

On the above date at 10:00 A.M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened the Meeting of **First Reading of the 2006 Budget** 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; Salvadore Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance.; Michael L. Morreale, Treasurer; Stephen L. Flood, Controller; James J. Brozena, County Engineer; Sandra J. Russell, Director of Community Development and Adrian Merolli, Director of Planning Commission.

Commissioner Gregory 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 announced bids were opened earlier today in the Treasurers' Office. 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.

Commissioner Skrepenak introduced Kathy Bozinski and Samuel Guesto for the presentation of the Proclamations.

Commissioner Skrepenak reminded everyone that if you wish to address the Commissioners to see Ms. Bozinski and sign in.

**RECOGNITIONS:**..... **Kathy Bozinski**  
Public Information Officer

NONE

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jake Kislak, Drifton Sports Complex, thanked the Commissioners for their past support of this important project and encouraged the Commissioners to again consider future support of the project as it comes to fruition. Commissioner Vonderheid responded the Committee for the Recreation Study, led by new the Recreation Director, Andy Gegaris, was established to help make key decisions regarding such projects and will continue to explore the possibilities. Commissioner Skrepenak thanked the members from the Drifton Sports Complex for their attendance and acknowledged their dedication and efforts on this project. Commissioner Urban concurred adding projects such as this deserve the Board's consideration and support.

Commissioner Skrepenak welcomed Maryanne Petrilla, the new Controller, and, on behalf of the Board, extended their best wishes for a successful term and a positive working relationship.

Commissioners Skrepenak and Vonderheid reviewed the progress of the budget over their past two years in office utilizing charts which detailed the revisions, spending cuts and methods to increase revenue that have contributed to a reduced deficit of \$9.4 million, a deficit based largely on past bond payments and other obligations by previous administrations,

Commissioner Urban responded he believed after two years the Majority Commissioners need to stop reflecting on past mistakes of previous administrations as the problem. He cited the \$17 million borrowed to cover the debt in 2004 and the plan to borrow an additional \$12.5 million this year. Commissioner Urban added he believes more cost cutting measures need to be taken including revisiting proposed raises outlined in the budget as one means.

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**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**PLANNING COMMISSION – ADRIAN MEROLLI (Appendix Page 5 thru 7)**

**MOTION**

1. Request a motion to approve the rezoning application of Edward Piestrak, 104 Alden Mountain Road, Nanticoke, PA, for property on the south side of the Kirmar Parkway, Wanamie, Newport Township, from a Two Family Residence District to a Highway Business District to construct a building for a retail gun shop.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

2. Request a motion to approve the rezoning application of the The Borough of Luzerne, Rosemary Sigmond, Council President, 144 Academy Street, Luzerne, PA for two properties at the end of Factory Street, part of Connolly Field of Luzerne Borough, from a Two Family Residence to an Apartment Residence District to accommodate a 56 apartment unit complex.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

3. Request a motion to approve revised Section 9.02 Schedule of Fees of the Luzerne County Zoning Ordinance, as attached, effective January 1, 2006.

Mr. Merolli confirmed the revised schedule was approve at a Public Zoning Hearing.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

4. Request a motion adopting the following statement: Be it ordained by the authority of Luzerne County Commissioners, that the Zoning Ordinance of Luzerne County, be and the same, is hereby amended.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

5. Request a motion to approve revised Section 7.11 Fees of the Luzerne County Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance, as attached, effective January 1, 2006.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

6. Request a motion adopting the following statement: Be it ordained by the authority of Luzerne County Commissioners, that the Zoning Ordinance of Luzerne County, be and the same, is hereby amended.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

**COMMUNICATIONS – SAMUEL T. GUESTO, JR.**

Request permission to go off the agenda.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

There was no Public Comment.

Request a motion to open and review the responses for Bid Proposals for the Tax Anticipation

Note (TAN).

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

Sam Diaz, Chief, Budget and Finance, reviewed the two proposals received and offered the the following overview:

M&T Bank, Wilkes-Barre, a rate of 3.28%

PNC Bank, Wilkes-Barre, a rate of \$3.47

There was no Public Comment.

Request a motion to award the TAN to M&T Bank, Wilkes-Barre, subject to Solicitor’s review.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

**Discuss; Proposed Budget 2006**

Sam Diaz, Chief, Budget and Finance, provided a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the 2006 Budget. Copies of the Budget will be available for review in the Commissioners’ Office and the Office of Budget and Finance. The budget will presented for ratification at the December 21, 2006 meeting.

Commissioner Skrepenak, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Mr. Diaz, Sam Guesto, Jr, Chief Clerk, senior staff, Row Officers and Department Heads for their efforts and contributions to this budget.

Request a motion to accept the first reading of the Proposed 2006 Budget.

Commissioner Urban noted he will not support the 2006 Proposed Budget citing the plan does not include enough cuts to offset the shortfalls and the additional funds that must be borrowed if savings don't materialize.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID “NAYES” URBAN**

Request a motion to accept the first reading of the Proposed 2006 Liquid Fuels Budget.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

A Motion was entertained to adjourn the Commissioners’ Meeting.

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

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

Respectfully,

  
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Patricia Wilk, Recording Secretary