Easton, Pennsylvania  December 6, 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; 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

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

Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2018; November 7, 2018 (BH)  
November 28, 2018 (BH)

Mr. Cusick made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the November 15, 2018, November 7, 2018 and November 28, 2018 meetings shall be approved.

Mr. Dietz seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Mike Stershic, DiscoverLV – stated he wanted to thank County Council for its support during his years with DiscoverLV. He further stated he was retiring in three and half weeks and introduced his successor, Mr. Alex Michaels.

Mr. Stershic advised County Council should have received this year’s audit and annual reports and Mr. Michaels would be available to discuss that at a later date.

Mr. Alex Michaels, DiscoverLV – stated he was really excited to be back in the Lehigh Valley and he looked forward to working with everyone and doing what he could to represent the County.
Mr. Joseph Jachowicz, 2640 Middle Way, Easton, PA - advised he was a voter and a Casework Supervisor for Early Intervention in the Department of Human Services. He further advised he was present to ask County Council for their consideration and a resolution to give all County employees the same raise regardless of the years of service.

Mr. Jachowicz stated he wanted to thank the County Executive and the Administration for fixing the healthcare issues that the former County Executive created for non-union employees. He further stated he would also like County Council to honor the Home Rule Charter and have a two-year salary study done for all employees.

Ms. Stephanie Brown, no address - advised she was a former Lower Saucon Township resident, but no longer lived in Northampton County. She further advised she was upset because the County was putting money toward replacing a steeple when it was going to tear down a 116 year old bridge.

Ms. Brown stated she had been homeless for eight years due to circumstances she had no control over. She further stated she had mental health issues and had been a victim of Magellan for years because she could not get the services she needed so she would ask the County to discontinue their contract.

Ms. Brown advised Governor Tom Wolf just released $5 million in funding to help homeless families and prevent homelessness, but Lehigh, Northampton and Berks Counties were not part of that funding. She further advised this funding had to be applied for by a General Purpose Authority-type entity so she did not understand why these three Counties did not reach out for this funding.

Ms. Brown stated she did not know if people did not believe there were homeless people in the Lehigh Valley anymore, but something had to be done. She further stated she had been on a waiting list for years to get into subsidized housing and was currently living in a house that had no heat or running water and was full of mold from all the rain.

Ms. Brown advised there may not be people living in boxes or on grates, but they were living in their cars and she did not know why the Counties were not reaching out for funding from the State to help relieve this issue.
County Executive Report

Mr. Lamont McClure, County Executive, stated it was incumbent upon the governing body to tie up loose ends before moving forward and that was why he presented a proposed budget that endeavored to do that. He further stated this budget included the purchase of the Human Services Building because if it was not done in this budget, it would not have been a good deal for the taxpayers. He noted by purchasing this building with bond proceeds the County would be able to leverage approximately $1 million per annum from the Commonwealth.

Mr. McClure advised there was a plan to build a forensic center that was needed for a number of years and razing the Milides Building to create parking and easier access to the Courthouse. He further advised they were hoping to receive a grant from the Commonwealth to make the crosswalk safe.

Mr. McClure stated by addressing these issues it would allow the County to do some forward thinking projects like providing money to match the potential Commonwealth grant for the hydroelectric power plant in an attempt to reach the County's goal of a greener future, noting the forensic center was going to be powered by solar energy. He further stated it was also restoring funding for the preservation of farmlands, environmentally sensitive lands and County parks.

Public Hearing on the Magisterial District Justice Lease Ordinances: a. Magisterial District Justice 03-1-04 (Zumas); b. Magisterial District Justice 03-2-04 (Mege); c. Magisterial District Justice 03-2-12 (Yetter)

Magisterial District Justice 03-1-04 (Zumas)

Mr. Heckman advised the following ordinance was introduced by Ms. Vargo Heffner and Mr. Dietz at the November 15, 2018 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 3,232 RENTAL SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE IDENTIFIED AS 248 BRODHEAD ROAD, SUITE 2, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, FROM TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII, Section 13.14 Purchase, Sale and Lease of Real Estate Section c. (1) Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Estate, provides, "The County Executive, or his designee, may negotiate a contract for the purchase, sale or lease (with the County as lessor or lessee) of real estate. Any such purchase/sale/lease shall be approved by County Council, and no such contract shall bind the County nor shall any conveyance be lawful, until County Council approves of the terms of the purchase/sale/lease."; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Article 602 (a)(6) provides that the Northampton County Council shall enact an ordinance for any act which "purchase, conveys, leases or authorizes the purchase, conveyance or lease of any real property of the County".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the County of Northampton, Easton, Pennsylvania, to lease from Township of Hanover, Northampton County, a Pennsylvania Municipal Corporation, 3630 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, approximately 3,232 rental square feet of office space identified as 248 Brodhead Road, Suite 2, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for an initial rent of $5,066.40 per month. The terms and conditions of the lease shall be in accordance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A".

Effective Date - This ordinance shall become effective thirty days after the date of enactment.

Public Hearing

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

There were no respondents.

