*Easton, Pennsylvania                        March 21, 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 and Christopher T. Spadoni, Solicitor to Council.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the Minutes – March 7, 2019

Mr. Lott made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the March 7, 2019 meeting shall be approved.

Ms. Vargo Heffner seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Confirmation of Appointments/Reappointments

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolutions:

R. 23-2019    RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the following individuals shall be confirmed in their appointments/reappointments as indicated hereafter:

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES ADVISORY BOARD

Appointments: Term to Expire: 3/22/21
Reverend David G. Goss
208 E. First Street
Wind Gap, PA 18091
County Council Minutes

March 21, 2019

Terry A. Thomas
1655 Willow Drive
Easton, PA 18040

Reappointments:
Patricia Hunter
200 North 11th Street, Apt. 2
Easton, PA 18042

Tracy A. Piazza
14 Apple Blossom Road
Easton, PA 18040

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD

Reappointments:  Term to Expire: 3/19/21
Judith Henckel
1752 Robin Hood Road
Mount Bethel, PA 18343

Claire (Wildermuth) Sadler
4080 Suncrest Lane
Bethlehem, PA 18020

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.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Jerry Green, President, United Steel Workers - stated the contract negotiations they were having with the County were not going well. He further stated they recently received the final and best offer from the County and it was the opinion of the nurses and social workers committee that there have not been enough negotiations during the process to conclude to a fair settlement.
Mr. Green advised under the last Administration, the nurses and social workers sat out five years and though they could not hold this County Executive or its Administration accountable for that they believed they received a subpar settlement that was not acceptable. He further advised the County Executive inherited a mess from the last Administration and was trying to do the best he could; however, the value of the Registered Nurses (RNs) had to be recognized as they were understaffed and underpaid.

Mr. Green requested County Council sit down with the County Executive and maybe the negotiation team to see if there was a way to try to make this a contract that would be in the best interest of the County, the nurses and residents.

Ms. Valerie Makula, 1542 Dennis Street, Bethlehem, PA stated she had been employed as a RN at Gracedale since June 2001 and believed the goal of the County for Gracedale was to provide the highest level of care for the residents without causing a hardship on the County taxpayers so why was Gracedale making a $5.5 million profit. She further stated when Premier was running Gracedale they were charging $500,000 a year, but now the County was running Gracedale.

Ms. Makula advised as a RN she supported the RNs and social workers, but it did not end there for her because there were Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and Certified Nursing Aides (CNA) and she needed them all to be fully staffed so the residents could get the care they deserved. She further advised they were missing 36.2 full time RNs, which created a hardship because they were doing double the work and there were multiple floors that did not have any RNs.

Ms. Makula stated these floors were operating with three LPNs who were capable, but did not have all the training a RN had. She further stated they were down 88.4 full time CNAs and 30.9 full time LPNs. She further stated all full time CNAs should have a part time CNA working with them, but that was not occurring.

Ms. Makula advised the CNA and LPN were in the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSMCE) union with the kitchen, laundry and housekeeping employees and they settled a contract that benefitted the kitchen, laundry and housekeeping employees, but not the CNAs and LPNs who were providing the direct hands on care.
Ms. Makula stated the Administration proposed an across the board contract package for all the unions that had to settle a contract this year so there was no real negotiation. She further stated she did not know if the employees in the other unions were providing the kind of care to the residents they were while being short staffed.

Ms. Shalonda Mundle, LPN - Gracedale - advised she started working at Gracedale as a CNA in 2011 and went to school to become a LPN. She further advised since becoming a LPN she saw a great difference in staffing over the past two years.

Ms. Mundle stated she worked the night shift and staffing was a great issue, noting she was alone on the floor taking care of 32 residents. She further stated if someone was to fall they remained on the floor for a period of time because as a LPN she was not trained to assess them or move them until a RN arrived.

Ms. Mundle advised recently because of short staffing the RNs were on the units passing meds instead of supervising. She further advised the 3-11 shift was majorly understaffed so there was a need for nurses to voluntarily do a double and within the past month she worked 17 doubles.

Ms. Mundle stated a person could only be mandated to stay if there were weather issues, but they were not using the word mandated when asking people to stay. She further stated she did not believe that after doing 16 hours and on her third double she should be asked to stay because she was burned out and that was not fair to her or the residents.

Ms. Mundle advised she was an AFSCME member and they were not given any time to really discuss the contract before it was signed. She further advised they accrued sick time, but they could not use it without being penalized so people were starting to use Intermediate Family Medical Leave Act (IFMLA) time, which was causing some of the staffing issues.

