Easton, Pennsylvania December 5, 2019

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: Ronald R. Heckman, President; Lori Vargo Heffner, Vice President, John Cusick; Matthew H. Dietz; Margaret L. Ferraro; Kevin Lott; William B. McGee; Robert F. Werner; Tara M. Zrinski; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council; Alene M. Shafnisky, Deputy 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 the Minutes -- November 21, 2019

Ms. Vargo Heffner made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Dietz seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Presentation of Plaques and County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) Certificates

Mr. Heckman presented certificates to Mr. Werner and Mr. Dietz on behalf of CCAP and plaques to Mr. Werner, Mr. Dietz and Mr. Kenneth Kraft, former President and County Council member, on behalf of County Council to honor their commitment and work while serving on County Council.

Courtesy of the Floor

Ms. Lee Snover, Chair of the Northampton County Republican Committee and Mr. Matt Munsey, Chair of the Northampton County Democratic Committee
Ms. Snover stated University of South Carolina Computer Science Professor Duncan Buell offered to do an independent study of the County’s election and what occurred.

Mr. Munsey advised Professor Beal offered to analyze the data from the new voting machines for free and had extensive experience doing this for his own State and elsewhere for the past ten years, including another Pennsylvania County.

Ms. Snover stated he had analysis data from ES&S voting machines systems throughout the entire State. She further stated the data he was asking for was already in the County’s possession and he did not want to touch the machines.

Mr. Munsey advised his main motivation was set up his own programs for the new ES&S format in advance for South Carolina, but in the process he wanted to help the County diagnose problems and to have an independent verification of what went wrong.

Ms. Snover stated neither party had any ties to him so it would be an unbiased independent analysis.

Mr. Munsey advised he was willing to sign agreements for non-disclosure for any data that was considered sensitive.

Ms. Snover stated she believed he worked with the Jill Stein campaign on data.

Mr. Munsey advised the County had to gain the trust of the voters again and if there was an independent expert who could provide an analysis showing what worked and that all votes were counted properly, it would help people have confidence going into 2020.

Ms. Snover stated they did not want voters in 2020 thinking their votes did not count and if they could make this bi-partisan effort to have the data analysis, it would assure the County’s citizens.

In answer to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to who would pay for this analysis, Ms. Snover advised the University of South Carolina would pay for his time.

Mr. Munsey stated he hoped the County would move swiftly to provide this data so the analysis could be obtained as soon as possible to assure the voters.
Mr. Alan Brau, 483 Sugar Maple Court, Bethlehem, PA - advised he yielded his time to the two previous speakers, but this was something that should be addressed quickly because the 2020 primaries would be here shortly.

Ms. Beverly Designor, Bushkill Township, PA - stated she worked the polls on November 5, 2019, and wanted County Council to be aware of some of the things that she experienced that day. She further stated numerous people complained about the confusion they had while voting, their inability to push the screen, the print on the paper ballot was too small and it did not correspond to the screen.

Ms. Designor advised one candidate that was present indicated his name was located in such a place on the ballot that he was not sure voters would find him and, in fact, he originally received zero votes, but that was rectified after the count.

Ms. Designor stated one voter claimed that two of his eleven selections registered on the paper ballot. She further stated he tried to cancel his ballot, but it would not cancel. She added he asked her to go to the Judge of Special Elections, which she did and conveyed his concerns, but at that point, the vote was completed and there was no recourse for this individual.

Ms. Designor advised the lines were extremely long and some people left. She further advised she felt it was important to bring these issues to County Council so things could be put in place before the 2020 election.

Mr. Heckman stated everyone was taking the issues that occurred on Election Day seriously and were doing everything possible to rectify them before the next election. He further stated he felt any concerns should be brought before the Election Commission.

County Executive Report

Mr. Lamont McClure, County Executive, advised representatives from ES&S were in Northampton County today reviewing the voting systems. He further advised they were applying what they learned in the laboratory to the physical specimens of the machines and would becoming before County
Council on December 12, 2019 to report what they learned and how they were going to fix the problems.

Mr. McClure stated at the Budget Hearing yesterday there was a discussion regarding the salary of the Nursing Home Administrator at Gracedale. He further stated after doing some research they found the Administrator at The Gardens at Easton earned $147,620 per year; the Administrator at Moravian Hall Square earned $131,914 per year; the Administrator at Fair Acres Geriatric Center $175,698 per year and the contracted Administrator at Cedar Brook Senior Care earned $121,072 per year; therefore at $111,000 a year the Gracedale Administrator would still be underpaid.

Mr. McClure urged County Council to unanimously adopt the 2020 budget as it would be the second no property tax increase budget that was submitted. He advised they cut this budget by nearly 6% without risking the provision of any vital services.