Mr. Heckman stated that County Council had received some amendments to the lease that would also change some of the language in the ordinance. He then read the following changes:
TITLE CHANGE:

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE
COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEASE
APPROXIMATELY 3,232 RENTAL SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE
IDENTIFIED AS 248 BRODHEAD ROAD, SUITE 2, BETHLEHEM,
Pennsylvania, FROM HANOVER AND LOWER NAZARETH TOWNSHIPS,
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA"

ADD:

LOWER NAZARETH TOWNSHIP AND ADDRESS TO PAGES 1, 10 AND 12

SECTION 2.01 - INITIAL RENT:

INCREASE AMOUNT - FROM $5,066.40 PER MONTH TO $5,208.26 AS IT
SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED AS $5,066.40 IS THE CURRENT AMOUNT AND
IT SHOULD HAVE INCREASED BY THE COLA WHICH IS 2.8%

SECTION 2.02 - ADJUSTMENT TO ANNUAL RENT:

SHOULD READ - AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND FULL LEASE YEAR,
AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF EVERY OTHER YEAR THEREAFTER, THE RENT
FOR THE LEASE PREMISES SHALL BE ADJUSTED BY APPLYING
FLUCTUATIONS IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX TO THE ANNUAL RENT AS
FOLLOWS:

PAGE 3 - (k) Maintenance of Common Areas. Add as a last
sentence - For purposes of this paragraph, "Building" shall
refer to the structure known as 248 Brodhead Road, Bethlehem, PA
which houses the demised premises.

Mr. Cusick made a motion to amend the lease and ordinance
as indicated.

Mr. Dietz seconded the motion.

Mr. Heckman called for the vote on the motion.

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

The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called
for the vote on the following amended ordinance:
AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON,
PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 3,232 RENTAL
SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE IDENTIFIED AS 248 BRODHEAD
ROAD, SUITE 2, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, FROM TOWNSHIPS
OF HANOVER AND LOWER NAZARETH, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article
XIII, Section 13.14 Purchase, Sale and Lease of Real Estate
Section c. (1) Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Estate, provides, "The
County Executive, or his designee, may negotiate a contract for
the purchase, sale or lease (with the County as lessor or
lessee) of real estate. Any such purchase/sale/lease shall be
approved by County Council, and no such contract shall bind the
County nor shall any conveyance be lawful, until County Council
approves of the terms of the purchase/sale/lease."; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Article 602
(a)(6) provides that the Northampton County Council shall enact
an ordinance for any act which "purchase, conveys, leases or
authorizes the purchase, conveyance or lease of any real
property of the County".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by
Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the
County of Northampton, Easton, Pennsylvania, to lease from
Townships of Hanover AND Lower Nazareth, Northampton County, a
Pennsylvania Municipal Corporation, 3630 Jacksonville Road,
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, approximately 3,232 rental square feet
of office space identified as 248 Brodhead Road, Suite 2,
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for an initial rent of $5,208.06 per
month. The terms and conditions of the lease shall be in
accordance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached
hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A".

Effective Date - This ordinance shall become effective
thirty days after the date of enactment.

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

The ordinance was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Magisterial District Justice 03-2-04 (Mege)

Mr. Heckman advised the following ordinance was introduced by Ms. Vargo Heffner and Ms. Zrinski at the November 15, 2018 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 2,593 RENTABLE SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE IDENTIFIED AS 1404 WALTER STREET, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, FROM JOHN J. BLAIR AND SUSAN BLAIR

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII, Section 13.14 Purchase, Sale and Lease of Real Estate Section c. (1) Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Estate, provides, "The County Executive, or his designee, may negotiate a contract for the purchase, sale or lease (with the County as lessor or lessee) of real estate. Any such purchase/sale/lease shall be approved by County Council, and no such contract shall bind the County nor shall any conveyance be lawful, until County Council approves of the terms of the purchase/sale/lease."; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Article 602 (a)(6) provides that the Northampton County Council shall enact an ordinance for any act which "purchase, conveys, leases or authorizes the purchase, conveyance or lease of any real property of the County".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the County of Northampton, Easton, Pennsylvania, to lease from John J. Blair and Susan Blair approximately 2,593 rentable square feet of office space identified as 1404 Walter Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for an initial rent of $4,375.69 per month. The terms and conditions of the lease shall be in accordance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A".

Effective Date - This ordinance shall become effective thirty days after the date of enactment.

Public Hearing

Mr. Heckman asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.
There were no respondents.

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

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

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

Magisterial District Justice 03-2-12 (Yetter)

Mr. Heckman stated the following ordinance was introduced by Ms. Zrinski and Ms. Vargo Heffner at the November 15, 2018 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 2,650 RENTABLE SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE IDENTIFIED AS 1710 BUTLER STREET, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FROM JAMES S. GARAFALO, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII, Section 13.14 Purchase, Sale and Lease of Real Estate Section c. (1) Purchase/Sale/Lease of Real Estate, provides, "The County Executive, or his designee, may negotiate a contract for the purchase, sale or lease (with the County as lessor or lessee) of real estate. Any such purchase/sale/lease shall be approved by County Council, and no such contract shall bind the County nor shall any conveyance be lawful, until County Council approves of the terms of the purchase/sale/lease."; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Article 602 (a)(6) provides that the Northampton County Council shall enact an ordinance for any act which "purchase, conveys, leases or authorizes the purchase, conveyance or lease of any real property of the County".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the County of Northampton, Easton, Pennsylvania, to lease from James S. Garafalo, 1700 Northampton Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, approximately 2,650 rentable square feet of office space identified as 1710 Butler Street, Easton, Pennsylvania,
for an initial rent of $3,060.00 per month. The terms and conditions of the lease shall be in accordance with the lease agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A".

