

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; Jack McCutcheon, Personal Director; 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; 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 announced bids are open in the Treasurers' Office.

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 introduced Kathy Bozinski and Samuel Guesto for the presentation of the Proclamations.

The Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the County of Luzerne presented a check to Luzerne County Library System.

The Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the County of Luzerne presented a check to Leadership Hazleton. Denise Corcoran, Director, Leadership Hazleton, accepted the check on behalf of the organization.

Anthony Alu, Director, Assessment Office, on behalf the Assessors Association presented awards to Ann Marie Paddock and Al Tossi for thirty (30) years of service. Mr. Alu, on behalf of the County, congratulated both Ms. Paddock and Mr. Tossi for their years of service and dedication.

Request a Motion to adopt a Resolution to thank and commend the Nursing Assistants at Valley Crest, and those at all other facilities in Luzerne County, and do hereby proclaim the week of June 10th through June 17th, 2004 as **“Nursing Assistants’ Week”**.

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

Request a Motion to adopt a Resolution to thank and commend Hospice Saint John and its workers for the care and compassion they brought to the people of Luzerne County, and proclaim the month of June in the year 2004 as **“Hospice Saint John Month”**.

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

Request a Motion to adopt a Resolution to acknowledge the warmth and companionship these felines provide to man, thank and commend the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Luzerne County for its care of them, encourage residents of Luzerne County so support it's effort to find suitable homes for abandoned felines, and proclaim the month of June 2004 as **“Adopt-a-Cat Month”**.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Kahlua, Advertising Representative, The Times Leader, questioned the Commissioners in regards to the January 6, 2004 Resolution to solicit bids for newspaper advertising which was ratified on January 21, 2004. Ms. Kahlua added to date, neither the Times Leader, nor any other local newspaper to the best of her knowledge, have had the opportunity to prepare a bid or been provided the requirements of the bidding process. Commissioner Vonderheid responded he would make a motion today to create a bid spec for advertising and award to the successful bidder(s) within the next sixty (60) days. The Commissioner further added that the County has been advertising in The Citizens' Voice, The Times Leader and The Standard Speaker since taking office. Commissioner Urban concurred with Commissioner Vonderheid's comments adding that the County should be following the law and if it is only required to advertise in one (1) paper, it should only be in one (1) paper, at the lowest cost available to the taxpayer. When the County advertises in multiple papers it just multiplies the cost. Mr. Guesto stated he will be meeting with Lisa Pretko, Advertising Representative, The Times Leader, tomorrow at 10:00 AM to discuss this issue and will also be meeting with representatives from the other newspapers on the same issue.

Carl Goodwin, Kingston Township, urged the Commissioners to again consider passing the Personal Policy as an Ordinance rather than a Resolution, citing the hiring policies of late, particularly Mr. Sam Hyder, Mr. Mark Dingman and Ms. Kimberly Weiland. Mr. Goodwin stated the tax paying public needs and deserves to know who, besides Larry Newman and Murray Ufberg, served on the secret committee who interviewed and reviewed these hires in the County. Mr. Goodwin also provided comment on the layoffs, if the layoffs had been done in January or February, instead of July, the taxpayers of Luzerne County would have saved even more. He also noting that layoffs would be less painful had the administration not hired such high paying senior level positions.

Commissioner Skrepenak responded, admitting mistakes have been made, but he did not see the point of singling out Mr. Hyder, as he believes he is doing a superb job at the Prison. In regards to Mr. Dingman, the Commissioner responded he could not fault a man for choosing to go in a different direction. The Commissioner noted he is still in shock over the turn of events in regards to the Human Resources Manager situation. Commissioner Skrepenak stated there have been no additional hirings of the senior staff and believed it is time to reorganize and, if it were simply up to him, there would be no layoffs. He stressed this administration inherited \$23 million in debt. In response to those who served on the search committee, he was sure he did know who served at the time but does not recollect, noting no one could have anticipated what has happened, especially with one individual. In regards to the Ordinance, he believes there needs to be room for leeway and changed as the County requires, although he is not against an Ordinance, he does believe the Resolution form will be of greater benefit to the County. The Commissioner thanked Mr. Goodwin for his comments and will take them into consideration.

Commissioner Vonderheid responded to Mr. Goodwin's question regarding the search committee, stating Mr. Newman and Mr. Ufberg were not members of this committee. The Commissioner added he would continue to reach out when he does not have information and ask people who do have a level of expertise to help in a process to deliberate. The team did not deliberate for Commissioners Skrepenak and Urban. The Commissioners interviewed three individuals for each position and made a decision as to who to hire. He added, blaming someone is a very easy thing to do; taking responsibility is the harder thing to do. A mistake was made, not because of the process or hiring selection but because someone was ill and had personality issues that caused the problem, adding he sincerely hoped Ms. Weiland gets the help she needs. He voted for her and believed the process was fair and open and he sought out professionals who understood the issues and technical qualifications of Human Resources professionals. Commissioner Skrepenak agreed Ms. Weiland presented herself well during the interview process and echoed Commissioner Vonderheid sentiments regarding Ms. Weiland receiving the help she needs.

Christine Katsock, Wilkes-Bare, questioned a motion on the agenda for Madison Street and the amount of the tax forgiveness. Commissioner Skrepenak deferred this question to Mr. Anthony Alu, Director, Assessors Office, for a response. Mr. Alu explained Wilkes-Barre City owned the property and believed there was tax-exempt status on the property. The City had to apply for tax-exempt status, as does any municipality when they purchase or acquire a property.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (cont.)

The City filed the proper paperwork and received proper authorization from all required taxing authorities including the School District therefore forgiveness was granted. The tax amounts for the said property are: County - approximately \$600, School - \$800 and City - \$300. The property has since been sold and therefore is now back on the tax rolls.

Ms. Katsock provided comment on the recent commitment from the County to provide funding to the Wilkes-Barre City Theater Project. Ms. Katsock referred to a previous meeting where she urged the Commissioners consideration in regards to a fiber optics project spearheaded by Thom Greco, citing the Commissioners promise to evaluate and prioritize all projects presented to them. She noted the quality of jobs this project would bring to the community and how important funding for this project is, as well as other important projects, such as the Huber Breaker restoration, require their attention and commitment.

Commissioner Skrepenak responded, the focus of the past administration was not on infrastructure. He believes although every project presented is important and deserves the consideration of this Board, if the money is available to provide funding it will be acted on. He added he believes Wilkes-Barre requires special consideration because of the status. He noted the broadband project is also a vital project but the Board has not been provided enough information to make an informed decision on this project. The Commissioner said he has received detailed information on the Theater project including architectural renderings and detailed reports and believes finding the \$2.5 million to finish that project is worthwhile. In respects to the Huber Breaker Restoration project, the County is in the process of applying for a grant to assist in funding for this project. In finishing, the Commissioner stated that in light of what is going to happen today the Board really has to analyze where the Bond money will be spent and what projects are going to be supported.

Commissioner Vonderheid responded that the Board has not said no to the project. He admitted that all three Commissioners have been approached individually and he has had dozens of conversations with Mr. Greco and is conceptually supportive of the proposal. The Commissioner explained Government funding is used as gap financing, when other pieces of the puzzle are put together, it is not primary financing. Mr. Greco is in a certain stage of financing. He added he is more than willing to entertain a proposal from whichever entity comes forward to provide a project description and gap-funding scenario asking us to provide a certain amount of dollars. There is no preconceived judgment in either direction by me except the knowledge that we need to do whatever we can to provide high-speed bandwidth to this community and is very receptive to listening to a proposal that is complete and prepared for consideration.

Commissioner Skrepenak further commented a plan spanning 10 or 20 years ins needed. He added in order to do that we need to do all municipalities and elected officials need to come together to determine how we are going to get from one project to another. We have to develop a master plan, become less parochial and set aside our differences and do what is best for the County. Commissioner Vonderheid further commented that the idea that this is a Wilkes-Barre Theater, plays directly into the parochialism sentiments that everyone wants to try to get away from in Northeastern PA . This theater will provide a convenient location, impact quality of life and help this community countywide. The idea that this is a municipality project lies in the face of where we need to go as a collective community. There are timetables for all projects that must be met. A constant evolution from concept to end, through design and feasibility, financing scenarios and construction. Prioritization is not about saying this is the one for ever but what is ready today.

