

On the above date at 6:08 P.M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened their regularly scheduled meeting with the following present: Gregory A. Skrepenak, Chairman; Todd A. Vonderheid and Stephen A. Urban, Commissioners; Samuel T. Guesto, County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk; James Blaum, County Solicitor; Joseph Loftus-Vergari, Director of Human Services; James Miller, Administrator of Valley Crest; Michael L. Morreale, Treasurer; David Murowski, Deputy Controller; James J. Brozena, County Engineer; John J. Glushefski, Director of Road & Bridge; William P. Burke, Director of Property and Supply,; Adrian F. Merolli, Director of Planning; Sandra Russell, Director of Community Development; Russell Arnone, Director of Budget /Finances.

Mr. Skrepenak called the meeting to order and asked everyone to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of Silent Prayer. It is noted that all meetings are electronically recorded.

Commissioner Skrepenak welcomed everyone and thanked Mayor Barletta, City Council and the Hazleton community for their hospitality.

Commissioner Skrepenak reported the following Executive Sessions were held on **JANUARY 9, 2004 – PERSONNEL ISSUES; JANUARY 12, 2004 – PERSONNEL AND LEGAL ISSUES; JANUARY 20, 2004 - PERSONNEL AND LEGAL ISSUES; and JANUARY 21, 2004 – PERSONNEL.**

Commissioner Skrepenak reviewed the protocol for Public Comment and directed Mr. Samuel Guesto, Chief Clerk, to ensure the five-minute time limit is adhered to.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cathleen Lapchak, Laurel Gardens, addressed the Commissioners concerning the Tranguch gasoline spill, which is affecting her community. Ms. Lapchak requested the Commissioners consider another tax break for Laurel Gardens and to bring their plight to attention to state and federal representatives in an effort to buy out their properties. Ms. Lapchak cited the serious health concerns of the residents in Laurel Gardens including fourteen documented cases leukemia within their small community believed to be a direct effect of the spill. Commissioner Skrepenak offered the total support of the Commissioners citing the Declaration and promising that every effort will be made to bring Representative Eachus and Governor Rendell to the area to examine what measures can be taken to assist the residents of Laurel Gardens. Commissioners Urban and Vonderheid concurred. Commissioner Urban recommended a Resolution on Tax Abatement for Laurel Gardens be included at the next Commissioners' meeting to offer some easement to this community's plight. Pat Tomschiel, Jean Walker and Carol Kane, all residents of Laurel Gardens, presented a map detailing the statistics relating to the affected area.

Mario Fiorucci, Sugar Notch, read from a statement of which he submitted to all three Commissioners detailing his concerns on the County recycling procedures (Attached). Commissioner Urban acknowledged a previous report reference in the statement and agreed to distribute copies to Commissioners Skrepenak and Vonderheid.

Marv Lavelle readdressed the issue facing the residents of Laurel Gardens urging the Commissioners to get legislation passed to assist the residents. Mr. Lavelle expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Urban and Mayor Barletta for their continued support.

Mayor Barletta thanked the Commissioners for their efforts and looks forward to the continuing positive relationship with the County.

Neil Oberdo, Catholic Social Services, on behalf of the agency, offered his thanks to the County for their support, recognizing the Sandra Russell, Office of Community Development and Joseph Loftus-Vergari, Human Services, for their efforts and support, in the rehab of the school in Downtown Hazleton. Mr. Oberdo also outlined his involvement in the Tri Area Joint Recreational Authority and its focus on open space and greenways projects including the Rails to Trails efforts. Commissioner Skrepenak stated the Commissioners will be evaluating the Recreational Authority and thanks Mr. Oberdo for his offer of assistance. Commissioner Skrepenak, on behalf of the Commissioners, commended Ms. Russell and Mr. Loftus-Vergari for

PUBLIC COMMENT: (cont.)

their efforts. Commissioner Urban commented \$32 million has been approved and will be divided for various recreational projects and Hazleton will be included.