Effective Date - This ordinance shall become effective thirty days after the date of enactment.

Public Hearing

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

There were no respondents.

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

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

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

Consideration of the 2019 Northampton County Budget and Capital Improvements Plan: a. Consideration of Budgetary/Position Related Issues: (1) Created or Eliminated Positions; (2) Positions Not Reflected in the Budget; (3) Upgraded Full Time Positions; (4) Unfunded Positions; (5) Increases for Salaries of Employees with Four or Less Years; b. Consideration of 2019 Salary Resolutions: (1) Part-Time Professional Employees; (2) Full-Time Employees; c. Adoption of the 2019 Budget and 2019 Capital Improvements Plan: (1) Consideration of Amendments to the Proposed 2019 Budget and 2019 Capital Improvements Plan Resolution; (2) Adoption of the 2019 Northampton County Budget as Amended; (3) Adoption of the 2019 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan; d. Adoption of the 2019 Real Estate Tax Millage Rate Ordinance

Consideration of Budgetary/Position Related Issues:

Created or Eliminated Positions

Department of Fiscal Affairs - Procurement
Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 148-2018  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Deputy Purchasing Manager, pay grade CS-26-09-I, salary $79,445, shall be eliminated in the Department of Fiscal Affairs - Procurement Division, effective January 1, 2019.

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

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

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

Department of Administration - Conservation District

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 149-2018  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Agricultural Technician, pay grade CS-22-01-A, salary $45,723, shall be created in the Department of Administration - Conservation District, effective January 1, 2019.

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

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

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

Department of Administration - Elections

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 150-2018  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Voting Machine Custodian, pay grade RU-25-07-G, salary $61,346, shall be
eliminated in the Department of Administration - Elections, effective January 1, 2019.

In answer to Mr. Heckman’s question as to whether there was an individual in this position, Mr. McClure advised he was moving to another position.

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

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

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

Department of Community and Economic Development

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 151-2018 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Community and Economic Development Specialist, pay grade CS-23-01-A, salary $47,876, shall be eliminated in the Department of Community and Economic Development, effective January 1, 2019.

In response to Mr. Heckman’s question as to whether there was an individual in this position, Mr. McClure stated he had been promoted.

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

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

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

Department of Community and Economic Development

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:
R. 152-2018 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Community and Economic Development Finance Specialist, pay grade CS-23-03-C, salary $52,283, shall be eliminated in the Department of Community and Economic Development, effective January 1, 2019.

In answer to Mr. Heckman’s question as to whether there was an individual in this position, Mr. McClure advised they would no longer be employed by the County.

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

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

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

Department of Corrections

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 153-2018 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that six (6) full time positions of Corrections Officers, pay grade PR-01-01-A, total salaries for six (6) positions $207,193, shall be created in the Department of Corrections, effective January 1, 2019.

Mr. Cusick stated he would not support this because there was no corresponding reduction in the overtime budget.

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

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes" and Cusick, "no".

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

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 154-2018  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Vector Control Specialist, pay grade RU-25-01-A, salary $45,763, shall be created in the Department of Public Works - Public Works Administration, effective January 1, 2019.

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

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

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

Department of Human Services

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 155-2018  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Deputy Director of Human Services, pay grade CS-31-01-A, salary $69,054, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Human Services Administration, effective January 1, 2019.

Mr. Heckman advised the County Executive was involved in all of his departments and supportive of his directors, but this position required someone to be trained from day one to be able to assist in the transitions between department heads who would become their boss.

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

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Department of Human Services - Gracedale

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 156-2018   IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Nursing Home Fiscal Administrator, pay grade CS-33-03-C, salary $83,046, shall be eliminated in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale, effective January 1, 2019.

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


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

Positions Not Reflected in the Budget

Department of Human Services - Gracedale

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 157-2018   IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) part time position of Clerical Technician I, pay grade CS-11-01-A, salary $13,778, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale, effective January 1, 2019.

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


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

Department of Human Services - Gracedale

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:
R. 158-2018 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Nursing Home Fiscal Technician, pay grade CS-16-01-A, salary $34,686, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale, effective January 1, 2019.

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

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

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

Department of Human Services - Gracedale

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 159-2018 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Nursing Home Administrator, pay grade CS-38-06-F, salary $119,009, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale, effective January 1, 2019.

Mr. Cusick stated he thought Premier did an outstanding job and have preferred them being retained.

Mr. Dietz advised he thought it was a good choice to bring Gracedale back into the County's hands, but he encouraged both the Administration and County Council to follow up with benchmarks to make sure the transition was staying on track and realizing any potential savings.

Mr. McGee stated he was impressed with what was occurring at Gracedale and felt the transition was a good decision.

Mr. Heckman advised he was also impressed with where Gracedale was now compared to previous years.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.
The vote: McGee, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "no"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes" and Vargo Heffner, "yes".

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

Upgraded Full Time Positions

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 160-2018 WHEREAS, the County Executive submitted the Proposed 2019 Northampton County Budget on October 3, 2018; and

WHEREAS, page 18 of the Proposed 2019 Budget contains all the Upgraded Positions for 2019 (a copy is attached hereto and labeled as Exhibit "A").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the upgraded positions listed on Exhibit "A" shall be adopted effective January 1, 2019.