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 3,550 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE IDENTIFIED AS 402 EAST BROAD STREET, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA 18018" (District Court 03-2-01)

Mr. Heckman stated the following ordinance was introduced by Ms. Vargo Heffner and Ms. Zrinski at the November 21, 2019 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 3,550 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE IDENTIFIED AS 402 EAST BROAD STREET, BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA 18018

WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII, Section 13.14 Purchase, Sale and Lease of Real Estate Section b. Sealed Appraisals, provides, "The County shall not purchase, sell, or lease real estate without first obtaining sealed appraisals from two (2) professional real estate appraisers; and

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 enter into a six year lease, commencing on January 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2025, for approximately 3,550 square feet of space identified as 402 East Broad Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018 from Gerry S. Hartman and Marilyn Hartman, P.O. Box 4120, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015-4120, for the sum of $5,493.17 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"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietz, "yes".

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

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX
ACT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA (16 P.S. 1770, ET SEQ.)
AND THE TOURIST PROMOTION LAW OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA (73 P.S. 401, ET SEQ.) AND ORDINANCE NUMBERS 359 OF
2000 AND 440 OF 2005 DETERMINING THAT ARTSQUEST, A
NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION WITHIN NORTHAMPTON COUNTY THAT
ENGAGES IN TOURISM RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT NORTHAMPTON
COUNTY, AND THEREFORE DIRECTING TWO MILLION DOLLARS ($2,000,000)
OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF 12.5% OF THE
REVENUE GENERATED BY THE HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX ACT AND
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ORDINANCES 359 OF 2000 AND 440 OF 2005 TO BE
DISTRIBUTED AT A RATE OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS
($200,000.00) A YEAR OVER A TEN (10) YEAR PERIOD TO ARTSQUEST IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ORDINANCE”

Mr. Heckman advised the following ordinance was introduced by
Ms. Zrinski and Mr. Werner at the November 21, 2019 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO
THE HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX ACT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA (16 P.S. 1770, ET SEQ.) AND THE TOURIST
PROMOTION LAW OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA (73
P.S. 401, ET SEQ.) AND ORDINANCE NUMBERS 359 OF 2000
AND 440 OF 2005 DETERMINING THAT ARTSQUEST, A
NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION WITHIN NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
THAT ENGAGES IN TOURISM RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT
BENEFIT NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, AND THEREFORE DIRECTING
TWO MILLION DOLLARS ($2,000,000) OF THE NORTHAMPTON
COUNTY ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF 12.5% OF THE REVENUE
GENERATED BY THE HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX ACT AND
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ORDINANCES 359 OF 2000 AND 440 OF
2005 TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT A RATE OF TWO HUNDRED
THOUSAND DOLLARS ($200,000.00) A YEAR OVER A TEN (10)
YEAR PERIOD TO ARTSQUEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act P.L. 307
of 2000, 16 P.S. Section 13211, et seq., now 16 P.S. 1770, et
seq. the County of Northampton, a Third Class County, enacted
Ordinance No. 359 of 2000, effective October 8, 2000 and
Ordinance No. 440 of 2005, effective October 2, 2005; and,

WHEREAS, Act 12 of 2005, enacted by the Pennsylvania
General Assembly and approved by the Governor effective sixty
(60) days from July 5, 2005 authorizes by Section 1770.8 (16
P.S. 1770.8) the County of Northampton to impose a Hotel Room
Rental Tax by Ordinance at the rate of four (4%) percent and
provides for the distribution of such tax monies; and,
WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 359 of 2000 established the Hotel Room Rental Tax and thereafter Ordinance No. 440 of 2005 effective October 2, 2005 increased the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act from 3.5% to 4% and restructured the distribution of the tax collected for Northampton County purposes to its current level as follows:

a) 68.75% to the Northampton County Regional Tourist Promotion Agency (Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitor Bureau, Inc. "LVCVB").

(b) 18.75% to be retained by Northampton County for further development of tourism facilities; community development initiatives, which will enhance regional tourism; and

(c) 12.5% for future development of facilities and for marketing purposes within Northampton County to enhance regional tourism.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1770.8 of the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act pertaining to counties of the Third Class, Northampton County has retained 12.5% of the funds collected in Northampton County for the further development of facilities and for marketing purposes within Northampton County to enhance regional tourism; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Council has determined that ArtsQuest is a not-for-profit corporation whose activities enhance regional tourism and are therefore qualified to receive revenues generated by the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by Northampton County Council, that:

1. The foregoing "whereas" provisions are incorporated as though set forth in their entirety.

2. All the definitions and provisions of the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (16 P.S. 1770, et seq.) as amended are incorporated in their entirety.

4. Northampton County Council hereby designates two million dollars ($2,000,000) of its 12.5% of revenues received under Ordinance No. 440 of 2005 to be distributed at a rate of two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) a year over a ten (10) year period to ArtsQuest.

5. The Northampton County Council hereby requires as a condition of the aforementioned grant funding that ArtsQuest shall each provide the Northampton County Council and the County Executive with a written annual report which shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the revenues received from the Northampton County hotel tax, the manner in which those revenues were used, and a status report on the respective projects.

6. This Ordinance shall be administrated by the Northampton County Executive subject to the powers of the Northampton County Council under Section 1.2-202 of the Northampton County Home Rule Charter (348 Pa. Code 1.2-202(1)) to adopt and repeal Ordinances as well as under its other powers and duties.