Commissioner Urban thanked Ms. Katsock for lobbying for economic development and improvements to the area, particularly the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area, noting he did not see her efforts as being parochial noting her points include the Theater and Ashley Huber Breaker. The Commissioner noted he is a strong supporter of the Huber Breaker Restoration Project, citing the hundreds of cars traveling Interstate 81 daily that see this building and its broken down state. He applauded Michele Sparich, Grant Writer, for her efforts in applying for the grant. He noted he believe the breaker is part of the Delaware and Lehigh River Heritage Corridor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (cont.)

The Commissioner agreed with earlier remarks that we need to track what is going on in the County. He added we need to look at the White Haven Visitor Center, the trail from White Haven to Mountaintop and Ashley Plains, probably getting started next year, then down to the Huber Breaker, to Wilkes-Barre, to the River Landing, and put all the pieces together. He has supported for a long time noting it would probably take about \$200,000 to restore that Breaker and get rid of the eyesores possibly leading to the owner considering the donating the land to a nonprofit entity and could be developed into a true visitor center. The Commissioner pointed out additional areas in need of improvement such as the two buildings located next to the Stegmaier that are eyesores and need to be addressed as they have sat idle for years. The Commissioner added the prior board did start on vision which included the levee raising and the riverfront projects. The prior board also looked at a long-term vision to improve Luzerne County and make it place where people want to visit, citing two years ago funding \$4 million to City Vest for the Sterling Hotel, \$1 million to purchase the Sterling and \$3 million to make improvements. He noted his concern is that Wilkes-Barre has not provide any financial support for these projects – and that they, the City, need to step up and really start cleaning up its act more than just the downtown. Finally, the Commissioner commented that Thom Greco has invited the Commissioners to his presentations many times and he wholeheartedly supports this high-speed network throughout the city noting if you don't have the high speed access your not going to get the high paying jobs in the computer area to come here and set up storefronts and live in the downtown.

Clarence Michael, Dallas, questioned the Commissioners on their procedures on bidding and inviting Commissioner Urban to their information sessions. He questioned the Commissioners' role in the Government. Mr. Michael stated he was satisfied with the response on the Wilkes-Barre Theater Project but did question whether previous relations with the Wilkes-Barre Chamber had any influence on their decision. Addressing Commissioner Vonderheid, previous Chamber employee, he questioned what the average salary is in Luzerne County is. Commissioner Vonderheid responded the household income is about \$34,000, per capita is about \$22,000 - \$23,000. He questioned what was the basis of the salaries of the new positions that were approved. He specifically pointed out the Public Information Office position questioning the position's responsibilities and why the salary is over \$50,000 and was this position advertised. He also questioned why the secrecy of the search committee. Mr. Michaels also questioned a letter from the Commissioners in reference to the Lackawanna Stadium, was it sent by all or just by Commissioner Skrepenak and what is the rational of Valley Crest and the \$3 million deficit.

Commissioner Skrepenak responded to the question on the letter, stating he sent the letter as the Chairman and it represents the County's interest in the baseball team. Commissioner Vonderheid supported the letter and its views. Commissioner Urban stated he did not see letter until a response was received from Lackawanna County Commissioner Munchak. Commissioner Skrepenak noted copies of the letter were distributed to the Commissioners and Chief Clerks for both Luzerne and Lackawanna County. He added the letter was in reference to the interest of Luzerne County in the franchise, the County has nothing to do with the Stadium or how it is run. Commissioner Skrepenak replied that rational for Valley Crest would be defined very shortly.

Mary Kamp, Wilkes-Barre, questioned why Valley Crest was advertising positions in light of the impending layoff of 225 employees. Commissioner Skrepenak responded that there would still be advertising for positions at Valley Crest as there are still positions that will need to be filled to continue the services of the facility. The 225 employees is a separate plan from the Valley Crest plan and although there may be a few positions included in this plan, overall, Valley Crest will be addressed separately. Mr. Jim Miller responded the advertisement was specifically for nurses, which the facility does need to provide services to its patients. Ms. Kamp also questioned the listing of summer help under Personnel. Mr. Guesto responded that summer work experience camp is for different individuals. The Workforce Development is for low income individuals for various employments, such as going out to various libraries, magistrate offices and municipalities and performs duties and receives an income while they are doing it. For the Recreational Department for the MH/MR, they have a camp out Moon Lake and there is a requirement for how many individuals are available to supervise the children. Commissioner Vonderheid noted the impact to County dollars is minimal.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (cont.)

Mr. Sam Guesto added the workforce development dollars are a congress related act that supports those individuals 100%, all funding is through allocation of the federal government and the MH/MR funding are through the Department of Welfare. The one reason for the Workforce Development is they received an additional \$190,000 this year, which is good thing as it gets more children working. Ms. Kamp recommended the Commissioners eliminate the Jury Commission position and the Commission for Women position, noting she does not see the necessity. Commissioner Urban replied that he believes the position of Jury Commissioner is a position required by County Code but the Commissioners can look at the employees and their duties within that department and he does intend to do that. Atty. Jim Blaum, Solicitor, responded Pennsylvania Statutory law does enable the County to eliminate the position of Jury Commissioner but it can only be done within one or two years of the next election cycle and he would have to verify the exact requirements. Commissioner Urban responded that the Commission for Women would also be examined, as at this point, everything is on the table and subject to review. Commissioner Skrepenak concurred.

Jerome Sindaco, Pittston, address a problem at the Wilkes-Barer/Scranton Airport. He delivers a car to the Airport for his parents and he is charged a \$1.00 every time he visits the airport. Commissioner Skrepenak advised Mr. Sindaco to address this is an issue for the Airport Board which meets tomorrow, June 17, 2004, at 10:30 am in the Administration Building of the Airport, which is located on the second floor.

Stephen Flood provided comment on the reporting of 225 layoffs without any discussions with the Row Officers. He noted he had many individuals contact him personally with their concerns for their jobs and their well being. He noted his concern over this being reported without a motion being passed and no plan in place and the fear of the employees. He expressed his concern over how this can be accomplished in one or two weeks and where did the figures of 225 jobs and \$7 million dollars come from. He added the question of the injunction on the Pension Fund noting there is up to \$75 million available if they win, what is the reasoning why, addressing Commissioner Vonderheid, why he will not lift he injunction. He added the County had to pay a \$5 million ARC payment last year and another \$6.5 million for this year's ARC payment. Also questioned the hiring of John Moses and the official hiring of this attorney. He noted a subpoena that was served on him that he believes embarrassed both his office and himself. He further added the additional costs and staff time from all of these hearings and injunctions. He asked Commissioner Vonderheid to respond. Commissioner Vonderheid responded he will guarantee his support, if he, the Controller guarantees that the \$75 million will be recovered, and if its not will the Controller would fund the difference or refund the \$35,000 paid out in his personal legal fees. The Commissioner stated that this Board is welcome to vote on it, he will not make the motion and he will allow it continue to exactly the way it is through motions to dismiss, which is the agreement we all made that he has articulated publicly. Mr. Flood requested to the Chairman that the Board take a vote on the injunction to see where everybody stands on this and recovering up to \$75 million.

Mr. Flood provided comment on a Locust Corporation out of New York who were looking for an area in Northeast Pennsylvania to come into bringing with them 600 to 800 high tech jobs at \$75,000 a job about 4 or 5 months ago, he believed they contact the County through the Wilkes-Barre Chamber and the Chamber was not interested. The company has since located in Allentown, PA while the County is looking at investing \$2.5 million into, a private investment.

