

February 18, 2004

On the above date at 12:05 P.M. following the Commissioners' Board meeting, the Luzerne County Salary Board convened with the following present: Gregory A. Skrepenak, Chairman; Todd A. Vonderheid and Stephen A. Urban, Commissioners; Samuel T. Guesto, County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk; James Blaum, County Solicitor; Joseph Loftus-Vergari, Director of Human Services; James Miller, Administrator of Valley Crest; Michael L. Morreale, Treasurer; Stephen L. Flood, Controller; James J. Brozena, County Engineer; John J. Glushefski, Director of Road & Bridge; William P. Burke, Director of Property and Supply,; Adrian F. Merolli, Director of Planning; Sandra Russell, Director of Community Development; Russell Arnone, Director of Budget /Finances.

Mr. Skrepenak called the meeting to order. It is noted that all meetings are electronically recorded.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

District Attorney David Lupas addressed the Commissioners concerning across-the-board raises for his department. DA Lupas cited the constant rise of crime in Luzerne County, including three capital murder cases in 2003 which contributed to his staff being overworked and underpaid contributing to a very low morale within his department. DA Lupas outlined assistant district attorneys' salaries in other third class counties, including Berks, Chester, Dauphin, Erie, Lancaster, Lehigh, Northampton, and York, who all have higher starting salaries than Luzerne County. DA Lupas pleaded with the Commissioners and the Controller, Steve Flood, for assistance in offering his staff raises, estimating the increase to his budget would be around \$90,000. Commissioner Urban pointed out that with benefits including Health Insurance the total would be more in the range of \$120,000. DA Lupas also clarified that he is receiving no additional positions in the Budget. Commissioner Vonderheid responded that draft budget had removed two positions from the salary line items and may have been deceiving. Mr. Flood promised to work with the DA to analyze the budget and examine where funding for the requested raises could be drawn from. The DA provided the Commissioners a detailed list of positions and recommended salaries. Commissioner Urban recommended the DA prepare a formal request to be addressed by the Salary Board. Commissioner Vonderheid agreed there is an inequity problem within the Personnel budget and requested the DA give the Commissioners the next forty-five days to review the available funding once the voluntary layoffs have been completed and in the interim meet with Mr. Flood. The District Attorney commended the Commissioners on their efforts and for taking the time to meet and address his and his department concerns.

Commissioner Vonderheid requested the Salary Board authorize for James Brozena, County Engineer, to advertise for Levee Electrician, Levee Mechanic/Plumber and Equipment/Pump Operator with no salaries as they have not been approved by the Salary Board.

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

A Motion was entertained to adjourn the Salary Board Meeting.

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

Respectfully,

Patricia Wilk, Recording Secretary