

February 4, 2004

On the above date at 10:00 A.M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened their regularly scheduled 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; Joseph Loftus-Vergari, Director of Human Services; James Miller, Administrator of Valley Crest; Michael L. Morreale, Treasurer; Stephen L. Flood, Controller; James J. Brozena, County Engineer; John J. Glushefski, Director of Road & Bridge; William P. Burke, Director of Property and Supply; Adrian F. Merolli, Director of Planning; Sandra Russell, Director of Community Development; Russell Arnone, Director of Budget /Finances.

Mr. 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 advised bids would be opened at this time in the Controller's Office.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Kamp questioned the agenda item regarding the Agreement between Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas and Catholic Social Services. Commissioner Skrepenak responded this agreement is the beginning of the creation of a Drug Treatment Court, similar in nature to one created within Scranton's Drug Treatment Program.

Steve Flood made the announcement the Retirement Board will meet today at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room. Mr. Flood provided comment on the 3% raises finalized by former Commissioners Thomas Makowski and Thomas Pizano that the Controller stopped payment of last year due to no prior approval from the Salary Board citing the County Code. Mr. Flood provided comment on the issue of the Severance Pay policy and requested the Commissioners review and present a formal policy. Mr. Flood reported the Treasurer's Report will contain vestments and CDs to provide a true financial picture. Commissioner Skrepenak questioned Mr. Flood if the Retirement Board had been properly advertised and Mr. Flood confirmed that is was.

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

Request a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's Meeting held on January 21, 2004.

Commissioner Steve Urban requested a Motion to Amend the first line of page two to read \$32 million has been approved and some will be used for various recreation projects and some will be allocated for Hazleton.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a motion to approve ratify and confirm payment of the following vouchers:

Wachovia Bank, Vouchers 400643GF – 401906GF
County General Fund for 2004

PNC Bank, Vouchers 400041LF – 400064LF
Liquid Fuels for 2004

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID “ABSTAIN” URBAN

COMMUNICATIONS:(cont.)

Request a Motion to adopt a Resolution continuing a declaration of a state of emergency within the City of Hazleton and Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. (**Resolution No. 01282004** attached dated January 28, 2004 and **Resolution No. 02042004** attached dated February 4, 2004)

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to Appoint the following to the Luzerne County Mitigation Advisory Board. Terms will be effective January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

Gregory A. Skrepenak, Commissioner, Chairman, 325 West Center Hill Road, Dallas, PA, as a Board Member. Effective January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

Todd A. Vonderheid, Commissioner, 101 West River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, as a Board Member. Effective January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to Re-Appoint the following to the Luzerne County Mitigation Advisory Board. Terms will be effective January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

Stephen A. Urban, Commissioner, 166 Willow Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, as a Board Member. Effective January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

Adrian F. Meroli, Director of Planning and Zoning, 79 North Lehigh Street, Shavertown, PA, as a Board Member. Effective January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

John J. Glushefski, Assistant County Engineer, 103 Sunset Court, Hanover Township, as a Board Member. Effective January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to enter into an Agreement between Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas and Catholic Social Services. The term of this agreement shall be January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

Commissioner Urban questioned the funding of this agreement and if it was included in the budget. Commissioner Skrepenak responded the funding allocation is included in the Courts budget. Commissioner Skrepenak further commented that this is the beginning of the Commissioners' commitment to the war on drugs.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

TREASURER'S OFFICE – MICHAEL L. MORREALE, TREASURER

Request a Motion to accept the following Financial Statement as submitted:

<u>WACHOVIA BANK</u>	
General Fund	\$ 1,148,779.84
School, Road & Institution District	139,861.12
Real Estate Tax Sale Account	175,175.93
Self Insured Workers Compensation Fund	217,204.91
Court of Common Pleas – Domestic Relations IV-D Fund	613,802.61
Patients' Personal Fund Account	116,090.12
911 Construction Fund	51,480.91
911 Operational Fund	280,914.49
<u>PNC BANK, NORTHEAST, PA.</u>	
Luzerne County Fiscal Agencies:	

TREASURER’S:(cont.)