Jim Rinemiller, Director of the Hazleton Public Library, thanked the Commissioners for the County's past support recognizing the Office of Community Development for its assistance.

Donna Palermo, President, Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Commissioners for the County's past support recognizing its direct assistance with the Luzerne County Community College, the South Beltway and other reclamation projects.

Marguerite Woelfel expressed her concerns for equal geographical representation on the County Boards and Authorities. Commissioner Skrepenak commented the Commissioners are committed to a diverse and equal representation of all Boards and Authorities. Commissioner Urban referred to the Conservation District Board, which will be discussed later in the Agenda and the open appointments as an example.

Drew MacGill, Sugarloaf, expressed his concerns in regards to the KOZ/KOEZ designations and their relationship to land conservation. Mr. MacGill cited the Route 924 location as an example of o designation which he believes was an improper designation and recommended a forensic audit of the those locations which have been designated as well as a better method for future designations. Commissioner Vonderheid responded that all designations met the proper criteria and referred to the Luzerne/Lackawanna Open Space Masterplan as the blueprint for future reference and designations. Commissioner Skrepenak, due to time constraints, requested Mr. MacGill prepare a report to the Commissioners, outlining his concerns. Commissioner Vonderheid further added the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) does an annual audit of all KOZ/KOEZ sites and developments and can be viewed at their website. Commissioner Vonderheid reminded all individuals present that a certain decorum will be adhered to at all meetings and derogatory comments against past or present elected officials would not be tolerated.

Joe Naperkowski expressed his concerns and frustration regarding his land and his coal mining business. He stated his business has been shut down three times.

**COMMUNICATIONS – SAMUEL T. GUESTO, COUNTY MANAGER FOR
LEGISLATION AND CHIEF CLERK**

Request a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's Meeting held on December 30, 2003; Reorganization Meeting held on January 5, 2004 and the Commissioner's Meeting held on January 6, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a motion to approve ratify and confirm payment of the following vouchers:

First Fidelity Bank, Vouchers 3114306GF – 314982GF
Current Account and General Fund for 2003

First Fidelity Bank, Vouchers 400008GF – 400642GF
Current Account and General Fund for 2004

PNC Bank, Vouchers 300900LF – 300939LF
Liquid Fuels for 2003

First Fidelity Bank, Vouchers 400002WC – 400006WC
Workman's Compensation for 2004

Commissioner Stephen Urban requested copies of the checks be made available for review prior to the Commissioner's Meeting. Commissioner Urban further recommended that the vouchers be made available for review on the computer via the Internet when possible.

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID “ABSTAIN” URBAN

Request a Motion to adopt a Resolution continuing a declaration of a state of emergency within the City of Hazleton and Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. (**Resolution No. 01132004** attached dated January 13, 2004 and **Resolution No. 01212004** attached dated January 21, 2004)

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to enter into contract with Public Financial Management (PFM) of Philadelphia, PA, for professional consulting services including:

- (A) Development of analysis and recommendations of 2004 Budget revisions; And
- (B) Development of a comprehensive multi-year plan integrating financial management and job creation strategies.

The total contractual of said professional services not to exceed \$210,000.00 exclusive of reasonable and approved expenses.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to enter into a Service Agreement between the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation and Appalachian Youth Services (Contract Attached).

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve the following appointments to the **Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority:**

STEPHEN A. URBAN, CHAIRMAN, Commissioner, 166 Willow Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA.
EXPIRATION DATE DECEMBER 31, 2004.

GREGORY A. SKREPENAK, Commissioner, 325 West Center Hill Road, Dallas, PA.
EXPIRATION DATE DECEMBER 31, 2004.

Todd A. Vonderheid, Commissioner, 101 West River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA. **EXPIRATION DATE DECEMBER 31, 2004.**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve the following appointments to the **Luzerne Conservation District:**

STEPHEN A. URBAN, DIRECTOR, Commissioner, 166 Willow Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA.
EFFECTIVE DATE JANUARY 21, 2004, EXPIRATION DATE JANUARY 20, 2005.

