

**LUZERNE COUNTY HOME RULE TRANSITION COMMITTEE**

**December 14, 2011  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE**

The thirty second meeting of the HRTC convened in the Jury Meeting Room at the Luzerne County Courthouse, 200 River Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. It was called to order by Chair, Jim Bobeck at 6:31 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

Jim Bobeck, Chair  
Rob Bakewell, Vice Chair  
Ronna Ciaruffoli, Secretary  
Edd Brominski  
Elaine Maddon Curry  
Harry Haas  
Jim Haggerty  
Kick Heffron  
Linda McClosky Houck  
Eugene Kelleher  
CJ Kersey  
Tim McGinley  
Rick Morelli  
Steve J. Urban  
Rick Williams

**ABSENT**

Tom Cooney  
Maryanne Petrilla  
Steve A. Urban  
Susan Shoal, Treasurer

**ALSO PRESENT**

Gloria Kijek, Clerk  
Jeff Malak, Attorney  
Ken Mohr, Consultant

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**SOLICITOR REPORT**

**a. Discussion Regarding Proposed Temporary Ordinances, Motions, Resolutions Necessary for Proper Transitioning of Home Rule Government**

Attorney Malak spoke on the temporary resolutions he's preparing that the County Council should consider for adoption, and distributed copies for discussion. Check signing/authorization was addressed in detail.

Motion effective January 2, 2012, to have the Interim County Manager as the authorized check signer until the permanent County Manager is in place (Motion 1)

Motion Tim McGinley  
Second Rick Williams

One abstained, Steve J. Urban  
Unanimous vote  
Motion carried

Motion effective January 2, 2012, to have the County Manager or Interim County Manager designate acting authority in Row Office responsibilities (Motion 2).

Motion Jim Bobeck  
Second Edd Brominski  
One abstained, Steve J. Urban  
Unanimous vote  
Motion carried

Jim Haggerty stated many of the actions addressed in the temporary resolutions were redundant as they were already covered in the Charter. Jeff Malak will review necessity for specific resolutions and present drafts for consideration at next meeting.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

No report

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

No report

**CONSULTANT REPORT – Update on Recruitment Process for Manager, Clerk, Division Heads, and any Interim Appointments.**

Ken Mohr reported there were 71 applicants for County Manager; the 10 top ranked were interviewed, now down to final 5. There are about 40 applicants for Clerk to County Council; he suggested interviewing top ranked 5. Also reported the deadline for Division Heads is Dec 16; interest letters still coming in.

Rick Morelli commented he feels names of the finalists should now be released and that there should be a discussion on this topic. Jim Bobeck commented that this would be discussed at the Executive Session.

**SET-UP OF PUBLIC WORK SESSIONS REGARDING THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:  
ORGANIZATION AND CREATION OF RULE STRUCTURE FOR NEW COUNCIL,  
CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET, AND SELECTION OF MEMBERS  
FOR VARIOUS AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS FOR 2012.**

Jim Bobeck reported that Rick Williams will be researching/organizing a Work Session for County Council-elect to discuss Day-1 issues. Rick Morelli reported that there will be a Budget Work Session at 5pm on December 19. Jim Bobeck also reported that Linda Houck and Elaine Madden Curry will be working on the AB&Cs issues for 2012.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Eno Sartino, Wilkes-Barre – Asked that Veteran Affairs be spared from budget cuts, and recommended JJ Murphy for County Manager.

Tom Dombroski, Kingston Township – Commented on email he sent to Jim Bobeck recommending individuals for various county government positions, and asked Jim Bobeck to forward to all HRTC members. Also addressed Airport as an Authority, and status of the detectives’ union negotiations.

Jim Bobeck stated he would forward Tom Dombroski’s recommendations to HRTC members.

Lou Corra, no residence given - Recommended JJ Murphy as County Manager.

Walter Griffith, Wilkes-Barre – Commented on dynamics of row offices after Dec. 31, 2011, the drafting of the budget in line with the Charter, elected offices that will no longer exist on Jan.1 with elected terms expiring after that, County Council bonding, and concerns about JJ Murphy.

Ed Warcavage, Jenkins Township - Commented on bonding of County Council.

Thurman Gaump, Edwardsville – Need for confidentiality of County Manager applicants.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF PERMANENT AND INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER, CLERK TO COUNTY COUNCIL AND DIVISION HEADS PURSUANT TO CHARTER 12.14(E)(2)**

HRTC members adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:44.

Executive Session terminated; regular meeting resumed 8:47pm

Motion to have Ken Mohr set up interviews with 5 County Manager applicants, 1 Interim Manager applicant, and 7 Clerk to County Council applicants. (Motion 3)

Motion Gene Kelleher

Second Linda Houck

1 Dissention Tim McGinley

Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Edd Brominski

Second Rob Bakewell

Unanimous vote

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chairman Jim Bobeck

DRAFT