

Easton, Pennsylvania

August 6, 2020

The 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; Margaret L. Ferraro; Thomas A. Giovanni; Kevin Lott; William B. McGee; Kerry L. Myers; 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. Lott led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes - July 16, 2020

Mr. Myers made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the July 16, 2020 meeting shall be approved.

Ms. Vargo Heffner seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Courtesy of the Floor

Ms. Michele Szoka, 6681 Little Creek Road, Bangor, PA - read a prepared statement regarding the replacement of Bridge #41 on Little Creek Road that was within the County's P3 Bridge Program (see Attachment #1). She also provided a letter from Mr. Owen Beachy, P.E., C.B.S.I., Laurel Highlands Structural Consulting, LCC reflecting his evaluation of Bridge #41 (see Attachment #2).

Mr. Jerry Seyfried, 4431 Gable Drive, Bethlehem, PA - read from a prepared statement regarding the renaming of County Council members to Commissioners and suggesting County Council seriously consider doing a Home Rule Charter Study (see Attachment #3).

Mr. Seyfried stated this Administration, with the assistance of County Council, was doing a terrific job dealing with COVID-19 issues throughout the County.

County Executive Report

Mr. Lamont McClure, County Executive, advised tonight County Council was preparing to implement three important pieces of the pandemic protection plan which were to get \$4 million into the hands of small businesses located in every corner of the County; Grow NorCo, which would provide money to be used to assist municipalities and non-profits with their COVID-19 related expenses and provide funding to Emergency Medical Services operations.

Mr. McClure stated during Tropical Storm Isaias 911 received 2,844 calls in a 24-hour period. He further stated Emergency Management Services was working with municipalities and homeowners to determine whether the County was going to meet the threshold for Federal Disaster Relief.

Mr. McClure advised approximately 125 people were tested at the Emrick Boulevard Test Site with 2.6% testing positive. He further advised due to the efforts of the entire staff at Gracedale and the Jail there were no positive cases at either facility.

In answer to Ms. Vargo Heffner's question as to what was the rule regarding mask wearing when employees were working at their desks, Mr. McClure stated they did not have to wear their masks if they were not moving around. He further stated no one at the Department of Human Services Building or Courthouse had the virus and he believed that was due to the protocols that were put in place.

In response to Mrs. Ferraro's question as to whether the employees who vacationed in "hot spots" were quarantining when they came back, Mr. McClure advised they did not like it, but they could not come back into the buildings because that was how the coronavirus spreads.

In answer to Mrs. Ferraro's question as to whether there was a list of the "hot spots", Mr. McClure stated they were listed in the policy.

In response to Mr. McGee's request for an update on the hydroelectric screw project, Mr. McClure advised the project had been put on hold due to the onset of COVID-19.

In answer to Mr. Lott's comment that a statement was made that Northampton County got a larger percentage of the transportation money than Lehigh County, Mr. Michael Emili, Director of Public Works, stated at this time he was not sure what the exact split would be, but he planned to give a full report at the next Capital Projects and Operations Committee meeting on August 19, 2020.

In response to Mr. Myers' request for an update on the forensic center, Mr. Charles Dertinger, Director of Administration, advised the electrical and plumbing had been inspected throughout most of the building;; most of the exterior and interior walls were up; the fire suppression system, communication and low voltage systems were going to be installed; the heat, ventilation and air conditioning system work was ongoing, the solar panels would be installed in three to four weeks and the site work was coming to an end with exception of the detention pond. He further advised the project should be finished by mid-October.

Mr. Myers asked that a report on Bridge 41 be provided to County Council at the Capital Projects and Operations Committee meeting.

In answer to Mr. Myers' question as to whether the school vouchers for internet access would be used for veterans, Mr. McClure indicated they would be similar.

In response to Mr. Heckman's question as to how the vouchers would be distributed to the school children, Ms. Tina Smith, Director of Community and Economic Development, stated it was a financial based system so the children that qualified for the free lunch program would be the target market.