RISA STEVENS ANDREWS, PUBLIC, 1044 Valley of Lakes, Hazleton, PA. **EFFECTIVE DATE JANUARY 21, 2004, EXPIRATION DATE DECEMBER 31, 2005.**

Commissioner Urban explained this Board consists of nine appointments of which five are open due to expiring terms. Commissioner Urban outlined the composition of the Board and encouraged applications for appointments to this Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Request a Motion to approve the following appointments to the **Luzerne County Drug/Alcohol Study Commission:**

STANLEY JACKSON	SALVATION ARMY
JANE HOLBROOK	CITIZENS DRUG POLICY FORUM
NED DELANEY	CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
MICHAEL VECCHIO	LUZERNE COUNTY ADULT PROBATION
JOSEPH LOFTUS VERGARI	LUZERNE COUNTY OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES
EDWARD PANE	SERENTO GARDENS
PETER HALESEY	WEST SIDE AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL
MICHAEL JORDAN	LUZERNE COUNTY ADULT PROBATION
CHARLES BUFALINO, SR.	ATTORNEY AT LAW
SAMUEL T. GUESTO, JR.	LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE/COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
GREGORY A. SKREPENAK	LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE/COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
JOHN SOPRANO	EDWARDSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
MICHAEL DONAHUE	LUZERNE/WYOMING SCA
CARMEN AMBROSINO	WYOMING VALLEY DRUG/ALCOHOL SERVICES
MAYOR MICHAEL LOMBARDO	CITY OF PITTSBURGH
ROBERT SCHAUB	UNITED WAY

Commissioner Skrepenak commented this Commission would take a new direction in the fight against drug addiction.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

In addition, Request a Motion to approve representation from the following organizations to the **Luzerne County Drug/Alcohol Study Commission:**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE
LABOR REPRESENTATIVE
SPIRITUAL REPRESENTATIVE
JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY
CORRECTIONS FACILITY

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to appoint Barbara Wasiakowski as Tax Collector, Dorrance Township, to fill the remainder of Katrina Seferyn's term.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve the following refunds through the Assessor's Office in the aggregate amount of \$7,590.92 (Copies attached).

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the transfer of **\$166,323.20** from the 2002 Capital Projects Bond Issue for items identified on the **SCHEDULE “A”** of **REQUISITION 2002-22** that is attached.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the transfer of **\$255,248.35** from the 2003 Capital Projects Bond Issue Series A for items identified on the **SCHEDULE “A”** of **REQUISITION 2003A-9** that is attached.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Request a Motion to authorize the transfer of **\$109,849.50** from the 2003 Capital Projects Bond Issue Series A for items identified on the **SCHEDULE "A" of REQUISITION 2003B-4** that is attached.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to accept the resignation of Mary Warman, 126 Farrell Street, Plains, PA, with the Assessor's Office. **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2004.**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to accept the resignation of Timothy McCarthy, 243 South Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, with Luzerne County 9-1-1. **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2004.**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to terminate **Joyce, Jackman and Bell** as Insurance Broker of Record for the County of Luzerne, **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 22, 2004.**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to terminate an agreement to provide **Insurance Services** between **Luzerne County and Joyce, Jackman and Bell** (Insurance Brokers) dated **November 20, 2002**, said **TERMINATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 22, 2004.**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to **TABLE Resolution – No. 012104LF – Liquid Fuels Budget for 2004 Amendment** indicating revenues in the amount of **\$1,743,150** and disbursements in the amount of **\$1,245,000 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 21, 2004.**

Commissioner Urban commented the Liquid Budget was approved by the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners on December 30, 2003; however, revisions have been made and must be advertised prior to the Commissioners vote.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a motion to approve for **White Have Engine House Project** expenditure of \$200,000 from the \$32,480,000 Series D Bond issue of 2003, passed by the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners on November 26, 2003.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Charlotte Carter, White Haven, as a representative of the White haven Area Community Library presented the plan to use the \$200,000 to renovate a former Lehigh Valley Railroad engine repair facility on Towanda Street into its new home. Ms. Carter extended the gratitude of the White Haven Community for the Commissioners' commitment to quality of life of the southern part of the county.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Commissioner Urban requested a Motion to the Chairman, to go off the agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to **APPROVE \$37, 500** for the **Drifton Softball Complex** to prepare a master plan of the existing complex and prepare plans and specifications for the planned improvements.