Office for the Aging	\$ 772,687.79
Children & Youth Department	2,454,569.45
Mental Health/Mental Retardation	15,720.00
Drug & Alcohol Program	19,294.14
Office of Human Services	5,712.91
Human Services Agencies/Transportation Department	2,266.19
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	173,437.28
Luzerne County GWBIF Escrow Account	27,234.40
1997 Series Parking & Office Relocation Fund	11,225.94
<u>CITIZENS BANK</u>	
Adult Probation Special Account	\$ 88,423.36
Luzerne County Bridges	10,699.72
Hazardous Material Emergency Response Account	42,969.54
EMA Radiation Emergency Response Fund	27,806.31
<u>FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK</u>	
Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$ 28,148.17
Luzerne County Agencies Account	920,470.58
Luzerne County Solid Waste Recycle Account	26,093.98
Luzerne County Property Tax Collection	93.88
<u>FIDELITY DEPOSIT & DISCOUNT BANK</u>	
Wyoming Valley Airport Account	\$ 6,967.09
Adult Probation/Offenders Supervision Fund	55,378.66
Tri-County Airport Feasibility Study	110,304.82
Luzerne County 2002 Capital Projects	172,504.34
Workman’s’ Compensation Insurance Reserve Account	307.36
Luzerne County 2003 Capital Projects	422,274.43

Commissioner Urban requested the Treasurer add the Certificates of Deposit to the report to provide a more accurate financial picture.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepnak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

CONTROLLER’S OFFICE – STEPHEN L. FLOOD, CONTROLLER

Request a Motion to ratify and confirm payment of the following vouchers:

Transportation Department:

Voucher No. 400059TR to 400088TR inclusive in the amount of **\$611,478.23**

Patients; Personal Fund:

Voucher No. 400025PP to 400031PP inclusive in the amount of **\$3,484.92**

Bureau for the Aging:

Voucher No. 400288AG to 400392AG inclusive in the amount of **\$676,544.54**

Children and Youth:

Voucher No. 400476CY to 400622CY inclusive in the amount of **\$455,055.55**

Mental Health/Mental Retardation:

Voucher No. 400111MM to 400196MM inclusive in the amount of **\$5,359,443.23**

Human Services:

Voucher No. 400019HS to 400039HS inclusive in the amount of **\$650,144.77**

Drug and Alcohol:

Voucher No. 400020DA to 400046DA inclusive in the amount of **\$232,244.77**

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepnak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the Controller to make the following payments under the Luzerne County Community Development Program for various services and projects.

\$167,647.14	Community Development Block Grant Program
\$263,774.78	Business Development Loan Program
\$7,500.00	Emergency Shelter Grant Program

CONTROLLER’S:(cont.)

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to accept the following bids for tabulation subject to review by the county solicitor:

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

HUMAN SERVICE – JOSEPH LOFTUS-VERGARI, DIRECTOR

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

AGING:

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Ann Chester, Aging Care Manager 2 (ps# 10-G140-L0635-0003) effective January 26, through February 26, 2004.

A Separation of Maureen Kasenchak, Aging Care Manager 2 (ps# 10-G140-L0635-0022) effective February 11, 2004.

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

The Reclassification of Diane Simmers to Social Services Aide 2 (ps# 21-Y740-L0621-0001) at an annual salary of \$18,009 effective December 23, 2003.

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

The Resignation of Nicole Hicks, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-M440-L0624-0020) effective January 23, 2004.

A Military Leave of Absence for Sherwood Baker, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-M440-L0624-0017) effective January 2, 2004.

