio structure for the Lehigh Valley to see what could be leveraged and to select a common radio console. He further stated this would allow them to connect to other systems because the State was working on an overall 911 plan for the entire State.

Mr. Novatnack advised there were many moving parts to this project involving a lot of time by both departments, but it was something that had to be done.

In response to Mr. Kraft’s question as to how the camera system in Bethlehem was going to work with the County, Mr. Weaver stated with the new CAD system the County would look to leverage access to the cameras during the time of the call, but the monitoring of cameras was considered a law enforcement type activity.

In answer to Mr. Kraft’s question as to whether all of the Bethlehem 911 personnel were going to the County, Mr. Novatnack advised some of the staff was going to be retained in Bethlehem, but all calls would go through the County.

In response to Mr. Kraft’s comment that he was concerned because the County personnel did not know how the system worked, Mr. Novatnack stated he believed the County would be able to see the closest camera to an incident, but the follow up work would be done by the city.

In answer to Mr. Kraft’s question as to the number of calls Bethlehem handled in a year, Mr. Novatnack replied approximately 40,000.

In response to Mr. Kraft’s question as to how many individuals currently worked for the 911 Center in Bethlehem, Mr. Novatnack advised there were 22 full timers and 4 part timers, but there were formulas to determine how many dispatchers were required.
Public Hearing on the ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COUNTY POLICY FOR PERIODICALLY REVIEWING THE STATUS OF ALL PROPERTIES QUALIFYING FOR EXEMPTION FROM PROPERTY TAXATION UNDER THE INSTITUTIONS OF PURELY PUBLIC CHARITY ACT

Mr. Cusick stated he and Mr. Geissinger introduced the following ordinance at the meeting held February 2, 2017:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COUNTY POLICY FOR PERIODICALLY REVIEWING THE STATUS OF ALL PROPERTIES QUALIFYING FOR EXEMPTION FROM PROPERTY TAXATION UNDER THE INSTITUTIONS OF PURELY PUBLIC CHARITY ACT

WHEREAS, the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act, 10 P.S. §371 et. seq. (Act) establishes guidelines and procedures for determining whether a charitable entity is eligible for exemption from property taxation; and

WHEREAS, the Act also expressly permits taxing bodies which maintain real property assessment rolls to determine the percentage of a given parcel that is used for an entity's charitable purpose, as defined by the Act, and to tax the remainder of the parcel; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Code of Northampton County provides that the Assessment Manager, in person or through subordinates, shall develop and administer a system for the assessment, valuation and taxation of real property, as well as prepare and certify tax assessment rolls for the County, municipal and school districts within the County, but does not require a review of these determinations within any established timeframe; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of County Council to establish a uniform review procedure for parcels that have been granted tax-exempt status within Northampton County.

IT IS HEREBY, THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council enacts the following:

1. Based upon a review of the application for the grant or removal of tax-exempt status and such other materials and information submitted by the legal or equitable owner or by the taxing body or bodies and after such consultation with legal counsel as deemed necessary and prudent, the Revenue Appeals Board shall make a determination concerning whether the property
qualifies or continues to qualify for property tax-exempt status. The staff of the Assessment Division shall provide written notice of the determination of the property’s tax-exempt status to the legal or equitable owner of the property and to all taxing bodies within which the property is located.

2. All properties granted tax-exempt status by the Revenue Appeals Board under the provisions of the Act shall be subjected to a parcel review by the Assessment Manager in accordance with the provisions of 10 P.S. §375(h) at least once every three years. In the course of the periodic parcel review required by this section, the Assessment Manager shall determine whether each property or any portion thereof continues to qualify for tax-exempt status and shall forward written notice of this determination to the legal or equitable owner of the property and to all taxing bodies within which the property is located. Determinations made by the Assessment Manager pursuant to the periodic parcel review required by this section shall be subject to the appeal provisions of §5-210.13.

3. If any provision of this Ordinance shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void or unenforceable then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance which shall be in full force and effect.

Public Hearing

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

There were no respondents.

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments from the members of County Council.

In answer to Mr. Kraft’s question as to why this was being presented because a review was just completed, Mr. Cusick advised it was requested in 2015 and one of the reasons it took so long was because it had not been done in a while so if it was done on an ongoing basis, it would take less time and would provide a more accurate tax roll.