Mauro Cabell outlined the history of the Drifton Softball Complex. Mayor Lou Barletta expressed the gratitude of the community for the Commissioners support of this project citing the renovation of four fields will attract athletes from all over the world provide millions of dollars in revenue to the area annually, largely for hotels and motels.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Commissioner Urban requested a Motion to withdraw and discontinue a legal action challenging the county pension fund’s payment of legal fees to pursue a racketeering suit against past money managers and county commissioners.

Commissioner Urban further noted that the Commissioners have not voted to hire Attorney John Moses to handle the legal matter, which is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2004. Attorney James Blaum responded Attorney Moses has offered to work on the matter free of charge and if they choose to do so could hire Attorney Moses at this meeting. Commissioner Skrepenak declined to pursue this issue further at this time citing that both he and Commissioner Vonderheid needed to research this issue further.

Dorothy Endriczi expressed her concerns as to who would be paying for the legal action and its associated costs until this issue is resolved. Attorney Blaum clarified that Attorney Christopher Jones was approved with a \$10,000 retainer and offset of \$200 per hour for extraordinary work performed. Attorney Blaum advised the Commissioners that although Attorney Moses’ had volunteered his services free of charge, under the County Code, if the Commissioners wished to retain Mr. Moses’ services, regardless of the fee, would require the Commissioners vote.

Request a Motion to **TABLE** the Motion until further review.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID “NAYES” URBAN

TREASURER’S OFFICE – MICHAEL L. MORREALE, TREASURER

Request a Motion to accept the following Financial Statement as submitted:

WACHOVIA BANK

General Fund.....	177,665.86
School, Road & Institution District.....	139,861.12
Real Estate Tax Sale Account	179,457.56
Self Insured Workers Compensation Fund.....	128,628.35
Court of Common Pleas - Domestic Relations IV-D Fund	644,871.02
Patients’ Personal Fund Account	119,447.76
911 Construction Fund.....	2,390,841.58
911 Operational Fund.....	269,021.01

PNC BANK, NORTHEAST, PA.

Luzerne County Fiscal Agencies:

Office for the Aging	\$ 319,700.51
Children & Youth Department.....	452,818.59
Mental Health/Mental Retardation.....	100,145.19
Drug & Alcohol Program.....	8,151.46
Office of Human Services.....	2,689.95
Human Services Agencies/Transportation Department.....	5,008.38

TREASURER’S: (cont.)

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	154,614.07
Luzerne County GWBIF Escrow Account	27,234.40
1997 Series Parking & Office Relocation Fund	11,225.94

CITIZENS BANK

Adult Probation Special Account	\$ 1,147,293.10
Luzerne County Bridges.....	10,699.72
Hazardous Material Emergency Response Account	38,586.94
EMA Radiation Emergency Response Fund.....	32,473.71

FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK

Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$ 34,565.30
Luzerne County Agencies Account	863,398.61
Luzerne County Solid Waste Recycle Account	26,115.66
Luzerne County Property Tax Collection	93.88

FIDELITY DEPOSIT & DISCOUNT BANK

Wyoming Valley Airport Account.....	\$ 41.20
Adult Probation/Offenders Supervision Fund	46,644.66
Tri-County Airport Feasibility Study	120,154.54
Luzerne County 2002 Capital Projects	172,504.34
Workman’s’ Compensation Insurance Reserve Account	307.36
Luzerne County 2003 Capital Projects	36,261.68

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

CONTROLLER’S OFFICE – STEPHEN L. FLOOD, CONTROLLER

Request a Motion to ratify and confirm payment of the following vouchers:

Transportation Department:

Voucher No. 400001TR to 400058TR inclusive in the amount of **\$409,522.17**

Patients; Personal Fund:

Voucher No. 400001PP to 400024PP inclusive in the amount of **\$8,133.50**

Bureau for the Aging:

Voucher No. 40001AG to 400287AG inclusive in the amount of **\$621,380.55**

Children and Youth:

Voucher No. 400001 to 400475CY inclusive in the amount of **\$994,619.69**

Mental Health/Mental Retardation:

Voucher No. 400001MM to 400110MM inclusive in the amount of **\$1,478,399.90**

Human Services:

Voucher No. 400001HS to 400018HS inclusive in the amount of **\$48,772.15**

Drug and Alcohol:

Voucher No. 400001DA to 400019DA inclusive in the amount of **\$960,887.56**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the Controller to make the following payments under the Luzerne County Community Development Program for various services and projects:

\$217,684.27	Community Development Block Grant Program
\$41,321.11	Business Development Loan Program
\$16,335.43	Emergency Shelter Grant Program
\$16,709.72	Home Investment Partnership Program

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

CONTROLLER’S: (cont.)

Request a motion to ratify and confirm the payment of **\$12,071.37** to the Penn State Cooperative Extension, 16 Luzerne Ave., Suite 200, West Pittston, PA. This is the County’s appropriation for the month of January.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a motion to ratify and confirm the payment of **\$490,000.00** to the Luzerne County Community College, 1333 Prospect St., Nanticoke, PA. This is the County’s January 2004 appropriation.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Bid Opening:

Mr. David Murowski, Deputy Controller, announced Bids opened this morning at 10:00 AM at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the following:

Engineer’s Office:

Mechanical Construction (including Plumbing, and Electrical sub-contractors) For Hot Water Heater Replacement at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility.

HUMAN SERVICE – JOSEPH LOFTUS-VERGARI, DIRECTOR

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

AGING:

The Return from Family Medical Leave Absence for Elaine Pucci, Distributed Systems Specialist 2 (ps# 10-G140-L0452-0001) effective January 6, 2004.

The Completion of a Temporary Assignment for Tina Dorshefski, Distributed Systems Specialist 1 ((ps# 10-G140-L0452-0001) at an annual salary of \$33,722 effective January 5, 2004.

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

The Appointment of Denise Martin, Berwick, as a Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-Y740-L0624-0077) at an annual salary of \$26,825 effective January 26, 2004.

The Resignation of Christa Eck, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-Y740-L0624-0048) effective January 23, 2004.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Joyce Rutherford, Clerk Typist 2 (ps# 21-Y740-L0032-0014) effective October 15, 2003 through February 1, 2004.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Lori Overa, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-Y740-L0624-0049) effective January 12, 2004.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Helen Wright, Social Services Aide 3 (ps# 21-Y740-L0622-0006) effective January 12, 2004.

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

The Resignation of Tiffany Robinson, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21 – M440-Lo624-0019) effective January 23, 2004.

HUMAN SERVICE: (cont.)

TRANSPORTATION:

A One Day Leave Without Pay for John Humko, Driver (ps# 86-LWCTD-9201-0068) effective December 19, 2003.

A One Day Leave Without Pay for Rose Capristo, Scheduler (ps# 86-LWCTD-0022-0003) effective January 6, 2003.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVIDERS, SERVICES, TERMS AND RATES SPECIFIED:

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>
<u>CHILDREN & YOUTH:</u>			
Northwestern Human Services of PA	Girls RTF-Room & Board Treatment (MA)	7/1/03 –6/30/04	\$38.45/day
	Boys CRR-Room & Board Treatment (MA)		\$218.68/day
	Therapeutic Family Care Treatment (MA)		\$45.92/day
	Foster Care Plus		\$315.35/day
			\$28.72/day
			\$123.75/day
			\$84.10/day

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT AMENDMENTS FOR THE PROVIDERS, SERVICES, TERMS AND RATES SPECIFIED:

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>	
			<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>AGING:</u>				
Heritage Hill	Day Care	7/1/03 –6/30/04	\$11,500	\$23,000
Caregivers America	Personal Care	“	\$11,660	\$24,000
Comfort Keepers	Personal Care	“	\$5,000	\$10,500
Personal Care Home Health	Personal Care	“	\$11,500	\$21,500
VNA Personal Care	Bridge Personal Care	“	\$1,500	\$23,750

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

Goodwill Industries of NEPA	MH/MR Community Employment & MR Residential	7/1/03 –6/30/04	\$1,526,629	\$1,560,629
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HUMAN SERVICE: (cont.)