Mr. Flood, further commenting on the proposed 225 jobs, requested, as a Row Officer, that nothing be done until the Commissioners meet with the Row Officers. He urged the Commissioners not to announce any number of jobs until the facts and figures are confirmed and to consider the employees. Commissioner Vonderheid responded that he appreciates the Controllers concerns and the motion before us requires us to sit with the Row Officers immediately. The Commissioner explained his intentions at Monday's Work Session were to announce to the Board that we need to entertain a motion today. He added, this is not an easy thing to do, it is not a proud thing, it is not an accomplishment by any stretch of the imagination. He recalls the Controller fighting to save 37 jobs last year and congratulated him on saving them noting that was about \$1.2 million. The Controller responded it was a non-partisan decision and those jobs were needed and negotiated. Commissioner Vonderheid stressed that the Controller and the other Row Officers will have input into these decisions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (cont.)

The Commissioner stated The County Code requires that all the Row Officers have the capacity to run your offices and provide services and no one is going to decimate those services that need to be provided to the community. The fact is that there is a massive operational deficit this administration has inherited and everything is being looked at. The Commissioner's suggestion is to look at those positions that are fully funded by County Government and not, at least in this round, with subsidized positions, because the County does not reap the savings that they would otherwise. Mr. Flood questioned if the Commissioner has ever been involved with personnel, in releasing them and again questioned with all the considerations that must be made it could not see a realistic deadline of August 1, 2004. Commissioner Urban requested Salvadore Diaz to go over the budget numbers. Mr. Diaz, provided a broad brush stroke, looking at \$3 million Valley Crest, approximately \$1 million over budgeted prison, \$3 million juvenile placement, \$7 million in revenue shortfall (uncollected taxes, uncollected prior year taxes, grants that were expected and did not come in) and then add to that what he did not expect from the debt restructuring efforts which is about \$7 million, totaling \$21 million in budget shortfalls then tack on a promise of tax relief of \$12.5 million in January 2005 and it brings the total to \$31 million. Commissioner Urban assured Mr. Flood he would have input but the reality is that there are serious shortfalls and the Board has to take action. The Commissioner stated the law limits our ability to tax, why, because they want the people to have the ability to have some money to buy food or possibly take a vacation now and then. Last year the County Commissioners went to court and requested for an additional 5 mills over and above the maximum allowed by law. He was concerned at the frivolous spending that was done at the end of the year such as court and management raises. He added we are facing a \$33.5 million deficit and we have to act. Mr. Flood added the County has a Juvenile Detention Center planned with \$9 million in Bond issue money and have not done anything with it. Also, there has been an air conditioning problem at Valley Crest and the money has been sitting there for two years. Commissioner Urban added that the previous County Manager for Administration asked for volunteer positions from the Row Officers and only six positions were offered up. Commissioner Urban stated we are tasked to be the fiscal managers for this county and we are going to do our job. We may have to take some tough actions, reflecting on the previous administrations actions in adding approx 300 jobs and approving 4% raises without justification. The Commissioner, clarifying his position, stated about 75% of the spending goes to personnel, and promised this Board and its staff will do everything they can to assist those families affected and hope that those that can retire will, pointing out that is only an option, no one will be forced to retire, rules will be followed, and we will adhere to the union contracts. In response to lifting the injunction, the Commissioner said that it would not take away the \$33.5 million and it will not take away the problem in the future. Commissioner Vonderheid added they will continue to respect the Controller's office, complimenting the Controllers staff, Glynis Koehler and Peter Dauchert, noting they have been incredible in assisting Mr. Diaz in analyzing the numbers and believes all the leaders in this County will have input but frankly it is time to lead, follow or get out of the way.

Jill Moran, Prothonotary, provided comment that she was never approached by Mr. Dingman about the positions or cuts in her office or questioned if there were any that could be eliminated. Ms. Moran added that is very difficult to work in an environment where everyone is waiting for the ax to fall and requested that everyone be kept informed.

Commissioner Skrepenak responded the Commissioners were under the impression meetings were held with the Row Offices and Departments and these issues were addressed. He added they would be included and solicited for their input.

Commissioner Skrepenak thanked everyone for his or her comments.

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

Mr. Guesto announced the Board of Commissioners held Executive Sessions held on June 3, 2004 for personnel issues.

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

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

Wachovia Bank, Vouchers 405968GFGF-407354GF
County General Fund for 2004

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

PNC Bank, Vouchers 400307LF – 400376LF
Liquid Fuels for 2004

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

Wachovia Bank, Vouchers 400037WCF-400042WC
Workman’s Compensation

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

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. 05262004** attached dated May 26, 2004, **Resolution No. 06092004** attached dated June 9, 2004 and **Resolution No. 06162004** attached dated June 16, 2004).

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

Request a Motion to approve \$250,000.00 Issuance to Wright Township Recreation Project from 2002, 2003 bonded money.

Dan Frascella provided an overview of the project and thanked the Commissioners for this consideration.

Commissioner Urban commented Mr. Frascella attended the Work Session and provided a briefing to the Commissioners on this project. Commissioner Urban clarified that the money being issued for this project is from money that was already allocated in an earlier bond and has nothing to do with payment of salaries. This project is designed to help the youth in our county and we are making an investment in our community. Commissioner Urban commended Mr. Frascella for his efforts in Wright Township and for the thorough presentation provided on this project

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

Request a Motion to go off the Agenda.

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

Request a Motion to approve the partial assignment and assumption of lease of the Theta Land Agreement dated June 2004.

Atty. Brian Bufalino provided a brief explanation of the agreement.
No Public Comment.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Request a Motion to adopt Ordinance of Luzerne County amending previous Ordinance enacted on November 13, 2002 that authorized the issuance of a Series of General Obligation Bonds Series C of 2002 of the County pursuant to the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania known as the Local Government Unit Debt Act, as amended (53 Pa. C.S. Chapter 80-82), to provide funds for and toward certain projects recited therein.

Brian Castelanaski provided an overview of the Ordinance.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the transfer of **\$4,293,981.18** from the **2002 Capital Projects Bond Issue** for items identified on **Schedule “A” of Requisition 2002-27** that is attached.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the transfer of **\$30,870.64** from the **2003 Capital Projects Bond Issue Series A** for items identified on **Schedule “A” of Requisition 2003-14** that is attached.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the transfer of **\$233,771.41** from the **2003 Capital Projects Bond Issue Series A** for items identified on **Schedule “A” of Requisition 2003B-9** that is attached.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to reduce Luzerne County labor force, in a manner that would preserve the integrity of, and limit the impact on services provided to the public, on or before August 1st, 2004, for an annualized net savings of no less than \$7.0 million, and take the following steps to accomplish same:

Instruct the following senior staff to form a committee on right sizing, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners on or before July 7th, 2004, the positions to be eliminated. While working to diminish the possible reductions in the delivery of services to the public:

Samuel T. Guesto, Jr., County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk
Salvadore Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance
Max Blaskiewicz, Collective Bargaining Officer
Joseph Prociak, Solicitor for Labor Issues

Immediately schedule meetings of the above committee on right sizing and the Board of Commissioners with the following:

County Row Officers
Department Heads; and
Leadership of the County’s Collective Bargaining Units

Commissioner Skrepenak, on behalf of this Board, there is anyone who does not feel the pain and the impact that this motion presents to all of us. It is not something we, as a Board, want to do, but is something we have to do. The Commissioner echoed the sentiments of Mr. Flood, good quality workers that we have. Sam Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance, presents the current budget numbers and we are left with making difficult decisions.

Commissioner Urban, concurred with Commissioner Skrepenak’s sentiments, and added the Board is the position to lead the people who elected us to lead.

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

The Luzerne County Board of Assessment Appeals request a Motion to increase the Clean and Green (Act 319 amended by Act 156 of 1998) application fee from \$30 to \$50 effective June 21, 2004.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to forgive City of Wilkes-Barre’s 2001 and 2002 County Real Estate taxes due on their property located at 220-222 Madison Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, PIN #H10NW3-005-038. The Luzerne County Board of Assessment Appeals has granted tax-exempt status for the year 2003 and forward.

