

June 9, 2008

On the above date at 1:30 P.M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened a special meeting with the following present: Maryanne Petrilla, Chairman; Gregory Skrepenak, Commissioner; Stephen Urban, Via Telephone, Commissioner; Douglas Pape, Chief Clerk/County Manager; William G. Brace, Deputy Chief Clerk; Tom Pribula, Chief of Budget and Finance; Michael Morreale, Treasurer; Anthony J. Martinelli, Acting Controller; Toni Cisowski, MH/MR Administrator; Doug Richards, Director, Human Resources.

Maryanne Petrilla called the meeting to order and asked everyone to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Petrilla asked the record to reflect that Commissioner Urban was participating in the meeting via speaker phone.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:Douglas A. Pape
County Manager/ Chief Clerk**

None

PUBLIC COMMENT.....None

Douglas Pape requested that Toni Cisowski explain the motion listed for MH/MR Business Agreement.

Ms. Cisowski stated the Administrative Entity (A/E) Operating Agreement was a business agreement between the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties MH/MR Program. She stated that this agreement had been signed by both the Luzerne and Wyoming County Commissioners for the past two years, this being the third year. Ms. Cisowski stated the purpose of the A/E Operating Agreement was to ensure to the federal government consistency in the process of administering the Waiver Programs in all counties throughout the state. Ms. Cisowski explained that there are approximately 2,000 individuals in the Mental Retardation System. Of the 2,000, 600 individuals are participating in the Waiver Programs. These individuals receive services such as transportation, day programs, and in-home community habilitation. Some of the individuals reside in their home with their family or in community living arrangements. Ms. Cisowski further explained that it is not necessary for the Mental Health component of the MH/MR Program to have an A/E Agreement. This agreement is being required by all counties in Pennsylvania by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

COMMUNICATIONS – DOUGLAS A. PAPE

MOTION

Emergency Dispatch Liability Insurance

Request a Motion to approve National Casualty Company as Emergency Dispatch Liability Insurance provider for a total annual premium of \$26,139, effective June 12, 2008 through June 12, 2009. This premium is \$1412 less than the same coverage with the same company for the past year.

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

MOTION

Law Enforcement Liability Insurance

Request a Motion to approve Indian Harbor Insurance Company as Law Enforcement Liability Insurance provider for a total premium of \$261,795, effective June 12, 2008 through June 12, 2009. This premium is \$24,273 less than the premium for such coverage the past year, yet will provide the same coverage and for an additional 105 law enforcement employees as our previous policy.

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

MOTION

Mental Health/Mental Retardation Business Agreement

Request a Motion to approve a business agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW), Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program for the purpose of locally administering and participating in the Consolidated and Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) Waivers for fiscal year 2008-2009.

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

Commissioner Petrilla asked Tony Alu to give an update on reassessment. Mr. Alu stated that the reassessment offices in both the northern and southern part of the county are open and informal reviews were being handled daily by the staff. Commissioner Skrepenak asked Mr. Alu to explain the process for an informal/formal appeal. Mr. Alu replied that informal appeals were mainly to correct errors and present information about properties that might have been missed. Mr. Alu stated the formal appeals are more for disagreements about the value of the property. Mr. Alu recommended that property owners obtain an appraisal if they can afford one however property owners can research the values of similar properties on their own. Commissioner Skrepenak questioned what impact the economy had on the new values. Mr. Alu responded that he never saw a big boom in the county so there really wasn't a big bust. Mr. Alu stressed that that the real estate market decline since January 1, 2008 was irrelevant because that was the date on which the reassessment was pegged.

Commissioner Petrilla thanked Mr. Alu and his staff for doing an outstanding job.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Respectively submitted,



Jennifer Thomas, Recording Secretary