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

VALLEY CREST – JAMES MILLER, ADMINISTRATOR

Request a Motion to approve the following separations at Valley Crest:

Dorothy Ames 249 North Maple Ave Kingston, PA	Restorative Nursing	Effective 01/16/04 Retirement
Jean Moser 431 West Forth St. West Wyoming, PA	CNA-7-3	Effective 1/16/04 Termination
Barbara O’Malley 59 Poplar Street Plains, PA	CNA-7-3	Effective 1/19/04 Resignation
Rosemarie Butchko 147 Hughes Street Swoyersville, PA	CNA-11-7	Effective 1/18/04 Retirement
Delores Baynock 586 Warren Avenue Kingston, PA	RNAC	Effective 1/6/04 Resignation

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve the following appointments at Valley Crest:

Catherine Bruntetti 27 Stonehedge Circle Mountaintop, PA	RNAC	Effective 2/16/04 \$45,000.00
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Request a Motion to approve the following personnel actions at Valley Crest:

Alma Spiers 117 Sambourne Street Wilkes-Barre, PA	Licensed Practical Nurse	Eff. 1/12/04-Returned from FMLA
John Burns 111 Old River Road Wilkes-Barre, PA	CNA	Eff. 1/19/04- Requesting a 6 week FMLA
Thomas Jackett 111 Maple Street West Pittston, PA	CNA	Eff. 12/16/03 Requesting a 6 week FMLA

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT – JAMES J. BROZENA, COUNTY ENGINEER

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to execute an agreement with the Quad Three Group, Inc. to conduct necessary studies to secure an Occupancy Certificate for the Courthouse in the not to exceed amount of \$20,000.

ENGINEERING: (cont.)

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion for permission to advertise for proposals to conduct Needs Assessment for the Luzerne County Correctional Facility.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to execute a lease agreement with Koury Realty for 4,850 square feet of office space for the reassessment contractor for a period of three years at an annual cost of \$51,339.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT – JOHN J. GLUSHEFSKI, DIRECTOR

Request a Motion for permission to advertise for the following items:

- Anti-Skid Materials
- Bituminous Paving Materials
- Crushed Stone and Rock Lining Materials
- Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Oil
- High Density Polyethylene Drainage Pipe
- Lubricants
- Pressure Treated Bridge Planks
- Precast Concrete Inlets and Accessories
- Ready Mixed Concrete
- Traffic Line Painting

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

PROPERTY AND SUPPLY – WILLIAM P. BURKE, DIRECTOR

Request a Motion to approve the following contracts for the providers for Service specified:

COURTHOUSE:

FILM:

HPI INTERNATIONAL	POLAROID 600	\$488.70	
186 21 ST STREET	POLAROID 669	\$449.75	
BROOKLYN, NY 11232			
			TOTAL BID <u>\$46,260.35</u>

UNSUCCESSFUL BIDDERS : RITZ CAMERA \$54,898.75 REJECTED NO BID BOND
FOCUS CAMERA \$51,524.15

LASER PAPER:

WHITEMAN TOWER	8 ½ X 11	\$154.35	TOTAL BID <u>\$30,870.00</u>
1100 HANOVER STREET			
WILKES BARRE, PA 18706			

PROPERTY AND SUPPLY: (cont.)