Commissioner Urban commented to ensure that this property has been sold and Tax Claim is putting back on the tax rolls as of the effective date of the sale of the said property. The Board of Assessment Appeals has granted Tax-Exempt status for 2003 forward is only valid as long as the City of Wilkes-Barre holds ownership of said property.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a motion to approve the attached refunds through the Assessor’s Office in the aggregate amount of \$12,449.76.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion of the Board of Commissioners authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED), effective June 16, 2004, as well as authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute any and all documents necessary for the application for and receipt of PA DCED funding in regards to the Access Program. The County’s Access Application is in the amount of \$250,000 to assist permanently disabled individuals by making modifications to their homes so that may have the opportunity to remain in their homes, where they can maintain their independence and prevent becoming institutionalized.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve an amendment to a grant contract between the Luzerne County Commissioners and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in reference to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program. The only change in the contract amendment is the award, which has been changed to \$60,290. These grant funds are used for the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation truancy reduction Initiative, which provides truancy patrols and programs in Pittston Area School District.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve thirty-seven (37) Juvenile Probation to provide many different types of probationary services as presented at the June 14, 2004 Work Session for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Request a Motion to approve the **Luzerne County Law Enforcement Liability Renewal** for the policy term June 12, 2004 to June 12, 2005 with **Gemini Insurance Company**. **Total Annual Premium \$210,257.00** (Excludes Terrorism).

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

Request a Motion to approve the **Excess Law Enforcement Liability Coverage** for the policy term June 12, 2004 to June 12, 2005 with **United National Insurance Company**. **Total Annual Premium \$61,165.00** (Excludes Terrorism).

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

Request a Motion to approve the **Luzerne County Emergency Dispatch (9-1-1) Emergency Dispatchers Liability** for the policy term June 12, 2004 to June 12, 2005 with **National Casualty Insurance Company**. **Total Annual Premium \$20,639.00** (Excludes Terrorism).

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

Request a Motion to approve a **General Fund Budget Transfer** of **\$4,392** from the **Emergency Response Account/Disbursements to EMS-911/Salaries**.

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

Request a Motion to approve a **General Fund Budget Transfer** of **\$10,000** from the **General Fund/Contingency to Building & Grounds/Materials & Supplies**.

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

Request a Motion to approve a **General Fund Budget Transfer** of **\$36,781** from the **Recreation/Salaries-Per Diem to Recreation/MH-MR Children - Salaries**.

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

Request a Motion to approve a **General Fund Budget Transfer** of **\$20,643** from the **Recreation/Salaries-Per Diem to Recreation/MH-MR Adult Salaries**.

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

Request a Motion to approve a **General Fund Budget Transfer** of **\$1,568** from **Security/Salaries to Sheriff Salaries/Per Diem**.

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

Request a Motion to approve a **General Fund Budget Transfer** of **\$1,000** from the **General Fund/Contingency to Sheriff/Miscellaneous**.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Request a Motion to accept for the Office of the Register of Wills and for Data Processing, the proposal from Optical Storage Solutions, Inc. (OSS) in the amount of \$75,682 for the 'Landex' Computer System, which provides the Office of the Register of Wills with Landex Software, related software, hardware maintenance and support.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve a \$20,000.00 settlement agreement with Ohio Casualty for losses incurred in the **Elsie Dock Case** and a combined \$85,000.00 settlement for Luzerne County and Nanticoke School District in the **Brenda Davis Case**.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve contract **Pharmacy Services for Valley Crest Nursing Home** from **Neighborcare Pharmacy**. The contract is for **ONE (1) year** and cost is based on facility utilization.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve **Snyder and Clemente as Luzerne County Auditor for the General Fund for the year ending December 31, 2003**. **Contract Price is \$90,000.00**.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve **A.J. Lupas as Insurance Agency for the Risk Management Audit for Luzerne County Insurance Coverage**. **Contract Price is \$40,000.00**.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

TREASURER'S OFFICE

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

**LUZERNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
June 16, 2004**

WACHOVIA BANK

General Fund.....	2,534,861.96
School, Road & Institution District.....	93,948.42
Real Estate Tax Sale Account	450,148.22
Self Insured Workers Compensation Fund.....	340,217.62
Court of Common Pleas - Domestic Relations IV-D Fund	812,817.18
Patients' Personal Fund Account	93,179.17
911 Construction Fund.....	30,003.71
911 Operational Fund.....	8,323.15

PNC BANK, NORTHEAST, PA.

Luzerne County Fiscal Agencies:

Office for the Aging	\$ 574,806.93
Children & Youth Department.....	1,301,105.05
Mental Health/Mental Retardation.....	1,183,862.76
Drug & Alcohol Program.....	84,999.33
Office of Human Services.....	6,230.96
Human Services Agencies/Transportation Department.....	7,105.44
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	97,352.85
Luzerne County GWBIF Escrow Account.....	27,257.04
1997 Series Parking & Office Relocation Fund	10,445.34

CITIZENS BANK

Adult Probation Special Account	\$ 605,946.16
Luzerne County Bridges.....	10,746.48
Hazardous Material Emergency Response Account	71,102.64
EMA Radiation Emergency Response Fund.....	20,059.18

FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK

Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$ 60,275.52
Luzerne County Agencies Account	993,939.17
Luzerne County Solid Waste Recycle Account	87,232.32
Luzerne County Property Tax Collection	89,409.31

FIDELITY DEPOSIT & DISCOUNT BANK

Wyoming Valley Airport Account.....	\$ 46.56
Adult Probation/Offenders Supervision Fund	25,997.69
Tri-County Airport Feasibility Study	91,034.72
Luzerne County 2002 Capital Projects	19,994.35
Workmans' Compensation Insurance Reserve Account.....	342.75
Luzerne County 2003 Capital Projects	42,339.40

TREASURER’S: (cont.)

**LUZERNE COUNTY TREASURER’S OFFICE
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT
June 11, 2004**

General Fund	\$36,000,000.00
School, Road & Institution District	\$5,800,000.00
Self Insured Workers Compensation Fund	\$1,545,000.00
Court of Common Pleas - Domestic Relations IV-D Fund	\$600,000.00
911 Construction Fund	\$1,950,000.00
Luzerne County Fiscal Agencies:	
Mental Health/Mental Retardation	\$8,275,000.00
Drug & Alcohol Program	\$1,000,000.00
Office of Human Services	\$500,000.00
Transportation Department	\$873,200.00
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$300,000.00
Adult Probation Special Account	\$1,100,000.00
Hazardous Material Emergency Response Account	\$190,000.00
Luzerne County Agencies Account	\$1,095,000.00
Luzerne County Solid Waste Recycle Account	\$452,400.00
Total	\$59,680,600.00

Request a Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban.
“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. 400405TR to 400483TR inclusive	in the amount of \$2,605,833.07
Patients; Personal Fund:	
Voucher No. 400175PP to 400209PP inclusive	in the amount of \$17,262.38
Bureau for the Aging:	
Voucher No. 401906AG to 402097AG inclusive	in the amount of \$892,442.81
Children and Youth:	
Voucher No. 402828CY to 403328CY inclusive	in the amount of \$1,248,531.59
Mental Health/Mental Retardation:	
Voucher No. 400964MM to 401085MM inclusive	in the amount of \$2,638,194.66
Human Services:	
Voucher No. 400194HS to 400233HS inclusive	in the amount of \$2,667,891.62
Drug and Alcohol:	
Voucher No. 400221DA to 400269DA inclusive	in the amount of \$4,145,890.32

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

CONTROLLER’S: (cont.)

