



Luzerne County Council
December 15, 2020 Meeting
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS
Minutes

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on December 15, 2020 at 6:04PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Walter L. Griffith, Jr.
Harry Haas
Linda McClosky Houck
Lee Ann McDermott
Tim McGinley
Chris Perry
Kendra M. Radle
Sheila Saidman, Esq.
Robert Schnee
Stephen J. Urban
Matthew Vough

Also Present

C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager
Romilda P. Crocamo, Chief County Solicitor
Vito DeLuca, Esq.
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Mr. DeLuca commented on the Executive Session. He stated Council met in Executive Session from 5:30PM until 6:00PM via TEAMS. Council received a report from the Chief Solicitor relating to a potential litigation matter involving a contractor and Council also had a discussion relating to a personnel matter, concluding at about 6:01PM.

Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations

None

Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda

Mr. McGinley asked to remove items 2 and 3 from the agenda and replace them with a motion to ratify the committee dealing with the solid waste disposal and also to appoint an ad hoc committee to also deal with the solid waste disposal plan. Further information will be provided during the meeting as to why the items were removed and replaced.

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Mr. McGinley stated an email was received late yesterday from Josh Longmore, Conservation District, indicating they agreed to act as the lead agency for the County Action Plan. Mr. McGinley reminded Council this was on the last meeting and there was a question as to whether they would continue in that role. As a result the motion to appoint a Council Member to serve as a representative was tabled and removed from the agenda. Mr. McGinley asked if Council if they would like to put it back on the agenda. Ms. Houck stated she would like to see it added and would make a motion to remove it from the table during the meeting. Mr. McGinley stated it will be on the agenda prior to the County Council items.

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Griffith

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted

Motions

Motion to suspend Bylaws regarding the requirement a majority of those participating in the meeting must be physically present by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Motion to suspend Bylaws regarding the conduct of public meetings to the extent that the current format is inconsistent with the term of the State's Emergency Declaration

by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Radle

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) Nay by Mr. Griffith

Motion Passed (10-1)

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Due to COVID-19 all meetings are currently held via Video/Teleconference.

WRITTEN comments are submitted electronically via EMAIL or TEAMS. A copy of the full written comment for each speaker is posted under the corresponding meeting agenda.

VERBAL comments, in their entirety, can be heard by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding Josh Longmore and the committee, the Rain Tax and additional fees.

Motion to adopt Minutes of the December 08, 2020 Voting Session

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) Nays by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-2)

The December 08, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

OLD BUSINESS

None

Mr. Perry stated at the last meeting he voted no on the budget amendment for merit increases and he should have abstained because his daughter is a court reporter in Division 13 Courts.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Motion to adopt resolution approving the Sales of Certain Parcels of Property held in Repository by Elite Revenue Solutions, LLC Acting as the Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) No by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-2)

Resolution is Adopted

ITEM 2

Motion to adopt ordinance Designating Processing and/or Disposal Facilities; Providing Waste Flow Control Requirements to Direct Municipal Waste to Designated Processing and/or Disposal Facilities and Providing Penalties for Violation of this Ordinance

REMOVED

ITEM 3

Motion to adopt resolution adopting the Luzerne County 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan

REMOVED

ADDED ITEMS

Motion to ratify the Committee

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Two (2) No by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-2)

Motion to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee

Motion by: Mr Griffith

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (10-1)

ADDED ITEMS

Motion to remove from table the motion to appoint a Council Member to the County Action Plan Committee

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Item is Removed from Table

Motion to appoint a Council Member to the County Action Plan Committee

Motion by: Mr. Perry

Second: Ms. Saidman

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Motion to Open Nominations by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Griffith

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Nominations Open

Ms. Saidman nominated: Walter Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

Motion to Close Nominations by: Mr. Vough

Second: Mr. Haas

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

Nominations Closed

Motion to appoint Walter Griffith to the County Action Plan Committee

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

4. Motion to adopt resolution Amending Luzerne County Resolution 2020-93 to authorize the Transferring of \$210,000.00 from the County Reserve Fund 100.99.4940.585.10 to County Reserve Fund 100.99.4940.445.10

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Advertisement of a Request for Proposals Independent Insurance Broker Services

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: Ms. Houck

Motion to Amend resolution to do the RFP process in July 2021 by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Amended