Commissioner Skrepenak commented that the thoughts and prayers of the Commissioners are with Mr. Baker and his family.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVIDERS, SERVICES, TERMS AND RATES SPECIFIED:

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>
<u>CHILDREN & YOUTH:</u>			
St. Michael’s School	Diagnostic/Evaluation	7/1/03-6/30/04	\$172.08/day
	Residential		\$140.30/day
	RTF		\$206.85/day
	Group Home		\$136.45/day
	Day Treatment		\$84.70/day
	RTF MASO		\$99.79/day

Commissioner Skrepenak questioned whether the rates provided are comparable. Commissioner Urban questioned if there was reason the rates could not be negotiated. Mr. Vergari responded St. Michael’s maintains their rates and does not wish to negotiate and if the rates are not acceptable interested party’s should seek placement elsewhere. Commissioner Urban requested contact information so he may inquire further. Mr. Vergari agreed to provide.

HUMAN SERVICES:(cont.)

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID “ABSTAIN” URBAN

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING TRAININGS AT A TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$125.00:

<u>ATTENDEE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>APPROX. COST</u>
Linda Bottger	Sage Model – Trauma Training	Forty Fort	2/19/04	\$125

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

VALLEY CREST – JAMES MILLER, ADMINISTRATOR

SEPARATIONS

Request a Motion to approve the following separations at Valley Crest:

Ellen Evan 501 E. Northampton St. Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	Environmental Services	Effective 1/23/04 Resignation
Colleen M. Woodruff C/O Red Carpet Inn 400 Kidder St. Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	CNA-3-11	Effective 10/20/03 Termination

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

APPOINTMENTS

Request a Motion to approve the following separations at Valley Crest:

Damien Tyler 338 East Elm St. Hazleton, Penna.	CNA-3-11	Effective 1/26/04 \$19,848.00
Kelly Dickow 58 Lee Park Avenue, Apt. A Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	CNA-11-7	Effective 1/26/04 \$19,639.00
Brenda Wiard P.O. Box 134 Sybertsville, Penna.	CNA-11-7	Effective 1/26/04 \$19,639.00

Commissioner Urban questioned if these positions would be affected by the layoffs. Jim Miller responded these positions would not be affected. Commissioner Urban requested a copy of Valley Crest’s approved manning documents. Mr. Miller will forward copy to the Commissioner later today.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

PERSONNEL ACTION

Request a Motion to approve the following personnel actions at Valley Crest:

Bonita Graboske 34 Minden Court Nanticoke, Penna.	CNA-11-7	Effective 1/29/04 Requesting a 9 week FMLA
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HUMAN SERVICES:(cont.)

Patti Amos 188 E. Main Street Glen Lyon, Penna.	CNA-7-3	Effective 1/28/04 Requesting a 12 week FMLA
Nancy Hurst 18 Gail Drive Plains, Penna.	RNAC Director	Effective 2/2/04 Transferred to RNAC
Terry Fischi 155 Jason Drive Plains, Penna.	RNAC	Effective 2/2/04 Transferred to RNAC Director

Commissioner Urban questioned if these positions would be affected by the layoffs. Jim Miller responded these positions are direct care staff.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion for approval for Carol Hynes, RN, Wound Care Nurse; Tammy Ostrowski, LPN and Kelly Ungvarsky to attend a one day conference in Philadelphia, Penna. on March 11, 2004. Seminar Cost: \$75.00 plus approximately 118 miles. Cost not to exceed \$150.00.

Commissioner Skrepenak questioned how imperative is this to running the facility. Mr. Miller responded the education of the Wound Care program is critical to the important to fulfill quality measures. Limited staff attends the seminar and return to educate the remaining staff.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT – JAMES J. BROZENA, COUNTY ENGINEER

Request a Motion to award the Luzerne County Prison Hot water Heater Replacement Contract to E.J. Rogan & Sons, Inc., Wilkes-Barre, at the low bid amount of \$293,300.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion for permission to advertise for Architecture/Engineering Consultants for the partial renovation of the Valley Crest Nursing Home.

