



COUNTY of LUZERNE  
PENNSYLVANIA  
ESTABLISHED 1786

**LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL  
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
Council Meeting Room  
Luzerne County Courthouse  
200 N. River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701  
AND  
Video/Teleconference via ZOOM  
March 2, 2022  
6:00PM**

**6:00 PM CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**DELETIONS FROM AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Discussion regarding resolution R-2017-91

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on any agenda or non-agenda item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Each speaker shall have three (3) minutes to address the Committee. Speakers may not yield or transfer their time to another speaker.*

*Those attending in person are asked to complete and submit a Speaker Card to the Clerk of Council before the first speaker is called.*

*Those attending virtually are asked to refer to the Public Meetings Online page of County's Website at <https://www.luzernecounty.org/1279/Public-Meetings-Online> for more information on how to participate in Public Comment via technology.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**RESOLUTION R-2017-91  
LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL**

*A Resolution of Luzerne County Council Declaring the Goals for Luzerne County*

WHEREAS, the Luzerne County Strategic Initiative Committee is dedicated, among other things, to crafting policy that shall serve to communicate to the County Manager regarding Council's vision for the County's future; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County Council has a vested interest in the smooth, efficient operation of all Luzerne County government functions and operations; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County Council desires to see the Luzerne County Government to operate effectively under the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, Luzerne County Council desires to see the Luzerne County Home Rule Charter be strengthened by Luzerne County officials; and

WHEREAS, the Luzerne County Strategic Initiative Committee, in the effort to identify goals for Luzerne County, conducted a survey for public; and

WHEREAS, the Luzerne County Strategic Initiative Committee compiled the results of the survey and developed a Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Luzerne County Government Statement of Values, and Long Term Goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Luzerne County Council sets forth the following list of goals it desires to be seen achieved for the better function of Luzerne County government:

**Long Range Goals for Luzerne County**

1. Quality of Life.
  - 1.1 Increase recreational facilities in partnership with other public entities. Provide leadership to develop recreational facilities for youth (e.g., skate-boarding venues).
2. Community Health and Safety.
  - 2.1 Encourage development of a county-wide public safety plan (e.g., police force with regional police stations or regional police organizations serving multiple boroughs and townships that eliminates the need for state police to provide primary police services to boroughs and townships).
  - 2.2 Provide leadership for all aspects of the drug crises affecting our county and society.

2.3 Promote healthy lifestyles. For example:

- Eliminate smoking on most county properties. Provide cessation programs for smoking employees. Address issue of jurors and correctional officers who need to smoke.
- Eliminate high sugar drinks from vending machines on county property.

3. Good County Government Services and Practices.

3.1 Identify sites and strategies for new county correctional facilities that provide a wide range of options for adjudicating convicted offenders and those awaiting disposition of their cases.

3.2 Analyze opportunities to help boroughs and townships save money and human resources by offering or encouraging efficient regional or county-wide ambulance, fire, garbage collection, snow removal, recycling and blight mitigation services.

3.3 Create a robust county website that provides:

- Searchable public documents, including real estate records;
- Easy payment of taxes and other fees;
- Efficient retrieval and filing of legal documents;
- Easy marketing of real estate property and other items sold by the county;
- On-line voter registration;
- Easy access to financial reports, contracts, council emails and other administrative documents;
- Links to and/or documents of County authorities, boards and commissions.

3.4 Create a positive Reserve Account to avoid costly tax anticipation financing and provide for emergency needs and capital investments. Annually make an allocation of at least 2% of the General Fund to the Reserve Account to maintain a healthy balance.

3.5 Fully fund the existing Retirement Fund. Carefully plan for the future.

3.6 Conduct Long Range County Facilities Study to:

- Reduce leasing, operating and other costs;
- Create facilities and locate county operations for efficient services to citizens;
- Further cross training and support of county staff;
- Thoughtfully evaluate county real estate and dispose of those properties not deemed necessary for current or future county use.

3.7 Create more opportunities for supervised prisoners to perform appropriate work tasks outside of correctional facilities.

3.8 Work with PA state legislators and State executive branch to:

- Properly and equitably fund judicial system;
- Revise antiquated state election code;
- Restructure funding of government to rely less on property taxes;

- Create fair voting districts that preserve communities without regard to party affiliation;
- Create new legislation or revise existing legislation so 911 emergency service professionals (not elected officials) determine providers best able to quickly address specific emergencies.
- Adjust retirement age and years of service to reflecting changing life expectancy.

3.9 Promote sale of tax delinquent properties in convenient and secure locations. Provide appropriate guidelines for methods of payment.

3.10 Aggressively identify revenue sources other than property taxes to fund the Operating Fund. Consider:

- Offering advertising opportunities on county properties and vehicles to generate additional revenue.
- Offering services using county mapping data bases and custom maps to developers and others.
- Adoption of the \$5 annual vehicle registration fee with corresponding reduction in property tax millage rate.
- Enacting a county-wide sales tax.

3.11 Formalize the process for appointing and seating individuals to authorities, boards and commissions. For example:

- Conducting swearing-in ceremonies where appointees affirm or swear to make decisions in the best interests of the citizens and future of the county.

3.12 Encourage street renaming and renumbering to avoid confusion and improve dispatching of emergency services.

3.13 Utilize internship programs and high school students, where appropriate, to familiarize those participating with county services.

#### 4. Infrastructure and Environment.

4.1 Encourage Luzerne County to become part of a regional transportation entity to improve freight rail infrastructure and provide passenger rail services.

4.2 Promote construction of sidewalks and trails throughout the county.

4.3 Review services provided by authorities, boards and commissions and consider how they might be assimilated into county operations for efficient and cost effective delivery of services.

4.4 Advocate for clean water. For example, support:

- Separation of storm and sanitary sewers throughout the county.
- Cleaning up acid mine discharges into waterways and otherwise improving water quality of county rivers, streams and lakes.

4.5 Support, encourage and lead efforts to provide high speed internet service throughout the county.

4.6 Promote a clean environment. For example, conduct awareness campaign to reduce littering throughout the county, including campaign to encourage proper disposal of cigarette butts.

4.7 Advocate and influence infrastructure projects. For example, fund and otherwise make concerted effort to address deficient county roads and bridges.

5. Economic Development.

5.1 Create new county-wide "best practices" Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development ordinances and provide incentives for boroughs, townships and cities to adopt uniform ordinances.

5.2 Promote and encourage various modes of transportation within Luzerne County and to areas outside of the county. For example, encourage and promote train excursions from Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre to baseball games at PNC Field and to Jim Thorpe and elsewhere.

5.3 Convene periodic "summits" with economic development agencies and chambers of commerce to discuss strategies to improve economic development in the county and the region.

This Resolution shall become effective six (6) days after adoption.

Adopted at a meeting of the Luzerne County Council held on September 12, 2017.

ROLL CALL VOTE (6-2)

YES: Kelleher, McGinley, Schnee, Waitkus, Williams and Houck


NO: Brominski and Dobash

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

By:   
Linda McClosky Houck, Chair

Attest:   
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

LUZERNE COUNTY MANAGER

By:   
C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager