

LUZERNE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority was called to order by Vice Chairwoman Donna Cupinski on January 19, 2022.

The Pledge of Allegiance, led by John Pickering, was said by all in attendance.

ROLL CALL – PRESENT: Carmen Ambrosino, Peter Biscontini, Donna Cupinski, Neal DeAngelo (via telephone), John Pickering, Eugene Rafalli (via telephone) Michelle Reilly (via telephone), John Ruckno, Tony Ryba, (via telephone), and Tom Woods. Also present were members of ASM Global Administration—General Manager Will Beekman and Assistant General Manager/Director of Finance Carrie Grantuskas. Mary Jo Kishel of Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, Jerry Lynott from the Times Leader, and Eric Mark from the Citizens Voice were in attendance.

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski welcomed all to the January 2022 meeting of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence for this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021 Regular Meeting as drafted.

A motion was made by John Ruckno and seconded by Tom Woods to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021 Regular Meeting as amended.

John Pickering noted that Eugene Rafalli was present at the December meeting and he was missed on the minutes.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of approving the meeting minutes, as amended, signified by saying “AYE”. **OPPOSED:** No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained.

The motion carries.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski asked for a motion to approve the payment of the bills totaling \$45,256.98

A motion was made by John Pickering and seconded by Carmen Ambrosino to approve payment of the bills totaling \$45,256.98.

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there were any questions or discussion and there were none.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to accept the payment of bills totaling \$45,256.98 signified by saying “AYE”. **OPPOSED:** No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained.

The motion carries.

An Executive Session was held at this time.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Thanks, Donna! Good afternoon, everyone.

We’re all plugging away. We had a busy run Disney on Ice, which came to town a week earlier than it normally does, so Jeff and our Ops team had their hands full getting ready for that one. In fact, when the ball dropped on New Year’s Eve, Jeff was still here getting the ice ready. But all’s well that ends well. We hosted 8 performances, and while the surging Omicron cases put a dent in our typical attendance, we still had a successful run.

I will also mention that we just went on sale with Monster Jam, which will be here for 4 days this April, and I’m really happy with how sales are going out of the gate. Hopefully it’s a sign that consumer confidence is on a bit of a rebound as we look forward to the spring and summer months.

Speaking of rising Omicron cases, our Penguins games on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day were both postponed due to Covid protocols, but we have found room to reschedule those on our calendar. And as a result, we will host 4 games over the next 6 nights, beginning this evening against Lehigh Valley.

Lastly, I just want to report that despite the rising cases this month, we see the touring industry on its feet and pushing forward. We are excited about some of the events we have lined up in 2022 and look forward to sharing that info with everyone very soon.

Carmen Ambrosino stated that there is a young lady with the Globetrotters that played basketball at Pittston Area. Will did not know if she would be here as part of this show or not. Tom Woods stated that it would be nice if she was and we could publicize that.

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there were any questions for Will and there were not.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS & STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Vice Chairwoman Donna Cupinski reported that there has been no work on the bridges yet. There is a committee meeting scheduled for next week to discuss the capital projects for the spring.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Neither Tony Ryba nor Carrie Grantuskas had any new updates.

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Michelle Reilly reported that nothing had changed and Vice Chairwoman Cupinski stated that Gary Zingaretti had texted her the same thing, that nothing had changed since we last met.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE:

Carmen Ambrosino had nothing new to report.

SUITES COMMITTEE:

Tom Woods reported that everything is status quo. Will Beekman added that there were strong rentals during the holidays and we saw a jump in rentals for Disney on Ice; Steve Poremba and Jim Petch did a great job with these. We saw some families springing for the privacy of a suite, trying to keep their children safe.

RIGHT TO KNOW REQUESTS:

Peter Biscontini had nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:|

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski stated that we will move on to the election of Officers and she moved to entertain a motion to open nominations.

Tom Woods made a motion to open the floor for the nomination of Officers of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and it was seconded by Tony Ryba.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to open the floor for nominations of Officers of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying “AYE”.
OPPOSED: No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski stated that at this time we will open the nominations for the Office of Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

Tony Ryba made a motion to elect Donna Cupinski as Chairwoman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and it was seconded by John Ruckno.

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there were any other nominations for Chairman and there were not.

