

On the above date at 10:00 A.M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened a special meeting with the following present: Gregory A. Skrepenak, Chairman; Todd A. Vonderheid and Stephen A. Urban, Commissioners; Samuel T. Guesto, County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk; James Blaum, County Solicitor; Joe Loftus-Vergari, Director, Human Services; James Miller, Administrator of Valley Crest; Michael L. Morreale, Treasurer; Stephen L. Flood, Controller; James J. Brozena, County Engineer; William P. Burke, Director of Property and Supply; Adrian F. Merolli, Director of Planning; Sandra Russell, Director of Community Development; Salvadore Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance.

Commissioner Gregory Skrepenak called the meeting to order and asked everyone to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of Silent Prayer. It is noted that all meetings are electronically recorded.

Commissioner Skrepenak reviewed the protocol for Public Comment and directed Mr. Samuel Guesto, Chief Clerk, to ensure the five-minute time limit is adhered to.

Commissioner Skrepenak reminded everyone that if you wish to address the Commissioners to see Ms. Bozinski and sign in.

**COMMUNICATIONS – SAMUEL T. GUESTO, JR., CHIEF CLERK**

Samuel Guesto, Jr., County Manager for Legislation and Chief Clerk, announced the Board of Commissioners held Executive Sessions at 8:00 AM on December 21, 2004 a to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Guesto announced two (2) proposals for the \$10 million Tax Anticipation Note were received and turned over to the Chief of Budget and Finance.

Sam Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance outlined the proposed 2005 General Fund Budget with the following highlights:

The county anticipates spending \$4.2 million or about 3 percent less than 2004. Aggressive delinquent tax collection, increased court contributions and a revised tax collection system are expected to generate \$2.3 million new revenue. Also, reductions in juvenile placement and a hiring freeze at Valley Crest Nursing Home are projected to save up to \$4 million.

Commissioner Urban citing the inclusion of an \$8.9 million debt refinancing package, a Valley Crest budget that still includes a multi-million deficit and the failure to touch a \$1.9 million court fund, as reasons he could not support the budget as presented.

Mike Nadol, PFM, on behalf of the Commissioners, presented an overview and introduced the five-year financial recovery plan. Initiatives in the plan and recommend strategies are anticipated to provide the framework for financial recovery and do include \$152 million in debt to finance capital projects, including a new county prison and nursing home.

Request a Motion to adopt the following **RESOLUTION NO. 12232004A:**

**WHEREAS**, there was presented to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne on December 2, 2004, a proposed budget for the year 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, said proposed budget was made available for public inspection as required by law, and public notice was given as required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has given mature consideration to said proposed budget and has recommended the adoption of a budget of #131,903,507 as now proposed, and has computed the tax levy necessary to raise the funds required at 94.9 mills; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Budget for Luzerne County for the year 2005, as proposed, be and it is hereby adopted; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED**, that the tax levy for the year 2005 for Luzerne County to raise and provide the funds set forth in the said budget by and it is hereby

fixed at 94.9 mills, or \$9.49 on each \$1000 as the assessed valuation of taxable property in Luzerne County to provide for general and sinking funds purposes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ENACTED**, that for the expenses of Luzerne County appropriated from the revenue available from the year for the specific purposes set forth below, which amounts are more totally itemized in the County Budget Form on file in the Office of the Luzerne County Commissioners, Hazleton Courthouse Annex, and the Luzerne County Law Library.

*OPERATION FUNDS SUMMARY – Estimated Receipts*

Cash and Securities for Appropriation	\$ -0-
Receipts from Tax Levy	74,961,332
Intergovernmental Revenues	24,274,792
Fines and Forfeits	1,730,900
Charges for Services	13,275,437
Other Financing Sources	17,661,046
<u>Total Available for Appropriation</u>	\$ 131,903,507
Operations and Maintenance	\$ 129,810,858
Debt Service	\$ 2,092,649
<u>Total Estimated Expenditures</u>	\$ 131,903,507

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the forgoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2004.

Samuel T. Guesto, Jr. County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk

A motion was made by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.  
**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID “NAYES” URBAN**

Request a Motion to adopt the following **RESOLUTION NO. 12232004B:**

**WHEREAS**, there was presented to the Board to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 a proposed budget for Luzerne County Liquid Fuels for the year 2004 indicating revenues in the amount of \$1,554,000 and disbursements in the amount of \$1,554,000; and

**WHEREAS**, said proposed budget was made available for public inspection as required by law, and public notice was given as required by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Liquid Fuels Budget for Luzerne County for the year 2005, as proposed, be and it is hereby adopted.

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the forgoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2004.

Samuel T. Guesto, Jr. County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk

A motion was made by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.  
**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

Request a Motion to approve the advertising of an RFP for Collection Services for Luzerne County Tax Claim Bureau in the collection of delinquent County Real Estate Taxes and interest and penalties thereon.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

Request a Motion to adopt a resolution to provide for the billing and collection by the County of Luzerne of Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes levied upon properties within the Third Class Cities of Hazleton, Nanticoke and Pittston, and vesting in the Luzerne County Treasurer the duties and responsibilities for the billing and collection of such taxes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

Request a Motion to extend to the Third Class Cities of Hazleton, Nanticoke and Pittston the opportunity to contract with the County of Luzerne and the Luzerne County Treasurer to assist in collection of Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes levied upon properties within said Third Class Cities at a fixed commission rate of \$1.50 per tax bill whether timely collected or delinquent (land return), commencing with tax year 2005. The deadline for finalizing such contract(s) is January 15, 2005.

A motion was made by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

Request a Motion to approve for Home Rule Municipalities of Kingston, Township of Kingston and Township of Wilkes-Barre, the commission/compensation for the collection of Luzerne County Real Estate Taxes levied upon properties in said Home Rule Municipalities commencing with tax year 2005 is fixed at \$1.50 per tax bill whether collected by a current year payments or delinquent payment (land returns).

A motion was made by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT AT THE LUZERNE COUNTY TREASURERS OFFICE**

PAULA MATTHEWS, Clerk Typist 1, at an annual salary of \$16,800.00 effective December 15, 2004. To fill vacancy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

**RESIGNATIONS:**

**REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATION AT THE LUZERNE COUNTY TREASURERS OFFICE**

NANCY DUNN, Clerk Typist 1, effective August 2, 2004.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

**REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO THE LUZERNE COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU FOR A FOUR (4)**

**YEAR TERM BEGINNING DECEMBER 23, 2004 WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 23, 2008.**

Bob Borwick, 10 West Dorrance Street, Kingston, PA

Loryn Mazur, 235 Kossack Street, Swoyersville, PA

Donna Palermo, 682 Perry Court, Hazleton, PA

A motion was made by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

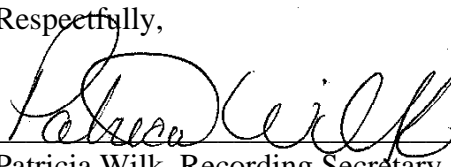
A Motion was entertained to adjourn the Commissioners’ Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.

December 23, 2004

**“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Wilk", written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Wilk, Recording Secretary