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

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

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

Unfunded Positions

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 161-2018 WHEREAS, the County Executive submitted the Proposed 2019 Northampton County Budget on October 3, 2018; and

WHEREAS, page 17 of the Proposed 2019 Budget contains all the Unfunded Positions for 2019 (a copy is attached hereto and labeled as Exhibit "A").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the unfunded positions listed on Exhibit "A" shall remain unfunded effective January 1, 2019.
As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

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

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

Increases for Salaries of Employees Hired In 2014, 2015 and 2016

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 162-2018 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the 2019 salaries of full-time employees, not within Collective Bargaining Units, who were hired in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and did not receive an increase last year or not at the top of their pay scale, effective January 1, 2019, shall receive a step increase on the respective pay scales.

In response to Mr. Dietz's question as to whether the Administration had the amount it would cost to include 2017, Mr. Stephen Barron, Director of Fiscal Affairs, stated the increase would be $53,000 to $60,000, noting the resolution that was just passed to upgrade positions included some people who were reflected on the list for 2017.

In answer to Ms. Zrinski's question as to whether they would be excluded, Mr. Barron advised if County Council included all employees hired in 2017, they would not and they would then be receiving a two-step increase.

Mr. Cusick stated they would not only receive a two-step increase, but also the Cost of Living Allowance.

Mr. Heckman advised over the course of 25 months, they could potentially receive a 13% raise.

Mr. Barron stated if they chose the HSA healthcare option they would also receive another 2% because their premium would be lower and if they were in the family plan, they would get $2,500 from the County in cash up front.
Mr. Heckman advised during the budget hearing, Ms. Holly Ruggiero, Clerk of Courts/Prothonotary, indicated there was a discrepancy in pay for people who were doing the same job so he wanted to know if that was addressed.

Mr. McClure stated a vast majority of those positions were represented by Collective Bargaining units and they have settled and ratified their contract which would be presented to County Council at the next meeting. He further stated another concern was the spread between supervisors and individuals they supervise that they were going to address over time.

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

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

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

Consideration of 2019 Salary Resolutions:

Part-Time Professional Employees

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R.163-2018 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the 2019 salaries of part-time professional employees shall be as indicated on the attached pay scale.

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

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

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

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 164-2018 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the 2019 salaries of Career Service and Exempt employees, not within Collective Bargaining Units, whose job classifications are within the parameters of the Northampton County Career Service and Exempt Pay Scales, respectively, shall be as indicated on the attached pay scales.

Mr. Heckman advised the attached pay scale was being replaced with an updated version due to the fact the Department of Fiscal Affairs recently received the salary for the District Attorney, however, it did not require any amendment to the resolution.

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

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "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.

Adoption of the 2019 Budget and 2019 Capital Improvements Plan:

Consideration of Amendments to the Proposed 2019 Budget and 2019 Capital Improvements Plan Resolution

Mr. Lott introduced the following resolution:

R. 165-2018 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the proposed 2019 Northampton County Budget and the proposed 2019 Capital Improvements Plan shall be amended as indicated on the attached documents.

Mr. Cusick stated he was disappointed this list did not include the funding for the voting machines because it was an expense the County was going to have to face in the near future.

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

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

Adoption of the 2019 Northampton County Budget as Amended

Ms. Vargo Heffner introduced the following resolution:

R. 166-2018 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following 2019 Northampton County Budgets (incorporated by reference hereto) shall be adopted, as amended, this 6th day of December 2018.

1. General Fund
2. Special Revenue Funds
3. Capital Project Funds

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


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

Adoption of the 2019 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan

Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following resolution:

R. 167-2018 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the proposed 2019 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan shall be adopted this 6th day of December 2018.

Mr. Cusick advised this list included funding for a project that was not a core function of the County, but failed to include funding for a verifiable voting system.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.
The vote: Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "no" and Dietz, "yes".

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

Adoption of the 2019 Real Estate Tax Millage Rate Ordinance

Mr. Heckman stated the following ordinance was introduced by Messrs. Dietz and McGee at the November 15, 2018 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGE RATE IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON FOR THE YEAR 2019

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED that the millage rate for real estate tax purposes for the year 2019 shall be set at 11.8 mills on every dollar of assessed valuation of taxable real estate or $1.18 on every $100.00 of assessed valuation.

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

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

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

Update on 911 Consolidation Agreements

In response to Mr. Cusick’s question as to whether there were any updates on the ordinances that were previously tabled, Mr. McClure replied that the language issues had been worked out so they would be brought back to County Council sometime in the future.

Consideration of Resolution Reestablishing a Position in Court Administration - Juvenile Justice Center

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:
R. 168-2018 \textbf{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 reestablished in the Department of Court Administration - Juvenile Justice Center, effective December 6, 2018.

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

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

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

Mr. Heckman advised at the last meeting a job creation was removed from the adopted resolution as some concerns were expressed. He further advised Mr. Jermaire Greene, Court Administrator, and Mr. Alan Pfizenmayer, Director of Treatment Services, Juvenile Detention, were here to discuss the matter.

Mr. Greene stated Ms. Vargo Heffner requested a change in the title and job description to clarify that no clinical oversight and disposition was part of the personnel request and they have changed the title. He further stated he reached out to the providers he dealt with every day and they agreed with Ms. Vargo Heffner.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised there was no change in the job description and the only thing that changed was the title. She further advised the job description did not eliminate the clinical work, noting they had talked specifically about what a person who had a certain level of credential was allowed and not allowed to do by the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Greene stated as far as he knew there was no clinical oversight.