COPY PAPER:

WHITEMAN TOWER	8 ½ X 11	\$2.37 - \$11,850.00	
1100 HANOVER STREET	8 ½ X14	\$3.02 - \$ 4,530.00	
WILKES BARRE, PA 18706			TOTAL BID <u>\$16,380.00</u>

UNSUCCESSFUL BIDDERS: PHILLIPS SUPPLY 8 ½ X 11 \$12,200.00

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

VALLEY CREST NURSING HOME:

PRESSURE REDUCTION MATTRESSES:

SPECIALTY MEDICAL PRODUCTS	TOTAL BID <u>\$11,621.25</u>	(SEE ATTACHED)
50 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE		
MALVERN, PA 19355		

<u>UNSUCCESSFUL BIDDERS:</u> MEDLINE INDUSTRIES	\$13,500.00
CHESTNUT RIDGE FOAM, INC.	\$10,729.50
HARBOR LINEN	\$ 7,678.50

MEAT:

DW RICHARDS SONS	TOTAL BID <u>\$26,949.70</u>	25-ITEMS #3,4,8,9,11,
701 ROCKY GLEN ROAD		13,14,15,16,
AVOCA, PA 18641		17,18,20,21,
		22,24,25,28,
		29,30,32,36,
		39,40,41,42

KEYCO DISTRIBUTORS	TOTAL BID <u>\$ 5,755.20</u>	10-ITEMS #5,6,10,12,
PO BOX 125		27,31,33,34,
NANTICOKE, PA		35,38

NO BID ITEMS: #1-4X4 PIECES BEEF, CUBED
 #2-BEEF TOP ROUND
 #7-SWISS STEAK
 #19-FRESH KIELBASA
 #23-RIBLETTE
 #26-ASIAN STYLE CHICKEN
 #37-DELI ROAST BEEF

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

PERMISSION TO RE-ADVERTISE THE NO BID ITEMS

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

PLANNING COMMISSION – ADRIAN F. MEROLLI, DIRECTOR

No Agenda.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – SANDRA RUSSELL, DIRECTOR

No Agenda.

**PERSONNEL – SAMUEL T. GUESTO, COUNTY MANAGER FOR LEGISLATION
AND CHIEF CLERK**

Request a Motion to approve the following Personnel actions:

APPOINT:

LUZERNE COUNTY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE – JOSEPH J. PROCIAK, ESQ., 30 ORCHARD PLACE, FORTY FORT, ASSISTANT COUNTY SOLICITOR @ \$36,500 PER ANNUM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 23, 2004.

LUZERNE COUNTY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE – BRIAN BUFALINO, ESQ., 251 JAMES STREET, KINGSTON, ASSISTANT COUNTY SOLICITOR @ \$36,500 PER ANNUM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 23, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

APPOINT:

LUZERNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE – SAMUEL T. GUESTO, JR., 1685 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HANOVER TOWNSHIP, COUNTY MANAGER FOR LEGISLATION AND CHIEF CLERK @\$65,000 PER ANNUM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 9, 2004 TO FILL VACANCY.

LUZERNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE – PATRICIA LLEWELLYN, 127 ELMCREST DRIVE, DALLAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT @ \$38,000 PER ANNUM. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2004. TO FILL VACANCY.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepnak.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

APPOINT:

LUZERNE COUNTY ENGINEER/ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT – DIANE APONTE', 466 SCHUYLER AVENUE, KINGSTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY @ \$25,000 PER ANNUM. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Commissioner Urban raised the question to Attorney James Blaum on the change of position from Executive Secretary to Executive Assistant for the County Commissioners and clarify would this require rehiring Pamela Davis and Patricia Wilk to the new positions. Attorney Blaum responded it would not as there is no change in the position or salary, only change it title.

MEDIA

L.A. Tarone, The Standard Speaker, requested clarification on the actions taken on behalf of Laurel Gardens, the State of Emergency was approved tonight, was the tax relief also approved. Commissioner Urban responded verifying the State of Emergence Resolution was passed and the Tax Relief would be voted on at the next Commissioners' Meeting. Mr. Tarone, requested clarification on the appointment of Attorney Moses by Attorney Christopher Jones and the current legal action. Attorney Blaum responded it is an inequity action against the former Retirement Board and agreeing that Attorney Moses, offering his services free of charge, could exist in the role as that of a paralegal for Attorney Jones. Mr. Tarone, requested clarification on the \$210,000 dollar contract for Public Financial Management, is this a total or is this an annual contract. Commissioner Vonderheid this is one contract that is expected to be completed late summer, early fall. Commissioner Urban added that the State will providing financial assistance in the amount of half the total amount.