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER: AMENDING SECTION 203, ENTITLED COMPOSITION AS FOLLOWS: THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS. FIVE (5) COMMISSIONERS ELECTED AT LARGE AND FOUR (4) COMMISSIONERS ELECTED BY DISTRICT"

Mr. Heckman advised Ms. Vargo Heffner and Mrs. Ferraro introduced the following ordinance at the July 16, 2020 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER: AMENDING SECTION 203, ENTITLED COMPOSITION AS FOLLOWS: THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF NINE (9) COMMISSIONERS. FIVE (5)

COMMISSIONERS ELECTED AT LARGE AND FOUR (4)
COMMISSIONERS ELECTED BY DISTRICT

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council that:

SECTION I. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER

A. A proposed amendment to the Northampton County Home Rule Charter shall be prepared for presentation as a referendum question at the May 2021 Primary Election, said referendum question shall be prepared and acted upon in accordance with the Northampton County Home Rule Charter, Article XI, and all applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

B. The proposed question is:

Shall the electorate of Northampton County approve a change in the Northampton County Home Rule Charter, Article II, Section 203, entitled Composition that the County Council shall be composed of nine (9) Commissioners. Five (5) Commissioners elected at large and four (4) Commissioners elected by District.

SECTION II - EFFECTIVE DATE

A. This Ordinance shall become effective 30 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.

Ms. Vargo Heffner stated she was asked if this was enacted by the voters, would an ordinance be required to have this changed throughout the Home Rule Charter and according to Mr. Spadoni it would not as it would populate through.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised approving this change would not present any tax, fund, fee or pay raise as it was simply a name change for the people who fill these seats and not County Council itself. She further advised this body would remain County Council,

but the members would be called Commissioners.

Mr. Lott stated his concern was it would change the government, but it would not and it did not matter to him what he was called. He further stated he had asked about the cost to the taxpayer and other than putting it on the ballot he did not see any.

Mr. Lott advised they did receive a lot of communication with the title Commissioner, Lehigh County had Commissioners and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) referred to its members as Commissioners. He then asked if there was a definitional difference between a Commissioner and a County Council person.

Mr. Heckman stated the Home Rule Charter Study Commission recommended County Council to distinguish the new form of government from the previous Commissioner form of government. He further stated the role of Lehigh County Commissioners was similar, but they did do some things a little different.

Mr. McGee advised the history creating County Council was going to remain and County Council members did get addressed a lot as Commissioners, which was a gender neutral title.

Ms. Zrinski stated there was no real distinction between County Council and Commissioners either in the capacity of their job description or pay. She further stated when she went to CCAP events she noticed there were usually three Commissioners and County Council was governed by the Home Rule Charter so even if the Commissioner terminology was adopted it did not violate how they sat as a body of nine representatives.

Ms. Zrinski advised she felt there was something to say for the gender neutral term and the alignment with all the other terminology used within the State.

Mr. Cusick stated it was his understanding the Home Rule Charter Study Commission wanted to break with the Commissioner form of government so it changed the name and this was not changing the form of government. He further stated the issue of having another Home Rule Charter Study done had been raised several times, but it never received a majority vote.

Mr. Cusick advised boroughs and cities had Council members so it made sense to move toward being named Commissioners to distinguish themselves from them and it was something the voters should weigh in on.

Mr. Myers stated he did not have an opinion one way or the other on this because he was elected to do a job and the job was not changing, but with everything around us changing maybe it was time to jump on the change train. He further stated he respected history and understood why the name was chosen, but it was time to move on and become more distinguished in what their job was supposed to be because there was confusion out there.

Mr. Heckman advised he had no feelings of inadequacy in being a County Council member and was proud of the fact he served as a County Councilman. He further advised regardless of what the name was ultimately how you were respected by anyone came down to how you not only respected yourself, but yourself as an institution and how you were willing to stand up for the very institution you were a part of.

Mr. Heckman stated whether they were Commissioners or County Council members they were the governing body of the County and the Home Rule Charter gave them tremendous authority and responsibility to do things. He further stated no matter what the voters decided about the name, he did believe it was time for a Home Rule Charter Study Commission to be established.

Mrs. Ferraro added she also hoped they could get enough people together to form a Home Rule Charter Study Commission in the near future.

