Easton, Pennsylvania December 13, 2018

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: Ronald R. Heckman, Vice President; John Cusick; Matthew H. Dietz; Margaret L. Ferraro; Kevin Lott; William B. McGee (via telephone); Lori Vargo Heffner; Robert F. Werner; Tara M. Zrinski; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council and Christopher T. Spadoni, Solicitor to Council.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Vargo Heffner led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes - December 6, 2018 and December 4, 2018 (BH)

Mr. Cusick made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of December 6, 2018 and December 4, 2018 meetings shall be approved.

Mr. Dietz seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Sal Rizzo, 900 Butler Street, Easton, PA - stated he was speaking on behalf of Mr. Ron Shegda, who was to be here, but had not yet arrived, and his sister, Lorraine. He further stated seven years ago, Ms. Shegda was taken from her home in Hellertown where she was being cared for by Mr. Shegda after he was accused of abusing her even though there was no evidence and since then he has had very little contact with her.

Mr. Rizzo advised he was witness to the exquisite care that Mr. Shegda provided for his sister and to him this was the embodiment of County government gone wild. He further advised they took an innocent woman away from her brother and allowed her health to deteriorate and it was shameful that this County had done nothing about it.
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Mr. Rizzo stated Mr. Shegda fought for his sister over the years, but the County always looked for ways to prevent him from taking care of her. He further stated now Mr. Shegda’s health was deteriorating due to the stress he was put through and anyone who was involved in this miscarriage of justice should be punished.

Mr. McGee telephoned in at this time.

Mr. Ron Shegda, 1328 Easton Road, Hellertown, PA - read a statement regarding his situation and that of his sister (see Attachment #1).

Pastor David Brown - vouched for Mr. Shegda’s character as he saw the loving relationship he had with his sister and the care he provided. He urged the County to look into his case.

Ms. Arlene Dabrow, Macungie, PA - advised she had personally been abused by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA), the Lehigh County Area Agency on Aging (LCAAA) and the Civil Service Commission. She further stated it was difficult for her to witness what she saw and knew was going on in the Area Agencies on Aging throughout the Commonwealth.

Ms. Dabrow stated while working for Governor Milton Shapp she and her co-workers created the PDA and the Area Agencies on Aging throughout the Commonwealth under the theory that the government closest to the people served them best and designed the structure so there would be both County and Commonwealth oversight. She further stated by her own experiences, as well as those reported to her by hundreds of people throughout the Commonwealth, there was no oversight, but negligence and abuse covered up by fraud.

Ms. Dabrow advised after the Director of LCAAA sent her three blatantly obviously false reasons for not hiring her even though there was an age preference law for any position within that agency or any Area Agencies on Aging throughout the Commonwealth. She further advised during an interview with former Administrator of Northampton County Area Agency on Aging (NCAAA) John Mehler she was told he wanted someone who was more knowledgeable on computers. She noted at that time she had a temporary job working in computers so she could become more knowledgeable.
Ms. Dabrow stated someone in this County filed a complaint against Northampton County for hiring someone less than 60 years of age. She further stated Section 5.3 of the Pennsylvania Code read, "General Preference Requirement. In the selection of personnel to fill a vacant position in the Department and area agencies aging, preference, subject to this chapter, shall be given to available qualified persons 60 years of age or older." She noted not only was she not notified that someone else had filed a complaint her name was widely used in this hearing.

Ms. Dabrow advised the Associated Press posted an article that gave Northampton County a bad grade on elderly care issues and she could testify that was true.

Ms. Tamar Dick, PO Box 4204, Bethlehem, PA - stated she was here to address profound inadequacies and accountability abuse of recipients of the services rendered by the Department of Human Services with regard to guardianship. She further stated she was referring to the systemic abuse of the rule of law and the rights of the most vulnerable population.

Ms. Dick advised for a long time there have been human rights abuses not just in this County, but many Counties across Pennsylvania that were well hidden as most abuse occurred under the guise of caring professionals who were using the umbrella of this county's human protection laws to seek targets for financial mining and other pathological reasons.

Ms. Dick stated if it was someone who was in a position of power they were able to generate reports of abuse to other authorities, which explained why people were not hearing enough about this kind of abuse. She further stated this was widespread not only throughout Pennsylvania, but nationally and worldwide.

