



**Luzerne County Council**  
September 25, 2018  
Luzerne County Community College  
1333 S. Prospect Street  
Nanticoke, PA 18634

**Minutes**  
**Voting Session**

**Call to Order**

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Educational Conference Center, Building 10, Dining Room 123, of the Luzerne County Community College on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 6:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tim McGinley.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Present**

Harry Haas (arrived at 6:10PM)  
Linda McClosky Houck  
Eugene Kelleher  
Tim McGinley  
Chris Perry  
Sheila Saidman, Esq.  
Robert Schnee  
Stephen A. Urban  
Matthew Vough  
Jane Walsh Waitkus

**Absent**

Edward A. Brominski

**Also Present**

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

**Ms. Crocamo announced there was an Executive Session held prior to the Voting Session regarding tax assessment appeals and a personnel matter, specifically the County Managers Contract.**

**Recognitions/Ceremonial Proclamations**

Mr. McGinley announced the retirement of Harry Whitman, Truck Driver, Road & Bridge. A letter of thanks and congratulations will be sent out to him 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

**(Mr. Haas had not arrived yet.)**

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

**Public Comment on Voting Session Agenda Items**

**Brian Shiner (Kingston)** questioned how a tax assessment appeal allowed an executive session. Mr. Shiner also commented on the County Manager Contract, the urgency to push it through and lack of public knowledge. Mr. Shiner asked it be tabled and given due process.

Ms. Crocamo responded that a tax assessment appeal is litigation and a representation was made about possible litigation against particular entities as well as the presence of an attorney in the room who is on the adversarial side.

**Ms. Crocamo reviewed the proposed terms of the County Managers Contract.**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Motion to adopt minutes of the September 11, 2018 Voting Meeting**

**Motion by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

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

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

**Motion Passed (9-1)**

**The September 11, 2018 Voting Meeting Minutes are Adopted**

**1. Motion to adopt resolution approving the extension of Employment Agreement Offer Letter for County Manager C. David Pedri, Esq.**

**Motion by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Motion to Postpone by:** Ms. Houck

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

Three (3) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

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

**Motion to Postpone Failed (3-7)**

**Ms. Houck would like to remove the bonus and incentive payments from the Contract.**

**Motion to Amend by:** Ms. Houck

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

Four (4) Yes by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck, Ms. Saidman and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

Six (6) No by Mr. Kelleher, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Perry, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Vough and Ms. Waitkus

**Motion to Amend Failed (4-6)**

**Roll Call Vote to Adopt Resolution:**

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

Three (3) No by Mr. Haas, Ms. Houck and Mr. Stephen A. Urban

**Resolution is Adopted (7-3)**

**Mr. Pedri provided commentary and thanked everyone.**

**2. Motion to adopt resolution Motion to adopt resolution declaring a vacancy on the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees (Curry)**

**Motion by:** Mr. Perry

**Second:** Mr. Schnee

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Resolution is Adopted (10-0)**

**3. Motion to adopt resolution Appointing a Representative of the Luzerne County Planning Commission to the Blighted Property Review Committee (term expiring 12/31/2021)**

**Motion to open nominations by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Haas nominated:** George Prehatin

**Second:** Ms. Houck

**Motion to close nominations by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote to adopt a resolution appointing George Prehatin to the Luzerne County Blighted Property Review Committee for a term expiring 12/31/2021:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Resolution is Adopted (10-0)**

**4. Authorities, Boards, & Commissions nominations and appointments to:**

**4a. Luzerne County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission (to complete a term expiring 12/31/2019)**

**Motion to open nominations by:** Mr. Kelleher

**Second:** Mr. Vough

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Nominations Open**

**Mr. Kelleher nominated:** Ian Urbanski

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Motion to close nominations by:** Mr. Haas

**Second:** Ms. Saidman

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Nominations Closed**

**Roll Call Vote to adopt a resolution appointing Ian Urbanski to the Luzerne County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission to complete a term expiring 12/31/2019:**

Ten (10) Yes - Unanimous

**Resolution is Adopted (10-0)**

**Public Comment**

**Mark Rabo (Hazleton)** commented on the County Manager contract, salary, bonuses and incentives. He stated under PA Law, Local Government Commission, a contract can't be voted on for longer than the term of the majority of the governing body and there will be 6 council seats up next year.

**Brian Shiner (Kingston)** commented on the County Manager contract. Mr. Shiner stated that no one attends the meetings anymore because the citizens are disgusted and do not trust Council. He hears they think Council gets kickbacks from contracts.

**Robert Schnee** responded to Mr. Shiner that the comment Council receives kickbacks is not true.

**Chris Perry** responded to Mr. Shiner that he hears the opposite and the public believes Council is doing a good job.

**Motion to adjourn:** Mr. Kelleher

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

**Vote:**

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:43PM**

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)