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

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

Consideration of Resolution Amending Resolution No. 5-2017

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 9-2017 WHEREAS, on January 19, 2017, County Council adopted resolution No. 5-2017 that confirmed individuals in their appointments/re-appointments as indicated below.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that resolution No. 5-2017 shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with strike out have been deleted and sections marked with bold underline have been added):

Number 5-2017:

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Appointment:  Term to Expire: 12/31/21
Brian Daems  31/23
206 Lucas Lane
Nazareth PA 18064

Re-appointment:  Term to Expire: 12/31/21
J. Michael Dowd
25 Chestnut Ridge Circle
Easton PA 18042

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Appointment:  Term to Expire: 7/1/18
Thomas Repasch
1744K Falcon Drive
Bethlehem PA 18017
GAMING REVENUE & ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Appointment:  Term to Expire: 12/31/21
Donna M. Louder
2145 Johnston Avenue
Bethlehem PA 18015

LEHIGH VALLEY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC.

Re-appointment:  Term to Expire: 6/30/18
Business Category

Constance Hood
3576 Westminster Way
Nazareth PA 18064

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

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

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

Consideration of a Donation to the Division of Information and Referral/Emergency Services - Emergency Services Crisis Fund Resolution

Mr. Vaughn introduced the following resolution:

R. 10-2017 WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 202 (10) provides that County Council shall have, among others, the following powers: "to accept on behalf of the County any gifts of real property and to provide for the acceptance by any agency on behalf of the County of other gifts;" and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby accept the donation of $500.00 to the Division of Information and Referral/Emergency Services for their Emergency Services Crisis Fund from the Pierce Park Group.
In response to Mrs. Ferraro’s question as to why the Pierce Park Group was making this donation because they handled the County’s retirement funds, Mr. Brown stated it was part of their corporate philosophy to give back to the communities they served. He further stated for years the money came to the County Executive to be distributed at his discretion and he allocated the funds to the Division of Information and Referral/Emergency Services.

Mr. Geissinger advised he did not think $500 was going to influence anyone when it came to choosing a manager for the County pension fund.

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


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

Consideration of Revised Human Services Pay Scales for 2016 and 2017 and Corrective Date of Human Services Administrative (Non-Union) Pay Scale Resolution

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 11-2017 WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council adopted resolution #108-2015 which adopted 2016 pay scales for certain Human Services (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Council adopted resolution #139-2016 which adopted 2017 pay scales for certain Human Services (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2016, the Department of Human Resources indicated that due to changes in State maximum allowable salaries, it became necessary to revise the 2016 and 2017 pay scales for certain Human Services Civil Service (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the 2016 and 2017 pay scales for certain Human Services Civil Service (Non-Union) Administrative Staff and PSSU (Union) Employees shall be revised to read as indicated on the
attached document (refer to Exhibit "A").

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the 2017 Human Services Administrative (Non-Union) pay scale shall reflect the effective date of January 1, 2017 (refer to Exhibit "B").

Mr. Cusick stated it appeared the union had not had contract negotiations for four years so he urged both sides to come to some sort of an agreement.

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

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

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

Consideration of Personnel Request - Department of Human Services - Gracedale Nursing Home Resolution

Mr. Kraft introduced the following resolution:

R. 12-2017. IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one position of Lead Accountant, pay grade CS-28-01-A, salary $59,084, be created in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale Nursing Home, effective February 20, 2017.

Mrs. Ferraro advised the whole salary system for Career Service employees was so disjointed because there were supervisors making less than new people coming. She further advised she was surprised to see the salary this person was getting for the work that had to be done. She added the County had to start honoring its step system and to really look at the pay scales.

Mr. Phillips stated this was the first part of a planned restructuring that was to occur within 90 days that was to save the County money, but he would rather consider the whole package so he would like to postpone the vote.
Mr. Kraft advised that was explained at the Personnel Committee meeting, but this first step had to be taken so they could proceed with the other steps.

With regard to the salary, Mr. Benol stated the salary may not seem like a lot, but once the benefits were added in he believed it was fair compensation.

Mr. Geissinger advised the Administration had given their word that they were going to follow through on the other part of this restructure so he was going to believe them.