Ms. Dick advised she was a witness to and a victim of abuse of power and persistent rule of law violations beginning in 2003 when she became disabled and moved back home to receive care. She further stated her problems began at the hands of Northampton County CAO workers who voiced their dislike of her for having worked in California and for how she earned a living.

Ms. Dick stated it was a blow to not only be diagnosed with a degenerative disease that continued to limit her, but devastating to no longer be able to do the things she loved to do that was compounded by forcing her to fight for her rights to food, medicine and medical care.
Ms. Dick advised then began first of six attempts to start a guardianship, noting the first was to take her disability income and continued after the illegal termination of her disability benefits based on mysterious erasures on her eligibility data in the State data base.

Ms. Dick stated she sought help from State representatives and others and inquiries were conducted promoting five more guardianship attempts resulting in costly legal defense fees. She further stated this was a 15-year ordeal and eight out of those years she was forced to go without disability benefits and the medical care she required.

Ms. Dick advised in 2012, community members contacted a State investigator who remarked she was a victim of someone sending false data to the Federal government that she was being provided for on one hand while on the other her eligibility to receive those benefits was deleted that violated her right to receive benefits as a qualified recipient.

Ms. Dick stated she filed reports, requested State and Federal hearings and investigations, but all were denied. She further stated she was told the eight year funding loss she experienced may average $3 million.

Ms. Dick advised the continuing to fight for her rights resulted in a 2011 guardianship targeting her caregiver, her mother. She further advised threats were made against them, which she was told came directly from Mr. Mehler after ordering her to cease reporting over their heads.

Ms. Dick stated he followed up on the threats by using fraudulent statements, withholding evidence from the judge and not providing due notice of a court hearing. She further stated the most important fact that Mr. Mehler lied to the court about was the sole need for a guardianship being necessitated because "the alleged incapacitate person has no previously appointed surrogate decision maker" when, in fact, the State attorney gave him the 1994 surrogate document which was in his possession.

Ms. Dick advised during the appeal process, the judge issued a continuance where he denied Mr. Mehler’s petition stating that there had to be medical proof of incapacitate and treatment attempted before removing a person from their home. She further advised Mr. Mehler then violated the continuance by abducting her mother from a medical facility where she was
awaiting a specialist, heavily drugging her and used false pretenses to get past security.

Ms. Dick stated he then obtained a hearing with a different judge naming attorney Ms. Deborah Jean Denardo guardian falsely claiming her mother’s drug unconscious state was her natural functioning at home. She further stated Ms. Denardo not only assumed her mother’s identity, but hers, to put bills in her name and commit other frauds.

Ms. Dick advised Ms. Denardo told North Penn Legal and other agencies she sought help from that she was her guardian and not to intervene. She further advised Ms. Denardo also declared that she had to quickly get rid of her mother’s property and “spend down your mother’s money so she could be put on Medicaid” beginning with the disappearance of her Medicare coverage, pensions, retirement funds, bank accounts and her Social Security income.

Ms. Dick stated Ms. Denardo verbally assaulted her, made her homeless, taken property and money without court permission and told people who were in a position to help slanderous lies demanding they throw her out to the street, etc. She further stated according to a Gracedale nurse, Ms. Denardo had ordered doctors to use handler drugs on her mother, which was a dangerously high dose drug cocktail to someone half of her age.

Ms. Dick advised when their pharmacist reviewed this drug cocktail he called it a chemical lobotomy and a threat to her mother’s health and life. She further advised Ms. Denardo had her mother, who was very physically active, confined to a geri-chair.

Ms. Dick stated she had been repeatedly warned not to talk about what happened, but after hearing the horror stories from others she was compelled to speak because horror stories of abuse within the system needed to be stopped.

Ms. Kathy Fox, Bethlehem, PA – advised was an appointed member of the City of Bethlehem’s Environmental Advisory Council (BEAC) and the Co-Chair of the Northampton County Democratic Women’s Environmental Committee.

Ms. Fox stated representatives of the BEAC Waste Reduction Task Force were currently working on an ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags in the City of Bethlehem and would make comment to the City of Bethlehem Council after the ban of single-use
plastic straws and bags resolution was considered by County Council in 2019. She further stated there was an urgent need to reduce dependency on single-use plastics as a vehicle for reduction of the pollution that was harming our health and that of the earth.

