



**Luzerne County Council**  
July 14, 2020 Meeting  
Video/Teleconference via TEAMS  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session on July 14, 2020 at 6:01PM via TEAMS Video/Teleconference. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Tim McGinley.

**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

**Vito DeLuca announced Council met in an Executive Session and received a report from Atty. Crocamo regarding the litigation against the Voting Services of the Counties of Pennsylvania. The session lasted from 5:30PM until 6PM.**

**Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

None

**Additions to/Deletions from Meeting Agenda**

Mr. Griffith would like to add two (2) ordinances to the agenda for introduction.

**ORDINANCE 1**

**An Ordinance of the Luzerne County Council to amend the 2020 Position Budget legislatively authorizing the elimination and creation of positions in Division 30, Department 4120 Elections**

**ORDINANCE 2**

**An Ordinance of the Luzerne County Council to amend the 2020 Position Budget legislatively authorizing the elimination and creation of positions in Division 60, Department 4197 Sheriff**

Mr. McGinley stated they would be added to the agenda as items 7 & 8.

**Adoption of Voting Session Agenda**

**Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Ms. Houck**

**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: Mr. SJ Urban**

**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. Radle**

**Second: Mr. Perry**

**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**

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**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** and asked for the first topic of the agenda items. Mr. McGinley provided the information and Mr. Manta had no further comment.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding minimum bids for sales from the repository.

**Jason Carr (Saylorsburg) commented Verbally** regarding the purchases out of the repository.

### **Motion to adopt Minutes of the June 23, 2020 Voting Session**

**Motion by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

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

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

One (1) Abstention by Mr. Haas

**Motion Passed (9-1) with (1) abstention**

**The June 23, 2020 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Walter Griffith addressed:**

- Codification

### **1. Motion to adopt resolution authorizing the County Manager to execute an Amendment to Lease Agreement Between Susquehanna Properties Management, Inc. and Luzerne County for the Active Adult Center, Dallas, Pennsylvania by the Luzerne/Wyoming Area on Aging**

**Motion by:** Mr. Schnee

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**2. Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**3. Introduction of ordinance Amending the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Luzerne County**

Automatically introduced (no vote required) by County Manager C. David Pedri, Esq.

**4. Motion to adopt resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Luzerne County Transportation Authority**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**5. Designation of CCAP Voting Delegates**

**Motion to Open Nominations by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Haas

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Nominations Open**

**Ms. Houck nominated:** Harry Haas

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Mr. Perry nominated:** Stephen J. Urban

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Mr. Schnee nominated:** Kendra Radle

**Second:** Ms. McDermott

**Ms. Saidman nominated:** Lee Ann McDermott

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Mr. SJ Urban nominated:** Chris Perry

**Mr. Perry declined the nomination.**

**Mr. SJ Urban nominated:** Linda Houck

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

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

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Nominations Closed**

**Motion to approve all 5 nominees (Haas, Urban, Radle, McDermott and Houck) as the new CCAP Voting Delegates by:** Mr. Griffith

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**6. Motion to adopt resolution amending the minimum bids for the sale of certain parcels of property held in Repository**

**Motion by:** Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Motion by Mr. Griffith to amend the resolution to include:**

“The Luzerne County Council hereby authorizes Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau, or its approved agents, to use the most current and recent assessed values of all properties to determine the Minimum Bid amount for properties that are subject to Bid in the Luzerne County Repository.

1. Repository Properties that have an assessed value of \$1.00 to \$50,000.00, will have a minimum bid amount of \$1000.00 unless they have been in the Repository for five (5) Years or greater, then the minimum bid is reduced to the amount of \$500.00.
2. Repository Properties that have an assessed value of \$50,001.00 to \$100,000.00 will have a Minimum Bid amount of \$1500.00 unless they have been in the Repository for five (5) Years or greater, then the minimum bid is reduced to the amount of \$750.00.
3. Repository Properties that have an assessed value over \$100,001.00 shall submit a minimum bid of \$2000.00 unless they have been in the Repository for five (5) Years or greater, then the minimum bid is reduced to the amount of \$1000.00.

The Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau, or its approved agent, shall submit all Repository Property Bids to Luzerne County Council for approval and the Luzerne County Assessment Office shall reduce the assessed value of all properties purchased from the repository to the purchase price, upon the recording of the deed to the successful bidder.”

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

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

**Motion Failed (3-8)**

**Amendment Failed**

**Motion by Mr. Griffith to amend the resolution to replace Elite Revenue Solutions, LLC with The Tax Claim Bureau or it's Designee.**

**Second:** Mr. Radle

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Amended**

**Mr. McGinley confirmed the motion to adopt the resolution (with amendments) by:**

Ms. McDermott

**Second:** Ms. Radle

**Motion by Mr. Griffith to amend the resolution to include:**

“The Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau, or its approved agent, shall submit all Repository Property Bids to Luzerne County Council for approval and the Luzerne County Assessment Office shall reduce the assessed value of all properties purchased from the repository to the purchase price, upon the recording of the deed to the successful bidder.”

**Mr. DeLuca and Ms. Crocamo addressed the amendment and Mr. Griffith withdrew his Motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Eleven (11) Yes - Unanimous

**Motion Passed (11-0)**

**Resolution is Adopted**

**7. Motion to introduce ordinance to amend the 2020 Position Budget legislatively authorizing the elimination and creation of positions in Division 30, Department 4120 Elections**

**Motion by:** Ms. Saidman

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle and Mr. SJ Urban

Five (5) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Passed (6-5)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**8. Motion to introduce ordinance to amend the 2020 Position Budget legislatively authorizing the elimination and creation of positions in Division 60, Department 4197 Sheriff**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. Griffith

**Roll Call Vote:**

Seven (7) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle, Mr. Schnee and Mr. SJ Urban

Four (4) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Vough

**Motion Passed (7-4)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**\*\*\*\*\*Added During Public Comment**

**9. Motion to introduce Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2020-05 for the Reduction of the Penalty Period Fees for the 2020 Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes**

**Motion by:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Roll Call Vote:**

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Griffith, Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. McDermott, Ms. Radle and Mr. SJ Urban

Five (5) No by Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Ms. Saidman, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Vough

**Motion Passed (6-5)**

**Ordinance is Introduced**

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

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**Richard Manta (Back Mountain) commented Verbally** regarding the Corona Virus, Rain Tax, WVSA and the Susquehanna River.

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally** regarding TIF's,

**Martin Dartoe (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally** regarding meetings at the Courthouse.

**\*\*\*\*\*Mr. Griffith did not realize the ordinance regarding the tax collection issue was not on the agenda and requested it be added. Mr. McGinley stated that it was posted as an additional agenda item and was available for public comment. No further commentary was needed and it was added to the agenda as Item 9.**

**Brian Shiner (Kingston) commented Verbally** regarding the introduced Ordinances and meeting at LCCC.

**Ronald Knapp (Nanticoke) commented Verbally** regarding in person Council Meetings, Kayaking, and the Rain Tax. He also gave a "shout-out" to Mr. Greg Griffin and his New Roots river clean up Team.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Ms. Houck

**Second:** Mr. SJ Urban

**Vote:**

Eleven (11) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 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)