Tony Ryba made a motion to close nominations for Chairman and it was seconded by Michelle Reilly.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to close the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying “AYE”.
OPPOSED: No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Vice Chairwoman Cupinski stated that nominations for Chairman are now closed. She asked for a motion to elect Donna Cupinski as Chairwoman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

Carmen Ambrosino made the motion to elect Donna Cupinski as Chairwoman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and it was seconded by John Ruckno.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to elect Donna Cupinski as Chairwoman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying “AYE”.
OPPOSED: No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Chairwoman Donna Cupinski thanked the Board Members and stated that she had big shoes to fill following Gary Zingaretti. She hopes to do her best and keep us all together; this is one of the best Boards that we have had in a long time. Hopefully with County Council’s blessing we can keep it that way. She likes to do elections the long way and keep it fair to everybody.

Donna Cupinski asked for motion to open nominations to elect a Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

John Pickering made a motion to elect a Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and it was seconded by Tony Ryba.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to elect a Vice Chairman signified by saying “AYE”.
OPPOSED: No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Nominations are now open for the Office of Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

John Pickering made a motion to elect John Ruckno as Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and Peter Biscontini seconded the motion.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there were any other nominations.

Carmen Ambrosino made a motion to elect Tom Woods as Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and it was seconded by Michelle Reilly.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there were any other nominations and there were none. She asked for a motion to close nominations for Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

Peter Biscontini made the motion to close nominations for Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and it was seconded by John Pickering.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to close the nominations for Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Authority for 2022 signified by saying "AYE".
OPPOSED: No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Nominations are now closed. We have 2 people running for the office of Vice Chair and we can vote either by roll-call or by secret ballot. I would need a motion if we were to do it by secret ballot.

Tom Woods stated that he would back out. He wanted no hard feelings.

Carmen Ambrosino withdrew his nomination motion to elect Tom Woods as Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked for a motion to elect John Ruckno as Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

Tom Woods made the motion to elect John Ruckno as Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022, and it was seconded by Carmen Ambrosino.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to elect John Ruckno as Vice Chairman of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying "AYE".
OPPOSED: No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Chairwoman Cupinski congratulated John Ruckno and John thanked Donna.

At this time Chairwoman Cupinski opened nominations for the Office of Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked for a motion to open nominations. The motion was made by Peter Biscontini and seconded by Tom Woods to open nominations for the Office of Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to open nominations for Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying “AYE”. **OPPOSED:** No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Nominations are now open for the office of Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

John Ruckno made the motion to elect Tom Woods as Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and the motion was seconded by John Pickering.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there were any other nominations.

Tom Woods nominated Tony Ryba for the Office of Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and the motion was seconded by Gene Rafalli.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there were any other nominations and there were none.

Tony Ryba stated that he would withdraw also because he did not want hard feelings.

Tom Woods withdrew his nomination of Tony Ryba for Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

Chairwoman Cupinski stated that nominations for Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 are now closed.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked for a motion to elect Tom Woods as Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022. The motion was made by Peter Biscontini and seconded by John Pickering.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to elect Tom Woods as Treasurer of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying “AYE”. **OPPOSED:** No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked for a motion to open the nominations for the Office of Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022. The motion was made by Peter Biscontini and was seconded by Tony Ryba to open the nominations for the Office of Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to open nominations for the Office of Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying “AYE”. **OPPOSED:** No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Nominations are now open for the Office of Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority.

A motion was made by Tom Woods to nominate Carmen Ambrosino to the Office of Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and the motion was seconded by John Pickering.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there were any other nominations and there were none.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked for a motion to close nominations for the Office of Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 and motion was made by Tony Ryba and seconded by Neal DeAngelo.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to close nominations for the Office of Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying “AYE”. **OPPOSED:** No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Nominations are now closed for the Office of Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked for a motion to elect Carmen Ambrosino as Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022. The motion to elect Carmen Ambrosino as Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 was made by Tony Ryba and seconded by Michelle Reilly.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to elect Carmen Ambrosino as Secretary of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority for 2022 signified by saying “AYE”. **OPPOSED:** No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. Motion carries.

Chairwoman Cupinski congratulated everyone.

The following are the Officers of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority:

- Donna Cupinski, Chairwoman
- John Ruckno, Vice Chairman
- Tom Woods, Treasurer
- Carmen Ambrosino, Secretary

Tony Ryba asked to be considered for the Chair of the Capital Improvements & Strategic Planning Committee unless one of the current members of that Committee wanted to be the Chair. If they do, he would like to serve on the Committee.

