

On the above date at 6:00 PM, 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 Administration/Deputy 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; Salvatore 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 reminded everyone that if you wish to address the Commissioners to see Ms. Bozinski and sign in.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Marie Shelby, on behalf of the residents of Hazle Village, provided comment and expressed opposition, on behalf of herself and many of her neighbors, to the possible location of a waste management company to the Hazle Village community. MS. Shelby distributed informational packets to each of the Commissioners outlining the plant adding this new technology, which claims to end waste management, as we know it, has only one other location in existence, Japan. Ms. Shelby reported her research indicates this plant would bring fifty truckloads of waste a day, noting in Japan, 165 train car loads a day are delivered, citing the addition traffic to the Interstate and the area would not be in the best interest of the local community. She urged the Commissioners not to approve the location of this plant. Commissioner Urban thanked Ms. Shelby and referred to a similar group from Pittston who expressed their concerns at the last Work Session where they requested the Commissioners sign a resolution opposing the importation of trash and these types of businesses, which he strongly supports. He concurred this would add more traffic to an already busy highway system citing Senator Spector's efforts to get \$600 million to expand the Interstate to three lanes in each direction for about a 26 mile stretch. Samuel Guesto, Jr., Chief Clerk respond he also called Ms. Shelby, on behalf of the Commissioners, offered to arrange a meeting for her with Ed Latinski, Director of Solid Waste Management. Mr. Guesto introduced Mr. Latinski, who was present to speak about waste management issues in the area. Mr. Latinski provided an overview of the process of approval for this project and the one Mr. Urban alluded to from Pittston. He reported it is a long review process which begins with an application to the Department of Environmental Protection, then continues through the Planning and Zoning Commission, through to the Solid Waste Management for a conclusion to be prepared and report given to the County Engineer who would then provide a recommendation to the Commissioners who would then determine whether this is acceptable, noting this process could take from 18 months to 4 years. Mr. Latinski also noted under current contracts, waste within the County right now will not be available to anyone until 2011.

Dorothy Endrizi, Sugarloaf, thanked the Commissioners and their staff for coming down to the Hazleton region but reminded the Commissioners that Hazleton is not the only part of the lower Luzerne County noting there are many outside areas within the lower end of Luzerne County which have needs that should be addressed and encouraging the Commissioners to make the effort to visit these areas. Ms. Endrizi commented on the lack of advertisement provided for this evening's meeting pointing out that she was not aware of the meeting until a friend contacted her after visiting the Courthouse earlier in the day, adding the Commissioners were missing a large percentage of the citizens of the lower end of Luzerne County because of this lack of communication. Ms. Endrizi expressed her disappointment in the amount and type of layoffs and did not believe it reflected what she understood it was to be. She added cuts should have been from the top and not from those barely able to make a living with the wages they earn. She also commented on Valley Crest and the disproportion of the patient/staff ratio.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (cont.)

Commissioner Skrepenak thanked Ms. Endrizi for her comments and responded opening the lines of communication is a priority that the Board will continue to strive to improve. In regards to the recent layoffs and Valley Crest, Commissioner Skrepenak responded to date 53 employees have been layed off or resigned as they continue to address the concerns of Valley Crest. He noted the layoff process for the County employees did begin at the top however they were bound by union contracts which dictate the process of starting at the bottom and working your way up. Ms. Endrizi questioned why there were no lay offs in the senior positions of the County. Commissioner Skrepenak responded that it was the positions and the necessity of those positions, not the people that were reviewed; to ensure County services would be minimally impacted by those recommended cuts.