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

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

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

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BUDGET"

Mr. Heckman advised Ms. Vargo Heffner and Ms. Zrinski introduced the following ordinance at the July 16, 2020 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BUDGET

| 2020 | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| BUDGET AMENDMENT | | | | |
| KEY ORG | ACCOUNT | CURRENT BUDGET | INCREASE (DECREASE) | REVISED BUDGET |
| C&ED - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS | | | | |
| 31100 | 41120 Emergency Solutions Grant | 0 | 184,798 | 184,798 |
| | 71093 ESG 2020 | 0 | 184,798 | 184,798 |
| | 41370 Community Dev Block Grant | 5,872,718 | 108,380 | 5,981,098 |
| | 71051 CDBG 2020 | 2,104,000 | 108,380 | 2,212,380 |
| | 41475 Home Investment Partnership | 1,137,799 | 78,231 | 1,216,030 |
| | 71172 HOME 2020 | 569,000 | 78,231 | 647,231 |
| | 41127 Emergency Solution Grant CV2 | 0 | 709,925 | 709,925 |
| | 71096 ESG COVID2 | 0 | 709,925 | 709,925 |
| | | | | |
| C&ED - COUNTYWIDE COVID-19 COUNTY RELIEF BLOCK GRANT | | | | |
| 31050 | 41111 CARES Act | 0 | 27,569,940 | 27,569,940 |
| | 72999 Future Grants | 0 | 19,044,940 | 19,044,940 |
| | 77851 T O Drug and Alcohol | 0 | 745,750 | 745,750 |
| | 77852 T O Mental Health | 0 | 2,254,250 | 2,254,250 |
| | 72328 Discover Lehigh Valley | 0 | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| | 72639 L&N Airport Authority | 0 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| | 72670 ArtsQuest | 0 | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| | 73230 LVEDC | 0 | 175,000 | 175,000 |
| | 72730 State Theatre | 0 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| | 72010 CARES Small Business Grant Program | 0 | 4,000,000 | 4,000,000 |
| | | | | |
| HUMAN SERVICES - DRUG AND ALCOHOL COVID-19 COUNTY RELIEF BLOCK GRANT | | | | |
| 61000 | 77043 T I CV19 County Relief | 0 | 745,750 | 745,750 |
| 62500 | 69999 Pooled Subcontracted Services | 1,413,140 | 745,750 | 2,158,890 |
| | | | | |
| HUMAN SERVICES - MENTAL HEALTH COVID-19 COUNTY RELIEF BLOCK GRANT | | | | |
| 57400 | 77043 T I CV19 County Relief | 0 | 2,254,250 | 2,254,250 |
| 58100 | 69999 Pooled Subcontracted Services | 7,460,700 | 2,254,250 | 9,714,950 |
| | | | | |
| Summary - Budget Amendment | | | 28,651,274 | |

Effective Date:

In accordance with Northampton County Home Rule Charter 705 (e) this ordinance shall become effective upon the date of enactment.

Public Hearing

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

There were no respondents.

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

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

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

Introduction of an Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A DECLARATION OF TAKING AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION FOR A PORTION OF THE LANDS OF ERICA L. BUSCH AND FOR A PORTION OF THE LANDS OWNED BY ARLING J. KIEFER JR., AND PEAPACK-GLADSTONE BANK, CO-TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCIS E. KIEFER RESIDUARY TRUST AND FOR A PORTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S CONSERVATION EASEMENT"

Messrs. McGee and Cusick introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A DECLARATION OF TAKING AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION FOR A PORTION OF THE LANDS OF ERICA L. BUSCH AND FOR A PORTION OF THE LANDS OWNED BY ARLING J. KIEFER JR., AND PEAPACK-GLADSTONE BANK, CO-TRUSTEES OF THE FRANCIS E. KIEFER RESIDUARY TRUST AND FOR A PORTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S CONSERVATION EASEMENT

WHEREAS, Northampton County Council has determined that it is necessary and appropriate to acquire a Permanent Right of Way Easement and a Temporary Construction Easement for a project involving replacement, repair and/or maintenance of Bridge No. 195

& 210 for the safety of the traveling public for the below stated property owners and Easement holders; and

WHEREAS, a description of the property condemned from owners Erica L. Busch sufficient for its identification is set forth in Exhibit "1" being part of the same premises more particularly described in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Northampton County Deed Book Volume 2009-1, Page 149230 located in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania also identified as Tax Parcel No. G10-3-13-0317F (Busch property); and

WHEREAS, Condemnor, Northampton County condemns a Permanent Right of Way Easement of 1,209.44 square feet and a Temporary Construction Easement of 3,743.97 square feet from the Busch property. A copy of the plot plan showing the entire property and portion of land condemned and legal description of the condemned land is attached as Exhibit "1"; and

WHEREAS, a description of the property condemned from owner Arling J. Kiefer Jr., and Peapack-Gladstone Bank, Co-Trustees of the Francis E. Kiefer Residuary Trust sufficient for its identification is set forth in Exhibit "2" being part of the same premises more particularly described in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Northampton County Deed Book Volume 2012-1, Page 18549 located in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania; also identified as Tax Parcel No. F11-7-10-0110F (Francis E. Kiefer Residuary Trust); and