In answer to Mr. Dietz’s question as to whether she had any suggestions regarding the staffing issue, Ms. Mundle stated if people were offered 12 hour shifts they may be able to fill some of the gaps, a sign on bonus or a referral bonus if they referred two people a month.

In response to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to whether she had seen any difference in the operation between when Premier ran it and the County, Ms. Mundle replied not with regard to staffing.
In answer to Mr. McGee’s question as to how long under staffing had been an issue, Ms. Mundle advised it had always been an issue, but it had progressively gotten worse over time especially within the last year due to changes in the per diem contract and block days.

Ms. Tonya Dipierdomenico, Gracedale RN Charge Nurse on the Short Term Rehabilitation - advised with regard to what could be done about short staffing would be to increase their pay because she was making the same amount of money as a brand new nurse even though she had many years of experience. She advised that morale was at an all-time low, noting she was working approximately 62 hours a week.

Ms. Dipierdomenico stated she would not ask her friends who were RNs to work at Gracedale for the starting rate because there were no incentives since step increases no longer existed. She further stated she was told the pension and health benefits were what brought people in, but the County should take care of its long time employees.

Ms. Julie Stout, Gracedale CNA - advised she had been employed as a dayshift CNA for 18 years and it was bad. She further advised she had 50 residents on her floor and this past Saturday she only had three aides to take care of all their needs.

Ms. Stout stated the morale stinks. She further stated sometimes after her shift she was not able to pick up her children or do other necessary things because she had to stay there until someone relieved her or she was told she was allowed to leave. She noted today was the ninth day in a row she stayed after being asked because if not, her residents would not have anyone.

Ms. Melissa Meyers, Gracedale CNA - advised she has been at Gracedale since 2015 and in the AFSCME contract they took away sick time and five 99 days so if someone found someone to work for them they could still not have off. She further advised she felt there were things occurring that were not in line with Act 102 especially regarding mandating people to work.

Ms. Tina Colon, Gracedale Float Nurse - stated staffing was bad and they wanted to stay for the residents, but they also needed incentives to stay.
Ms. Candida Fairchild, Gracedale LPN - advised she had been at Gracedale since 1995 starting as a CNA and she had never seen staffing issues like now, noting they received alerts every day when the schedules came out. She further advised after her shift she tries to get home for her four year old, but there were times when she was kept until after 6:00 p.m. because they were told no one was allowed to leave until they had coverage.

Ms. Fairchild stated they were trying to get the residents out of their beds and washed up all while trying to give them their medications and meals and she was exhausted trying to do her one shift never mind staying late.

Mr. Heckman advised there have been several meetings regarding Gracedale, but it was the Executive branch that handled the contract negotiations. He further advised County Council appreciated everyone coming out because they did want to hear about their situations.

**County Executive Report**

Mr. Lamont McClure, County Executive, stated the employees at Gracedale were dedicated, provided excellent care for its residents and deserved to be commended. He further stated the reason he fought so hard to save Gracedale was because of the employees and they were working very hard to get them more help.

Mr. McClure advised one of the reasons why Gracedale became jeopardized for sale to a for-profit corporation was there were County contributions of $4-6 million year after year and at some point the taxpayers were not going to be willing to make that payment. He further advised there was a balance to be struck and they have started to work on it and would continue to work on it.

Mr. McClure stated the AFSCME contract was overwhelmingly approved and it would be in place for three years. He further stated they were open to the idea of 12 hour shifts and sign on bonuses, but AFSCME was not. He added the 99 days were negotiated and AFSCME agreed to take them out of the contract.

With respect to the Steelworkers, Mr. McClure advised he wished he could pay them more money, but there were 1100 employees that already agreed to the pattern of a 4.5% raise in the first year and then 2% and 2% for the second and third years. He further advised the Steelworkers previously went
without a raise because they did not agree to a contract, but if they would have agreed to it they would have 15.5% more money in their pockets today.

Mr. McClure stated the County could not make up the whole 15.5% in one contract because then he could not have eliminated the co-insurance for all of the County’s employees. He further stated they eliminated the co-insurance and the gap insurance and offered two health care plans whereby the employees would save money. He added he hoped they could come to an agreement with them because he would like to see them get into the health care.

In response to Mr. Dietz’s question as to whether consideration was given to reducing the number of beds, Mr. McClure stated there was not because it would materially affect the bottom line and going back to County contributions.