Ms. Vargo Heffner read from the job description, "Coordinate and complete clinical assessments and testing" and indicated that was a clinical function. She advised there was some references to supervision and if a person was supervising case managers and staff that was fine, but a non-clinically licensed individual could not supervise contracted clinically licensed therapists and that needed to be reflected in the job description.
Mr. Greene stated they were going to do that, but he wanted to get to the specifics of what treatment looked like because he had Dr. Robert Gill and Dr. Susan Kraus present to explain the specifics of the treatment provided. He further stated this center was a vision he had for 13 years and something the people of the County could be very proud of.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised she had asked for an overview of the program and she wanted to know what their distinction was between treatment and detention.

Mr. Greene stated the treatment center had 48 beds and four different units, which were an adolescent boys unit, an adolescent girls unit, a specialized unit for sex offenders and a short term offender’s that was a 29-day diversionary program. He further advised they had 36 beds in the maximum security juvenile lockup.

Mr. Greene advised after disposition of their sentence these juveniles could go to the County’s treatment center or be ordered to any center throughout the State of Pennsylvania depending on their needs. He further advised the County’s treatment center was overseen by the Department of Public Welfare.

Dr. Gill stated he was a clinical consultant through Pennsylvania Forensic Associates and Dr. Kraus indicated she was a clinical consultant with Pennsylvania Forensic Associates and Safeguards Foster Care.

In response to Ms. Vargo Heffner’s question as to the distinction of treatment, Dr. Gill advised when Mr. Greene came to them approximately 13 years ago he wanted to develop a treatment program in the County instead of contracting out these services. He further advised they both thought it was an incredibly creative approach both financially and therapeutically.

Dr. Gill stated it was very positive therapeutically to have these juveniles receive treatment closer to home as it also made the transition back to the community easier. He further stated there was a 45-day diagnostic period where they did their clinical assessment, which was done by he, Dr. Kraus and two doctorial level psychologist who were doing their internship, that consisted of a variety of psychological tests and a number of risk assessments to identify whether these individuals could be treated, if they should stay in the County and then develop a
treatment program for them. He noted this was what they called Treatment 3 wherein they get four groups a week, individual and family therapy as well as psychiatric care if necessary.

In answer to Ms. Vargo Heffner’s question as to what happened after 45 days, Dr. Gill advised they would bring in the probation officer, the family members and the individuals on the pods who worked with the kids to make recommendations.

Mr. Greene stated the treatment was also tied into the Individual Service Plan (ISP) through the Department of Welfare who monitored it on a yearly basis or when necessary.

In response to Ms. Vargo Heffner’s question as to which came first the ISP or treatment, Mr. Greene replied the ISP was due within 30 days.

Dr. Kraus advised the ISP was done when they did the diagnostic to determine whether or not an individual would be able to respond to a normal treatment program. She further advised having these individuals being treated locally provided an opportunity to work with the family.

Dr. Gill advised in Treatment 3 they worked with individuals who have committed horrendous violent crimes, such as sexual offenders and fire starters and to find a program for fire starters in Pennsylvania was almost impossible.

In answer to Ms. Vargo Heffner’s question as to who was in charge of the clinical program, Dr. Gill stated he along with Dr. Kraus and the interns.

In response to Ms. Vargo Heffner’s question as to how that would change with the addition of this person, Mr. Greene advised she was a County employee and would be the person to make sure the providers were doing their jobs.

In answer to Ms. Vargo Heffner’s question as to who was doing the clinical assessments, Dr. Gill stated this person coordinated and collaborated on the assessments.

In response to Mr. Greene’s question as to whether they could take the word “complete” out, Mr. Pfizenmayer replied they could.
Ms. Vargo Heffner advised these kids were seriously ill and disenfranchised and not just criminals because they had other disturbing pasts so she just wanted to make sure that if something was being done in this County that it was vetted appropriately and clinically sound. She further advised she was not comfortable approving this position as it was currently written.

Mr. Pfizenmayer stated he wanted to clarify that “supervision of contracted therapists” was not clinical supervision. He further stated they had outside County contractors coming in and this person verified that they arrived on time, did the work they should be doing, ensured they knew when the ISP was due and the paperwork was completed on time.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised it sounded like an administrative position because she would make sure the day to day operations of this program were flowing.

Mr. Greene stated that this position was approved by President Judge Michael Koury, Jr. and Judge Stephen Baratta.

In answer to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to whether she had an issue with the person not having the proper credentials for the job as described, Ms. Vargo Heffner advised that was correct. She further advised if they were recommending a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with five to ten years of experience, she would have no problem with it. She noted they were requesting a Licensed Social Worker supervise Doctor of Philosophy level individuals.

Mr. Dietz introduced the following resolution:

**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 6, 2018.

Mr. Heckman made a motion to table this resolution.

Ms. Vargo Heffner seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 6-3.