Commissioner Urban agreed with Ms. Endrizi's recommendation to the Commissioners to visit other areas of the County such as Salem Township, Nescopeck and Nescopeck Township. He referred to a recent letter from a Commissioner in Nescopeck Township informing the Commissioners that the Nescopeck Township was considering a move to Columbia County because they believed they would have lower taxes and better services, adding he acknowledged that people in this part of the County are discontent and at times rightfully so. In response to Valley Crest, Commissioner Urban commented that for over a year he has been requesting to hire an outside consultant to come in and look at the staffing, care and the patient ratio noting he was happy with the patient care at Valley Crest, not happy with the patient ratio of 195 patients and 295 employees, not happy that the employees get to eat for free which cost us about \$500,000 a year, that there is too much office staff and noted Ms. Endrizi is right on the money on some of these projects and initiatives and ways to save money. He agreed with Commissioner Skrepenak's earlier comments that the union employees you have to start at the bottom according to the contracts. One of the things that was done at our last meeting in held in Hazleton, the majority commissioners approved a union contract without even looking at, within that contract that under layoff provisions, that if you layoff anyone within that department you have to layoff all of your per diem first so we hurt a lot of people and sheriff's services. The sheriff himself had to travel to Maryland and pick up a prisoner because he did not have the staff to do otherwise. He believed that he should have been more involved and more consideration and review should have been done prior to approval. He added he believe the County has competent managers but also believe there are departments that could be consolidated to save money such as the Recreation, park, Environmental Special Projects and Solid waste Departments and one of the existing managers could head that department. He referenced how many mosquitoes do you catch in Hazleton in January, how many soccer fields do you rent in the winter months. There are a lot of things that could be done smarter and better and encouraged his colleagues to join him in this effort to find these cost cutting efforts. He applauded Ms. Endrizi for continue effort to come to the meetings and brings these types of issue to the attention of the commissioners.

Leonard Cornish, 53 year ole resident of Wilkes-Barre, Pa; graduate of Coughlin High School, class of 1968, veteran of the United States Coast Guard, Pennsylvania State University BA and MA in College of Agriculture, recent retiree of the State Department of Environmental Protection and currently own and operate his own soils and environmental consulting company.. Here tonight with a question on what the process is to be considered for an appointment to one of the boards or authorities of the counties. As a representative of one of the minorities of the county he noted he could not recall any minority representation on any of the County boards or authorities other than other than Constance Gwen. He questioned whether the Board canvassed the minority community. Many numerous groups such as the Mount Zion Baptist Church and if you do not he highly recommended that with changing face of the County Community the Board do. He noted that he believe the minority population of Luzerne County is not under represented but UN-represented and again encouraged the Commissioners to reach out and not rely on a few representatives such as Stan Hamilton and Ron Felton who do not speak for the entire minority community. He noted that this is not only the County Authority but also at the City level citing he has made every effort to be part of the process with Wilkes-Barre adding there are numerous people in the minority community who are interested and qualified to serve and represent the community. Commissioner Vonderheid agreed with Mr. Cornish's comments and pointed out that the Commissioners contacted Arthur Breese from the Diversity Institute at College Misericordia for assistance and guidance in reaching out to the minority community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (cont.)

Mr. Cornish responded encouraging the Commissioners to reach out to more than one or two individuals in the community, noting that may limit the reach and effect of their efforts but rather contact as many organizations as possible to offer an equal opportunity to the entire community. Commissioner Urban also agreed with Mr. Cornish's comments adding he believed that we have a changing demographic not only in this county but in the country. Commissioner Skrepenak questioned whether Mr. Cornish had ever approached the County and reflected on lessons learned while part of the NFL cited ignorance as the problem adding that not knowing cannot be the excuse and promised the Commissioners would do a better job of reaching out to everyone in the County.

Tim Dombroski, Wilkes-Barre, credited Ms. Endrizi, who in July 2003, found and pointed out many problems with Reassessment Contract. Mr. Dombroski added has worked with Tony Alu, Director, Assessment Office, and have been able to keep the contract down to \$7.2 million after ironing out crediting Ms. Endrizi for her efforts. Mr. Dombroski commented that for 40 years he has been a consultant and every administration the controller has been a political hack and gave credit to Controller Steve Flood that he is not a political hack and complimented him on his efforts to review every bill and trying to do the right thing.

Commissioner Urban reminded everyone that the third Thursday of every month there is a 9:00 AM GIS meeting followed by a Reassessment Status meeting starting at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Luzerne County Courthouse and the public is welcome.

Stephen Flood, Controller reported the Arc Payment of \$2.5 million is due soon and questioned if the payment would be made on time. Commissioner Skrepenak responded the Board is working with Public Financial Management (PFM) on a long term financial plan and there are a couple of obstacles that need to be overcome as well as to address the ARC payment. Commissioner Urban commented he supported the motion that the County make the payment so that the Board not get into the same situation as last year with the previous administration when the payment was withheld due to a budget shortfall and then an injunction filed stopping the Retirement Board from doing its duty. Commissioner Urban also commented he was aware that PFM did in fact budget money for last year's payment as well as this year's payment as he believed it is a priority and that the retirees are entitled to have their fund maintained in a naturally sound status and voiced his support of Mr. Flood's efforts to get the \$2.5 million from the Board.

Mr. Flood congratulated Commissioner Urban and former Commissioner Pizano for their foresight with the Drifton Softball Complex for improvements of \$750,000.

Mr. Flood reported there is a problem with paychecks that he has discussed with Sam Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance, and will be working on with Mr. Diaz tomorrow to resolve.

Mr. Flood provided comment on the proposed Board and Authority appointments, particularly the three re-appointments of Monsignor Andrew McGowan, Patrick Judge and Thomas Torbik, all Lackawanna County residents and urged the Commissioners to table the motion for these appointments citing Municipal Authority, Paragraph 1, "Except as provided under subsection C, the members of the Board, each of whom shall be resident in, taxpayer in, maintain a business in or be a citizen of the municipality for which he is appointed or taxpayer in, maintain a business in or be a citizen of the municipality in which one or more authorities extends..." Mr. Flood added he did not believe the positions were properly advertised and again asked the Board to table any appointments to provide the opportunity for all interested citizens of Luzerne County to apply. Commissioner Skrepenak responded his belief is that the Board and Authorities are an extension and the beliefs and values of this Board adding that the majority Commissioners have been talking publicly and encouraging the public to participate in the process and welcomed anyone who was interested in serving on any Board or Authority to notify the Commissioner's office. Mr. Flood and Commissioner Urban questioned the legality of the appointments since they were not advertised and the issue of residency. Attorney James Blaum, County Solicitor, responded the Board candidates qualified as long as they are owners of a business in or are residents of Luzerne County. Atty. Blaum added Mr. Judge and Mr. Torbik both have businesses in Luzerne County and that he would look into whether Monsignor McGowan qualified.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (cont.)

Commissioner Urban questioned whether it was a conflict of interest for Atty. Blaum to comment on this questioning because his brother, Representative Kevin Blaum was also being re-appointed to the Arena Board. Atty. Blaum responded it was not a conflict of interest. Commissioner Skrepenak questioned why these appointments were not contested during the prior administration, noting that the three appointments specifically being questioned are re-appointments. Commissioners Skrepenak and Vonderheid concurred they could not see any justification for opposition, especially of Monsignor McGowan, who has been an active community volunteer and leader, not only in Luzerne County, but surrounding counties. Mr. Flood responded that the previous administration was closed doors adding Commissioners Skrepenak and Vonderheid have demonstrated a more open approach. Mr. Flood noted the Row Officers are not happy with appointments and believes they are also elected officials and representatives of Luzerne County and should have a say in this matter. Commissioner Skrepenak duly noted Mr. Flood's objections.

Commissioner Skrepenak thanked everyone for his or her comments.

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

Samuel T. Guesto, Jr., announced the Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session at 2:30 PM on August 16, 2004 to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Guesto also announced the Veteran Affairs Schedule for Hazleton Annex Building noting Mr. Sam Marranca, Director of Veteran Affairs, will be in the Hazleton Office on the scheduled days for the convenience of our Veterans. Mr. Marranca distributed handouts listing the days and times and the schedule will also be available on the Luzerne County Website.

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

Wachovia Bank, Vouchers 409609GF-409945GF
County General Fund for 2004

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

PNC Bank, Vouchers 400493LF – 400533LF
Liquid Fuels for 2004

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. 08112004** attached dated August 11, 2004 and **Resolution No. 08182004** attached dated August 18, 2004.

Commissioner Skrepenak requested Mr. Guesto for an update on the situation. Mr. Guesto responded Commissioner Urban has attended the meetings that have been held on this issue and deferred to the Commissioner for a response. Commissioner Urban provided an update and reported that he and other representatives of the community have met with representative of the Governor's office and believes progress is being made.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Request a Motion to authorize the Director of the Solid Waste Management Department to utilize \$129,899.50 from the Landfill Administrative Fee Fund to establish a grant program for the 46 municipalities that completed and submitted the Annual Recycling Report for 2003. The grant to the municipalities would be in the amount of fifty cents (\$.50) per capita.

To be eligible for funding a municipality must develop an education program that would eliminate or control the contamination of the recycling waste stream, and provide audit documentation on the use of the grant funds.