In answer to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to whether it was possible that someone coming in was making the same as someone who had been here for a lot of years, Mr. Charles Dertinger, Director of Administration, advised this contract would provide them a step.

In response to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to whether there was any way to negotiate for those individuals who had been there for a period of time get some differentiation in pay, Mr. McClure stated the first step would be to ratify this contract.

In answer to Ms. Vargo Heffner’s question as to whether a salary review could be done, Mr. McClure advised they could do a County-wide desk audit, but some would come out ahead, some would lose and some would stay the same. He further advised he agreed the matrix needed to be reviewed.

In response to Mr. Lott’s question as to whether he had any idea why they did not ratify the previous contract, Mr. McClure stated it was his understanding that it was due to the health care.

Mr. Cusick stated he was in a collective bargaining unit with bus drivers, secretaries and custodial staff and there were issues that affected him as a teacher that had no bearing on what they did so compromises had to be reached as part of that process. He further stated if the bargaining unit agreed to percentage increases, there were employees that would come in at the same rate.
Consideration of Resolution Regarding an Amendment to Article XVIII(2)(M) of the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority Bylaws

Mr. Heckman advised the following resolution was tabled at the March 7, 2019 meeting and would need a motion to be removed from the table:

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors of the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority (LNAAA) held discussion on a non-discrimination amendment to Article XVIII of the bylaws, which was tabled in September 2018 and will be voted on at the Board of Governors (Board) meeting on April 26, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the LNAAA contracts and HR manuals currently exclude sexual orientation and other marginalized groups as Article XVIII(2)(M) reads as follows:

…the following ethical principles and rules shall apply to all Airport employees and all members of the Board:

M. Employees and the Board members shall adhere to all laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all citizens regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or handicap/disability; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Council supports the LNAAA contracts and HR manuals to include sexual orientation, specifically, as Article XVIII(2)(M) would be amended as follows:

…the following ethical principles and rules shall apply to all Airport employees and all members of the Board:

M. Employees and the Board members shall adhere to all laws, and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all citizens regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age or handicap/disability.

The Authority is committed to compliance with all Federal and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania anti-discrimination statutes as currently in effect, and as may be enacted from time to time by the Federal government or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adding to the protected classifications; and
WHEREAS, the Office of Governor Tom Wolf has issued an Executive Order on April 7, 2016, prohibiting State agencies from discriminating in employment and award of contracts and grants by State agencies on the basis of "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression". The legislature has not so amended the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act; and

WHEREAS, protection from discrimination based upon sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity can be found within the local ordinances of the cities of the Lehigh Valley. The three cities in the Lehigh Valley - Allentown (Ordinance §181), Bethlehem (Article 145) and Easton (Section 79-1 et seq) - have each enacted ordinances extending protections for sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in employment, housing and public accommodation within their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, sexual orientation is loosely defined as a person's pattern of romantic or sexual attraction to people of the opposite sex or gender, the same sex or gender, or more than one sex or gender. Laws that explicitly mention sexual orientation primarily protect or harm lesbian, gay and bisexual people. That said, transgender people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual can be affected by laws that explicitly mention sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, one in four Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) employees report experiencing employment discrimination in the last five years; and

WHEREAS, the transgender unemployment rate is three times higher than the national average. Over one quarter (27%) of transgender people who held or applied for a job in the last year reported being fired, not hired or denied a promotion due to their gender identity; and

WHEREAS, 52.8% of LGBT employees report that discrimination negatively affected their work environment; and

WHEREAS, LGBT-supportive policies and workplace climates are linked to less discrimination against LGBT employees and more openness about being LGBT. Less discrimination and more openness, in turn, are also linked to greater job commitment, improved workplace relationships, increased job satisfaction, improved health outcomes and increased productivity among LGBT employees.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council at the request of County Executive Lamont McClure expressly supports the inclusion of non-discrimination language that recognizes the characteristics of "sexual orientation" being added to Article XVIII(2)(M) of the LNAA bylaws as a protective characteristic.

Ms. Zrinski made a motion to remove this resolution from the table.

The motion died due to a lack of second.

Introduction of an Ordinance Removing Two Members from the Gracedale Advisory Board

Ms. Vargo Heffner and Mr. Dietz introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE REMOVING MS. ROSEMARIE FEHR AND MR. KENNETH SUN AS MEMBERS OF THE GRACEDALE ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Article X. Authorities, Boards and Commission, Section 1002 Membership (g) entitled Removal from Office provides that the County Council shall have the power by ordinance to remove a member of an authority, board or commission if incapacity or absence prevents him from discharging the duties of his office for a continuous period of more than six (6) months.