Motion to adopt Amended Resolution by: Mr. Haas

Second: Ms. Houck

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Resolution is Adopted

6. Motions regarding FY2021 Budget Amendments

EXPENSES

DIVISION 10 GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Dept 4112 County Manager

550.22 Telephone/Internet

Amendment: 961 to 500

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Seven (7) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (4-7)

Dept 4116 Ethics Commission

550.19 Special Legal Services

Amendment: 5,000 to 2,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Five (5) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott and Mr. SJ Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (5-6)

DIVISION 70 HUMAN SERVICES

Dept 4491 Veterans Affairs

550.22 Telephone/Internet

Amendment: 2,500 to 1,500

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle,

Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (3-8)

Dept 9200 Children and Youth

550.13 Shared Personnel

Amendment: 644,000 to 560,000

Removed by: Mr. Griffith

Dept 9400 Mental Health/Developmental Services

550.13 Shared Personnel

Amendment: 394,351 to 350,000

Removed by: Mr. Griffith

Dept 9500 Office of Human Services

510.15 Wages Non-Represented

Amendment: 874,232 to 800,000

Removed by: Mr. Griffith

DIVISION 50 OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Dept 4174 Building and Grounds

550.40 Natural Gas

Amendment: 30,000 to 20,000

Removed by: Mr. Griffith

Dept 4310 Road and Bridge

550.40 Natural Gas

Amendment: 4,000 to 2,500

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Ms. Saidman

Roll Call Vote:

Five (5) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman and Mr. SJ Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (5-6)

DIVISION 50 OPERATIONAL SERVICES (cont)

Dept 4310 Road and Bridge

550.41 Sewer

Amendment: 5,000 to 1,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Two (2) Yes by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Nine (9) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (2-9)

DIVISION 30 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Dept 4120 Bureau of Elections

510.15 Wages Non Represented

Amendment: 106,500 to 103,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Motion to Amend Amendment to: 106,500 to 98,000

Motion by: Mr. Haas

Second: None

Motion Failed for Lack of a Second

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No by Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (3-8)

~~510.35 Wages Overtime~~

~~Amendment: 8,000 to 5,000~~

~~Removed by:~~ Mr. Griffith

540.14 Office Supplies

Amendment: 7,000 to 6,000

Motion by: Ms. Saidman

Second: Mr. Griffith

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

Motion Passed (10-1)

Dept 4140 Mapping

550.15 Other Contractual Services

Amendment: 2,000 to 0

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Two (2) Yes by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Nine (9) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (2-9)

Dept 4172 Information Technology

550.48 Repairs/Misc

Amendment: 91,600 to 70,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

One (1) Yes by Mr. Griffith

Ten (10) No Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (1-10)

Mr. McGinley proposed an Amendment

Amendment: 91,600 to 99,600

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Three (3) No by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (8-3)

Dept 4172 Information Technology

550.49 Repairs/Software

Amendment: 581,580 to 525,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Two (2) Yes by Mr. Griffith and Mr. SJ Urban

Nine (9) No Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (2-9)

REVENUE:

DIVISION 60 JUDICIAL SERVICES

Dept 4193 Coroner

415.69 Coroners Report

Amendment: 2,000 to 4,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Eight (8) No Mr. Haas, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (3-8)

415.70 Autopsy Reports

Amendment: 4,000 to 8,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Mr. Griffith and Mr. Urban withdrew their motions.

Amendment: 4,000 to 6,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Haas

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

415.71 Toxicology Reports

Amendment: 2,500 to 5,000

Removed by: Mr. Griffith

Amendment: 2,500 to 3,500

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Seven (7) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (4-7)

Dept 4140 Mapping

405.40 Sale of Maps

Amendment: 5,000 to 10,000

Motion by: Mr. Griffith

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. SJ Urban

Seven (7) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Radle, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

Motion Failed (4-7)

EXPENSES

DIVISION 30 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Dept 4172 Information Technology

530.30 Healthcare ADD 12,000

530.45 Retirement ADD 3,965

520.10 FICA ADD 2,285

520.15 Medicare ADD 870

520.20 Unemployment ADD 400

550.25 Other Communication Expenses ADD 480

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Schnee

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

ADDITIONAL MOTION (TRAN)