7. The Controller of Northampton County shall annually audit the funds distributed to assure that they are committed and expended for the enhancement of regional tourism by the beneficiaries ArtsQuest for the benefit of Northampton County.

8. Any Ordinance or any part of any other ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed.

Public Hearing

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

There were no respondents.

Mr. Lott made a motion to amend the ordinance to include “These payments should start in the year 2021.” at the end of paragraph 4.

Ms. Vargo Heffner seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

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

AN ORDINANCE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX ACT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA (16 P.S. 1770, ET SEQ.) AND THE TOURIST PROMOTION LAW OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA (73 P.S. 401, ET SEQ.) AND ORDINANCE NUMBERS 359 OF 2000 AND 440 OF 2005 DETERMINING THAT ARTSQUEST, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION WITHIN NORTHAMPTON COUNTY THAT ENGAGES IN TOURISM RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, AND THEREFORE DIRECTING TWO MILLION DOLLARS ($2,000,000) OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF 12.5% OF THE REVENUE GENERATED BY THE HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX ACT AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ORDINANCES 359 OF 2000 AND 440 OF 2005 TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT A RATE OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($200,000.00) A YEAR OVER A TEN (10) YEAR PERIOD TO ARTSQUEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act P.L. 307 of 2000, 16 P.S. Section 13211, et seq., now 16 P.S. 1770, et seq. the County of Northampton, a Third Class County, enacted Ordinance No. 359 of 2000, effective October 8, 2000 and Ordinance No. 440 of 2005, effective October 2, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Act 12 of 2005, enacted by the Pennsylvania General Assembly and approved by the Governor effective sixty (60) days from July 5, 2005 authorizes by Section 1770.8 (16 P.S. 1770.8) the County of Northampton to impose a Hotel Room Rental Tax by Ordinance at the rate of four (4%) percent and provides for the distribution of such tax monies; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 359 of 2000 established the Hotel Room Rental Tax and thereafter Ordinance No. 440 of 2005 effective October 2, 2005 increased the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act from 3.5% to 4% and restructured the distribution of the tax collected for Northampton County purposes to its current level as follows:
(a) 68.75% to the Northampton County Regional Tourist Promotion Agency (Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitor Bureau, Inc. "LVCVB").

(b) 18.75% to be retained by Northampton County for further development of tourism facilities; community development initiatives, which will enhance regional tourism; and

(c) 12.5% for future development of facilities and for marketing purposes within Northampton County to enhance regional tourism.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1770.8 of the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act pertaining to counties of the Third Class, Northampton County has retained 12.5% of the funds collected in Northampton County for the further development of facilities and for marketing purposes within Northampton County to enhance regional tourism; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Council has determined that ArtsQuest is a not-for-profit corporation whose activities enhance regional tourism and are therefore qualified to receive revenues generated by the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by Northampton County Council, that:

1. The foregoing "whereas" provisions are incorporated as though set forth in their entirety.

2. All the definitions and provisions of the Hotel Room Rental Tax Act of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (16 P.S. 1770, et seq.) as amended are incorporated in their entirety.


4. Northampton County Council hereby designates two million dollars ($2,000,000) of its 12.5% of revenues received under Ordinance No. 440 of 2005 to be distributed at a rate of two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) a year over a ten (10) year period to ArtsQuest. These payments should start in the year 2021.
5. The Northampton County Council hereby requires as a condition of the aforesaid grant funding that ArtsQuest shall each provide the Northampton County Council and the County Executive with a written annual report which shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the revenues received from the Northampton County hotel tax, the manner in which those revenues were used, and a status report on the respective projects.

6. This Ordinance shall be administered by the Northampton County Executive subject to the powers of the Northampton County Council under Section 1.2-202 of the Northampton County Home Rule Charter (348 Pa. Code 1.2-202(1)) to adopt and repeal Ordinances as well as under its other powers and duties.

7. The Controller of Northampton County shall annually audit the funds distributed to assure that they are committed and expended for the enhancement of regional tourism by the beneficiaries ArtsQuest for the benefit of Northampton County.

8. Any Ordinance or any part of any other ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed.

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

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

Consideration of the 2020 Northampton County Budget and Capital Improvements Plan: a. Consideration of Budgetary/Position Related Issues: (1) Created or Eliminated Positions, (2) Upgraded Full Time Positions, (3) Unfunded Positions; b. Consideration of 2020 Salary Resolution; c. Adoption of the 2020 Budget and 2020 Capital Improvements Plan: (1) Consideration of Amendments to the Proposed 2020 Budget, (2) Adoption of the 2020 Northampton County Budget, as Amended, (3) Adoption of the 2020 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan; d. Adoption of the 2020 Real Estate Tax Millage Rate Ordinance

Consideration of Budgetary/Position Related Issues:

(1) Created or Eliminated Positions
County Council Meeting  -12-  December 5, 2019

Department of Administration - Farmland Preservation

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 142-2019  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Conservation Coordinator, pay grade CS-23-1A, salary $49,073, shall be eliminated in the Department of Administration - Farmland Preservation, effective January 1, 2020.