Commissioner Urban questioned what renovations would be completed. James Brozena responded the renovations are defined by study completed last year and Mr. Miller added that the funding will provided for this project through a grant. Commissioner Urban questioned if a needs assessment has or will be completed to ensure the renovations meet the requirements for the facility. Mr. Miller responded he will work with Mr. Brozena and the Consultants to ensure the requirements of the facility Commissioner Urban commented his could only provide his approval of this action if the Mr. Miller and Mr. Brozena ensure that the needs of the facility are thoroughly evaluated prior to any renovations. Mr. Brozena ensured this is a proposal for a selection process to review consultant qualifications and that once a selection has been made negotiations will then be discussed.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to award the Wyoming Valley Airport open end Engineering Agreement to the project team of Borton-Lawson Engineering, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. and Dawood Engineering.

Commissioner Urban questioned what the duration of this agreement and was it advertised Mr. Brozena responded it is a five-year agreement with outlined projects. The approval will allow us to proceed rapidly through the grant process and saves. Received proposals from eleven firms. Hourly rates will be negotiated as each project is initiated.

ENGINEERING:(cont.)

Commissioner Urban requested the rates be fixed for this year and for the next four years. Mr. Brozena responded this is a difficult thing to do as a scope of work for each project and then negotiate. If an acceptable rate cannot be agreed on the rules of engagement under the provisions of the state allow to move the next

This action allows the Engineer when a project occurs at the Wyoming Valley Airport occurs in the next five years the Engineer can begin negotiation with the above firms without advertising and minimizing the time.

Commissioner Urban requested a Motion to TABLE this action until Mr. Brozena could provide the lists of the rates that would be included.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT – JOHN J. GLUSHEFSKI, DIRECTOR

No Agenda.

PROPERTY AND SUPPLY – WILLIAM P. BURKE, DIRECTOR

LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE MEETING:

Request a Motion for permission to advertise the following for Luzerne County Court Administration:

Phase II Luzerne County Court System IP Network Video Conference Solutions.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

VOTER SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

Request a Motion to order Specimen Ballots, Emergency Ballots, Party Lever Cards, Party Indicator Cards and Diagrams, Return Sheets for the Election Boards, Election Tabulation Sheets, Voting Machine Ballot Labels, and Official Absentee Ballots, etc.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion for Delivery and Re-Delivery of Voting Machines.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

PLANNING COMMISSION – ADRIAN F. MEROLLI, DIRECTOR

No Agenda.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – SANDRA RUSSELL, DIRECTOR

Request a Motion authorizing the adoption of a resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne, approving the filing of the Luzerne County Action Plan for the Fiscal Year 2004 and authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute any and all documents relative to the application for and receipt of Community Development Block Grant, HOME and Emergency Shelter Grant Funds for FY 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:(cont.)

Request a Motion to adopt a resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne, authorizing and approving filing an amendment to the County's Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003 Community Development Programs.

Amended activities are as follows:

Greater Wilkes-Barre Development Corporation – (New Activity) \$50,000 for Phase II Feasibility Study for the detailed analysis and design of a mixed-use commercial development strategy for the revitalization of the Downtown Business District in the City in the City of Wilkes-Barre. Funding will be derived from unprogrammed funds.

Dorrance Township – (FY 2003) Add Small Mountain Road to list of previously approved streets. There will be no increase in the grant amount.

Edwardsville Borough – (FY 2002) Transfer \$55,000 from Demolition, and \$75,000 from Acquisition to improvements to West Grove, Lawrence, Garfield, Page, and Swallow Streets, Tobin Lane, and the Myrick Street Retaining Wall. There will be no increase in the original grant amount.

West Hazleton Borough – (FY 2003) Transfer the \$34,300 balance of funds from Street Improvements to Demolition. There will be no increase in the original grant amount.