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

\$201,235.97	Community Development Block Grant Program
\$12,615.48	Emergency Shelter Grant Program
\$57,754.00	HOME Investment Partnership Program
\$30,700.00	Business Development Loan Program

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to ratify and confirm the payment of \$13,173.58 to the Penn State Cooperative Extension, 16 Luzerne Ave, Suite 200, West Pittston, PA. This is the County’s appropriation for the month of June.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to ratify and confirm the payment of \$490,000 to the Luzerne County Community College, 1333 Prospect St., Nanticoke, PA. This is the County’s appropriation for the month of June.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

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

Luzerne County Property & Supply:

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Transportation Department:

Purchase 4 Narrow Body Small Transit Buses

1. Leibensperger Transp. Sales	\$145,284.00	Bid Bond
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Area Agency on Aging:

Medical Supplies

1. MedEx Medical Supply, Inc.	Rejected	No Bid Security
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Valley Crest Nursing Home:

Meat

1. US Food Service	\$12,341.40	Bid Bond
2. Gerrity's	\$3,108.00	Cash Ck
3. Schiff's Food Service	\$39,606.54	Bid Bond
4. Keyco Distributors	Units	Bid Bond

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

HUMAN SERVICE – JACK McCUTCHEON, PERSONAL DIRECTOR**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>AREA AGENCY ON AGING:</u>			
PA Department of Aging	Block Grant Agreement	7/01/04-6/30/06	\$22,320,098
PA Department of Aging	Waiver Agreement	“ “	\$ 1,232,644
<u>MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:</u>			
Glen & Gwen Transportation	MR Transportation Svcs.	7/1/03-6/30/04	\$11,500
ARC of Wyoming County	MR Residential Svcs	7/1/04 -6/30/05	\$ 884,915
Children’s Service Center	MH Comm. Svcs., ICM, Outpatient, Day Treatment, Crisis, Family Support, Res. Coord., Family Based, Adm. Mgmt. & Emergency	“ “	\$1,470,000
Community Counseling Svcs.	MH Comm. Svcs., ICM, Outpatient, Day Treatment, Comm. Employ., Soc. Rehab., Residential, Crisis, Res. Coord., Adm. Mgmt., Emergency, MR ADT, Family Driven, HBW & P/FDS Waiver	7/1/04-6/30/05	\$4,365,225
Community Residential Unit	MH Housing Support Svcs.	“ “	\$ 250,000
Conyngham Care Center	MH Housing Support Svcs.	“ “	\$ 350,000
ReDCo Group	MR Adult Development Trng.	“ “	\$ 430,000
Family Care Consortium	MR Residential Svcs.	“ “	\$ 101,421
Goodwill Industries	MH/MR Comm. Employ & MR Residential	“ “	\$1,595,755
Impact Systems, Inc.	MR Residential Svcs.	“ “	\$3,264,167
Institute for Human Resources	MH/MR Residential Svcs.	“ “	\$3,918,994
Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Transportation Dept.	MH Partial, MH/MR Voc. Rehab. & MR Waiver P/FDS Svcs.	“ “	\$ 550,000
The Advocacy Alliance	MH Community Svcs. & MH/MR Family Support Svcs.	“ “	\$ 95,000
Northeast Counseling Svcs.	MH Comm. Svcs., ICM, Outpatient, Day Treatment, Crisis, Comm. Employ., Soc. Rehab., Res. Coord., Adm. Mgmt.. & Emergency	“ “	\$2,300,145
Northeast/Community Crisis	MH Crisis Intervention	“ “	\$ 235,000

HUMAN SERVICE: (cont.)

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>
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MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION: (Cont.)

Step-By-Step, Inc.	MH/MR Residential & MH Housing Support Srvs.	7/1/04-6/30/05	\$5,362,170
UCP of Luzerne County	MR Adult Development Trng.	“ “	\$ 495,000
United Rehabilitation Services	MH/MR Comm. Employ. Voc. Rehab. & MR ADT	“ “	\$2,200,000

A Resolution authorizing Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program to enter into an emergency agreement with U.S.L.E.C. to continue to provide internet access for state mandated Medical Assistance billing and HCSIS applications, at a rate of \$1,152.80 per month, effective June 1, 2004 through May 30, 2005.

OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES:

An Agreement between the Luzerne County Office of Human Services and the Department of Public Welfare, Office of Social Programs, for the Housing Assistance Program, in the amount of \$971,383.00, effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>
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TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT:

William Davis	Personnel Training and Support	7/1/04-9/30/04	\$100/day
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It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

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

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>	
			<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>

AREA AGENCY ON AGING:

Personal Care Home Health	Personal Care	7/01/03-6/30/04	\$ 36,500	\$ 50,500
Caregiver's America	Personal Care	7/01/03-6/30/04	\$ 43,500	\$ 57,600
Comfort Keepers Hazleton	Bridge Personal Care	4/1/04-6/30/04	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,500

DRUG & ALCOHOL:

(Luzerne County)

Maternal and Family Health Services, Inc.	Tobacco-Community-Based	7/1/03-6/30/04	\$24,320.00	\$29,320.00
Rural Health Corp.	Tobacco-Cessation Programs	“ “	\$75,000.00	\$140,000.00
Wyoming Valley Alcohol & Drug Services, Inc.	Tobacco-School Programs	” “	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
	Tobacco-Counter-Marketing		\$7,364.00	\$44,364.00
	Tobacco-Cessation Programs		\$20,000.00	\$27,000.00

HUMAN SERVICE: (cont.)

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
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DRUG AND ALCOHOL: (Cont.)

Serento Gardens	Tobacco-School Programs	7/1/03-6/30/04	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00	
	Tobacco-Counter-Marketing		\$10,000.00	\$18,000.00	

Luzerne County Co-op Extension	Tobacco-School Programs	“	“	\$20,000.00	\$25,000.00
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Family Services of Wyoming Valley	Tobacco-School Programs	“	“	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00
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(Wyoming County)

Wyoming Valley Alcohol & Drug Services, Inc.	Tobacco-School Program	“	“	\$7,932.00	\$9,432.00
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Family Services of Wyoming Valley	Tobacco-School Programs	“	“	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00
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MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

ARC of Luzerne County	MR Family Support, Residential & Monitoring Team	7/1/03-6/30/04	\$212,896	\$163,855	
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Castle Transportation	MR Transportation Services	“	“	\$10,000	\$37,000
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Institute for Human Resources	MH/MR Residential Services	7/1/03-6/30/04	\$3,922,806	\$3,959,556	
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Impact Systems, Inc.	MR Residential Svcs.	“	“	\$3,286,739	\$3,316,899
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Step-By-Step, Inc.	MH/MR Residential Services	“	“	\$5,479,489	\$5,579,699
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ARC of Wyoming County	MR Residential	“	“	\$902,715	\$908,715
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Goodwill Industries	MH/MR Comm. Employ., MR Residential	“	“	\$1,567,755	\$1,578,405
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National Mentor Healthcare, Inc.	MR Residential	“	“	\$1,226,206	\$1,229,206
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Family Care Consortium	MR Residential	“	“	\$101,421	\$102,321
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It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepinak.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

HUMAN SERVICE: (cont.)

A MOTION TO **APPROVE/RATIFY** THE FOLLOWING TRAININGS AT A TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,918:

<u>ATTENDEE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>APPROX. COST</u>
<u>AREA AGING ON AGING:</u>				
Sharon Moss	FCSP Conf.	Camp Hill	5/25/04	\$30
Carole Lewis	Rural Health Conf.	State College	6/9/-6/10/04	\$106
Barbara DaSilva Sharon Moss	Dom Care Conf.	Camp Hill	6/23/04	\$220
Linda Bottger Felicia Perlick	Responding To Sexual Assault	Wilkes-Barre	6/30/04	\$20
<u>CHILDREN & YOUTH:</u>				
Nicole Litstansky Olga Oraujo	Understanding Heroin/ Opiate Epidemic & Tx Options	Dunmore	5/24/04	\$213
Denise Dessoie Corinne Giordano	Cognitive Behavior Therapy	Wilkes-Barre	5/10/04	\$20
Lauren O'Brien Emily Intelicato Maureen Taroli Robin Ritsick Rebecca Searing Peggy Peterson Marcia Barnes Donna Vrhel June Smith Sandra Moosic Gloria Migatulski Susan Martin Linda Shupp Rebecca Glassman Cindy Jones Nancy O'Kane Jennifer Hagen Deanna German	Through the Eyes of a Child: The Impact of Living with a Batterer	Nanticoke	6/17/04	\$225
Ann Marie Black	Forensic Assessment	Scranton	6/18/04	\$32
Lisa Eckrote	Transition to Permanency	Lancaster	6/24/04	\$112
<u>DRUG & ALCOHOL:</u>				
Martha Dempsey	CPA Conference Hilton Garden Inn	Wilkes-Barre State College	6/10/04 6/9/04	\$75 \$85
Lynda Frushon	The Dynamics of Compulsive Behaviors on Relapse	Wilkes-Barre	6/30/04	\$10
Lynda Frushon Jeff Kimmel Sharon Lubinski Mandy Wallace	Eating Disorders, Body Image	Wilkes-Barre	6/16/04	\$40

HUMAN SERVICE: (cont.)