Consideration of a Resolution Supporting Solar Power Generation

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

R. 169-2018  WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution provides that people have the right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.; and

WHEREAS, solar power generation provides many critical environmental, reliability, energy diversity and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania’s Energy Portfolio includes a mandate requiring 18% of the electricity sold by 2021 come from renewable sources, including at least 0.5% solar photovoltaic power; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania’s renewable energy accounted for 4.5% of the State’s net electricity generation; and

WHEREAS, current Federal and State energy policies do not adequately account for the value solar power generation provides to the public; and

WHEREAS, if no changes are made to increase new solar energy development, Pennsylvania is on track to get .5% of its electricity from solar energy by 2021, the amount required by Act 213 of 2004, and in the absence of any changes to increase solar it may stay at .5%; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has currently recommended that solar power generation be increased to 10% of the State’s renewable energy portfolio in a report, “Pennsylvania’s Solar Future”, indicating that the State will need to increase its approximate 300 MW to 11 GW of solar by 2030; and
WHEREAS, the current state and increase of solar power generation within Pennsylvania helps insure the maintenance and reliability of our electric power system; and

WHEREAS, "Pennsylvania’s Solar Future" aims to bring the State’s solar powered generation up from less than 1% to 10% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the increase of solar power generation within Pennsylvania will contribute significantly to its economy, including but not limited to, the creation of jobs; and

WHEREAS, "Pennsylvania’s Solar Future" projects job creation between 60,000 to 100,000 depending on the ratio of smaller systems to larger systems with median wages between $20-$38 per hour available in rural, urban and suburban areas; and

WHEREAS, solar power generation via solar facilities avoids deleterious carbon emissions being released into the environment as well as particulate matter, ground level ozone, sulfur dioxide, lead and nitrogen dioxide; and

WHEREAS, "Pennsylvania’s Solar Future" projects a 9.3% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity generation sector, which will help reduce health problems and negative environmental impacts of fossil fuel pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance and proliferation of solar power generation facilities shall contribute significant dollars every year to Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, "Pennsylvania’s Solar Future" creates opportunities to site solar development in ways that complement the working landscape and rural economy, such as using solar on buffer zones, disturbed lands and in conjunction with grazing or pollinator friendly perennials with a net benefit of free fuel from sunlight and cost savings from the avoided cost to public health and the mitigation of environmental damages, resulting in a net benefit of over $1.6 billion annually from 2018 to 2030; and

WHEREAS, the generation of power via solar and other renewables is desirable as compared to fossil fuel burning alternatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Northampton County Council that we as a municipal body acknowledge the contribution
that solar power generation makes to Pennsylvania's economy, the reliability of Pennsylvania's electricity grid, the clean air we breathe and the security of our nation and as such, urge our elected leaders in Harrisburg to examine all of the benefits that solar power brings to Pennsylvania as recommended by the DEP in "Pennsylvania's Solar Future" and to consider appropriate action to recognize these benefits to our society.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to our State Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

In response to Mrs. Ferraro's question as to what was her involvement with solar energy, Ms. Zrinski stated that she was a solar energy consultant that consulted individuals for residential and commercial standpoints. She further stated that was not why she was pushing this, but because she was very interested in the environment and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Ms. Zrinski advised solar power was accessible to everyone and the State of Pennsylvania was looking at the proliferation of natural gas at the consequence of nuclear energy. She further advised if nuclear power plants were closed there was going to be a natural vacuum that would easily be filled by the natural gas industry which would cause more ozone, more greenhouse emissions and less renewable energy.

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

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7–0 with 2 presents.

Consideration of a Resolution Supporting the Enactment of the
Green New Deal

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

R. 170-2018  WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution provides that people have the right to
clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (hereinafter "IPCC") released a "Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of Climate Change, sustainable development and the efforts to eradicate poverty" on October 8, 2018, stating we have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned IPCC report warned that limiting global warming by 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented change in all aspects of society, with more than 6,000 scientific references cited and the dedicated contribution of thousands of expert and government reviewers worldwide in agreement that we are already seeing the consequences of 1°C global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice and the decline of coral reef; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC report warns that every bit of warming increases the risk of long-lasting and irreversible changes, including the loss of entire ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC report requires "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities and, furthermore, that the global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) would need to fall by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching "net zero" around 2050, meaning any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by sequestering CO2 from the air; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement, adopted by 195 nations at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015, included an aim of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change by holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; and
WHEREAS, the Trump Administration withdrew from the Paris Agreement on June 1, 2017, and has failed to renegotiate terms to reenter the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), “a Federal program mandated by Congress to coordinate Federal Research and investments in understanding the forces shaping the global environment, both human and natural, and their impacts on society, released Volume II of the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4) on November 23, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned report (NCA4) examined the impact on communities, economy, interconnected impacts, actions to reduce risks, water, health, indigenous peoples, ecosystems and ecoservices, agricultural, infrastructure, oceans and coasts, tourism and recreation, transportation, air quality, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the NCA4 report states, “the Earth’s climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities. The impacts of global climate change are already being felt in the United States and are projected to intensify in the future-but the severity of future impacts will depend largely on actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the changes that will occur...While Americans are responding in ways that can bolster resilience and improve livelihoods, neither global efforts to mitigate the causes of climate change nor regional efforts to adapt to the impacts currently approach the scales needed to avoid substantial damages to the U.S. economy, environment, and human health and well-being over the coming decades.”; and

WHEREAS, the “Green New Deal” (GND) is a progressive vision for environmental sustainability and economic stability that recognizes that the trade-off between the environment and the economy is a false one, the goal of which is to mitigate the causes of climate change while building resilience to its effects, restore the American landscape, and improve access to clean air and water; and