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

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

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

Consideration of Resolution Amending Resolution #97-07

Mr. Dietz introduced the following resolution:

R. 13-2017 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that resolution No. 97-07 shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with strikeout have been deleted and sections marked with bold underline have been added):

Number 97-07

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Initiative by 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 City of Bethlehem, South Bethlehem Greenway Project; and

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

Property Owner: Norfolk Southern

Site Location: City of Bethlehem, South Side railroad corridor Northampton County
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the City of Bethlehem, South Bethlehem Greenway 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 $1,098,734.00 as the Northampton County contribution to the City of Bethlehem, "South Bethlehem Greenway project. It shall be understood that in accordance with the recommendations of the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board, the following conditions must be met prior to the release of County funds to the City of Bethlehem:

1. Finalized Phase I Environmental Assessment
2. Completed survey for all parcels
3. Executed Agreement of Sale for all parcels approved by City Council
4. Completed title work on all parcels
5. Appraisals and/or Verifications of appraisals on all parcels
6. Map showing all parcels and acreages
7. Funding sheet showing source, amounts and anticipated receipt date
Mr. Dietz stated in essence the County was swapping 2300 square feet for 2400 square feet to assist in the building of a parking garage in the Southside of Bethlehem.

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

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

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

Consideration of Resolution Amending Resolution #19-2014

Mr. Dietz introduced the following resolution:

R. 14-2017 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that resolution No. 19-2014 shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with strikeout have been deleted and sections marked with bold underline have been added):

Number 19-2014

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative by enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended the conservation easement acquisition by the Nature Conservancy for the Transue property, Upper Mt. Bethel Township, Northampton County; and

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

Property Owner(s): Barrett & Doris Transue

Site Location: 258 Audubon Drive, Mount Bethel, PA 18343
Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County

Parcel Identification: C 11-95-0131

Site Information: Approximately 95 acres: wooded acreage with Minsi Lake vernal pools & Mount Bethel Fens Natural Area

Appraised Value:
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: $272,500 $266,500
County Grant Request: $272,500 $266,500

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his/her/ designee, to take any and all steps necessary to complete the conservation easement acquisition, by the Nature Conservancy of the Transue property, Upper Mt. Bethel Township, being approximately 95 acres, located at 258 Audubon Drive, Mount Bethel, PA 18343, Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, and also known as Uniform Parcel Identifier Numbers C 11-95-0131.

(2) The Northampton County Council hereby directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $272,500 $266,500 as consideration for the conservation easement acquisition by the Nature Conservancy of the Transue Property.

Mr. Phillips advised he would vote for this as it was going to save the County money even though he did not vote for the original resolution because Upper Mount Bethel did not put any money into the project and he felt there should always be participation by the municipality.

Mr. Angle stated Upper Mount Bethel did not put money toward it because the land was undevelopable.

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

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

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

Consideration of Article XIII Contracts: a) Essential Management Solution, LLC; b) Xerox State and Local Solutions, Inc.; c) TuWay Communications

Essential Management Solution, LLC

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:
R. 15-2017 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 January 24, 2017, 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 $90,000.00 with Essential Management Solution, LLC for 911 regionalization/consolidation management services.

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 Essential Management Solution, LLC for 911 regionalization/consolidation management services.

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


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

Xerox State and Local Solutions, Inc.

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 16-2017 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 February 1, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract, in the amount of $410,150 with Xerox State and Local Solutions, Inc. for hardware for switch refresh.

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 Xerox State and Local Solutions, Inc. for hardware for switch refresh.

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

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

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

TuWay Communications

Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 17-2017 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 February 13, 2017, 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 $195,008.00 with TuWay Communications, for Lehigh Valley ESINet Project Support.

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 TuWay Communications, for Lehigh Valley ESINet Project Support.
As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

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

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

Human Services Committee Report

Mr. Vaughn advised at the Human Services Committee meeting held earlier this evening, a report on Gracedale was given and it was reported that discussions were being held to improve its star rating. He further advised it was noted that the Veterans Administration contract was probably going to pass so Gracedale could begin helping veterans.

Adjournment

Mr. Benol 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
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<td>Number of Guests</td>
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**Total** $11,564
## 2017 Chapter Results for Region 9

### 2111 Easton Area HS

#### 208 Computer-Aided Design - Architecture
- **Place 1**: 2111-019 LaLuž, Ian
- **Place 2**: 2111-030 Bialiard, Stephen
- **Place 6**: 2111-024 McCadden, Nolan

**State Max**: 3

#### 209 Computer-Aided Design - Engineering
- **Place 2**: 2111-020 Gackenbach, Jared
- **Place 3**: 2111-004 Banks, Andrew
- **Place 5**: 2111-018 Barnes, Elijah
- **Place 9**: 2111-006 Vega, Ares