<u>ATTENDEE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APPROX. DATE</u>	<u>COST</u>
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DRUG & ALCOHOL: (Cont.)

Martha Dempsey	Through the Eyes of a Child	Nanticoke	6/17/04	\$20
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MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

Tara Gallagher	Improving Employment Outcomes for Persons With Psychiatric Disabilities	Pittston	6/8/04	\$50
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OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES:

Charlie Wetzel	The Impact of Living With a Batterer	Nanticoke	6/17/04	\$10
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VETERAN AFFAIRS:

Sam Marranta	PA State Assoc. of County Directors of Veterans Affairs	Mars, PA	6/21-6/25/04	\$650
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It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT – JAMES J. BROZENA, COUNTY ENGINEER

Request a Motion to award the **Moon Lake Water & Sewer Restoration Contract** to **Lagana Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Hazleton**, in the amount of **\$280,388.00**.

Commissioner Urban questioned if there was an estimate prior to putting it out for bid. James Brozena, County Engineer, confirmed there was an added this is the second time he sent out for bid, bid received during first round were all over project budget.

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

Request a Motion to award the **Wyoming Valley Airport Electric Vault Project** to **Brennan Electric, Inc., Kingston**, in the amount of **\$110,822.00**.

Commissioner Urban confirmed with Mr. Brozena the project amount is 95% grant funding, 5% County managed.

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

Request a Motion to award the **Luzerne County Correctional Facility Camera Upgrade Project** to **Tyco Simplex Grinnell, Olyphant**, in the amount of **\$331,488.00**.

Commissioner Urban commented he requested with the Warden to provided an overview as to where the cameras were before and where they plan to place them. He added, the Warden also confirmed that the brush has been cleared in the back.

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

ENGINEERING: (cont.)

Request a Motion for the **Declaration of an Emergency on May 28, 2004** to replace the main compressor for the air conditioning system at the Brominski Building. Estimated construction cost is **\$12,155.00**.

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

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to execute **Reimbursement Agreement 048593** between the County of Luzerne and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the inventory and inspection of county owned vehicles.

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

Request a Motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the execution of the agreement to perform the bridge inspections in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation standards (for calendar Year 2004) and whereas, Luzerne County agrees to be responsible for twenty percent (20%) of the cost incurred.

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

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to execute **Change Order Number One (Final)** in the amount of **\$12,564.41** for **Panzitta Enterprises, Inc.** for work on the **Dayroom Renovations General Construction Contract** at the **Luzerne County Correctional Facility**.

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

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to execute **Change Order Number One (Final)** in the amount of **\$32,834.00** for **Bognet, Inc.** for work on the **Dayroom Renovations Mechanical Construction Contract** at the **Luzerne County Correctional Facility**.

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

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to execute **Change Order Number One** in the amount of **\$150,967.00** for **Appollo Group, Inc.** for work on the **General Construction Contract** for the **Minimum Security Building Expansion Project**.

Commissioner Urban requested Mr. Brozena to explain. Mr. Brozena explained the Appollo Contract is a little over \$1 million and this is about 10% of their bid. Result of differing underground conditions where the foundation designs had to be changed. Mr. Brozena confirmed the project is still under budget at \$2.2 million, total project budget is \$2.5 million. Commissioner Urban, when will this be complete? Complete by the end of this year.

Commissioner Urban further commented on the Juvenile Detention Center and the costs to the County. Kimball and Associates meeting with the Warden this week and the architectural firm will be here in the next several weeks. Also looking into using the building for a Women's Detention Center

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

Commissioner Urban questioned Mr. Brozena on the progress of identifying utilization of the Courthouse Annex. Mr. Brozena responded that the potential staffing changes and the computerization issues have delayed the process to some degree, primary

ENGINEERING: (cont.)

Commissioner Urban made a recommendation to the Board that a meeting be scheduled soon to identify what Department(s) will be moved to the Annex. Commissioner Skrepenak agreed to take the recommendation under consideration.

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to execute **Amendment Number 3** to the **Agreement** between the County of Luzerne and the **Pennsylvania Geographic Information Systems Consortium** in the not to exceed amount of \$50,000 to provide additional consulting services on the **GIS Project**.

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

Request a Motion for permission to advertise for **AED’s** and **Associated Equipment** for various County facilities.

Commissioner Urban questioned if there are any funding resources available for the defibrillator. Mr. Brozena responded he is working with the Red Cross and will consult Michele Sparich, Grant Writer, to confirm any additional funding sources, which may be available.

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

VALLEY CREST – JAMES MILLER, ADMINISTRATOR

No Agenda

ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT – JOHN J. GLUSHEFSKI, DIRECTOR

Off the Agenda

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

Request a declaration of an emergency for Luzerne County Bridge #16505, located in Hunlock & Lehman townships. The purpose of the declaration is to conduct structural decking repairs and materials required to complete the work will cost \$12,000 to \$15,000. (9 mile detour, Liquid Fuels Budget, need PADOT structural-LF project approval).

No Public Comment

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

PROPERTY AND SUPPLY – WILLIAM P. BURKE, DIRECTOR

Request a Motion for permission to advertise the following for:

Valley Crest Nursing Home:

Medical Oxygen

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

Request a Motion to approve the following contracts for the providers for service specified:

PROPERTY AND SUPPLY: (cont.)

THIS IS A STATE CONTRACT: THROUGH PA STATE PEPPM CONTRACT (PEPPM BID-PROTECTED COOPERATION BUYING PROGRAM FOR PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT):

Data Processing Department: (Replacement of PC's and Monitors for DA's Office)

Forty (40) Windows XP Computers & Forty Flat Panel Displays

ISS	Computers: <u>\$43,503.00</u>	
525 Plymouth Road	Flat Panel: <u>\$16,743.00</u>	
Suite 305		
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462		Total Bid: <u>\$60,246.00</u>

THIS IS A STATE CONTRACT USING PA-SMART MIV-1 CONTRACT (STATE CONTRACT FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT):

Data Processing Department: (Replace Router in Prison with High End Switch)

ISS	Total Bid: <u>\$7,940.25</u>
525 Plymouth Road	
Suite 305	
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462	

CISCO SWITCH W/GIGABIT EHTERNET CONNECTOR TRANSCEIVER; PATCH CABLE; ONE YEAR SMART NET

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepnak
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

PLANNING COMMISSION – ADRIAN F. MEROLLI, DIRECTOR

Request a Motion to approve a request from Dean Kreidler, Homestead Lane, Hunlock Creek, PA, for rezoning a portion of property on PA Rt. 118, about 2,000 feet East of PA RT 29, Pikes Creek Corners, Lake Township from a Community Business District to a Highway Business District to operate a use car sales business in an existing building.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – SANDRA RUSSELL, DIRECTOR

Request a Motion to adopt a resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne, approving a \$250,000 deferred payment loan to Catholic Social Services for the development of St. Vincent's Apartments located in Plymouth. Activities will be carried out utilizing funding through the County's HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepnak.
"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

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

Request a Motion to approve the following Personnel actions:

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:

RECREATION DEPARTMENT/MOON LAKE MH/MR DAY CAMP

RECREATION AIDES at \$6.00 per hour, effective June 21, 2004.

April Bezdziecki, 1 Tanya Drive, Hanover Twp.