Commissioner Urban requested Mr. Latinski explain how the funds will be used, referring to recycling ads, which he believed were paid for by such funds, which ran with former Commissioner Red Jones encouraging recycling noting it appeared to him to be more political than beneficial to the County. Mr. Latinski responded the ad being referred to ran during the month of October, which is Recycling Month, encouraging the community to recycle. Commissioner Urban believed the money could be better spent, allocating more funds to programs such as the Electronic Recycling Program and Tire Program. To help the municipalities clean up the contamination that is in the recycling waste stream.

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

Request a Motion authorizing the creation of a short-term advisory committee to review data regarding the mission, operations and physical plant of the Valley Crest Nursing Center. This Committee to be named by August 26th, 2004, shall review existing and recently collected data, and make advisory recommendations with the intent of ensuring that Luzerne County's long-term care needs are met in the most efficient manner possible. The Committee, which shall make its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners of Luzerne County no later than October 30th, 2004, will be comprised of the following **members within Luzerne County Government:**

- Chief Clerk/County Manager for Legislation, who will act as facilitator
- Chief of Budget and Finance
- Chief of Human Services
- County Engineer
- Valley Crest Administrator
- Public Information Officer
- Representatives of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776

And from Luzerne County Community at-large:

- Representative of the Human Resources Industry
- Representative of the Health Care Industry
- Advocate for current residents of Valley Crest Nursing Home
- Possible additional members, if deemed appropriate

Commissioner Urban requested Commissioner Skrepenak explain the selection process for the representatives from the Luzerne County Community at-large. Commissioner Skrepenak responded and referred to a recent conversation with Kim Manning, Stevens & Lee, and requested, at no cost to the County, to gather this information. He believed from a County perspective, this Committee needs to be involved to examine not only the financial but other issues such as staffing issues, marketing initiatives and patient care of this facility and outlined the roles of the proposed members within Luzerne County Government, adding he had no pre-designated representatives to serve on this committee and the at-large positions could be advertised, and that the intent of this committee is provide a completely unbiased opinion. Mr. Dombroski offered his support of the proposed motion. Mr. Flood recommended Mr. Dombroski as a candidate to serve on the Committee. Commissioner Skrepenak agreed and welcomed Mr. Dombroski if he would like to volunteer. Commissioner Skrepenak introduced Kim Manning, Stevens and Lee Law Firm, to provide an overview of her firm's recommendations and their opinion of the benefit of the proposed committee. Commissioner Skrepenak commended Ms. Manning for her professionalism and dedication.

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Atty. James Blaum, County Solicitor, concurred with Commissioner Skrepenak's comments, adding Ms. Manning and other representatives of her firm, have been available whenever needed and commended the firm of Stevens & Lee and their staff.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve the allocation of the remaining \$712,500 to the Drifton Softball Complex with funds from the 2003D Bond Issue. Total issued would be a total \$750,000.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve the following **General Fund Budget Transfers:**

1. \$110,750 from Assessors: Salaries/Clerks Line Item to Commissioners: Salaries/Clerks Line Item.
2. \$8,000 from Assessors: Materials and Supplies Line Item to Commissioners: Materials and Supplies Line Item.
3. \$300 from Assessors: Travel and \$100 from Assessors: Meetings & Conferences Line Item to Commissioners: Meetings and Conferences Line Item.
4. \$1,654 from Security: Salaries Line Item to Sheriff; Salaries/Per Diem Line Item

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners authorizing the submission of a revised application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED), effective August 18, 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 o 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 they may have the opportunity to remain in their own homes, where they can maintain their independence and prevent becoming institutionalized.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID URBAN

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners authorizing the submission of a revised application to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, effective August 18, 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 Department of Health funding in regards o the **Statewide Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs**. The County's Program Application is proposing to provide a Countywide comprehensive tobacco prevention cessation program.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the **transfer of \$674,091.11** from the **2002 Capital Projects Bond Issue** for items identified on **Schedule "A" of Requisition 2002-29** that is attached.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to authorize the **transfer of \$145,868.06** from the **2003 Capital Projects Bond Issue Series A** for items identified on **Schedule "A" of Requisition 2003A-16** that is attached.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Request a Motion to authorize the **transfer of \$316,669.54** from the **2003 Capital Projects Bond Issue Series B** for items identified on **Schedule "B" of Requisition 2003B-11** that is attached.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion to approve the attached **refund** through the Assessor's Office in the amount of **\$333.27**.

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

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

Request a Motion accept the resignation of the following from the **LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004.