WHEREAS, Condemnor, Northampton County, condemns a Temporary Construction Easement of 917.93 square feet from the Kiefer Property. A copy of the plot plan showing the entire property and a portion of land condemned and the legal description of the land condemned are attached as Exhibit "2"; and

WHEREAS, a description of the property condemned from easement holder, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sufficient for its identification is set forth in Exhibit "3" being part of the same Agricultural Conservation Easement more particularly described in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for Northampton County Deed Book Volume 2009-1, Page 149230 located in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County Pennsylvania. A small portion of the Commonwealth's Agricultural Conservation Easement encumbers and overlaps the part of the lands to be condemned currently owned by Erica L. Busch (DBV 2009-1, Page 149230) and lands owned by Arling J. Kiefer Jr., and Peapack-Gladstone Bank, Co-Trustees of the Francis E. Kiefer Residuary Trust (DBV 2012-1, Page 18549) in the same acreage amounts; and

WHEREAS, Condemnor will condemn the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Conservation Easement encumbering the Busch lands for a Permanent Right of Way of 1,209.44 square feet and a Temporary Construction Easement for 3,743.97 square feet. For the Conservation Easement encumbering the Francis E. Kiefer Residuary Trust lands, Condemnor, Northampton County will condemn the Conservation Easement encumbering the Francis E. Kiefer Residuary Trust lands a Temporary Construction Easement of 917.93 square feet. A copy of the plot plan showing the entire easement and a portion of the easement condemned and legal description of condemned land is attached as Exhibit "3"; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County is permitted to acquire land and interests in land by Eminent Domain pursuant to the Eminent Domain Code, 26 Pa. C.S.A. Section 302 et seq. as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Northampton County Council as follows:

1. All "Whereas" clauses are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance.

2. That the County Solicitor's office, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare, and the proper officers to execute, a Declaration of Taking and Notice of Condemnation in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Eminent Domain Code of 2006, as amended.

3. That the Northampton County Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to file the Declaration of Taking in the office of the Prothonotary of Northampton County.

4. That the Northampton County Solicitor is authorized and directed to record the Notice.

5. That Northampton County, acting by and through Northampton County Council and the Northampton County Executive and/or the Northampton County Solicitor's office, is hereby authorized and directed to pay, or to offer to pay, within sixty days from filing of the herein above mentioned Declaration of Taking, just compensation to each Condemnee as provided for and pursuant to Section 307 of the Eminent Domain Code.

6. That the Northampton County Solicitor's office is hereby authorized and directed to send the Notice required by Section 305 of the Eminent Domain Code to the record owner of the property or

interest in property to be condemned by certified mail per Section 305(b) of the Eminent Domain Code.

Mr. Heckman stated the public hearing, debate and possible vote would be held at the August 20, 2020 meeting.

Consideration of a Resolution Approving the FY-2020 Emergency Medical Services Grant Projects for Funding

Mr. Lott introduced the following resolution:

R. 75-2020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY-2020 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) GRANT PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Northampton County Council adopted Resolution No. 27-2020 creating the Northampton County EMS Grant Program and directed the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (NCDCED) to solicit applications for the 2020 EMS Grants; and

WHEREAS, a grant review committee comprised of NCDCED staff convened to review and make funding recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A have been presented to Northampton County Council's Community and Economic Development Committee totaling \$80,000.00 in grant funds for 13 projects; and

WHEREAS the approved projects will be funded using the Northampton County Local Share Table Games Revenues.

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

1. That the attached FY2020 EMS Grant Project recommendations for funding are approved by Northampton County Council.
2. That the County Executive of the County of Northampton is authorized to execute grant agreements with the applicants not to exceed the approved amount for each grant.

In answer to Mr. Myers' question as to whether Williams Township was covered by the City of Easton, Mr. Cusick stated the emergency squads merged a few years back so the Easton Emergency Squad did cover Williams Township.