WHEREAS, the GND seeks to transform to a low-carbon economy, with 100% clean and renewable electricity by 2035, zero net emissions from energy by 2050, 100% Net-zero building energy standards by 2030, 100% zero emissions passenger vehicles by 2030 and 100% fossil-free transportation by 2050; and
WHEREAS, the GND seeks to fulfill the right to clean air and clean water by cutting methane leakage by 50% by 2025, replacing national lead pipe and upgrade infrastructure, guaranteeing access to affordable drinking water and protect two million new miles of waterways; and

WHEREAS, the GND seeks to restore the American Landscape by restoring 40 million acres of public and private land by 2035, restoring 5 million acres of wetlands by 2040, expanding sustainable farming and soil practices to 70% of agricultural land by 2050 and cleaning up brownfields and all hazardous sites; and

WHEREAS, the GND seeks to strengthen urban sustainability and resilience by establishing a national fund for urban and rural resilience, expanding public Green Space and Recreational land and waters, modernizing urban mobility and mass transit, zero waste by 2040 and capture 50% of wasted methane by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the GND will create 10 million new jobs over 10 years through employment and training associated with the Green New Deal grants and projects and ensure a just transition by complying with environmental justice standards and job quality standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Northampton County Council that we as a municipal body acknowledge the severity of global climate change to Pennsylvania, the nation and the planet and, by doing so recognizes that the GND complies with recommendations of the IPCC, COP21, and the NCA4 in mitigating a climate crisis that ensures a just transition to the 21st Century economy by offering holistic solutions at every level - Federal, State and local - and meets the scale and urgency of the problems facing Pennsylvania, the United States, and the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GND meets the urgency of the problems facing Pennsylvania, the United States, and the world, meeting the level of progressive ambition looking to transform the economy and the environment in ways that achieve sustainability, equity, justice, freedom and happiness and, as such, we urge the Congressional leadership, State Senators, State Representatives, and the Governor of Pennsylvania to support and implement the Green New Deal and consider appropriate action, adoption and enactment of the GND in whole or in part regardless of the endorsement of the current Trump
Administration to recognize the benefit to our society and to the planet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to our County Executive, State Senators and State Representatives in the General Assembly, to the Governor of Pennsylvania and to all municipalities in Northampton County.

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

The vote: Zrinski, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "present"; Dietz, "present"; Ferraro, "no"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes" and Vargo Heffner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 6-1 with 2 presents.

Consideration of a Resolution Supporting the Banning of Single-Use Plastic Bags and Plastic Straws

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Resolution is to reduce the use of single-use carry-out plastic bags and single-use plastic straws by commercial establishments within the County of Northampton; curb litter on the streets, in the parks, and in the trees; protect the local streams, rivers, waterways and other aquatic environments; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste generation; promote the use of reusable, compostable and recyclable materials within the County of Northampton and to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the County of Northampton; and

WHEREAS, the use of single-use bags and plastic straws have severe environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, litter, harm to wildlife, ground level ozone formation, atmospheric acidification, water consumption, and solid waste generation; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous commercial establishments within Northampton County which provide single-use plastic carry-out bags and single-use plastic straws to their customers; and
WHEREAS, the majority of such single-use plastic carry-out bags and single-use plastic straws are made from plastic or other material that does not readily decompose; and

WHEREAS, approximately one hundred billion single-use plastic carry-out bags are discarded by United States consumers each year. In Northampton County, such bags are not readily recyclable in our single-stream recycling process; and

WHEREAS, approximately five hundred million single-use plastic straws are discarded by United States consumers every day and in Northampton County, such straws are not readily recyclable; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented the prevalence of single-use plastic carry-out bags and/or plastic straws littering the environment, blocking storm drains, entering local waterways and becoming stuck in or upon natural resources and public property; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of Northampton County pay the costs related to the cleanup of single-use plastic carry-out bags and plastic straws from the roadways, trees, sewers, waters and parks within the County; and

WHEREAS, from an overall environmental and economic perspective, the best alternative to single-use plastic carry-out bags is a shift to reusable, compostable or recyclable paper bags and the best alternative to single-use plastic straws are reusable straws, recyclable paper straws or straws made from other natural products; and

WHEREAS, there are several alternatives to single-use plastic carry-out bags and single use plastic straws readily available in and around the County of Northampton; and

WHEREAS, an important goal of Northampton County is to procure and use sustainable products and services; and

WHEREAS, it is Northampton County Council's desire to conserve resources, to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, waste, litter, water pollution, and to protect the public health and welfare, including wildlife, all of which increases the quality of life for the County's residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, studies have documented that placing a mandatory charge on single-use plastic carry-out bags and banning single-
use plastic straws will dramatically reduce the use of such items.