William Leandri, 12 Doe Drive, Dallas, PA
Linda Stets, 254 George Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Commissioner Urban noted he believed the term of Thomas Kennedy, Esq. West Chappel, Hazleton had also expired.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Vonderheid

"AYES" SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. TO THE AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

RE-APPOINT:

Richard Maculaitis, 51012 Nuangola Road, Mountaintop, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JULY 20, 2006.

Bryan R. McManus, 600 Baltimore Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JULY 20, 2006.

Linda Thoma, 11 Carverton Road, Shavertown, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JULY 20, 2006.

2. TO THE LUZERNE COUNTY CONVENTION AUTHORITY BOARD

RE-APPOINT:

Thomas Melone, 139 South Highland Drive, Pittston, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JANUARY 3, 2006.

Msgr. Andrew McGowan, 208 Thoreau Drive, Glenmaura, Moosic, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JANUARY 2, 2005.

John George, 120 Hemlock Street, Wilkes-Barre Township, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JANUARY 3, 2005.

Gary Lamont, R.R. #3, Box 10, Sugarloaf, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2007.

Kevin Blaum, 244 Scott Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JANUARY 7, 2008.

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Patrick Judge, Glenmaura, Moosic, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JANUARY 7, 2008.

Anthony Lupas, 65 West Jackson Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JANUARY 7, 2008.

Thomas Torbik, 29 Steinbeck Drive, Moosic, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF JANUARY 7, 2008.

APPOINT:

August Piazza, 26 East Sunrise Drive, Jenkins Township, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO JANUARY 1, 2007.

Charles Giacometti, 47 Saginaw Street, Dallas, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO JANUARY 7, 2008.

Bill Jones, 5 Washington Boulevard, Mountaintop, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO JANUARY 2, 2006.

3. TO THE LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RE-APPOINT:

Paul Halesey, 22 Downing Street, Hanover Township, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2009.

APPOINT:

Elaine Curry, 24 Stonecroft Road, Drums, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO SEPTEMBER 01, 2005.

Dr. Thomas F. O'Donnell, 66 Countrywood Road, Hanover Township, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO March 10, 2010.

Joseph Rymar, 16 Church Street, Alden, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO January 31, 2009.

4. TO THE LUZERNE COUNTY ZONING HEARING BOARD

APPOINT:

Lawrence M. Newman, 228 Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2004.

Marie Pedriani, 23 Hilltop Road, Hazleton, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO DECEMBER 31, 2005.

5. TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

APPOINT:

Diane Kopcha Katlic, Coolyn Hill, R.R. #4, Dallas, PA, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO DECEMBER 30, 2008.

6. TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

APPOINT:

Philip Santarelli, R.R. #4, Box, Box 231, Dallas, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO JANUARY 20, 2009.

COMMUNICATIONS: (cont.)

Joseph Masi, 1228 laurel Run Road, Wilkes-Barre, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO JANUARY 20, 2009.

Robert P. Palermo, 133 Valley View Drive, Sugarloaf, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2009.

Joseph Capece, 501 East Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO August 18, 2009.

7. TO THE LUZERNE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD

RE-APPOINT:

Louis Goeringer, P.O. Box 248, Bear Creek, PA WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF August 19, 2009.

APPOINT:

William J. MaGuire, 9 Parkland Drive, Mountaintop, PA EFFECTIVE AUGUST 18, 2004 TO AUGUST 19, 2008.

Commissioner Urban questioned the appointments, polling the Majority Commissioners on each appointment as to whether the individuals were campaign contributors or personal friends, adding he could not make an informed decision on most of the appointments because he was not provided resumes, familiar with the individuals qualifications or consulted and approved only the following appointments because of prior knowledge of the individual or substantial justification from the Majority Commissioners:

Richard Maculaitis and Linda Thoma to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board; Marie Pedriani to the Zoning Hearing Board; Joseph Masi to the Industrial Development Authority Board; Louis Goeringer to the Housing Authority Board; Elaine Curry to the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak to accept the Motion of those appointments proposed by Commissioner Urban.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak to accept the Motion of all other proposed appointments.

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID “NAYES” URBAN

TREASURER’S OFFICE

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

**LUZERNE COUNTY TREASURER’S OFFICE
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
August 18, 2004**

WACHOVIA BANK

General Fund.....	1,433,669.47
School, Road & Institution District.....	393,657.93
Real Estate Tax Sale Account	501,696.01
Self Insured Workers Compensation Fund.....	46,060.17
Court of Common Pleas - Domestic Relations IV-D Fund	877,039.15
Patients’ Personal Fund Account	92,174.63
911 Construction Fund.....	1,302,505.80
911 Operational Fund.....	9,570.31

TREASURERS: (cont.)