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

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

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

Consideration of a Resolution Approving the FY-2020 Grow NORCO Grant Program via the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant

Mr. Lott introduced the following resolution:

R. 76-2020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY-2020 GROW NORCO GRANT PROGRAM VIA THE COVID-19 COUNTY RELIEF BLOCK GRANT

WHEREAS, Act 24 of 2020 was signed by Governor Tom Wolf on May 29, 2020, and provides \$625 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding by means of block grants for Counties in the Commonwealth through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, this funding is authorized to be used for the following purposes:

1. Offsetting the costs of direct County response, planning and outreach efforts related to COVID-19.
2. Small Business Grant Programs to support businesses with fewer than 100 employees and to support businesses and other entities primarily engaged in the tourism industry.
3. Grant programs to support the following for costs related to assisting businesses during COVID-19 Disaster Emergency: Certified Economic Development Organizations, Local Development Districts Industrial Resource Center, Small Business Development Centers and Economic Development Corporations.

4. Assistance to cities, boroughs, incorporated towns or townships within eligible Counties for response and planning efforts related to COVID-19.
5. Behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services.
6. Nonprofit assistance programs for entities that are an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
7. Broadband internet deployment with priority given to unserved or underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County was awarded \$27,569,940 of COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Funding by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (NCDCED) solicited applications through the 2020 Grow NORCO funding announcement; and

WHEREAS, a grant review committee comprised of NCDCED Staff convened to review and make funding recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A have been presented to Northampton County Council's Community and Economic Development Committee totaling \$643,430.00 in grant funds for 70 projects.

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

1. That the recommended grants in Exhibit A are approved.
2. That the County Executive of the County of Northampton is authorized to execute grant agreements with the applicants not to exceed the approved amount for each grant.

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

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

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

Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Small Businesses Receiving Funding via the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant

Mr. Lott introduced the following resolution:

R. 77-2020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SMALL BUSINESSES RECEIVING FUNDING VIA THE COVID-19 COUNTY RELIEF BLOCK GRANT

WHEREAS, Act 24 of 2020 was signed by Governor Tom Wolf on May 29, 2020, and provides \$625 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding by means of block grants for Counties in the Commonwealth through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, this funding is authorized to be used for the following purposes:

1. Offsetting the costs of direct County response, planning and outreach efforts related to COVID-19.
2. Small Business Grant Programs to support businesses with fewer than 100 employees and to support businesses and other entities primarily engaged in the tourism industry.
3. Grant programs to support the following for costs related to assisting businesses during COVID-19 Disaster Emergency: Certified Economic Development Organizations, Local Development Districts Industrial Resource Center, Small Business Development Centers and Economic Development Corporations.
4. Assistance to cities, boroughs, incorporated towns or townships within eligible Counties for response and planning efforts related to COVID-19.
5. Behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services.
6. Nonprofit assistance programs for entities that are an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

7. Broadband internet deployment with priority given to unserved or underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County was awarded \$27,569,940 of COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Funding by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development (NCDCED) solicited applications through the 2020 Grow NORCO funding announcement; and

WHEREAS, a grant review committee comprised of NCDCED Staff convened to review and make funding recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A have been presented to Northampton County Council's Community and Economic Development Committee totaling \$3,990,243.00 in grant funds for 303 small businesses.

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

1. That the recommended grants in Exhibit A are approved.
2. That the County Executive of the County of Northampton is authorized to execute grant agreements with the applicants not to exceed the approved amount for each grant.

In response to Ms. Vargo Heffner's question as to whether the approved grants would be listed on the County's website, Ms. Smith advised they would be listed on the website under Department of Community and Economic Development.

In answer to Mrs. Ferraro's question as to whether the applications were numbered as they came in since it was on a first come first serve basis, Ms. Smith stated as long as they met the requirements they were numbered.

Mrs. Ferraro remarked the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce did a great job.

Mr. Cusick thanked the members of the committee that worked on this and asked if they used all the money.

Ms. Smith advised they did and there were still businesses submitting applications.

Mr. McClure stated they were going to have the closure of the municipal grant applications tomorrow and if after funding the qualified projects there was money left over, County Council would determine how it was distributed.

In response to Ms. Zrinski's question as to how would it be determined what businesses would get any leftover money, Mr. Lott advised the committee set guidelines, procedures and qualifications for the \$4 million dollars and if an applicant met the qualifications they received funding. He further advised there were many applicants that did not receive any funding as they ran out of money so he would think if more money was made available, they would continue down the list.

In answer to Ms. Vargo Heffner's question as to who would make the decision regarding the grants for municipalities, Mr. McClure stated the Administration would evaluate them and make recommendations to County Council. He further stated for a municipality to receive funding there had to be a nexus between COVID-19 and the money.