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2017, County Council appointed Ms. Rosemarie Fehr and Mr. Kenneth Sun to the Gracedale Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2019, the County Executive requested that Ms. Rosemarie Fehr and Mr. Kenneth Sun be removed from the Gracedale Advisory Board as they have been absent from three (3) consecutive meetings within the last six (6) months.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council that Ms. Rosemarie Fehr and Mr. Kenneth Sun shall and are removed as members of the Gracedale Advisory Board.
Mr. Heckman stated the public hearing, debate and possible vote would be held at the April 4, 2019 meeting.

Introduction of an Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 8.7 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY BY THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON IN PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA FROM ANTHONY P. CURCIO, THOMAS M. CURCIO AND RICHARD J. CURCIO"

Ms. Zrinski and Mr. McGee introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF APPROXIMATELY 8.7 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY BY THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON IN PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA FROM ANTHONY P. CURCIO, THOMAS M. CURCIO AND RICHARD J. CURCIO

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 March 13, 2019, Northampton County Council was requested to authorize the County Executive to enter into an Agreement of Sale, with Mr. Anthony P. Curcio, Mr. Thomas M. Curcio and Mr. Richard J. Curcio to purchase approximately 8.7 acres of real property located in Plainfield Township, 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 1991-1 Page 099323) also known as Northampton County Parcel Number E7-1-5-626 in consideration of Forty-three Thousand Five Hundred and NO/100 dollars ($43,500.00).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into an Agreement of Sale to purchase approximately 8.7 acres located in Plainfield Township for $43,500 from Mr. Anthony P. Curcio, Mr. Thomas Curcio and Mr. Richard J. Curcio in accordance with the Agreement of Sale which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A".

Mr. Heckman stated the public hearing, debate and possible vote would be held at the April 4, 2019 meeting.
Introduction of an Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE REAFFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RISK POOL AND THE EXECUTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION LAW, AS AMENDED"

Ms. Vargo Heffner and Mr. Cusick introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE REAFFIRMING AND RATIFYING THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON’S PARTICIPATION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RISK POOL AND THE EXECUTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION LAW, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, Act No. 177 of December 19, 1996, P.L. 1158, as amended, 53 Pa.C.S. §2301 et. seq. (the Law), authorizes local governments, including Counties, to jointly cooperate and enter into joint agreements with other Counties in the performance of their governmental functions, powers or responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, certain Counties established the Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool (PCoRP) pursuant to the Law for the purpose of, inter alia: (a) providing a joint risk management pool to assist members in preventing and reducing losses and injuries to County property and to persons or property which might result in claims being made against members of PCoRP or their employees and officers; (b) creating an entity in perpetuity which will administer a joint risk management pool and using funds contributed by members to defend and indemnify, in accordance with the Bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement of PCoRP, any member of PCoRP against stated liability or loss to the limit of the financial resources of PCoRP and (c) providing continuing stability and availability of needed coverages at reasonable costs as is more fully set forth in the Bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton is a member of PCoRP as previously Northampton County Council determined that it was in the best interests of the County of Northampton to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement and become a member of PCoRP; and

WHEREAS, through this Ordinance, Northampton County Council
reaffirms that determination and to ratify all action previously
taken by the County of Northampton with respect to its
membership and participation in PCoRP.

NOW, THEREFORE, Northampton County Council does hereby
enact and ordain as follows:

Section 1. Northampton County Council hereby reaffirms and
ratifies its membership in PCoRP. The Bylaws and
Intergovernmental Agreement of PCoRP, which is attached hereto
as Exhibit "A," is ratified, affirmed and approved substantially
in the form attached hereto, the terms of which are incorporated
herein by reference. Northampton County Council hereby
authorizes and directs its officers to execute the PCoRP Bylaws
and Intergovernmental Agreement. Northampton County Council
also ratifies the execution of any other agreement that was
necessary for its participation in PCoRP and is authorized to
execute any other agreement necessary for its continued
participation in PCoRP.

Section 2. This Ordinance and the Bylaws and
Intergovernmental Agreement approved and adopted constitute a
binding agreement and shall be sufficient warrant and authority
for the officials and agents as appointed by the County of
Northampton to participate and represent the County of
Northampton's interests in PCoRP.

Section 3. As a condition of participating in PCoRP, the
County of Northampton agreed to comply with all the terms and
conditions in the Bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement and
that agreement is reaffirmed and ratified.