MEDIA: (cont.)

A Channel 28 reporter requested comment from the Commissioners on the turnout of tonight's meeting. Commissioner Skrepenak responded he was very satisfied with the turnout and thankful for the ability to begin to fulfill a promise both he and Commissioner Vonderheid made to the Hazleton Community. Commissioner Vonderheid concurred. He further requested a status on the Budget process. Commissioner Vonderheid responded Public Financial Management has been performing a forensic audit utilizing the wisdom of the employees and department heads to help alternative revenue sources and provide options to give to the public prior to the February 13, 2004 deadline.

Jennifer Learn-Andes, Times Leader, requested clarification on the hiring process for the two newly appointed solicitors. Commissioner Vonderheid responded the positions were advertised and over thirty resumes were received, the decision was based on experience and previous relationships, citing the importance of familiarity and trust as these solicitors would be responsible for representing the Commissioners. Ms. Learn, requested clarification, based on tonight's discussion regarding the Retirement Board, as to what will transpire, if anything, on Friday. Commissioner Skrepenak reiterated that he and Commissioner Vonderheid needed more information before making any decisions. Commissioner Urban responded, explaining further his position concerning this issue. Commissioner Vonderheid agreed with Commissioner Skrepenak this issue requires further information and they will seek advice from the solicitors concerning this matter.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Urban thanked the citizens of Hazleton for their hospitality, attending tonight's meeting and voicing their concerns. The Commissioner commented this Board is genuinely concerned about the entire county including Hazleton and encouraged input from the residents of Hazleton and look forward to your representation on the Boards and Authorities of this County. The Commissioner stated a list of vacancies and criteria for these Boards will be provided through the media and the County website. Commissioner Urban committed his ongoing support of the residents of Tranguich. The Commissioner also commented on Drew MacGill comments and concerning the issue of KOZ/KOEZ and looks forward to a better process for the approval of these designations. Finally, the Commissioner looks forward to working with the elected officials of Hazleton and extended his thanks to everyone.

Commissioner Vonderheid thanked everyone for attending and for their patience through a rather lengthy agenda. Commissioner Vonderheid commented that although we are geographically separated by a valley and mountainside, we are much more similar than we are different and this is one County whose future is integrated together and we are going proceed together as we lead ourselves into the future. The Commissioner again extended his thanks to everyone for being here, and to the cooperation of the Mayor, City Council, Rep. Eachus, the Hazleton Area School Board and Donna Palermo of the Hazleton Chamber stating this is a small and active symbol of cooperation throughout this region and it is one that is going to continue for as long as we sit on this Board.

Commissioner Skrepenak reiterated his thanks to the Mayor and City Council for allowing the use of this magnificent building and its chamber. The Commissioner extended his appreciation to the people of Hazleton for coming out to provide information and assisting the Commissioners to make more educated decisions on what needs to be done. The response has been good in general and the current Board of Commissioners has been working very well together. The Commissioner expressed his appreciation to everyone that came to the podium tonight to express their concerns and acknowledge the courage it takes to do so. This Board of Commissioners will strive to address all concerns but reminded everyone it will take time and the immediate concern is to address the Budget. Commissioner Skrepenak thanked the Senior Staff and Department Heads for their presence at the meeting and again gave a final thanks to everyone in attendance.

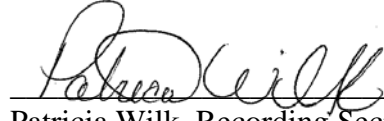
January 21, 2004

A Motion was entertained to adjourn the Commissioners' Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN, FLOOD

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Wilk", written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Wilk, Recording Secretary