Ms. Fox advised plastic straws could not be easily recycled, they did not bio-degrade or fully degrade, they released chemicals that were toxic to wildlife and the environment, they negatively impact waterways and wildlife and were a non-essential part of life. She further advised Muhlenberg College replaced plastic straws with paper straws that resulted in a cost savings reduction of toxic waste.

Ms. Fox stated the characteristics and effects on the environment for single-use plastic bags were similar to those of plastic straws. She further stated in 2018, the United Nations Environmental and World Resources Institute found that 127 countries had already implemented some type of policy to regulate single-use plastic products.

Ms. Fox stated in the United States banning single-use plastic products began on the West Coast as far back as 2012 and had since established itself on the East Coast. She further stated the resolution to ban single-use plastic bags and straws sent a clear message to the public that this County was serious about cleaning up the environment and allowed each municipality to develop their own strategies to tackle the problem.

Dr. Breena Holland, 3790 Carver Drive, Bethlehem, PA – advised she was an Associate Professor at Lehigh University and environmental policy was her area of expertise. She further advised she took these issues very seriously because of the health consequences that were caused by exposure to plastic pollutants.

Dr. Holland stated minimizing plastics was a public health issue and banning them was now appropriate and timely based on what everyone else in the country was starting to do. She further stated Lehigh University recently banned plastic straws. She noted most plastic items were not recycled, but ended up in landfills and waterways.
County Executive Report

Mr. Lamont McClure, County Executive, advised it was discerning to hear about allegations of abuse, but he could not comment on specific cases. He suggested County Council hold a Human Services Committee meeting and investigate these specific claims and if they had merit, refer them to the District Attorney’s Office.

Mr. McClure stated he felt the County had one of the finest Departments of Human Services in the Commonwealth and the employees had his entire support because they did very difficult jobs for relatively very little money, but people were not perfect and sometimes it took years to uncover mistakes. He further stated his Administration took specific action when they discovered an incident and would continue to do that.

Mr. McClure asked County Council to approve the contracts being presented tonight because the employees have been laboring under an inadequate health care plan and would not be able to participate in the new plan if they were not approved.

Consideration of Personnel Request Resolution: Court Administration- Juvenile Justice Center

Mr. Dietz made a motion to remove this resolution from the table.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

Mr. Heckman called for a vote on the motion.


The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Heckman introduced the following resolution:

R. 171-2018 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full-time position of Assistant Director of Treatment, pay grade CS-27-2B, salary $58,966, in the Department of Court Administration - Juvenile Justice Center, shall be reclassified to the position of Director of Treatment Services, pay grade CS-29-1-A, salary $61,867, effective December 13, 2018.
Ms. Vargo Heffner advised she was going to support this resolution as the changes that were requested were made.

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

The vote: Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

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

Mr. Heckman stated on December 6, 2018, County Council adopted a resolution re-establishing the position this employee held as it had been eliminated at the previous meeting. He further stated since the above resolution was adopted, County Council had to once again eliminate that position.

Mr. Heckman introduced the following resolution:

R. 172-2018  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full-time position of Assistant Director of Treatment, pay grade CS-27-2B, salary $58,966, shall be eliminated in the Department of Court Administration - Juvenile Justice Center, effective December 13, 2018.

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

The vote: Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

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

Consideration of Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement Resolutions: a. Youth Detention Center Unit; b. Court Appointed Non-Professional Unit; c. Court Related Non-Professional Unit; d. Residual Non-Professional Unit; e. PSSU/Human Services Unit; f. Gracedale Unit

Youth Detention Center Unit

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:
R. 173-2018 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 Unit Agreement between AFSCME Local 1265 - Youth Detention Center Unit and the County of Northampton shall be approved this 13th day of December 2018.

In response to Mr. Cusick's request for an explanation of the health care plan, Ms. Elizabeth Kelly, Director of Human Resources, advised both plans had the same preferred provider network. She further advised the PPO 400 had a lower deductible with employees paying only co-pays for services.

Ms. Kelly stated the other plan had a higher deductible and the employee had to pay the co-insurance price until the deductible was reached, but the County was going to contribute funding toward that deductible. She further stated this plan also provided a health savings account to use for their medical expenses that would follow them if they left the County employ.

In answer to Mr. Heckman's question as to what was the cost of the contracts and where was the money coming from, Mr. Stephen Barron, Director of Fiscal Affairs, advised the retro pay for year one was in the 2018 budget. He further stated there would be a budget amendment in the future, but there was enough to cover them in the short term.