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

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

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

Department of Human Resources

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 143-2019  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Benefits Coordinator, pay grade CS-20-2B, salary $44,668, shall be eliminated in the Department of Human Resources, and one (1) full time position of Benefits Coordinator, pay grade CS-20-2B, salary $44,668, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Clerical Specialist, pay grade CS-17-1A, salary $37,228, shall be eliminated in the Department of Human Resources, and one (1) full time position of Clerical Specialist, pay grade CS-17-1A, salary $37,228, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Recruitment and Onboarding Administrator, pay grade CS-25-1A, salary $53,805, shall be eliminated in the Department of Human Resources and one (1) full time position of Recruitment and Onboarding Administrator, pay grade CS-25-1A, salary $53,805, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.
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.

District Attorney's Office

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 144-2019 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Clerical Technician 3, pay grade CR-15-1A, salary $29,240, shall be created in the District Attorney's Office, effective January 1, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that two (2) part time positions of Assistant District Attorney, pay grade CE-3-1A, combined salary of $103,098, shall be eliminated and two (2) full time positions of Assistant District Attorney, pay grade CE-3-1A, combined salary of $123,546, shall be created in the District Attorney's Office, effective January 1, 2020.

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 Public Works

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 145-2019 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Conservation Coordinator, pay grade CS-23-1A, salary $49,073, shall be created in the Department of Public Works - Parks and Recreation Division, effective January 1, 2020.

As there were no 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 Human Services

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 146-2019  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that one (1) full time position of Administrative Assistant 1, pay grade PS-33-1A, salary $37,246, shall be created in the Department of Human Services – Program Centralized Data Division, effective January 1, 2020.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that two (2) full time positions of RN Assessment Coordinators, pay grade CS-27-1A, combined salary of $117,988, shall be created in the Department of Human Services – Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that one (1) full time position of Nurse Supervisor PD, pay grade CS-29-1A, salary $60,320, shall be eliminated in the Department of Human Services – Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that one (1) full time position of Leave Administrator, pay grade CS-20-1A, salary $42,744, shall be created in the Department of Human Services – Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

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.

(2)  **Upgraded Full Time Positions**

Department of Fiscal Affairs – Assessment

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:
R. 147-2019  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician 1, pay grade RU-18-1A, salary $34,495, shall be upgraded to one (1) full time position of GIS Technician 2, pay grade RU-23-1A, salary $43,424, in the Department of Fiscal Affairs – Assessment – GIS Division, effective January 1, 2020.

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 Fiscal Affairs – Director

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 148-2019  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Director of Fiscal Affairs, pay grade CE-6-1A, salary $97,886, shall be upgraded to pay grade CE-6-2B, salary $102,291, in the Department of Fiscal Affairs, effective January 1, 2020.

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 Resources

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 149-2019  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Human Resources Analyst, pay grade CS-25-1A, salary $53,805, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-27-1A, salary $58,994, in the Department of Human Resources, effective January 1, 2020.
As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

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

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

Department of Community and Economic Development

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 150-2019 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Deputy Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development, pay grade CS-31-2B, salary $74,112, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-31-3C, salary $77,447, in the Department of Community and Economic Development, effective January 1, 2020.

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

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

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

Sheriff’s Department

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R.151-2019 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that three (3) full time positions of Sheriff’s Lieutenants, pay grade CS-25, salary $188,280, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-29-1A, salary $194,046, in the Sheriff’s Department, effective January 1, 2020.

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

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

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

Department of Corrections - Executive Secretary

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 152-2019  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Executive Secretary, pay grade CS-19-1A, salary $40,818, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-19-2B, salary $42,655, in the Department of Corrections, effective January 1, 2020.

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 Corrections - Professional Responsibility Investigator

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 153-2019  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Professional Responsibility Investigator, pay grade CS-25-3C, salary $58,756, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-25-4D, salary $61,400, in the Department of Corrections, effective January 1, 2020.

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 — Director

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R.154-2019  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Deputy Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development, pay grade CS-31-2B, salary $74,112, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-31-3C, salary $77,447, in the Department of Community and Economic Development, effective January 1, 2020.

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 — Assistant Administrator 1 — Children, Youth and Families

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 155-2019  IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Assistant Administrator 1, pay grade HS-44-2B, salary $65,955, shall be upgraded to one (1) full time position of Assistant Administrator 2, pay grade HS-47-1A, salary $72,025, in the Department of Human Services – Children, Youth and Families Division, effective January 1, 2020.

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 — Nursing Home Administrator
Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 156-2019    IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Nursing Home Administrator, pay grade CS-38-2B, salary $102,291, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-38-4D, salary $111,704, in the Department of Human Services – Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

Mr. Cusick stated he was sure every Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) that worked at Gracedale could call around and find out where the highest paid salaries were for their positions, but the fact of the matter was they were only getting a 3% raise and not a 9.2% increase as was the Nursing Home Administrator. He further stated with regard to the salaries quoted for the other administrators, County Council had no idea how long those individuals were in their positions, what their experience was, whether it was a for-profit facility and the County’s benefit package was superior to what the private sector offered.

Mr. Cusick advised he could never remember giving anyone a 9.2% increase and this was an individual who had only been in the position for a year and he saw nothing that would warrant such an increase. He further advised there was a question as to whether Gracedale would hit the census bonus, the star rating was exactly where it was a year ago and there was the likelihood of an operating deficient.

Mr. Cusick stated Mr. McClure indicated there would be no County contribution, but it appeared they would be eating into the surplus that the previous management company had created. He further stated he could not support a 9.2% increase for this position when the employees that did the tough work were getting a one third the size increase.

Mr. McGee advised this individual worked hard every day and had to assume all the responsibilities of the initiatives the previous management company had implemented. He further advised this individual came up through the ranks and it was pointed out when someone came up through the ranks their salary was not always equal to what someone from the outside might receive.

Mr. McGee stated the star rating was based on comparisons at different times so it was not fair to judge her performance on that.
Mr. Lott agreed with Mr. McGee and indicated that the administrator at Fair Acres Geriatric Center received a yearly salary of $175,000 and another $54,000 in fringe benefits; at Moravian Hall Square the administrator received $36,000 in benefits so they were comparable to the County’s benefits.

Mr. Lott advised he felt she was doing an excellent job and did not think it was fair to expect her to turn Gracedale around in a year. He further advised the RNs, LPNs and CNAs voted on their contract.

Mr. Zrinski stated she felt it was unfair of Mr. Cusick to try and put a wedge between the Administrator and the line staff. She further stated this person rose through the ranks and was not granted the salary someone from the outside would receive.

In response to Ms. Ferraro’s question as to what increase the non-union employees receiving, Mr. McClure replied 2.5%.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised this person took over as Acting Administrator and had performed admirably throughout the year. She further advised it was not County Council’s job to determine what benchmarks the Administration should use to determine who received a raise. She added if Ms. Susan Wandalowski, Director of Human Services, had any concerns about her performance she would not have recommended this raise for her at this time.

As far as the star rating, Ms. Vargo Heffner stated it had gone up, but went back down and she was present every month to explain why. She further stated it was acknowledged that it was a peer-based rating and not a true evaluation of the performance of the facility, noting Gracedale took in the some of the toughest clients because it did not turn anyone away.

Mr. Heckman advised Gracedale was one of the County’s greatest responsibilities because of the people who depended on it. He further advised it was often difficult to assess pay, but he did not feel this increase was out of line.

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 6-3.

Department of Human Services – Gracedale – Nursing Home Fiscal Specialist

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 157-2019 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Nursing Home Fiscal Specialist, pay grade CS-21-1A, salary $44,754, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-21-2B, salary $46,769, in the Department of Human Services – Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

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 – Clerical Specialist

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 158-2019 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that one (1) full time position of Clerical Specialist, pay grade CS-17-5E, salary $44,396, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-17-6F, salary $46,393, in the Department of Human Services – Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

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 – Clinic Coordinator
Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 159-2019  **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that one (1) full time position of Clinic Coordinator, pay grade CS-27-2B, salary $61,649, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-27-3C, salary $64,423, in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

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 - Medical Records Administrator

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 160-2019  **IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that one (1) full time position of Medical Records Administrator, pay grade CS-26-3C, salary $61,526, shall be upgraded to pay grade CS-26-4D, salary $64,294, in the Department of Human Services - Gracedale Division, effective January 1, 2020.

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


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

(3) Unfunded Positions

Department of Fiscal Affairs - Payroll Administrator

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:
R. 161-2019  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that one (1) full time unfunded position of Payroll Administrator, shall be eliminated in the Department of Fiscal Affairs - Disbursements Division, effective January 1, 2020.

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.

b. Consideration of 2020 Salary Resolution

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R. 162-2019  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the 2020 salaries of the 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, as well as the part-time professional employees, shall be as indicated on the attached pay scales.

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

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

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

c. Adoption of the 2020 Budget and 2020 Capital Improvements Plan: (1) Consideration of Amendments to the Proposed 2020 Budget, (2) Adoption of the 2020 Northampton County Budget, as Amended, (3) Adoption of the 2020 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan

Consideration of Amendments to the Proposed 2020 Budget
Ms. Vargo Heffner introduced the following resolution:

R. 163-2019  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the proposed 2020 Northampton County Budget shall be amended as indicated on the attached document.

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 2020 Northampton County Budget, as Amended

Ms. Vargo Heffner introduced the following resolution:

R. 164-2019  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the following 2020 Northampton County Budgets (incorporated by reference hereto) shall be adopted, as amended, this 5th day of December 2019.

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

Mr. Cusick stated the $75,000 contribution to Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) was to be used for the Lehigh Valley Land Recycling Initiative (LVLRI) program, which he believed had ended so he asked for an explanation as to how the $75,000 was being used.