Vincent Borocci, 287 Chapel St., Swoyersville

Kevin Scott, 55 Walnut St., Forty Fort

Elizabeth Charnick, 244 Ferguson Ave., Shavertown

Lynne Stempleski, 22 Lawrence St., Wilkes-Barre

Jennifer Kennedy, 147 Regent St., Wilkes-Barre

Stephanie Salach, 496 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming

Erica Faust, 215 Greenwave Blvd., Larksville

Brittany Willis, RR #3, Box 38, Wyoming

Michelle Moore, 126 Church St., Dallas

Kristy McDermott, 409 N. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre

Alyssa Bierbach, 380 Old Tavern Rd., Hunlock Creek

Charlotte Bell, 304 York Ave., W. Pittston

Emmie Comstock, R.R. #1, Box 183, Mehoopany

Kerri Ann Flynn, 180 N. Dawes St., Kingston

Jesse Leigh Pitts, 16 Robbins Rd., Dallas

Danielle Pierce, 291 Carey Ave., Wilkes-Barre

Bethany Hassel, 10 Henrico Rd., Shickshinny

Andrew Wnuk, 44 N. Thomas Ave., Kingston

Jennifer Lynn Biscotto, 241 A Wilson St., Harding

Diane Jean Morse, 106 Harris St., Dallas

Rachel Ertz, 12 W. Shawnee Ave., Plymouth

Amanda Evans, 2622 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre

Sarah M. Swire, 26 Sunny Acres Road, Sweet Valley

Gregory Peruso, 180 S. Washington St., Apt. 110N, Wilkes-Barre

AlysSe Taddei, 15 Terrace St., Dallas

William Welch-Altemose, 478 McKinley St., Exeter

Request a Motion to accept as presented.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

HAZLETON SUMMER MH/MR CAMP STAFF

Jonathan Papada, 58 Spruce Ct., Ridgewood, Hazleton

John Brady, 22 Providence Rd., Hazleton

HAZLETON RECREATION AIDES

Francis Dempsey, 10 Main St., Lattimer Mines

Matt Dempsey, 10 Main St., Lattimer Mines

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

PERSONNEL: (cont.)

MH/MR STAFF @ \$10.00 per hour.

Cathy Thomas, Supervisor, 60 Arch Street, Edwardsville
Cheryl Avillion, Supervisor/Hazleton, 521 E. Kiefer Avenue, Hazleton

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

CHILD AND ADULT RECREATION AIDES Staff @ \$7.00 per hour.

Julie Winters, 1414 SR 292E, North Moreland
Denise Macmillan, R.R.#1, Box 334, Harveys Lake
Kelley Smith, 32 Penn Street, Kingston
Lauren Simko, 119 West Hall Street, Swoyersville
Jennifer Decker, 117 Glendale Road, Pittston Twp.
Kristel Carter, R.R.#4, Box 597, Dallas,
Kori Clark, 18 Earth Road, Sweet Valley
Robyn Topolski, Hazleton Staff, 8 East Benjamin Avenue, Conyngham
Linda Plesce, Hazleton Staff, 780 Lincoln Street, Hazleton

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

LUZERNE COUNTY 9-1-1

FOUR (4) TELECOMMUNICATORS @ \$21,500.00 per annum. Effective June 25, 2004. To Fill Vacancies.

**GABRIEL METRIC, 1092 N. VINE STREET APT #2, HAZLETON,
CHARLES WEST, RR #1 BOX 336 2ND STREET HARVEYS LAKE
TERRI PURDY, 500 SCHOOLEY AVENUE APT 62, EXETER
DAWN KANN, 786 N. VINE STREET, HAZLETON**

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

The Appointment of Lana Waichulis, Dallas as a Social Services Aide 3 (ps# 21-Y740-L0622-0003) at an annual salary of \$21,008 effective June 21, 2004. To fill vacancy.

Commissioner Urban confirmed position is 100% funded by State and Federal dollars.

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

TRANSPORTATION:

The Appointment of Robert Ashton, Exeter, as a Part-Time Driver (87-LWCTD-9202-0073), at an hourly rate of \$8, effective June 1, 2004. To Fill vacancy.

Commissioner Urban confirmed position is 100% reimbursable, money comes from funding from ticket sales for people who use the transportation and social service programs.

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

PERSONNEL: (cont.)

**LUZERNE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
(LCWIDA)**

Summer Program/Temporary Staff

The following Peer Mentor/Clerical Staff @ \$8.00 per hour.

Effective June 17, 2004 to August 18, 2004.

Heather Brennan, 71 George Avenue, West Nanticoke

Kevin Coughlin, 506 East Grand Street., Nanticoke

Ashley Dougherty, 27 North Beech Road, Plains

James Fitzmaurice, 69 High Street, Ashley

Michelle Hardik, 764 Bennett Street, Luzerne

John Kochanski, 51 East Carey Street, Plains

Heather Kratz, 37 John Street, Kingston

Chris Mirigliana, 43 First Avenue, Kingston

George Missett, 225 Jesse Street, Exeter

Briane Pacuska, 115 Norwood Avenue, Hanover Twp.

Maria Piazza, 26 East Sunrise Drive, Pittston

Elizabeth Posegate, 399 Old River Road, Wilkes-Barre

Kelly Prutzman, 1765 Pittston Blvd., Wilkes-Barre

Colleen Reilly, 143 Poplar Street, Wilkes-Barre

Sheila Sankar, 504 Gilmartin Street, Archbald

Jacklyn Selepak, 304 Rossevelt Street, Edwardsville

John Stravinski, 19 Brandywyn Drive, Mountaintop

Mary Beth Tabit, 135 Greenwave Blvd., Larksville

Carle Testa, 27 Winter Street, Pittston

Edward Whalen, 570 Westmoreland Avenue, Kingston

Erin Woychik, 35 North Grant Street, Wilkes-Barre

Commissioner Urban confirmed the funding is from Federal dollars.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE A \$1,000 Certification Pay Adjustment for:

David Gaugler, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-Y740-L0624-0093) at an annual salary of \$27,386 effective December 5, 2003.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

**REQUEST A MOTION TO RESCIND THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS
MOON LAKE PARK**

Jason Johnson, Maintenance, 38 Ted's Lane, Hunlock Creek

Jennifer Malak, Bathhouse Attendant, 2162 Chase Road , Shavertown

Nick Horvath, Marina Attendant, 53 East Avenue, Hunlock Creek

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL TRANSFERS AT VALLEY CREST NURSING HOME:

Wendy Dzanis Transferred 15 Laflin Road Inkerman, Penna.	RN Manager Development/Infection	Eff. 5/31/04- Director of Staff Control
Bernard Svab Transferred 1497 Scott Street Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	Case Manager/Infection Control	Eff. 6/7/04- to RN Manager
Joseph Parada Transferred 25 Mercer Street Services Plains, Penna.	Transportation Aide	Eff. 5/31/04- to Environmental

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

REQUEST: A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS AT CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Resignation of Nicholas Telincho, Casework Supervisor (ps# 21-Y740-L0626-0015) effective June 2, 2004.

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

The Resignation of Carl Kadtke, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-M440-L0624-0017) effective June 2, 2004.

TRANSPORTATION:

The Resignation of Rodney Grusetski, Part-Time Driver (86-LWCTD-9292-0054), effective May 21, 2004.

The Resignation of Susan Moosic, Part Time Driver (ps# 86-LWCTD9202-0021) effective May 28, 2004.

VALLEY CREST NURSING HOME

Mary Lou Miscavage 42 Buck Birch Lane White Haven, Penna.	Per Diem Restorative Aide	Effective 6/4/04 Resignation
Joan Cordero 128 North Empire St. Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	RN Manager/Infection Control	Effective 6/4/04 Resignation
Carol Schaffer 164 Coal Street Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	Per Diem Switchboard Operator	Effective 6/6/04 Resignation

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

Mark Dingman, County Manager for Administration/Deputy Chief Clerk, 74 Pace Street, Larksville, Effective May 28, 2004.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Robert M. Savakinus, Nightshift Custodian, 7 Cleveland Street, Hudson, Effective June 17, 2004.

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

PERSONNEL: (cont.)

