

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; Rose S. Tucker and Stephen A. Urban, Commissioners; Samuel T. Guesto, County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk; James Blaum, County Solicitor; Salvadore Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance.; Michael Morreale; Treasurer; Maryanne Petrilla, Controller; Doug Richards, Director Human Resources; Joseph DeVizia, Director of Human Services; Andrew Reilly, Director of Community Development; and Gregory Hunsinger, Director of Purchasing, Joe Gibbons, Engineer, Adrian Merolli, Director Planning; Doug Pape, Interim Director Luzerne/Wyoming Transportation; Paul McGarry, Directory Probation Services.

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

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

Commissioner Skrepenak reminded everyone that if you wish to address the Commissioners to sign in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:..... Samuel T. Guesto, Jr.
County Manager /Chief Clerk

No announcements.

RECOGNITIONS:..... Kathy Bozinski
Public Information Officer

No recognitions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Grier, Wilkes-Barre, commented on filing a complaint with DECD and asked Commissioners Urban and Tucker to file the complaint. Mr. Grier asked for the immediate resignation of anyone who held a county Debit Card and asked for an investigation from the District Attorney and the Attorney General.

Walter Griffith commented on the budget stating he would like to have a freeze on the budget and suggested the Commissioners reject the proposed budget. He also stated his concern for public meetings starting on time and expressed his request to speak about the Debit Cards.

Patty Butts stated she would like to comment regarding the Debit Cards and stated she does not understand how you can pay expenses without documentation.

Stanley (?) questioned which Commissioner knew the county was deep in debt before the election.

Commissioner Urban responded that at the last meeting before the election the budget review only covered the period through July and he questioned hiring per diem employees and Row Officers spending money they didn't have.

Commissioner Skrepenak respectfully disagreed with Commissioner Urban stating that the shortfall was reported in our last budget meeting before the election and that this county has been in debt for years and that the Criminal Justice System is our largest expense.

Commissioners Skrepenak and Urban had a lengthy discussion regarding the Criminal Justice System, including Drug Court, the Prison, Mental Health Court, Valley Crest, Retirement Board , Salary Board.

Commissioner Tucker stated that she has never seen Commissioner Urban put forth a suggestion that could rectify or assist any of the problems that exist. She also asked the chairman to address the budget and proceed to vote.

Ed Chestovich, asked if the total of \$147 million in revenues includes the money the county will borrow.

Commissioner Skrepenak and Sam Diaz gave explanation on what was approved at the last meeting and what each bond series is for.

Bob McDougal provide comment on the efforts of everyone but questioned government projects such as Community Development and asked that the Commissioners just say “no” to these government projects. He also asked that Commissioner Urban’s suggestions be taken and looked into.

Charles Hatchco, Jenkins Township, commented that in government ethics, morals, responsibility, and accountability count and stated that he believes Commissioner Skrepenak has lost the public trust. He also stated he will be pushing for Home Rule in Luzerne County.

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COMMUNICATIONS – SAMUEL T. GUESTO, JR.

MOTION

Proposed Budget 2008

Sam Diaz, Chief, Budget and Finance, provided comment outlining the 2008 Budget. Copies of the Budget will be available for review in the Courthouse; County Manager's office and Law and at the Hazleton Courthouse Annex. The budget will presented for ratification at the December 21, 2007 meeting.

Commissioner Skrepenak, on behalf of the Board, congratulated Mr. Diaz, Sam Guesto, Jr, County Manager/Chief Clerk, senior staff, Row Officers and Department Heads for their efforts and contributions to this budget.

Request a motion to accept the first reading of the Proposed 2008 Budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, TUCKER, “NAY” URBAN

MOTION

Proposed 2008 Liquid Fuels Budget

Joe Gibbons, Engineer, provide comment outlining the 2008 Liquid Fuels Budget.

Commissioner Urban stated he will vote for this motion because the budget will be balanced coming in.

Request a motion to accept the first reading of the Proposed 2008 Liquid Fuels Budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Skrepenak.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, TUCKER, URBAN

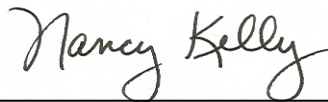
END OF COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Request a motion to adjourn.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Tucker.
“AYES” SKREPENAK, TUCKER, URBAN

Respectfully,



Nancy Kelly, Recording Secretary