Ms. Jaime Whalen, Vice President of Administration and Investor Relations and Chief of Staff for LVEDC, advised this program was still in existence and operating. She further stated the Easton Ironworks Metal Project on Bushkill Street was one of the projects they were working in cooperation with Northampton County and the City of Easton.
Mr. Cusick stated this money was specifically targeted for that program so he wondered why it was being given to LVEDC and not a specific program.

Ms. Whalen advised $50,000 went for LVLRI and $25,000 went to LVEDC and that changed somewhere along the line, but she could not provide an answer as to why that occurred. She further advised LVLRI had a full time staff individual that managed it and there was other staff that supported it through administrative functions. She noted they were spending more than $75,000 on the LVLRI program.

In answer to Mr. Heckman’s question as to whether Lehigh County was also contributing $75,000, Ms. Whalen indicated they were giving $80,000.

Mr. McGee stated for every $1 the County gave it received for $40 back in investments so maybe they could provide a breakdown so County Council could see where the money went and how much came back to the County.

Mr. Cusick advised in 2000, the County passed a hotel tax of which two-thirds went to DiscoverLV, who had a contract with LVEDC, and the other portion had consistently gone to smaller grants year after year.

Mr. Cusick stated the purpose of the 2005 hotel tax was to fund Coca-Cola Park in Lehigh County, but at that time Northampton County did not have any projects. He further stated shortly thereafter it went to fund ArtsQuest and PBS successfully.

Mr. Cusick advised after those projects were completed there was an unsuccessful attempt to fund the aquarium in the City of Easton, but funding was provided to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization initiative for the City of Bethlehem and earlier this evening funding was provided for some new ArtsQuest projects; however, there was an amendment to push it back to 2021.

Mr. Cusick stated it concerned him that this Administration chose to take all of the grants that were part of the 2000 Hotel Tax and put them into the 2005 Hotel Tax. He further stated he was not sure why that was done, but it was his understanding that next year the intention was to flip them back, which, in his opinion, was inconsistent and not good practice.
Mr. Cusick advised there were a lot of good things in this budget, but because of his concerns he would not be supporting it.

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 2020 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan

Ms. Vargo Heffner introduced the following resolution:

R. 165-2019 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that the proposed 2020 Northampton County Capital Improvements Plan shall be adopted this 5th day of December 2019.

Mr. Cusick stated it had been reported that the Meadows Bridge was being taken out of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) so he wanted to know what County planned to do.

Mr. McClure advised because it was in environmental review there would be a two year delay. He further advised he reached out to Ms. Becky Bradley, Executive Director of Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, because when he originally agreed to put it on the TIP almost two years ago, it was understood the County would be moving forward and needed to move forward now.

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


Adoption of the 2020 Real Estate Tax Millage Rate Ordinance

Mr. Heckman stated the following ordinance was introduced by Ms. Vargo Heffner and Mr. McGee at the November 21, 2019 meeting:
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGE RATE IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON FOR THE YEAR 2020

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.

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 ordinance was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Introduction of an Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 150 SOUTH UNION STREET, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FROM SUNBLEST HOLDINGS, LLC"

Messrs. McGee and Lott introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 150 SOUTH UNION STREET, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FROM SUNBLEST HOLDINGS, LLC

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

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2019, Northampton County Council was requested to authorize the County Executive to enter into an Agreement of Sale, with Sunblest Holdings, LLC to purchase the real property located in the City of Easton, County of
Northampton, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as more fully described in a Deed recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Northampton County, Pennsylvania (Deed Book Volume 2019-1 Page 207265) also known as Northampton County Parcel Number L9SE2D-2-24-0310 in consideration of Eighty-Five Thousand dollars ($85,000); and

WHEREAS, Northampton County would incur expenses in excess of $200,000 to repair the adjoining half of the property know as 152 S. Union Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, which Northampton County owns; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.14 (b) of the Northampton County Administrative Code requires two sealed appraisals for Northampton County to purchase, sell or lease real estate; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.14 (b) 2 permits that provision to be waived when the “purchase, sale or lease of real estate does not justify the cost of the appraisals or is otherwise deemed unnecessary;” and

WHEREAS, Sunblest Holdings, LLC has agreed to provide proof of a valid lease for 150 South Union Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, and consideration paid by Sunblest Holdings, LLC for 150 South Union Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, to be reimbursed for relocation expenses for their current tenant at 150 S. Union Street, Easton, Pennsylvania.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Northampton County Council does waive the appraisals and agrees to purchase 150 S. Union Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, for Eighty-Five Thousand dollars ($85,000) from Sunblest Holdings, LLC.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that as Sunblest Holdings, LLC had not produced proof of rental payments for the alleged tenancy to the County of Northampton, no relocation or displacement expenses are due or will be paid by the County of Northampton to Sunblest Holdings, LLC whatsoever.

Mr. Heckman stated the public hearing, debate and possible vote would be held at the January 9, 2020 meeting.

Consideration of the Approval of the Substantial Amendment to the Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan for County of Northampton Resolution
Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 166-2019

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEARS 2017 AND 2018 (FYS 2017 AND 2018) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON.