Section 4. The duration of the Bylaws and Intergovernmental
Agreement is indefinite, but is subject to the right of any
member County to terminate its participation as set forth
therein and subject to its provisions.

Section 5. The purpose and object of the Bylaws and
Intergovernmental Agreement is as set forth therein.

Section 6. The organizational structure of PCoRP consists
of a Board of Directors, all as is set forth in the Bylaws and
Intergovernmental Agreement.

Section 7. The County of Northampton reaffirms and
ratifies its delegation to the Board of Directors of PCoRP, the
powers enumerated in the Bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement.
Section 8. Any contributions required to be paid pursuant to the Bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement shall be made with funds appropriated by the County of Northampton for that purpose and the County of Northampton ratifies any such sums previously paid.

Section 9. On behalf of the County of Northampton, PCoRP is empowered to enter into any contract necessary to effectuate its purposes and any contract entered into by PCoRP to date is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 10. Any real or personal property to be owned, or owned, by PCoRP shall be acquired, managed, licensed or disposed of as determined by the Board of Directors of PCoRP.

Section 11. The Bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement may be modified or amended, as set forth therein.

Section 12. This Ordinance is being enacted pursuant to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, Act No. 177 of December 19, 1996, P.L. 1158, as amended, 53 Pa.C.S. § 2301, et seq.

Section 13. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after date of enactment.

Mr. Heckman advised the public hearing, debate and possible vote would be held at the April 4, 2019 meeting.

Consideration of a Waiver of Appraisals for a Property Located in Plainfield Township, Pennsylvania Resolution

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 24-2019  WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Section 13.14 b. provides that, “The County shall not purchase, sell or lease real estate without first obtaining sealed appraisals from two (2) professional real estate appraisers.”; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code Section 13.14 b. 2. allows 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, on March 13, 2019, Northampton County Council was requested to waive the requirement for two sealed appraisals as required under Section 13.14 b. of the Administrative Code be waived for the purchase of approximately 8.7 acres located in Plainfield Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, from Mr. Anthony P. Curcio, Thomas, M. Curcio and Richard J. Curcio for the purchase price of $43,500 as it would be a fee simple acquisition and made part of Northampton County's Parks and Open Space portfolio.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the requirement for two sealed appraisals as required under Section 13.14 b 2. of the Administrative Code be waived for the purchase of the approximately 8.7 acres located in Plainfield Township, Pennsylvania.

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.

Consideration of Personnel Request Resolutions: a) Department of Community and Economic Development; b) Department of Human Services; c) Sheriff's Department

Department of Community and Economic Development

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 25-2019 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Grant Writer, pay grade CS-24-1A, salary $50,130, shall be created in the Department of Community & Economic Development effective March 21, 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

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 26-2019  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Human Resources Analyst, pay grade HS-41, salary $53,958, shall be eliminated and one (1) full time position of Accountant II, pay grade HS-38-A, salary $47,284, shall be created in the Department of Human Services effective March 21, 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.

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 27-2019  IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Caseworker 3, pay grade PS-37A, salary $44,341, shall be eliminated and one (1) full time position of MR Program Specialist 1, pay grade HS-39-1A, salary $49,411, shall be created in the Department of Human Services - Mental Health, Early Intervention & Development Programs Division, effective March 21, 2019.

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.

Sheriff’s Department

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 28-2019  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that one (1) full time position of Clerical Specialist, pay grade CR-17-4D, salary $35,870, shall be upgraded to one (1) full time position of Administrative Specialist, pay grade CR-18-4D, salary $37,560, in the Sheriff’s Department effective March 21, 2019.

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 Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Northampton County Problem Solving Courts

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R. 29-2019  **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**, Partners for a New Beginning is a nonprofit organization that wished to make a donation in the amount of $1,000.00 to the Northampton County Problem Solving Courts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby accept the donation of $1,000.00 for the Northampton County Problem Solving Courts.
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 Resolution Accepting a Donation to the Department of Corrections

Mr. Lott introduced the following resolution:

R. 30-2019 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, Sheepdog Cigar Club, Inc. is a nonprofit organization raising funds and collecting essential supplies to support our local K-9 Units; and

WHEREAS, a donation of dog food and essential supplies in the amount of $1,066.24 was received from the Sheepdog Cigar Club, Inc. for the Department of Corrections K-9 Dani.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby accept the donation of $1,066.24 in dog food and essential supplies on behalf of Northampton County’s Department of Corrections K-9 Dani.