Chairwoman Cupinski will look over all of the Committees to see what is needed and she will call all of the Members to see what Committee they would want to serve on. Sometimes you have expectations of a certain Committee and it doesn't work out. We will start fresh and see what we come up with.

Carmen Ambrosino asked if they could have a list of the Members of each Committee once that is done.

Tom Woods asked about a list of the Board Members with phone numbers, including information for Carrie Grantuskas, Will Beekman, and Steve Poremba. The current list will be passed around for Members to make any changes or corrections. Chairwoman Cupinski also stated that it would be helpful if they had a Chain of Command list (Organizational Chart). We will not publish anything until we get our new/renewed Board Members. Tom Woods asked how many new Board Members there will be. Chairwoman Cupinski stated that there are 5 openings. Three members have put in to be re-appointed and two members stepped aside.

John Lombardo is now the Vice Chair of County Council and in that role the Charter dictates that he becomes the Chair of those ABCs. He told me that on January 25th they are going to do as many appointments as they can and if they have more vacancies than people in some of the areas, they will advertise and come back which is a good thing. There is no need for us to wait.

When Carmen Ambrosino was put on the Policies & Procedures Committee, there was a need to talk about procedures a couple of years ago when we said that the public can only speak for 3 minutes. We changed our bi-laws two years ago (or maybe 3 years); initially we said let's have our annual meeting in December and at that time we would elect officers. As you all know, we changed our bi-laws to have that happen in January and it hasn't played out for us. We did go through a series of Chairmen get elected and then not be re-appointed. To be elected for a month and not be re-appointed, we figured that we would change our bi-laws. We might want to look at changing them back or just play it how it is now. John Pickering mentioned that if they are not going to do them until February, we might want to change that meeting date too. We can't keep moving our meeting dates. Tom Woods suggested that it would be the County's job to appoint them in December so they could be at the January meeting. It would seem more logical. But then the dilemma for them would be that they would have their outgoing Board Members do the appointments and some people prefer the incoming Board Members. John Pickering added that it would not be in the odd year where they are not leaving. If it was this past December, we could do our thing in January. John Pickering, John Ruckno, and Neal DeAngelo are up for re-appointment.

Michelle Reilly and Gary Zingaretti retired. The list of those who have been interviewed so far is on the county website.

Chairwoman Cupinski stated that we also have the appointment of the Right to Know Officer. She asked if Peter Biscontini would like to do that again and he replied yes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Chairwoman Cupinski asked if anyone had anything for Good of the Order. Carmen Ambrosino stated that new appointees through the Luzerne County Council are given the opportunity to express themselves publicly as to what they can offer the Authority if appointed. Can we make a suggestion to Council at some point that existing members whose terms are up have that same opportunity to put one page or a couple of paragraphs together as to why Council should consider them for continuation on this Board? It seems to be a fair process if you are giving new

appointees that opportunity, can you give someone who has served for 5 years and is still interested in serving, by re-appointment what can they bring to this Board. Chairwoman Cupinski stated that everyone whose term is up has to go through the interview process. Chairwoman Cupinski encouraged Neal DeAngelo, John Pickering, and John Ruckno to write a couple of sentences of what you have done for this Board because we would like to retain the three of you. A discussion followed regarding former interviews. Chairwoman Cupinski wished the "Best of Luck" to the three members who are up for re-appointment. She stated that on the Luzerne County Home Page that you can email everyone at the same time and she strongly encouraged them to do that.

Eugene Rafalli mentioned that County Council was not getting the meeting minutes and asked if we can correct that problem. Chairwoman Cupinski replied that yes, we will and County Council likes for all of the Boards to list their agendas, their minutes, etc. She stated that we have not done that for a couple of months. GailAnn Gorski used to take care of that, so we will get back on it.

Chairwoman Cupinski asked if there was anything else for Good of the Order and there was not.

ADJOURNMENT:

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tony Ryba and seconded by Tom Woods.

ON THE QUESTION: All those in favor of the motion to adjourn the meeting signified by saying "AYE". **OPPOSED:** No one opposed the motion. **ABSTAIN:** No one abstained. The motion carries.

Chairwoman Cupinski thanked everyone and congratulated the officers.

APPROVED:



Mr. Carmen Ambrosino