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton is a recipient of grant funds under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, the County had previously approved a budget and Annual Action Plans for the FYS 2017 and 2018 CDBG Program; and

WHEREAS, HUD permits grant recipients to revise and amend previous budgets and Annual Action Plans; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Federal Regulations governing the CDBG Program certain changes and revisions to the Annual Action Plans may be considered a substantial amendment as outlined in the County's Citizen Participation Plan, “Canceling an approved activity or adding a new one”; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the proposed changes and revisions to FYS 2017 and 2018 CDBG Program are a substantial amendment and the County’s Citizen Participation Plan has been followed.

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

1. That the substantial amendment for the FYS 2017 and 2018 Annual Action Plans is hereby approved.

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

3. That the County Executive and the Department of Community and Economic Development are authorized to execute and file the substantial amendment for $30,000 in unspent FY 2017 CDBG funds and $40,000 in unspent FY 2018 CDBG funds to new activities as follows:
CD-17-17/225 - North Penn Legal Services Foreclosure Mitigation: The County will cancel this activity and reallocate the budget line item of $30,000 in FY 2017 CDBG funds to a new activity, GEDP Ambassadors Program for a total line item of $30,000.

CD-18-18 - North Penn Legal Services Foreclosure Mitigation: The County will cancel this activity and reallocate the budget line item of $20,000 in FY 2018 CDBG funds to a new activity, GEDP Ambassadors Program for a total line item of $20,000.

CD-18-03 - Healthy Choice Roofing and Bathroom ADA Improvements: The County will cancel this activity and reallocate the budget line item of $20,000 in FY 2018 CDBG funds to a new activity, Borough of West Easton, Community Policing Equipment Purchase for a total line item of $20,000.

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

In response to Mr. Cusick’s question as to the reason $50,000 was being given to the GEDP Ambassador Program and $20,000 for the Community Policing Equipment Purchase, Mr. Mark Hartney, Deputy Director of the Department of Community and Economic Development, advised the County’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was merged with the City of Easton and this was how they provided their support to the GEDP Ambassadors Program.

Ms. Wandalowski advised after Ms. Deb Nunez, HealthChoices Administrator, passed away they learned they did not have enough information on how to do the HealthChoices Roofing and Bathroom ADA Improvements so those funds were reallocated.

With regard to the Community Policing Equipment Purchase, Mr. McClure stated West Easton Borough was the host of the County’s Work Release Center and was establishing its own police department so they felt it was important to support them in that endeavor.

When Mr. Cusick indicated he was concerned that it might open the door for other police departments to come for funding, Mr. Heckman commented the work release center was located there.
In answer to Mr. Cusick’s question as to why they were reallocating funds from North Penn Legal Services Foreclosure Mitigation, Mr. Hartney advised they still provided counseling and a foreclosure mitigation program, but they did not need as much funding.

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.

Consideration of a General Purpose Authority - Lehigh Career Institute of Technology Project Resolution

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 167-2019


WHEREAS, the Northampton County General Purpose Authority (the "Authority") is a municipality authority incorporated and existing under and governed by the provisions of the Municipality Authorities Act of May 2, 1945, P. L. 382 (the "1945 Act"), which 1945 Act is codified and continued by Act No. 22, approved on June 19, 2001, 53 Pa. C.S.A. §5601 et seq., amended and supplemented (the " Authorities Act"); and
WHEREAS, the Career Institute of Technology (the "Borrower") is requesting that the Authority finance a project (the "Project") consisting of, among other things, all or any of the following: (a) the refinance of its Emmaus General Authority’s Career Institute of Technology School Lease Revenue Bonds, Series A of 2014 (the "Prior Bonds"); and (b) the payment of certain costs and expenses related to issuance of the Bonds (hereinafter defined); and

WHEREAS, in order to finance the Project, the Authority will issue its Bond (Career Institute of Technology), Series of 2019 (the "Bond") on behalf of the Borrower; and

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton, Pennsylvania (the "County") approves the financing of the Project for the benefit of the Borrower, and has determined that it is in the best interests of the people in the County and the area served by the Borrower and the Project, and is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the County and in the area served by the Borrower and the Project, and to have the Project provided, and undertaken, by the Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NORTHAMPTON as follows:

In connection with the financing of the Project by the Authority, the Council hereby declares it to be desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people of the County and in the area served by the Borrower and the Project, to have the Project provided by, and financed through, the Authority.

The approval granted hereby shall not, in any way, pledge or obligate the credit or taxing power of the County, nor shall the County be liable for the payment of the principal of, or interest on, any obligations issued by the Authority in connection with the Project.

The County acknowledges that the Authority is entitled to rely upon, and will rely upon, the findings and determinations of the County as set forth in Paragraph 1 above.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

In the event that any provision, section, sentence, clause or part of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair any remaining provision, section, sentence or clause of this Resolution, it being the
intent of the County that such remainder shall be and remain in full force and effect.

All resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

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


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

Consideration of a Donation from Lancaster Farming for the Industrial Hemp Symposium Resolution

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

R. 168-2019 WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 202(10) provides that County Council shall have, among others, the following powers: “to accept on behalf of the County any gifts of real property and to provide for the acceptance by any agency on behalf of the County of other gifts;” and

WHEREAS, Lancaster Farming is desirous of donating $100.00 for the Hemp Industrial Symposium.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the County Executive to accept, on behalf of Northampton County, the donation of $100.00 from Lancaster Farming for the Industrial Hemp Symposium.

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


The resolution as adopted by a vote of 9-0.
In response to Mr. Heckman’s question as to where these funds would reside, Mr. Barron replied they would go into Miscellaneous or County Council revenue until they were spent.

Ms. Zrinski stated the symposium had to be postponed due to the storm on December 2, 2019 so there may be other funding coming in.

Consideration of County Council Contingency Resolutions: a) Friends of Gracedale Foundation, b) Saucon Valley Community Center, c) Greater Easton Development Partnership - Easton Compost Program

Friends of Gracedale Foundation

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R. 169-2019 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the sum of $5,000 shall be transferred from the 2019 Contingency account #05000-76050 to the Friends of Gracedale Foundation.

Mrs. Ferraro advised this foundation was certainly a necessary and beneficial organization with much potential to provide things for Gracedale, but she objected philosophically to providing County dollars going to this foundation because the County already supported Gracedale and questioned whether the foundation was raising money from tax deductible donations.

Mr. Werner stated the foundation had been operating for a few years as a 501c3 to provide some things for the residents at Gracedale and he felt the County Council may want to make a $5,000 tax deductible donation.

Mrs. Ferraro advised she had no problem with giving the money to a foundation that had the ability to raise its own money.

Mr. Dietz stated this donation was no different than money that was provided to other organizations.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised this was different because the County was giving money back to itself.
Mr. Werner stated the Foundation was a separate entity and they did receive money from other sources and they could vote against giving the funds, but he thought County Council may want to give money from their Contingency fund to provide special items to the residents of Gracedale.

Mr. Heckman advised he felt the foundation did great things, but there was the issue of the County giving money back to itself.

In answer to Mr. Heckman’s question as to where this money would reside, Mr. Werner replied stated it had its own bank account.

In response to Mr. Heckman’s question as to who was in charge of the account, Mr. Werner stated a foundation officer. He further stated the people from Gracedale came to them and requested them to provide different items to the residents.

Mrs. Ferraro repeated she did not have a problem with the foundation, but they should be holding fundraisers to raise money and not come to the County for easy money.

In answer to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to how much money did the foundation raise this year, Mr. Werner advised they have donated more than $10,000 to Gracedale.

When Ms. Zrinski commented Gracedale’s budget could perform this function, Mr. Werner stated this money did not go into Gracedale’s operation.

Ms. Zrinski advised this was a distinction between the two entities so the County was not paying itself as this foundation provided thins above what Gracedale did.

In response to Mr. Dietz’s question as to whether Mr. Werner had to recuse himself from the vote, Mr. Werner indicated he was planning to do that.

In answer to Mr. McGee’s question as to what were some of the things this foundation provided to Gracedale, Mr. Werner stated no money went for salaries and they provided gifts, books, a gaming table for the recreation room and other items to improve the quality life of the residents.

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

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0-1 recuse.

Saucon Valley Community Center

Ms. Vargo Heffner introduced the following resolution:

**R 171-2019 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that the sum of $5,000 shall be transferred from the 2019 Contingency account #05000-76050 to the Saucon Valley Community Center.

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


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

Greater Easton Development Partnership - Easton Compost Program

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

**R. 172-2019 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that the sum of $5,036.50 shall be transferred from the 2019 Contingency account #05000-76050 to the Greater Easton Development Partnership - Easton Compost Program.

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


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.
Personnel Request for the District Attorney’s Office

Mr. Heckman advised that District Attorney John Morganelli and District Attorney Elect Terry Houck sent County Council a personnel request to be considered at the next meeting and asked if the Administration could provide any additional information.

Mr. McClure stated they were working with the District Attorney’s office and this request would be presented at the appropriate time.

Mental Health, Early Intervention and Developmental Program Liaison Report

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised at the Mental Health, Early Intervention and Developmental Program Board meeting, it was revealed that in two weeks each division would be fully staffed. She further advised the Mental Health Division would be providing a report in March on the forensic money they received and the programs they were funding.

Ms. Vargo Heffner stated the Developmental Program Division had their review, which they passed. She further stated these employees dealt with the most difficult individuals in the County and were having problems finding homes for them.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised the Early Intervention Division would be providing a report in January.

CCAP Fall Conference Report

Mr. Cusick stated CCAP had established their Legislative Priorities and he planned to introduce some resolutions in the future pertaining to them.

Council Clerk’s Report

Ms. Zembo advised the next meeting of County Council would be held at 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, December 12, 2019.
Adjournment

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

Ms. Dietz seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.