Section I. Definitions

For the purposes of this Resolution, the following definitions shall apply:

a. "County" shall mean the Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

b. "Commercial Establishment" shall mean any person, corporation, partnership, business venture or vendor that sells or provides merchandise, goods or materials directly to a customer, whether or not for profit, including, but not limited to, restaurants (eat-in and/or take-out food), bars, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, seasonal and temporary businesses, festivals or markets, retail stores, or other similar nonresidential uses. For purposes of this Resolution, Commercial Establishments shall not include bazaars or festivals operated by religious institutions.

c. "Compostable Plastic Bag" and "Compostable Plastic Straw" shall mean, respectively, a plastic bag or plastic straw that (1) conforms to the current ASTM D6400; (2) is certified and labeled as meeting the ASTM D6400 standard specification by a recognized verification entity and (3) must be capable of undergoing biological decomposition in a compost site such that the material breaks down into carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds and biomass at a rate consistent with known compostable materials.

d. "Distribution" or to "distribute" means the vending, sale, giving, deployment or delivering for any purpose of a Single-Use Plastic Carry-Out Bag or Single-Use Plastic Straw, whether or not incident to the sale, vending, or production of any merchandise or beverage.

e. "Recyclable Paper Bag" shall mean a paper bag that is (1) one hundred percent (100%) recyclable including the handles; (2) contains at least forty percent (40%) post-consumer recycled paper content and displays the words "recyclable" and "made from 40% post-consumer recycled amount content (or other applicable amount), or substantially similar wording, in a visible manner on the outside of the bag.
f. "Recyclable Paper Straw" shall mean a paper straw that is one hundred percent (100%) recyclable.

g. "Reusable Bag" shall mean a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse. Reusable Bags shall be made of either polyester, polypropylene, cotton or other durable material or durable plastic that is at least 3.0 mils in thickness.

h. "Reusable Straw" shall mean a straw that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse. Reusable Straws shall be made of either glass, stainless steel, silicone, durable and reusable plastic or other similar durable material.

i. "Single-Use Plastic Carry-Out Bag" shall mean a bag made of plastic or other similar material that is provided by a Commercial Establishment to a customer at or around the point of sale that is not a Reusable Bag, Recyclable Paper Bag or Compostable Plastic Bag. A "Single-Use Plastic Carry-Out Bag" is not:

i. A non-handled bag used to protect a purchased item from damaging or contaminating other purchased items when placed in a Reusable Bag, Recyclable Paper Bag or Compostable Plastic Bag.

ii. Any bags provided for use by a Commercial Establishment operated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or otherwise distributed by a Federal, Commonwealth or local government agency.

iii. Any bags used to contain or wrap meat or fish, fresh or frozen, whether packaged or not, to prevent moisture.

j. "Single-Use Plastic Straw" shall mean a straw provided by a Commercial Establishment that is not a Reusable Straw, Recyclable Paper Straw or compostable straw. A "Single-Use Plastic Straw" shall not include straws provided under the following circumstances:

i. When provided with a beverage on private property used as a residence.

ii. When provided by a Federal, State or local government agency.
iii. When packaged with beverages prepared and packaged outside of the County, provided such beverages are not altered, packaged or repackaged within the County.

iv. When provided as an assistance device to reasonably accommodate a disability.

k. "Straw" shall mean a tube designed or intended for transferring a beverage from its container to the mouth of the drinker by suction or for the stirring of a beverage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Northampton County Council as follows:

1. The above "Whereas" clauses are incorporated herein by reference and are made a material part of this Resolution.

2. Northampton County Council recommends that any commercial establishment that distributes a single use plastic carry out bag shall sell the bag for no less than $0.10 per bag and all monies collected in this regard shall be retained by the commercial establishment.

3. This Resolution shall not preclude any commercial establishment from making reusable bags, recyclable paper bags or compostable plastic bags available to customers, for sale or otherwise.

4. Northampton County Council recommends that the distribution of single use plastic straws by commercial establishments cease and terminate.

5. This Resolution shall not be interpreted to preclude commercial establishments from making reusable straws, recyclable paper straws or compostable straws available for sale to customers.

6. Northampton County Council specifically concludes that compliance with this Resolution as to the distribution of single use carry out plastic bags and single use plastic straws by commercial establishments shall conserve and maintain the environment and as such urge our elected leaders to examine all of the benefits set forth in this Resolution and to consider all appropriate action to implement these benefits.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to our State Senators and State Representatives in the General Assembly and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Cusick stated he could support this as he used single waste plastic bags to clean up after his dog and would prefer not to pay for them.

Ms. Zrinski advised she went to a Chamber of Commerce meeting where Waste Management gave a presentation indicating that plastic bags were hazardous to the single stream recycling program and have increased the number of man hours necessary to get them out of the system. She further advised that plastic bags and straws were the easiest plastic that could be taken out of use.

Ms. Zrinski stated she further learned that plastics put in single stream recycling were not being taken by China, but were being sent back and being put in landfills. She further stated if they did not start to reduce and take a leadership role as elected officials to initiate these kinds of policies, it would not happen.

Ms. Zrinski advised Bethlehem’s Environmental Action Advisory Council was meeting tonight and they were putting together an ordinance so she believed County Council should put this out to all municipal and State elected officials so the County could take a lead on it.

Mrs. Ferraro stated she did not appreciate government getting involved in people’s lives. She further stated she recycled her plastic bags in the bins that were located at the grocery store and there were so many bigger problems that the County should be focused on.

Mr. Werner advised he respected the work Ms. Zrinski was doing, but this was getting away from the core functions of the County.

Mr. Heckman made a motion to table this resolution.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.
The vote: Heckman, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Dietz, "no"; Ferraro, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Werner, "no"; Zrinski, "yes" and Cusick, "no".

The motion was passed by a vote of 6-3.

Mental Health Early Intervention Developmental Programs Liaison Report

Ms. Vargo Heffner stated at their meeting they expressed their appreciation for County Council filling positions over the year.

Council's Clerk Report

Mrs. Zembo advised the next meeting of County Council will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018.

Adjournment

Mr. Cusick made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Vargo Heffner seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

______________________________
Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council