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 Resolution Amending Resolution No. 40-2015

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

R. 31-2019  RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that resolution No. 40-2015 shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with strikeout have been deleted and sections marked with bold underline have been added):

Number 40-2015

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

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended approval of the Safety Fencing Replacement Project located in the Borough of Nazareth; and

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Owner:</th>
<th>Borough of Nazareth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Location:</td>
<td>475 N. Broad Street, Nazareth, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Development Description:</td>
<td>Safety fencing replacement around community pool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value:</td>
<td>No acquisition involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II Municipal Allocation:</td>
<td>$96,495.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$12,500.00 (50%) $11,424.50 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Contribution</td>
<td>$12,591.00 (50%) $11,424.50 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Safety Fencing Replacement Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Initiative, or his designee, is directed to take any and all steps necessary to administer and complete Northampton County's obligations in this project.
(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $12,500.00 $11,424.50 as the Northampton County contribution to the Safety Fencing Replacement Project.

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

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

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

Consideration of a Resolution Adopting the Lehigh Valley Hazardous Mitigation Plan

Mr. McClure stated he wanted to congratulate Mr. Todd Weaver, Director of Emergency Management Service, as he was the driving force to get this plan done. He further stated the last time it was done, 38 Lehigh Valley municipalities participated and this time 62 participated.

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

R. 32-2019  WHEREAS, the County of Northampton, Pennsylvania is most vulnerable to natural and non-natural hazards, which may result in loss of life and property, economic hardship and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires State and local governments to develop and submit for approval to the President a mitigation plan that outlines processes for identifying their respective natural hazards, risks and vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton acknowledges the requirements of Section 322 of DMA 2000 to have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan as a prerequisite to receiving post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds; and

WHEREAS, the Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed by Lehigh County Emergency Services and the Northampton County Emergency Management Services in cooperation with other County departments, local municipal officials and the
citizens of Lehigh Valley; and

WHEREAS, a public involvement process consistent with the requirements of DMA 2000 was conducted to develop the Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan recommends mitigation activities that will reduce losses to life and property affected by both natural and non-natural hazards that face the County and its municipal governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body for the County of Northampton:

1. The Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the County.

2. The respective officials and agencies identified in the implementation strategy of the Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan are hereby directed to implement the recommended activities assigned to them.

Mr. Weaver advised this was a cooperative effort between Lehigh and Northampton Counties, as well as the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

In answer to Ms. Ferraro’s request to explain what his job was, Mr. Weaver stated he was the Director of Emergency Management Services and his division did everything from mitigation and prevention of hazards to preparedness, response and recovery.

Mr. Weaver advised it was a Federal requirement that every five years this plan be renewed and in order to get mitigation or pre-disaster mitigation grant money every municipality had to adopt one. He further advised on their website each municipality had an appendices with their strategies, ideas and goals that they hope to implement.

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

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

Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee Report

Ms. Zrinski stated the Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee met earlier this evening and some of the things discussed were brought forward to this meeting.

Ms. Zrinski advised she attended the Conservation District Board meeting where low-level dirt and gravel roads were discussed.

Human Services Committee Report

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised the Human Services Committee met earlier in the evening and there was a discussion regarding Gracedale.

Ms. Vargo Heffner stated the next Human Services Committee meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on April 4, 2019 instead of at 5:00 p.m. on April 18, 2019.

Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority Liaison Report

Ms. Zrinski advised she attended the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority Business and Executive meeting and they discussed the financial well-being of the airport and several projects they were planning.

Ms. Zrinski stated the changing of the bylaws was also discussed and a vote would be taken on April 26, 2019. She further stated since County Council did not adopt her resolution she was concerned that a protective class for a marginalized group would not be recognized. She noted Lehigh and Northampton County Executives wrote letters supporting this group of individuals.

In response to Mr. Werner’s question as to whether there was any discussion regarding Braden Airpark, Ms. Zrinski advised there was nothing currently going on there.
Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation Report

Mr. McGee stated the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation had their annual gala last night following their meeting where they indicated they were putting out a video to promote the Lehigh Valley to draw business here and discussed how important millennials moving into the area was for job creation.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Report

Mr. McGee advised the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Executive Committee met today and they were looking at unifying some of the municipalities to work together.

Climate Reality Leader

Mr. Heckman stated that Ms. Zrinski was recently certified as a Climate Reality Leader.

Council Clerk’s Report

Mrs. Zembo reminded County Council that the official County Council picture would be taken on April 4, 2019 immediately following the Economic Development Committee meeting.

Adjournment

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

Ms. Zrinski seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

_________________________________________
Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council