



**Luzerne County Council**  
March 26, 2019  
Luzerne County Court House  
Council Meeting Room  
200 N. River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18711

**Minutes**  
**March 26, 2019 Voting Session**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Council Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Courthouse on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim McGinley.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Patrick M. Bilbow  
Harry Haas  
Eugene Kelleher  
Tim McGinley  
Chris Perry  
Robert Schnee  
Stephen A. Urban  
Matthew Vough  
Jane Walsh Waitkus

**Absent**

Linda McClosky Houck  
Sheila Saidman, Esq.

**Also Present**

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

**Romilda Crocamo stated there was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting regarding a personnel issue and the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Court Appointed Professional Employees Association.**

### **Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr. McGinley read a proclamation recognizing Mr. Brominski for his service and stated it will be mailed to Mr. Brominski.

Mr. McGinley announced the retirements of:

Charles Majikes, Probation Officer, Probation Services

Patricia Veet, Fiscal Tech, Probation Services

Letters of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to them from Council.

### **Additions to/Deletions from Voting Session Agenda**

None

### **Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Ms. Waitkus

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

**The Voting Session Agenda is adopted (9-0)**

### **Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items**

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville)** spoke about the effective date on resolutions and the Charter.

Mr. Griffith questioned if the Forty-Fort Council /Mayor agreed on and approved the leases that are on the agenda. He stated the Collective Bargaining Agreements should be available to the public and the Waterfront LERTA should not be allowed.

**Sam Troy (Wilkes-Barre)** commented on the 3 minute time limit for public comment and feels it should be made longer. Mr. Troy spoke about Collective Bargaining Agreement specifics and the Waterfront LERTA. Mr. McGinley responded if the Collective Bargaining Agreement is passed, the information will be provided in the Work Session.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the March 12, 2019 Voting Meeting**

**Motion by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Mr. Bilbow

**Vote:**

Eight (8) Ayes by Bilbow, Haas, Kelleher, McGinley, Perry, Schnee, Vough and Waitkus

One (1) Nay by Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Motion Passed (8-1)**

**The March 12, 2019 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

**1. Motion to adopt resolution entering into a Lease for a portion of land at the Luzerne County Sports Complex Area in Forty Fort Borough for use by the Forty Fort Soccer Club**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Kelleher

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**2. Motion to adopt a resolution entering into a Lease for a portion of land at the Luzerne County Sports Complex Area in Forty Fort Borough**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Motion to adopt a resolution entering into a Lease for the Operation of the Luzerne County Sports Complex Area in Forty Fort Borough**

**Motion by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**4. Motion to adopt resolution approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Luzerne County and the Luzerne County Court Appointed Professional Employees Association**

**Motion by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Motion to approve request from Attorney Hoegen, Esq. to hold a Public Hearing as part of the process for a possible LERTA designation regarding 600 Waterfront**

**Motion by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Two (2) No by Mr. Haas and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Motion Passed (7-2)**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution adopting and approving an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Hospital and Education Authority, as proposed by resolution of the Board of the Authority; setting forth the proposed amendment; authorizing said Authority and proper officers thereof to execute, verify and file appropriate articles of amendment; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Bilbow

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to adopt resolution approving the financing by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Hospital and Education Authority of certain projects for the benefit of King's College, a not-for-profit corporation; declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people of the County of Luzerne, Pennsylvania, and the area served by King's College to have the projects provided by and financed through the Authority; and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action**

**Motion by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**8. Motion to adopt resolution committing a Local Match for State Operating Assistance for the Hazleton Public Transit**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Bilbow

**Motion to Postpone:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Stephen A. Urban, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

**Motion Passed (8-1)**

**Resolution is Postponed**

**9. Motion to adopt resolution approving an Agreement with the Borough of Courtdale for the Luzerne County Treasurer to Collect Taxes for the Borough of Courtdale**

**Motion by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Mr. McGinley made a motion to amend the dates in the agreement.**

**Second:** Mr. Kelleher

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes – Unanimous

**Mr. Swetz stated the dates in the agreement are correct and should not be changed.  
He explained it was due to deadlines and postmarks.  
Mr. McGinley withdrew his motion.  
Mr. Kelleher withdrew his second.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Haas, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

One (1) No by Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Motion Passed (8-1)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**10. Luzerne County Council Member Nominations and Appointments to:**

**10a. Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services Program Advisory Board (term to 04/01/2020)**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Haas

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Vough nominated:** Jane Walsh Waitkus

**Second:** Mr. Bilbow

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to adopt resolution appointing Jane Walsh Waitkus to the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services Program Advisory Board by:**

Mr. Bilbow

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (9-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**10b. Luzerne County Transportation Authority (to complete term to 12/31/2022)**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Michael Cefalo

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Mr. Stephen A. Urban nominated:** Thomas Grimes

**Second:** Mr. Haas

**Motion to Close Nominations by:** Mr. Vough

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote (1 name):**

**Mr. Bilbow:** Cefalo

**Mr. Haas:** Grimes

**Mr. Kelleher:** Cefalo

**Mr. McGinley:** Cefalo

**Mr. Perry:** Cefalo

**Mr. Schnee:** Cefalo

**Mr. Stephen A. Urban:** Grimes

**Mr. Vough:** Cefalo

**Ms. Waitkus:** Cefalo

**Results:**

Cefalo 7

Grimes 2

**Motion to adopt a resolution appointing Michael Cefalo to the Luzerne County**

**Transportation Authority to complete a term to 12/31/2022 by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Bilbow, Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

Two (2) No by Mr. Haas and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Motion Passed (7-2)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

### **Public Comment**

**Joe McCabe (Exeter)** questioned the \$5.00 tax and state grant application. Mr. Pedri responded a grant was received for Hanover Industrial Park. Mr. McCabe thanked Council for their work on the Water Street Bridge. He stated the Bridge was recently inspected and asked if it passed. Mr. O'Neill did not have the results but stated he would send the information out. Mr. McCabe asked if Luzerne County pays a storm water fee and if so, can the County Council join the citizens to fight the fee. Mr. McGinley reminded Mr. McCabe that WVSA is a separate entity. Mr. Urban suggested Mr. Pedri consider filing a lawsuit once a bill is received.

**Greg Griffin (Swoyersville)** gave Council an update on his committee and the opioid epidemic. Mr. Griffin passed out an article for Council regarding Luzerne County being left out by Operation S.O.S.

**Walter Griffith (Trucksville)** asked if he could get the cost and a breakdown for the Harrisburg law firm in the Crispell investigation. He felt it should have been handled internally by the County Manager. Mr. Griffith is concerned the Council is involved in the election machine RFP. He also commented on the effective dates of ordinances and resolutions. Ms. Crocamo responded regarding the dates.

**Matt Vough/Ashlynn Heller (Ashley)** gave an update on the opioid epidemic and thanked the local papers for their articles. Mr. Vough introduced **Ashlynn Heller (Ashley)** who reached out to him as a result. Ms. Heller spoke about her addiction and gave details of how it affected her life. She stated the daily reporting center and Judge Vough gave her the structure she needed. Ashlynn is now a full time student and working full time as a behavioral technician. She will be receiving her addiction diploma in May and will sit in front of the PCB Board for her CRS credential.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Ms. Waitkus

**Vote:**

Nine (9) Ayes - Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 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](mailto:sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org)