**State Max**: 3

#### 210 Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM)
- **Place 3**: 2111-901 Team A

**State Max**: 1

#### 212 Digital Video Production
- **Place 4**: 2111-902 Team B

**State Max**: 1

#### 213 Dragster Design
- **Place 10**: 2111-010 Harris, Evan

**State Max**: Q

#### 222 Photographic Technology
- **Place 6**: 2111-022 Burns, Margaret

**State Max**: Q

#### 223 Prepared Presentation
- **Place 6**: 2111-006 Vega, Ares

**State Max**: Q

#### 224 Promotional Design
- **Place 5**: 2111-035 Irfan, Zaid

**State Max**: 1

#### 228 Structural Design & Engineering
- **Place 3**: 2111-901 Team A

**State Max**: Q

#### 231 Technology Problem Solving
- **Place 3**: 2111-902 Team B
- **Place 5**: 2111-901 Team A

**State Max**: Q

#### 232 Transportation Modeling
- **Place 2**: 2111-004 Banks, Andrew

**State Max**: 2

#### 234 Webmaster
- **Place 2**: 2111-901 Team A

**State Max**: 1
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<td>Michael</td>
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<td>2111-008</td>
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State Max 0
Technology Student Association students are building Easton Area's future

By Sienna Mae Heath
on June 14, 2015 at 7:00 AM, updated June 14, 2015 at 2:15 PM

Technology students in the Easton Area School District aren't just building model bridges.

The members of the Technology Student Association are also thinking much bigger: designing the school's Vietnam Veterans Memorial, for instance.

The 20-member club covers all the STEM disciplines: science, technology, engineering and math.

"Students can find their niche," said Daniel Ramut, the club's sergeant-at-arms. "TSA gives them a challenge. It also gives you a sense of a team."

The 16-year-old Palmer Township resident joined the club as a freshman when he was also participating in a pilot program of Project Lead The Way.

Former club president and Easton Area High School grad Amanda Bellafatto said club projects always focused on design or construction.

In addition to the Vietnam memorial, the students drafted a detailed map of the high school, she said.

"The club naturally attracts students who are creative, original and want to solve real-world problems, he said.

"It's not just making bottle rockets and firing them into the sky," he said. "These are people that dedicate their time."

Bellafatto, 19, of Forks Township, joined the club as a sophomore.

After I went to my first conference I was effectively hooked," she said. "As a female student pursuing engineering, I cannot even begin to explain the importance of having that kind of support in the very beginning of my engineering education."

Students start their annual projects each September.

Closer to competition days you would find anything from someone building a CO2 car to someone building an architectural model of a potential retirement home," Bellafatto said. "The really awesome thing about TSA is it is so varied in activities that any engineering discipline from mechanical engineering to engineering business is represented."

During the 2014-15 school year, their projects ranged from computer programming to 3D modeling to architectural remodeling.

This isn't just an engineering club," Ramut said. "This is STEM. This is all over the field."

Ten Easton students attended the state competition at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Seven Springs, Pa., in April.
or the architectural remodeling assignment, students had to remodel a house using a 3D printer and laser cutter.

At the state competition, Ramut and Louis Gilliland had to build the lightest wooden bridge to hold the most weight.

In the final round they had two-and-a-half hours of to build a bridge using scales, glue and an Exacto knife -- no electronics. Their bridge placed in the top 20.

This is your own personal intuition that's tested without the technology," he said.

Ramut hopes to raise enough funds to attend nationals in Nashville next year.

They need about $800 for each student's lodging and travel.

Ramut has reached out to local organizations such as Rotating Machinery Inc., which donated $250.

Is technology changes the world, the world needs professionals who are tech-savvy.

Everything we know, everything we see is going to change because of STEM," Bellafatto said.

In invested, working scientist improves the world for generations to come, Ramut said.

Because it literally is building your world around you," Ramut said. "It gives you a sense of challenge and pride that you did something that could change others' lives."

HOW TO HELP

do donate to the Easton Area High School Technology Student Association, visit the club's gofundme page.

or more information, visit tsaweb.org
Real Estate & Development

Innovative public/private partnership in Norco could expand beyond bridge repair

By Brian Pedersen, February 6, 2017 at 8:00 AM

By allowing the private sector to perform and finance construction work that’s previously been the purview of the public realm, transportation-related projects, even those on nontolled roads, can get done a lot faster.

What’s more, it’s an approach that not only makes the process of completing the project more efficient and less costly, it also could be replicated yearly and spread beyond roads, bridges, tunnels and other typical road projects.

That’s according to a team invested in using a public/private partnership to rebuild and repair 33 bridges in Northampton County in a contract awarded to a Lackawanna County construction firm last week.

"I think we are on the front edge of a wave that I think is unstoppable," said Ryan Durkin, a solicitor who is representing the county on the project. Known as "P3," it’s a model that could be applied nationally, he added.

A program hosted at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center in Upper Macungie Township on Thursday delved into the benefits and details of the county's new project and how public/private partnerships can be successfully applied.

Norris McLaughlin & Marcus of Allentown hosted the program, with John F. Lushis Jr. and Peter D. Hutcheon representing the Northampton County General Purpose Authority on the project. The authority, which is a separate entity from the county, acts as the conduit through which the funds are sent by the developer.

Kriger Construction Inc. of Dickson City, Lackawanna County, is both the developer and the construction firm that's performing the work through a public/private partnership and also financing the project. The Allentown office of Chicago-based Alfred Benesch and Co., an engineering firm, will provide oversight.

With a typical public/private partnership, the government entity, such as the Pennsylvania Turnpike, uses future earnings on tolls to fund projects. But the speakers said this public/private approach also can work on roads, bridges and tunnels that do not have tolls.

For this project, the developer bears the entire risk.

"It's an innovative approach," said Northampton County Executive John Brown.

Typically, the county's process to fix or rebuild infrastructure is to borrow funds, acquire an engineer, get feedback and put the project out to bid, which is a lengthy process.

"The whole time, the county is paying the tab on this," Brown said.
The developer secures money to complete the work from its lender and then insures and bonds the project for a successful completion, according to Stan Rugis, county director of public works.

The developer, in turn, is paid in installments by the General Purpose Authority, while the authority authorizes payments for all preliminary work performed by attorneys and advisers.

Money is allocated to the authority from the county’s general fund on a year-to-year appropriation authorized by county council – which also can approve or reject the entire project.

The engineer acts as the mediator in a P3 project, a third party that has the ability to shut it down, Brown said.

Since the developer is financing the project, the risk is entirely on that entity.

“That’s the wedge we have with them,” Brown said. “It puts that essence of time on the developer to move forward. It becomes a very, very important component in holding the developer accountable.”

The county is not using any federal money, either.

After discovering that 99 county-owned bridges needed to be repaired or replaced, Brown said he and his team took another look at how to fund it.

The team decided to go with a public/private partnership approach, gathered its legal experts and key stakeholders and in 2015 began to delve into the details.

“There was no model, no format, no template for us to follow, so we really had to do this from scratch,” Brown said. “It’s the first of its kind in the state. We have attracted international attention.”

Brown said the team found that the authority qualifies as a public entity and that bridges count as transportation facilities, which was a requirement in Pennsylvania’s Act 88, signed into law in 2012, which allows private companies to replace and repair bridges.

The county decided it would rehabilitate 28 bridges and replace five. The entire project is estimated to cost about $37 million and take about four years to complete, Brown said.

He estimated it would bring about 1,000 to 1,800 jobs in Northampton County over the next four years.

The request for proposals specified using prevailing wages, and four firms bid on the project.

The project includes 33 bridges in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Washington Township, Tatamy, Stockertown, Bushkill Township, Plainfield Township, East Allen Township, Allen Township, Moore Township, Lehigh Township, Upper Mount Bethel Township and Upper Nazareth Township.

Work on the remaining 66 bridges is expected to start once the first project is complete.

By the fifth year, the next batch of bridges, possibly another 30, could be started.

“It really helped us collapse the time frame we were looking at,” Brown said. “It gave us a long-term planning capability without ever floating a bond. The sustainability and reproducibility of the model was very important to us.”
Previously, the county would act as the general contractor but now, the burden is shifted to the development side.

After the state Department of Transportation approved the P3 model, the team created an agreement where the developer would be in charge of designing, building and financing the project, and also be required to maintain each bridge for 10 years.

PennDOT controls the standards for building the bridges, Brown noted.

It's possible that other counties looking to do this could use a general purpose authority or redevelopment authority as a conduit for funding these projects, Lushis said, emphasizing that the developer is the entity that finances the project.

While this project involves county-owned bridges, it is not known how this type of project could be applied to municipality-owned bridges, Lushis said.

Northampton County certainly is not alone with its many bridges that need repair, and Brown said his hope was that other counties could see how they could apply it.

"California has been doing this since circa 2000," Lushis said. "Other states have done this and have done it successfully. Pennsylvania has fallen behind in other states that do this."

Also Popular on LVB

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Brian Pedersen

Reporter Brian Pedersen covers construction, development, warehousing and real estate and keeps you up to date on the changing landscape of our community. He can be reached at briandp@lvb.com or 610-807-9619, ext. 108. Follow him on Twitter @BrianLehigh and read his blog, "Can You Dig It," at http://www.lvb.com/section/can-you-dig-it.

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