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TERMINATIONS:

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE

Kimberli C. Weiland, Human Resource Officer, 804 Wildflower Drive, Wilkes-Barre,
Effective June 7, 2004.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RETIREMENTS:

RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICE

Judy M. Amory, Clerk 1, 133 Parrish Street, Wilkes-Barre,
Effective May 27, 2004.

LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Raymond Nagy, Zoning Coordinator, 105 Parkcrest Drive, Duryea,
Effective June 9, 2004.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

**REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT AND/OR
RETURN LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

LUZERNE COUNTY 9-1-1

A family Medical Leave of Absence Angela Steininger, 158 Woodside Drive, Wilkes-Barre,
Effective June 20, 2004.

AGING:

A Leave Without Pay for Andrea Dougherty, Aging Care Manager 2 (ps# 10-G140-L0635-0033)
effective May 18, through May 24, 2004.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A Leave Without Pay for Lori Overa, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-Y740-L0624-0049) effective
May 18 through May 20, 2004.

A Leave Without Pay for Tara McCutcheon, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-M440-L0624-0066) effective
May 24 through 28, 2004.

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION

A Leave Without Pay for William Johnson, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-M440-L0624-0004) effective
May 5, 2004.

TRANSPORTATION:

A Leave without pay for Frank Santey, Driver (ps# 86-LWCTD-9201-0062) effective June 10,
2004.

A Leave Without Pay for Timothy Cerullo, Driver (ps# 86-LWCTD-9201-0014) effective June
2, through June 11, 2004.

VALLEY CREST NURSING HOME

Linda Andrews
35 McCarragher Street
Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

Environmental Services

Eff. 5/31/04-Returned
from FMLA

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

MEDIA

Justin Pizzi, WBRE, questioned where are the layoffs would come from. Commissioner Skrepenak responded the committee would meet with all row offices and department heads to conduct assessment of services and personnel requirements. Will try to minimize the disruption of services especially in terms of public service. Commissioner Urban agreed, adding the Board is looking at the dollar figure and offered another option to the Board of rolling back the salary increases including the 8% increase given to the Courts in December 2003, which he did not support.

Justin Pizzi, WBRE, questioned if any departments would be safe from the layoffs. Commissioner Vonderheid responded it is not about what departments are safe but rather what Life Services and Life Safety departments need to continue and cannot be impacted. The Commissioner believed the Row Offices, Department Heads and Collective Bargaining Units would rally around the challenge find ways to cuts costs and help make this happen. The intent of the motion reads to minimize the impact specifically as it relates to Life Safety and secondly, as it relates to general services in Luzerne County and ensure it is done fairly and as inclusively as possible.

Jon Meyer, WNEP, questioned if this was something that the Commissioners just became of aware of or is this something known all along. Commissioner Skrepenak responded the County anticipated savings in other areas such as the one year fix from the SWAP options, as one example, which were unable to take place because of the size of the County's current debt, making it, the County, uninsurable.

Tom Reagan, WILK, questioned where the remainder of the shortfall be realized. Commissioner Vonderheid responded the Board will have to discuss prioritizing delivery of services, what services are offered and what services may be partnered with other entities to deliver in a more cost effective way. The reality is the Board will not get to zero (0) on December 31, 2004, possibly not even December 2005, but the objective is in addition to payroll costs, there are three other major expense items; Juvenile Detention & Probation, Corrections System and Valley Crest. All three of these fixes are multiple year fixes, because they include or require physical plant construction renovation, redesign. As long as the Board is comfortable moving towards balanced and responsible budget then he can accept operating in the red moving towards operating in the black but it will take time.

Jon Meyer, WNEP, questioned why Valley Crest is not included in the layoffs proposed today. Commissioner Skrepenak responded that the Board anticipates a detailed plan in the near future and will before the most part a separate effort. Commissioner Vonderheid added there may be some administrative or personnel consolidations Mr. Miller may continue to work but as is relates to this dollar savings proposed today, Valley Crest is a minimal target.

James Conmy, Citizens' Voice, questioned whether there is an option to sell Valley Crest. Commissioner Skrepenak responded that at this time the Board will be looking at every possibility available to the Board.

Tom Reagan, WILK, Does the union want to go by seniority or by department. Commissioner Vonderheid responded the Board will follow the guidelines outlined in the Union Contract.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Urban referred to his comments made earlier in the meeting, adding the Board is facing tough decisions which have to be made and he believes the Board has made its first step today by approving the motion to reduce the General Fund budget by August 1, 2004.

Commissioner Vonderheid read the following prepared statement:

While we didn't create this problem, we have to face it. There is no joy or sense of accomplishment in the motion I make today – only an absolute belief that it is the right and only thing to do at this time. In fact, I am sure that this motion will damage, and in some cases, permanently damage, relationships that I have spent years building. But I simply could no longer fail to lead. Fail to do what the voters of Luzerne County elected me to do. I must admit that this motion is not about leadership, it's about playing catch up. If I were truly leading, I would have made this motion in January. Every day that we wait, the problem grows and so do the cuts necessary to compensate for the delays. Frankly, instead I was hoping and praying that the problem would go away and that there would be another solution – there is none. I do promise that from this day forward, I will not hope and pray for actions to difficult problems to come from the sky, but will work with others to find solutions and make decisions in a timely manner. This cut is not the answer. This is only a step in the right direction. I don't expect Luzerne County government to turn a profit. I only expect it to be able to pay its bills, provide quality services and make critical investments in the people and future of this community. Remember this is only 20% of the estimated \$33.5 mm January 1st operating shortfall. We have a lot of difficult decisions to make about what services we continue to provide, how we provide them and who we partner with. I do know, however, that Luzerne County employees and our residents want this County to succeed. They, like us, want this economy to grow and want to be a part of something larger than ourselves. I promise to work with everyone to make this hope and prayer a reality.

Commissioner Skrepenak read the following prepared statement:

Unfortunately, the savings that we anticipated from the revised budget have not come to fruition and have been slow to materialize. In addition, we have experienced an unexpected turn of events that has even further delayed the process and hindered our ability to implement the change needed to assure Luzerne county citizens of the best possible services at the most cost effective prices. Our desire to provide our residents with the infrastructure and opportunity needed to be both productive and progressive with the ability to grow as technology advances and new and innovative ideas are realized is also in jeopardy. Reality is smacking us across the face as we our challenged with increasing expenses and limited revenue generating possibilities. With that in mind, difficult decisions have to be made. These decisions must be based on what is in the best interest of the county and have to be practical as well sensible. Common sense is telling us that our budget can no longer bear the burden of increased health care and insurance cost in addition to annual increases in pay. Consequently, we are forced to reduce our workforce. No employer wants to be responsible for such an act and layoffs are always the last resort. However, the numbers don't lie. This action has to be taken so our county can survive and begin to grow outside of county government. There are no words that can be said or deeds that can be done to ease the pain of loosing your job. I have lost my job before and understand this all to well. I am truly sorry that it has come to this. The county will implement every thing possible to assist those who will be laid off and ease the transition and provide the needed resources for each employee to enter eligible assistance programs and to reenter the workforce.

In addition to our workforce reduction I feel it incumbent on the commissioners to explore every possibility to not only realize savings but to initiate a county wide effort to assure our public the services we provide will not be interrupted. I also believe that we must be willing to restructure and reorganize our own office to address previous failure and early growing pains. Today, Luzerne County is a crossroads and this effort will dictate this administrations ability to realize true change and initiate a master plan to build toward the future with taking into consideration the present as well as learning from the past. We must challenge all elected officials and ask all union officials, business owners and leaders, civic organizations, faith-based groups, non-profits and charitable agencies and all citizens of the county to gives us your full cooperation to build a blueprint for Luzerne County and conquer any challenge we may face together. There is no great deed that has been done throughout history that did not come without sacrifice that did not meet resistance or did not come under criticism or scrutiny. We must look toward tomorrow and that process begins today. Thank You and God Bless.

June 16, 2004

A Motion was entertained to adjourn the Commissioners' Meeting.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Respectfully,



Patricia Wilk, Recording Secretary