Commissioner Urban requested clarification of the Wilkes-Barre Project. Sandy Russell responded it is a two-phase project. The Greater Wilkes-Barre Development Corporation funded Phase I and funding for Phase II has been requested from Community Development should the Feasibility Study demonstrate the need to proceed. This is part of Downtown revitalization efforts. Commissioner Urban clarified the Community Development Block Grant money is provided by the County to the Municipalities with the exception of Wilkes-Barre and Nanticoke, Hazleton and Pittston. Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton from receive their grant money Federally and Nanticoke and Pittston from the State. All of the entities within Luzerne County with the exception of these four municipalities signed an agreement to draw down their money and divide it up through the County. Has the City of Wilkes-Barre signed an agreement? Ms. Russell responded no they did not but under the provisions of HUD the Community Development can consider activities within the city if in fact such activities will be provide benefits, such as jobs and quality of life, to the outlying municipalities. Commissioner Urban asked if this request was passed by the City of Wilkes-Barre could possibly fund it. Commissioner Urban requested Ms. Russell to determine why it cannot be funded by Wilkes-Barre dollars before it brought to the County Commissioners for approval. Ms. Russell responded that this is a feasibility study that when complete, the results would be released.

Commissioner Urban “**ABSTAIN**” from the vote for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Development Corporation funding referring to his earlier comments.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“**AYES**” **SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN**

Commissioner Skrepenak reported two Executive Sessions were held on Personnel Issues on January 20, 2004 and January 23, 2004.

**PERSONNEL – SAMUEL T. GUESTO, COUNTY MANAGER FOR LEGISLATION
AND CHIEF CLERK**

Request a Motion to approve the following Personnel actions:

APPOINT:

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - MARK R. DINGMAN, 74 PACE STREET, LARKSVILLE,
COUNTY MANAGER FOR ADMINISTRATION/DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK @ AN ANNUAL
SALARY OF \$85,000.00 PER ANNUM. EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2004.

Commissioner Urban commented he did have the opportunity to meet and discuss Mr. Dingman's salary and referred to his vote at the January 6, 2004, Salary Board meeting pertaining to the need for this position.

PERSONNEL:(cont.)

Commissioner Urban further commented at that meeting he did not approve of this position and questioned the need for this position. Although he is confident of Mr. Dingmans qualifications, he could not approve of the hiring of an individual to this position.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID “NAYES” URBAN

SUSPENSION:

SHERIFF’S OFFICE – JOHN BRAWLEY, 302 WILLIAMS STREET, EDWARDSVILLE,
DEPUTY SHERIFF – RATIFY 5 DAY SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY. EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 12, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

TERMINATION:

LUZERNE COUNTY 911 – RATIFY THE TERMINATION OF DEBRA SCHULDASKI, 1298
NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, APT. #1, WILKES-BARRE, DATA ENTRY
CLEAN/CLERK @\$20,995.00 PER ANNUM. EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

MEDIA

Paul Krupski, Standard Speaker, questioned the reason for the suspension in the Sheriff’s Department. Commissioner Skrepenak responded the action was requested by the Sheriff for disciplinary reasons.

Jennifer Learn-Andes, Times Leader, requested clarification of the vacancies, filled and unfilled, at Valley Crest. Commissioner Urban responded Jim Miller would provide that information later today. Ms. Learn-Andes requested clarification on the County’s plan to cut seventy jobs. Commissioner Skrepenak responded the Commissioners would be seeking additional guidance from the Department Heads and Row Officers as their plan is implemented and are seeking voluntary separations and retirements first to reduce the actual number of personnel affected. Commissioner Vonderheid added that the Commissioners are also exploring options to offer to those who are willing to take voluntary separation.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commissioner Urban commented the top priority for this Board is finalizing the Budget and encouraged the public for their input prior to the finalizing of the Budget on Friday, February 13, 2004.

Commissioner Vonderheid commented the Commissioners’ commitment to streamlining the process for Public Meetings and referred to last night’s meeting as their ongoing commitment to keeping the public informed.

Commissioner Skrepenak commented things are moving in the right direction and encourage the public’s input in the process.

A Motion was entertained to adjourn the Commissioners’ Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Respectfully,

Patricia Wilk, Recording Secretary