

February 28, 2008

On the above date at 11:00 A. M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened a special meeting with the following present: Maryanne Petrilla, Chairman; Gregory Skrepenak, Commissioner; Stephen Urban, Commissioner; William G. Brace, Deputy Chief Clerk; James Blaum, County Solicitor; Salvadore Diaz, Chief of Budget and Finance; Michael Morreale, Treasurer; Anthony J. Martinelli, Acting Controller; Joseph DeVizia, Director of Human Services; Andrew Reilly, Director of Community Development; Gregory Hunsinger, Director of Purchasing; Joe Gibbons, Engineer; Adrian Merolli, Director of Planning.

Maryanne Petrilla called the meeting to order and asked everyone to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. It is noted that all meetings are electronically recorded.

CALL TO ORDER.....Maryanne C. Petrilla, Chairman

ANNOUNCEMENTS:Maryanne C. Petrilla, Chairman

Commissioner Petrilla announced that Executive Sessions were held on the following dates: February 25, 2008 to discuss personnel issues, February 21, 2008 to discuss legal matters, and February 28, 2008 at 10:45 A.M. to finalize today’s announcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Commissioner Petrilla publically thanked Bill Brace for serving as Acting Chief Clerk. Commissioner Petrilla stated that the self sacrifice Mr. Brace had shown embodied the essence of public service. Commissioner Petrilla stated that Mr. Brace was an asset to Luzerne County and she looked forward to working with him throughout her term.

COMMUNICATIONS – WILLIAM G. BRACE

MOTION

BUDGET TRANSFER

Request a motion to approve a 2008 General Fund Budget Transfer of \$200,000.00 from the Courts Capital Cases line item to the General Government Operations Capital Cases Experts line item.

Commissioner Skrepenak asked Mr. Diaz to explain exactly what was happening.

Mr. Diaz stated that the courts have stepped away because of a conflict in approving expert bills for the Public Defender and District Attorney Office. Mr. Diaz stated that the Capital Case line item had been established for that purpose. Mr. Diaz stated that they would leave \$100,000.00 in that line, for conflict counsel, which would be controlled by the court, and transfer \$200,000.00 which would be controlled by the Commissioners under the General Government Operations.

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

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE:

Request a motion to appoint County Manager/Chief Clerk, to fill a vacancy, effective February 28, 2008.

Commissioner Petrilla stated that this appointment would be effective March 3, 2008. Commissioner Petrilla announced that she was very proud that the selection by the Commissioners for the position of the Chief Clerk was Doug Pape.

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

Doug Pape stated that he wanted to thank all three commissioners, and especially Commissioner Petrilla who thus far has shown her determination in moving the county forward. Mr. Pape state that he looked forward to being Commissioner Petrilla’s “go to guy”. Mr. Pape thanked Joe DeVizia and all the employees he worked with at Human Services and the Transportation Department. Mr. Pape also thanked his parents, who were in attendance, and stated that it was a bittersweet day for his family because his nine year old nephew was in a hospital in Philadelphia. Mr. Pape asked everyone to keep his nephew in their prayers. Mr. Pape stated that during the interview process his goal was to earn the position and he thought that he had done that. Mr. Pape stated that he looked forward to working with the Commissioners and Department Heads to make Luzerne County a better place.

Commissioner Petrilla read a press release. (see attached)

Commissioner Petrilla asked if the media had any questions. Jen Learn Andes from the Times Leader questioned the salary amount. Commissioner Petrilla stated that it would be \$72,000.00 to start. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that was contingent on approval at the next Salary Board Meeting because the amount falls below the salary range for this position. A member of the press asked how many people applied for the position. Commissioner Petrilla stated that twenty one people applied, and seven candidates were interviewed.

Commissioner Skrepenak commented that right, wrong, or indifferent, the past was in the past and today we move forward. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that he was as excited as the day he took office four years ago. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that this was a new opportunity. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that Mr. Pape has a work ethic second to none and his professionalism was as high as it comes. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that he knew at no given time would Mr. Pape jeopardize his integrity on what his position requires because of commissioner personalities of differences. Commissioner Skrepenak sent his congratulations to Doug and his parents. He stated that it was a proud day for Luzerne County. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that he sent a heartfelt God bless to their nephew and grandchild, and that we would keep him in our prayers. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that today we are grateful in Luzerne County and he again congratulated Mr. Pape.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Respectively submitted,



Jennifer Thomas, Recording Secretary



COMMISSIONERS
Maryanne Petrilla, Chairman •
Greg Skrepenak • Stephen
Urban

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 28, 2008

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Luzerne County Commissioners Fill Key Posts

Doug Pape named county manager/chief clerk

WILKES-BARRE --- The Luzerne County Board of Commissioners today filled a key post, promoting Doug Pape to county manager/chief clerk .

“We’re extremely fortunate to have Doug Pape, such a highly qualified professional on our team,” board chairman Maryanne C. Petrilla said. “Their energy and creativity will contribute greatly to this administration’s efforts to enhance services for the residents of Luzerne County and make local government more accessible to everyone.”

Pape had been fulfilling two county government roles, serving as acting interim director of the transportation department since February 2007 and contracts manager for the Luzerne County Office of Human Services since January 2006.

As county manager/chief clerk, Pape will work with the board of commissioners to manage the county’s daily operations and oversee the administration of more than two dozen departments and agencies currently under the direction of Petrilla and fellow commissioners Greg Skrepenak and Stephen Urban.

“Doug has demonstrated an impressive ability to get things done, even while working double duty, and to strengthen the bridges between communities and government --- a top priority of this administration,” Petrilla said. “We’re fortunate to have him among our ranks, and we’re thankful he will continue to put his experience to work for Luzerne County residents.”

Pape oversaw more than 400 provider contracts utilized by the Office of Human Services during his term as manager. His responsibilities included ensuring agencies adhered to county purchasing policies and bidding requirements, monitoring the implementation of agreement guidelines and tracking outcomes to ensure compliance.

While serving as interim transportation head, Pape managed a staff of 80 employees and directed the 1.5 million miles and 280,000 trips that the bi-county transportation agency makes each year for special-needs clientele. He also made several structural changes that improved the overall

system infrastructure and drastically improved services for the seniors, MH/MR patients and other special-needs individuals who rely on the program.

Pape previously served three years as an inside sales account manager for Pride Mobility Products in Exeter, where he was responsible for the growth and maintenance of 150 accounts, 10 of which ranged from \$100,000 to \$3 million in sales per year.

A resident of Wilkes-Barre, Pape received his bachelor's degree in 1992 from Bloomsburg University. He currently is pursuing his master's degree in public administration from East Stroudsburg University.

Pape replaces former county manager/chief clerk Sam Guesto, who resigned and recently was hired for a newly created court director job. Deputy Chief Clerk Bill Brace had been managing duties while commissioners interviewed candidates to fill the county's high-ranking post.

"Bill has done a tremendous job over the last few weeks. We thank him enough for all the great work he's done on such short notice. His self-sacrifice embodies the essence of public service," Petrilla said. "Having both Doug and Bill in the chief clerk's office is an asset."

"All of us remain committed to working hard to keep, our communities growing and our county moving forward," Petrilla said.

For more information, visit www.LuzerneCounty.org.

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