PNC BANK, NORTHEAST, PA.

Luzerne County Fiscal Agencies:

Office for the Aging	\$ 1,469,035.77
Children & Youth Department.....	635,170.05
Mental Health/Mental Retardation.....	53,834.68
Drug & Alcohol Program.....	9,049.50
Office of Human Services.....	39,658.03
Human Services Agencies/Transportation Department.....	680.15
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	79,152.17
Luzerne County GWBIF Escrow Account.....	27,266.13
1997 Series Parking & Office Relocation Fund	1,152.00

CITIZENS BANK

Adult Probation Special Account	\$ 749,779.91
Luzerne County Bridges.....	10,765.30
Hazardous Material Emergency Response Account	66,895.15
EMA Radiation Emergency Response Fund.....	10,537.26

FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK

Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau	\$ 47,744.09
Luzerne County Agencies Account	1,083,696.72
Luzerne County Solid Waste Recycle Account.....	61,942.55
Luzerne County Property Tax Collection	493,868.12

FIDELITY DEPOSIT & DISCOUNT BANK

Wyoming Valley Airport Account.....	\$ 46.56
Adult Probation/Offenders Supervision Fund	1,497.44
Tri-County Airport Feasibility Study	32,774.34
Luzerne County 2002 Capital Projects.....	20,140.42
Workmans' Compensation Insurance Reserve Account.....	38,068.40
Luzerne County 2003 Capital Projects.....	36,572.84

**LUZERNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT
August 12, 2004**

General Fund	\$22,000,000.00
School, Road & Institution District	\$4,835,000.00
Real Estate Tax Sale Account	\$500,000.00
Self Insured Workers Compensation Fund	\$1,240,000.00
Court of Common Pleas - Domestic Relations IV-D Fund	\$600,000.00
911 Construction Fund	\$1,950,000.00
Luzerne County Fiscal Agencies:	
Children & Youth	\$600,000.00
Mental Health/Mental Retardation	\$9,275,000.00
Drug & Alcohol Program	\$310,000.00
Office of Human Services	\$350,000.00
Transportation Department	\$915,920.00

TREASURERS: (cont.)

Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$740,000.00
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	\$401,000.00
Total	\$46,101,920.00

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. 400625TR to 400663TR inclusive in the amount of **\$1,227,882.18**

Patients; Personal Fund:

Voucher No. 400254PP to 400274PP inclusive in the amount of **\$8,476.71**

Bureau for the Aging:

Voucher No. 402888AG to 403117AG inclusive in the amount of **\$539,650.66**

Children and Youth:

Voucher No. 404711CY to 404904CY inclusive in the amount of **\$1,656,621.82**

Mental Health/Mental Retardation:

Voucher No. 401554MM to 401641MM inclusive in the amount of **\$2,522,493.34**

Human Services:

Voucher No. 400294HS to 400315HS inclusive in the amount of **\$892,963.21**

Drug and Alcohol:

Voucher No. 400370DA to 400391DA inclusive in the amount of **\$736,532.91**

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

“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.

\$112,899.11	Community Development Block Grant Program
\$47,226.86	Emergency Shelter Grant Program
\$44,139.00	HOME Investment Partnership 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 **August**.

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**, 16 Luzerne Ave., Suite 200, West Pittston, PA. This is the County’s **August 2004** appropriation.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

CONTROLLERS: (cont.)

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

Luzerne County Court House, Brominski Bldg., Penn Place Bldg.:

Window Cleaning

1. Morgans Cleaning Service	\$4,819.00	Cash Ck
2. PJ'S Window Cleaning	\$12,306.64	Cash Ck
3. Clear View Window Cleaning	No Bid	

Luzerne County Court House:

New Lexmark Toners

1. Cartridge World	\$9,397.44	Cash Ck
2. FKM Copier Products	\$9,222.24	Cash Ck
3. Leading Electronics Inc.	\$8,979.36	Cash Ck

Laser Paper

No Bids

Copy Paper

No Bids

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

Bureau of Elections:

Delivery & Re-Delivery of Voting Machines

1. Robert J. Ustonofski	\$5,632.00	Cash Ck
2. Matheson Transfer Co.	\$37,200.00	Cash Ck

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

HUMAN SERVICE – JOSEPH LOFTUS-VERGARI, 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>
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AREA AGENCY ON AGING:

Commission Economic Opportunity	Bridge/Waiver Home Modifications	7/1/04 – 6/30/05	\$5,000
Erwine's Private Duty	Bridge/Waiver	“ “	\$5,000

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

Tidgewell Assoc	Develop MR Data Warehouse Structure, HCSIS Tool OMR Robot Development and Deployment & Provide Training	4/1/04 –6/30/05	\$14,250
Kathleen Pacca	MR Early Intervention	7/1/04 – 6/30/05	\$20,000

HUMAN SERVICES: (cont.)

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICES</u>	<u>TERM</u>		<u>RATE</u>
<u>MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:(cont.)</u>				
Glen & Gwen Transportation	MR Transportation	“	“	\$11,500
Attorney Edward J. Ciarimboli	Legal Representation for Mental Health Emergency Services	“	“	\$26,445
Attorney Michael Butera	Legal Representation for Mental Health Emergency Services	“	“	\$26,445

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>
<u>AREA AGENCY ON AGING:</u>					
Comfort Keepers-Hazleton	Personal Care	7/1/04 – 6/30/05		\$3,500	\$10,000
<u>MENTAL HEALT/MENTAL RETARDATION:</u>					
Joseph J. Rosen, Appraisals (Name change to Rosen Real Estate, Inc.)	Real Estate Appraisals	7/1/04 – 6/30/05		\$1,000	\$2,000
ARC of Luzerne County	MR Comm. Employ & Indep. Monitoring Team	“	“	\$212,896	\$122,246
Family Service Assoc. of Wyoming Valley	MH/MR Admin. &	“	“	\$10,000	\$18,720

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

OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES:

Commission on Economic Opportunity	Housing	7/1/03 – 6/30/04		\$108,850	\$111,883
	Homemaker			\$39,250	\$40,673
	CHORE			\$41,000	\$44,161
	Home Delivered Meals			\$106,200	\$100,707
United Cerebral Palsy	In Home Life Skills	“	“	\$28,396	\$29,502
Luzerne County Children Children & Youth	Counseling/ Intervention	“	“	\$38,000	\$75,677
Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Transportation Department	Transportation	“	“	\$134,445	\$149,998

HUMAN SERVICES: (cont.)

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

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT – JAMES J. BROZENA, COUNTY ENGINEER

No Agenda

VALLEY CREST – JAMES MILLER, ADMINISTRATOR

No Agenda

ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT – JOHN J. GLUSHEFSKI, DIRECTOR

No Agenda

PROPERTY AND SUPPLY – WILLIAM P. BURKE, DIRECTOR

Request a Motion for permission to advertise the following for the Purchasing Department:

Luzerne County Courthouse:

Rug Rentals
Luzerne County Visitors Guide Fall/Winter Version

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – ADRIAN F. MEROLLI, DIRECTOR

No Agenda

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – SANDRA RUSSELL, DIRECTOR

Request a Motion of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne granting **Power of Attorney** to sign necessary documents for the **release of satisfied mortgages** held by the County, through its Office of Community Development, **to Catherine Hilsher and Sandra Russell** of the Office of Community Development, effective August 18, 2004.

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

Request a motion of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne **extending the February 18, 2000 Power of Attorney** granted to **Catherine Hilsher and Denise Shimko** of the Office of Community Development through June 30, 2004. Said Power of Attorney grants the authority to sign necessary documents for the **release mortgages** held by the County, through its Office of Community Development, once all conditions of the mortgage have been satisfied.

It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“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 AT:

MOON LAKE PARK

Jennifer Padol, Swamp Road, Hunlock Creek, Maintenance @ \$5.35 per hour. Effective August 13, 2004.

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

LUZERNE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Gregory Hunsinger, 178 Meade Street, Wilkes-Barre, Youth Program Manager @ \$39,500.00 per annum. Effective August 20, 2004. To fill vacancy.