Motion to move interest from the TRAN 100954721 570.68 (approximately 150,000) to the Reserve

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

ADDITIONAL MOTIONS (Merit Increases)

FUND 260

DIVISION 50 OPERATIONS

4286 510.16 Merit Increase 12,804 to 0

4286 550.15 Other Contractual Services 963,00 to 975,804

FUNDS 430 and 560

DIVISION 30 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

(430) 4670 Con & Visit 510.16 Merit Increases 3,141 to 0

(430) 4670 Con & Visit 550.31 Promotions 209,695 to 212,836

(560) 4650 Com Dev 510.16 Merit Increase 4,363 to 0

(560) 4650 Com Dev 560.68 Miscellaneous Expense 3,375 to 7,738

FUNDS 910, 920, 940, 950, 960

DIVISION 70 HUMAN SERVICES

(910) 9100 Aging 510.16 Merit Increase 10,403 to 0

(910) 9100 Aging 560.55 Purchased Service 4,618,504 to 4,628,907

(920) 9200 Children & Youth 510.16 Merit Increase 20,166 to 0

(920) 9200 Children & Youth 560.55 Purchased Service 2,900,000 to 2,920,166

FUNDS 910, 920, 940, 950, 960

DIVISION 70 HUMAN SERVICES (cont.)

(940) 9400 MHDS 510.16 Merit Increase 4,882 to 0

(940) 9400 MHDS 560.58 Provider Services 15,501,911 to 15,506,793

(950) 9500 OHS 510.16 Merit Increase 17,485 to 0

(950) 9500 OHS 560.58 Provider Services 1,344,566 to 1,362,051

(960) 9600 Drug & Alcohol 510.16 Merit Increase 8,693 to 0

(960) 9600 Drug & Alcohol 560.58 Provider Services 3,377,176 to 3,385,869

Motion to approve all amendments regarding Merit Increases

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Mr. Vough

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

Mr. Swetz provided the current millage of 6.1696 mils at the request of the Chair.

Mr. McGinley requested the new Reserve amount.

Mr. Swetz provided the amount of 698,132.

Reserve Amendment 247,193 to 698,132

Motion by: Mr. Schnee

Second: Mr. Haas

Roll Call Vote:

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

Motion Passed (11-0)

7. Motion to adopt ordinance Adopting the 2021 Fiscal Year Budgets for Luzerne County

Motion by: Ms. Houck

Second: Ms. Saidman

Ms. Houck noted in Section 3 of the Ordinance “budget” needs to be “budgets”.

Mr. McGinley stated it would be corrected.

Mr. Griffith requested dates be added after the signatures when the ordinance is signed.

Mr. McGinley agreed.

Roll Call Vote:

*Eleven (11) Yes with Partial Abstentions by Mr. Perry and Mr. Vough

Motion Passed (11-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

***Partial Abstention Comments:**

Mr. Perry: Votes yes to approve the FY2021 Budget with the exception of the portion related to Court Administration/Courts from which he abstains from voting and requests the abstention from voting on the Court budget is noted for official purposes. The specific line items are as follows: Division 13 Courts, line items 510.15, 520.10, 520.15, 520.20, 530.30 and 530.40. The reason is his married daughter works in that division as a Court Reporter and has been there for over 20 years.

Mr. Vough: Stated he is a member of the LCCC 01 Recovery Advisory Board so he is abstaining from voting on line 100.96.4810.590 and his vote on the remainder of the budget is yes.

Mr. McGinley appointed the Ad Hoc Committee to work with the Recycling/Solid Waste Management Committee

Chris Perry Chair

Kendra Radle Vice-Chair

Matt Vough

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally regarding the insurance broker, budget amendments, Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the budget, COVID relief funds, the Redevelopment Authority and Stauffer Point TIF.

Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding the budget and R-2019-128.

Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally regarding laptops, meetings, the Rain Tax and the budget.

Brian Dwyer (Larksville) commented Verbally regarding the budget and laptops.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Saidman

Second: Ms. McDermott

Vote:

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned at 9:49 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lawrence

Clerk of Council

* Audio of this meeting can be found in its entirety on the County Council webpage <http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/luzerne-county-council> or by contacting the Office of the Clerk of Council at (570) 825-1634 or via email to sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org