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

The vote: Werner, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes" and Lott, "yes".

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

Court Appointed Non-Professional Unit

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:
R. 174-2018  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 Unit Agreement between AFSCME Local 1265 - Court Appointed Non-Professional Unit and the County of Northampton shall be approved this 13th day of December 2018.

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

The vote: Werner, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes" and McGee, "yes".

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

Court Related Non-Professional Unit

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R. 175-2018  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 Unit Agreement between AFSCME Local 1265 - Court Related Non-Professional Unit and the County of Northampton shall be approved this 13th day of December 2018.

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

The vote: Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes" and Vargo Heffner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Residual Non-Professional Unit

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R. 176-2018  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 Unit Agreement between AFSCME Local 1265 - Court Related Non-Professional Unit and the County of Northampton shall be approved this 13th day of December 2018.

In response to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to whether the lunches referred to those that were given up, Ms. Kelly stated some years ago the nursing staff at Gracedale received a paid lunch, but they gave that up during negotiations to keep the nursing home operating. She further stated during negotiating of this contract it was noted that it was very important to get paid lunches back.

Ms. Kelly advised during negotiations they discovered part-time employees, who did not get sick leave, received a bonus if they did not take a lot of sick leave. She further advised they conceded to providing that bonus only to full time employees who received sick leave, as well as some other concessions.

With regard to the Assessment Office, Ms. Kelly stated they agreed to allow them to have flexibility in taking their lunch break.

Mr. Werner advised in 2013, Gracedale employees and the unions made concessions that amounted to $2.5 million that enabled Gracedale to continue to operate.

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

The vote: Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes" and Vargo Heffner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a voter of 9-0.
PSSU/Human Services Unit

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R.177-2018  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 Unit Agreement between SEIU Local 668 - PSSU/Human Services Unit and the County of Northampton shall be approved this 13th day of December 2018.

Mr. Cusick stated this contract had been unresolved for quite some time so he wanted to know how the County managed that issue.

Ms. Kelly advised one of the things that helped settle this contract was the health care options. She further advised they wanted three years back pay, but they would only receive retro pay from 2018.

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

The vote: Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes" and Zrinski, "yes".

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

Gracedale Unit

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R. 178-2018  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 Unit Agreement between AFSCME Local 1435 - Gracedale Unit and the County of Northampton shall be approved this 13th day of December 2018.
In answer to Mr. Cusick's question as to why the subcontracting language was introduced as part of the contract, Mr. Barron stated they wanted to make sure the services provided at Gracedale were done in house.

Mr. Cusick advised he was concerned Gracedale may return to where it was four years ago if the Intergovernmental Transfer funding were to go away due to the removal of Premier, new HealthChoices regulations and State funding remaining flat.

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

The vote: Werner, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes" and Cusick, "yes".

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

Consideration of an Article XIII Contract Resolution: W2A Design Group

Mr. Heckman introduced the following resolution:

R. 179-2018  WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.15 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 December 4, 2018, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract with a base fee of $516,000 and with reimbursable expenses estimated at $5,500 (billed at cost) for a total of $521,900 with W2A Design Group for Professional Services for the New Regional Forensic Center for a term through September 2020.
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 W2A Design Group for Professional Services for the New Regional Forensic Center.

In response to Mr. Cusick’s question as to what was W2A’s vision, Mr. Glenn Lichtenwalner, Principal/Chief Architect, stated he would be in charge of the project with Mr. David Drake, President and CEO/Principal Architect. He further stated in October they provided some plans (see Attachment #2).

Mr. Lichtenwalner advised they had been reviewing the possibilities and preliminary plans of the facility with the Administration and the Coroner to make sure all their needs were met.

Mr. Cusick stated the budget was established based on the previously voted on bond issue so he wanted to know if they could stay under that budget and get the project done in a timely manner.

Mr. Lichtenwalner advised there was a time table in their proposal and it would be strictly adhered to as well as the concerns of the budget.

In answer to Mr. Lott’s question as to whether they were designing the facility to be expandable, Mr. Lichtenwalner stated that was one of the priorities in the design.

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


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

Consideration of Contingency Fund Transfer Resolutions: a. The Center for Animal Health and Welfare; b. Saucon Valley Community Center
The Center for Animal Health and Welfare

Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolution:

R. 180-2018  NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the sum of $5,000 shall be transferred from the 2018 Contingency account #05000-76050 to The Center for Animal Health and Welfare.

In response to Ms. Zrinski's question as to the reason for this donation, Mr. Cusick advised they were a no kill shelter and were always in need of supplies.

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

The vote:  Cusick, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Dietz, "yes" and Ferraro, "yes".

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

Saucon Valley Community Center

Mr. Cusick introduced the following resolution:

R. 181-2018  NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the sum of $5,000 shall be transferred from the 2018 Contingency account #05000-76050 to the Saucon Valley Community Center.

In answer to Mrs. Ferraro's question as to why this was being presented at this time, Mr. Cusick stated it was a worthy organization and in need of funding.

Mr. Lott advised it was an outstanding facility that did a lot for senior citizens and children.

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

The vote:  Cusick, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes" and Heckman, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Consideration of the 2019 County Council Meeting Schedule Resolution

Mr. Heckman introduced the following resolution:

RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that: (1) In accordance with Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 206(a), the Northampton County Council organizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2019, and will begin at 6:30 p.m., prevailing time, in the third floor meeting room, room #3116, Northampton County Courthouse, 669 Washington Street, Easton, Pennsylvania; and (2) The regular schedule of meetings for the year 2019, shall be conducted on the first and third Thursday of each respective month, beginning at 6:30 p.m., prevailing time, in the third floor meeting room, room #3116, Northampton County Courthouse, 669 Washington Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, with the following exceptions: (a) for the month of January, the meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2019 is cancelled; (b) for the month of July, the meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 4, 2019 is cancelled and rescheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2019 and (c) the meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2019 is cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2019 and will begin at 4:30 p.m., prevailing time and will be held in the third floor meeting room, room #3116, Northampton County Courthouse, 669 Washington Street, Easton, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Dietz stated the Borough of Bath had extended an invitation for County Council to hold a meeting at their location so consideration may be given to it as there had been discussions about holding meetings at different locations.

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

The vote: Heckman, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes" and Lott, "yes".

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

Mr. Heckman advised a suggestion was made to have the January 17, 2019 meeting moved to January 24, 2019 in the event there was an ordinance presented to allow for advertising.
Ms. Vargo Heffner made a motion to amend the resolution to move the January 17, 2019 meeting to January 24, 2019.

Mr. Lott seconded the motion.

Mr. Heckman called for the vote on the motion.

The vote: Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes" and McGee, "yes".

The motion was passed by a vote of 9-0.

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

R. 182-2018 **RESOLVED,** by the Northampton County Council that: (1) In accordance with Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 206(a), the Northampton County Council organizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2019, and will begin at 6:30 p.m., prevailing time, in the third floor meeting room, room #3116, Northampton County Courthouse, 669 Washington Street, Easton, Pennsylvania; and (2) The regular schedule of meetings for the year 2019, shall be conducted on the first and third Thursday of each respective month, beginning at 6:30 p.m., prevailing time, in the third floor meeting room, room #3116, Northampton County Courthouse, 669 Washington Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, with the following exceptions: (a) for the month of January, the meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2019 is cancelled and the meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019 is cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2019; (b) for the month of July, the meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 4, 2019 is cancelled and rescheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2019 and (c) the meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2019 is cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2019 and will begin at 4:30 p.m., prevailing time and will be held in the third floor meeting room, room #3116, Northampton County Courthouse, 669 Washington Street, Easton, Pennsylvania.

The vote: Heckman, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes" and Vargo Heffner, "yes".

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

Mr. Werner stated the Friends of Gracedale Foundation now had a website (friendsofgracedale.org).

Council’s Clerk Report

Mrs. Zembo advised the next meeting of County Council will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019.

Adjournment

Ms. Vargo Heffner made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Lott seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

______________________________________________________________
Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council
An Address to Northampton County Council, PA, USA

by Ron Shegda,

December 13, 2018

Honorable Mr. Council Vice-President, Councilors, County Executive, All Servants of the People of Northampton County, PA, USA, Fellow Citizens:

I am here as a witness of chronic cruelty and intense abuse by Northampton County Human Services. This culture of cruelty and inhumanity has pervaded Northampton County Human Services, similar to local governments across America and Western nations, for decades. For our family during these last 8 years, I have come to re-name this #1 funded department in the County as “Human Disservices,” or “In-Human Services.”

