

On the above date at 3:00 P.M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened an emergency meeting with the following present: Gregory A. Skrepenak, Chairman; Rose S. Tucker, Commissioners; Samuel T. Guesto, County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk; James Blaum, County Solicitor; Bill Brace, Deputy Chief Clerk; Salvadore Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance.; Doug Richards, Human Resources; Michael Morreale; Treasurer; Maryanne Petrilla, Controller; and Joseph DeVizia, Director of Human 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stan Zakowski, Wilkes-Barre, stated that we all want safe bridges. But do we want them at any cost? It is crisis time now because of the reaction to Minnesota bridge failure. Mr. Zakowski asked if the bridges are in deteriorating condition here that we need this procedure. He also asked if this declaration means this is a blank check and wanted to ask Commissioner Urban if, with there would be any chance for abuse. (Commissioner Urban was not in attendance)

Commissioner Skrepenak explained that we are not to the point where the bridges are not crossable. He explained the situation from the last major flooding and noted some bridges have been wiped out and are not yet operational. There is a need to be concerned, for two reasons; bridges are used as emergency routes and as school bus routes. We need to act immediately and to make sure that those routes, especially those that are carrying children and used for emergencies, are protected and able to be used. This declaration means is that we now can expedite the process now and make sure we have everything we need in order to make a decision. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that we have done initial inspections on these bridges which have led to this process as well. After our initial inspections, the situation warrants that we act as quickly as we possible to do more inspections and to address the needs of those bridges that are deemed to be worthy of repair.

COMMUNICATIONS – SAMUEL T. GUESTO, JR.

Luzerne County State of Emergency – Owned Bridges

MOTION

Request a Motion to adopt a Resolution declaring the existence of a state of emergency in the County of Luzerne relating to all County – owned bridges. Resolution # 8292007

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that Mr. Guesto has received an email from Commissioner Urban confirming his support for this project. After consulting with Solicitor Blaum, it was feasible to convey an emergency meeting for this purpose

Mr. Guesto stated he has sent correspondence by email to Commissioner Urban with the outline of the emergency. Commissioner Urban responded with an email stating that he fully supports public safety measures as one of his top priorities and he had no problem with the declaration.

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that by passing this resolution we are being proactive in this approach rather than declaring an emergency after we have a problem with a bridge, we can clear it now so that we hope to avoid any instances of such as happened in Minnesota. We are trying to be as efficient as we possible can, to protect our most valuable resources in this county which are our citizens and constituents and most importantly our children.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, TUCKER

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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Request a motion to adjourn.

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

“AYES” SKREPENAK, TUCKER

Respectfully,



Nancy Kelly, Recording Secretary