In response to Mr. McGee's question as to whether some of this money might be a loan and not a grant, Mr. McClure advised this was all a grant, but there was a discussion regarding the Paycheck Protection Program being a loan.

In answer to Ms. Zrinski's question as to whether this money was going to sustain these businesses or would some of them still close, Mr. McClure replied some of them may close.

In response to Ms. Zrinski's question as to whether businesses that had closed were able to get the money to help with previous expenses, Mr. McClure advised it was to be used for ongoing concerns.

Mr. Lott stated the committee had no way of knowing if the Paycheck Protection Program was going to be a loan or a grant and they did discuss cutting back funding based on that. He further stated they also discussed lowering the amount of the grant, but the Administration indicated if they wanted to save businesses \$15,000 was the right amount, but some businesses may still close.

Mr. McClure advised an initial concern was whether the County could spend all this money by the end of the year and it was shown that would not be an issue. He further advised they may have a hard time showing a nexus between COVID-19 and the money for municipalities so it was possible there would be money available for more of the small businesses on the list.

When Ms. Zrinski stated Hanover Township just closed their community center and that was causing a huge disruption within the community, Mr. Myers remarked a lot of municipalities were having issues.

In answer to Ms. Vargo Heffner's question as to whether businesses in the Slate Belt were eligible for these funds since a portion of the COVID-19 funding was set aside for the Slate Belt, Mr. McClure advised the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce went door to door to businesses in the Slate Belt and a number of them received funding.

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

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

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

Human Services Committee Report

Ms. Vargo Heffner stated the Human Services Committee met earlier this evening and a discussion was held regarding the Outpatient Restoration Long Term Structured Residence project. She further stated funding was received two years ago to deal with mentally ill incarcerated individuals and to get them out of incarceration and into mental health facilities. She noted the process was moving forward and the facility should open in early 2021.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised they received a report on Magellan and the hope that Substance Abuse Prevention Services would be occurring again this year. She further advised they discussed the Crisis Intervention Training for police officers.

Ms. Vargo Heffner stated at the next meeting in September the Department of Human Services would be reviewing their grants and how they planned to distribute the funding.

Courts and Corrections Committee Report

Mr. Myers advised the Courts and Corrections Committee would be holding a meeting at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020.

Economic Development Committee Report

Mr. Lott stated the Economic Development Committee met earlier this evening and the grants that were approved tonight were reviewed. He further stated a presentation was given by the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation.

Farmland Preservation Board Liaison Report

Ms. Zrinski advised the Farmland Preservation Board met and it was disclosed that 207 farms consisting of 17,011 acres have been preserved and they were steadily going through the list.

General Purpose Authority Liaison Report

Ms. Vargo Heffner stated eight bridges were currently in maintenance, nine were opened to traffic, one was under construction and eight were in the design phase. She further stated once the one bridge was completed they would be up-to-date on the payments.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised Ms. Szoka was at the meeting and she asked how the bridges were selected and she told her the people currently on the General Purpose Authority were not involved in the selection process.

Mrs. Ferraro stated the owners of the Grist Mill suffered a loss of business due to the renovation of the Tatamy Bridge and a great deal of damage was done to their parking lot so she wanted to know if the County could help them restore it.

Mr. Dertinger advised during the construction period Krieger did fix the parking lot and now they were waiting for her to sign a waiver so they could give her the remaining monies she was requesting to deal with the problem.

Mr. Cusick stated a few years ago County Council had a lengthy meeting with the Lower Mount Bethel Township Supervisors regarding Bridge #31 so maybe that could be swapped for Bridge #41 or they could consider swapping it for the Meadows Road Bridge because it was obvious the State representatives were more than willing to pass proclamations about it being historic, but not willing to provide funding to fix it.

Ms. Vargo Heffner advised she did not think swaps were an option.

CCAP Liaison Report

Mr. Cusick stated he was re-nominated to be the CCAP District 6 Representative and he wanted to congratulate Ms. Vargo Heffner for completing the CCAP Excellence in Leadership Program.

Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) Liaison Report

Mr. Myers advised LANTA had decided to go Zoom for future meetings.

Information Services Governance Committee Liaison Report

Mr. Giovanni advised tomorrow the Information Services Division would be replacing two switches at Gracedale and the Jail. He further advised they ordered six med carts for Gracedale.

Mr. Giovanni stated they did 35 personal computer refreshes last month and hoped to continue that process.

Adjournment

Mr. Lott made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Giovanni seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council