This enduring and endemic abuse of citizens has deeply spread among the host of sub-agencies to Human Services here and everywhere. Why? These contracted agencies are addicted to County and government funding and will lie about vulnerable people and their families and inflict them with their own brand of cruelty—all for sake of their 30 pieces of silver. These sub-agencies are populated with former employees of the County—or by their relatives, friends and lovers. Agencies that contract with Northampton County like LifePath, Community Options, Pine Brook Family Services, Kids Peace, Quality Progressions, and every such agency that enforces brutal and wicked dictates of separating Families, and imposing an iron will of horror from their depravity on Families and especially vulnerable members of our community, should have no such place in a County that professes “Mercy and Justice.”

I bear the wounds of specific employee and sub-agency cruelty, along with my near-twin Sister, Lorraine, with Down Syndrome, whom Human Services by Charter was supposed to care for and serve. Instead, she was separated from her Family for 6 years with no knowledge of her whereabouts; she was drugged beyond belief; bodily dragged from our home by “Guardian” Deborah Jean DeNardo; sexually abused; had her identity as a human being confiscated; her neck was broken from neglect after 8 months of warnings when I was finally “allowed” to see my flesh and blood, and was hospitalized in the EU on a ventilator with near death; then she was placed in the same severely deficient facility—widely known in the community for negligence—where she aspirated twice and was again placed on a ventilator, clinging to life. This was after the in-human Developmental Programs moved her to under 12 different roofs.

For me, the super-intense and unrelenting stress imposed by Human Services and so called “Court Officers,” including April Cordts and Deborah Jean DeNardo, has led to a ruptured abdomen, heart attack, stroke, and now a debilitated spine.

Since 1990, The Morning Call has routinely reported abuses committed by County Human Service agencies, concerning the breaking up of Families without warrants or
evidence—with Northampton County “committing 90% of these offenses.” No one in
government cared, with Stephen Barron as an evanescent exception. Ross Marcus could
care less and took an illegal job with CACI.V. The endless stream of Title-IV federal
money kept flowing, in support of this ill-gotten inventory of “legally kidnapped”
vulnerables—children, the handicapped, elderly.

It doesn’t require much spiritual depth and preparation to realize you are running a
bureaucracy where daughters and sons of God are hemorrhaging their souls.

The same tune is flatly sung by such departments across America and The West since
passage of CAPTA in 1974 (the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act): where
incompetent and disordered case-workers are hired to find abuse where it doesn’t exist.
80% of the 400,000 Families falsely accused every year and their Families are smashed
apart for the sake of federal funding and social worker depravity in children’s cases
alone. Georgia State Senator Nancy Schaeferer and her husband Bruce were brutally
assassinated on March 26, 2010 because she continually exposed the horrific crimes
against humanity by such agencies.

I ask and expect nothing from this solemn body. No one has given our pleas over the
years any heed. Some who harbor similar witness are gathered here, or at home in
solidarity. Like Rhett Butler said at the end of Gone with the Wind, no one in office gives
a damn. Providentially, I ran into Lamont McClure at an Iron Pigs game last August. He
NEVER had the decency to answer my several previous letters as a candidate and then as
an elected County official. During that summer night, while walking on a cane because
of this persecution, Mr. McClure assured me he would look into this atrocious, enduring
and scandalous account of abuse. To this day, Mr. McClure has remained silent.

There is an idea for Northampton County Government and these hallowed halls of the
Courthouse concerning this culture of cruelty: remove the huge County Seal proclaiming
Mercy and Justice that all employees are invited to glean while leaving the building—
quoted from The Book of Baruch and St. Matthew’s Gospel. Certainly, our Family and so
many I know in The Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, across the United States, and overseas
have not received an iota of Mercy nor Justice, nor any sign of such professions of virtue,
from Northampton County Government.

I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank You.

1 If anyone gives a damn about these remarks, you should closely study a scholarly book
by 7 authors that documents how such agencies rampantly and falsely accuse families of
“abuse and neglect” for the sake of “legally kidnapping family members,” all by a
predominant coterie of “social workers” who lead “disordered lives.”

See the acclaimed and highly researched book, Child Abuse, Family Rights, and the Child
Protective System, by Dr. Stephen Krason and 6 other scholars (Scarecrow Press, 2013).
Northampton County
Regional Forensic Center

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
2 July 2018

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Attachment # 7