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

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION

The following as Caseworker 2's at an annual salary of \$26,996 effective August 20, 2004:
(ps#21-M440-L0624-0034) Luke Reynolds, Pittston Twp.
(ps#21-M440-L0624-0017) Malinda Hunter, Wilkes-Barre

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

VALLEY CREST

Denise Shaver 13 Tennant Street Pittston, Penna.	LPN-3-11 Per Diem	Effective 8/2/04 \$16.36/Hour
Margaret Sitar 71 Mountain Street Swoyersville, Penna.	CNA-3-11	Effective 8/2/04 \$19,848.00
Rhonda Baird 26 Park Avenue Apt. 2 Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	CNA-3-11	Effective 8/2/04 \$19,848.00
Melissa Banaszek 65 W. Union Apt. C Kingston, Penna.	CNA-3-11	Effective 8/2/04 \$19,848.00
Deborah Ebert 392 Madison Street Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	Auxiliary Aide	Effective 8/2/04 \$14,500.00
Carol Bieschke RR #1, Box 96AA Noxen, Penna.	CNA-3-11	Effective 8/9/04 \$19,848.00
Susan Seprish 156 Edgerock Drive Drums, Penna.	CNA-3-11	Effective 8/9/04 \$19,848.00

PERSONNEL: (cont.)

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RECLASSIFICATION AT AGING:

Laura Pisarcik to Administrative Assistant 1 (ps# 10-G140-L0111-0004) at an annual salary of \$23,519 effective April 30, 2004.

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

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

Charlene Thomas 79 Abbott Street Plains, Penna.	Environmental Services	Eff. 7/19/04 – Transferred to Restorative Nursing
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It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS AT:

LUZERNE COUNTY 911:

Thomas D. Farrell, Telecommunicator, 321 West Grace Street, Old Forge, Effective August 3, 2004.

Jason Bridge, Telecommunicator, 7 Rhine Creek Road, Drums, Effective August 9, 2004.

James Bower, Telecommunicator, 203 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, Effective August 19, 2004.

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

Deedra Porfirio, Caseworker 2 (ps# 21-Y740-L0624-0055) Effective September 8, 2004.

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

Deborah Krushnowski, Clerk 3 (ps# 21-M440-L0013-0004) Effective August 24, 2004.

VALLEY CREST:

Ruth Dante 1279 E. Northampton Street Laurel Run, Penna.	LPN-3-11	Effective 7/28/04 Resignation
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Shannon Evans 112 Rees Street Wilkes-Barre, Penna.	CNA-3-11	Effective 7/25/04 Resignation
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It was moved by Commissioner Vonderheid, seconded by Commissioner Urban
“AYES” SKREPENAK, VONDERHEID, URBAN

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TERMINATION AT THE COMMISSIONERS OFFICE:

Cindy Shaw, Executive Assistant, 5742 Main Road, Hunlock Creek, Effective August 12, 2004.

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

PERSONNEL: (cont.)

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RETIREMENT AT THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE:

Joseph Drugan, Cashier, 36 South Grant Street, 2nd Floor, Wilkes-Barre, Effective July 6, 2004.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SEPARATION AT TRANSPORTATION:

The Separation of Stanley Makachinas, Part Time Driver (ps# 86-LWCTD-9202-0002) Effective August 18, 2004.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING LEAVE OF ABSENCE AT:

AGING:

A Leave of Absence Without Pay for Angeline Kizer, Clerk Typist 2 (ps# 10-G140-L0032-0010) Effective July 9, 2004.

TRANSPORTATION:

A Return from Leave of Absence Without Pay for Timothy Cerullo, Driver (ps# 86-LWCTD-9201-0014) Effective August 3, 2004.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING TRAININGS AT A TOTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,240:

AREA AGENCY ON AGING:

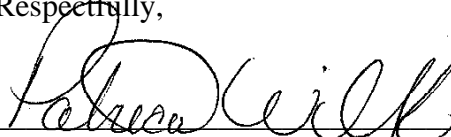
<u>ATTENDEE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>APPROX. COST</u>
Linda Casey Tina Dorshefski Jack McGlynn Sharon Moss Robin Muth Gene Nugent Elaine Pucci	SAMS/PFR Training	State College	8/17-18/04	\$747
Doris Magee	Dementia Journey	Danville	9/9/04	\$25
Phil Semenza Ron Williams	Sr. Community Svc. Employee Training	State College	8/30-9/1/04	\$386
Chris Weldon Marjorie Starek	TSM-SAT Testing	New Cumberland	8/3-4/04	\$90

A Motion was entertained to adjourn the Commissioners' Meeting.

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

August 18, 2004

Respectfully,



Patricia Wilk, Recording Secretary