

August 20, 2008

On the above date at 1:00 P.M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened their regularly scheduled meeting with the following present: Maryanne Petrilla, Chairman; Gregory Skrepenak, Commissioner; Stephen Urban, Commissioner; Douglas Pape, Chief Clerk/County Manager; William G. Brace, Deputy Chief Clerk; James Blaum, County Solicitor; Tom Pribula, Chief of Budget and Finance; Michael Morreale, Treasurer; Anthony J. Martinelli, Acting Controller; Joseph DeVizia, Director of Human Services; Gregory Hunsinger, Director of Purchasing; Joseph Gibbons, Engineer; Adrian Merolli, Planning Commission.

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.

Commissioner Petrilla stated that public comment would be held to five minutes for each person who wanted to speak. Commissioner Petrilla informed the crowd that the meeting would be adjourned if there was any screaming or jeering.

BID OPENINGS: No Bid Openings

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

None

**RECOGNITIONS:.....Jason Jarecki
Communications Director**

RESOLUTION: ARTHUR A. BARTOLAI, THE FORMER LUZERNE COUNT VETERAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOR 32 YEARS.

RESOLUTION: NEPA ALLIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Santo Agati listed discrepancies between recent home sales and their new assessed values. He wanted to know why it was the job of the citizens to find the errors of 21st Century. He said in West Pittston, there doesn't seem to be consistent land values. He listed examples to illustrate his point. He believes there is a bias against property owners.

Maryanne Petrilla thanked LCCC for letting them use the space.

Jim Nelligan said he was from "Cash Cow, Pennsylvania." He dubbed it "the reassessment codename for Harvey's Lake." He said he had spent over \$1,000 to prepare for his formal appeal. He spent money on a lawyer, gas, etc. He asked about other costs. He also spent money on photographs and documentation copies. He expressed frustration that he had to spend money to prove Mr. Barr was wrong. He asked the commissioners to give seniors a tax reduction in 2009 because of the expenses of formal appeals. The people applauded this suggestion.

Evelyn Schwartz lives in Penn Lake. She said that Penn Lake is small, approximately a mile around. She expressed confusion at the neighborhood divisions in her area, as the only thing separating her from some of her neighbors is a "half a football field of water." She has .16 acres. She did the math with what her property was worth, and concluded that it would cost \$958,000 per acre. She had an appraisal done to her property. It was appraised at less than half of her reassessment value. She wanted to know, when she goes

to her formal appeal with her appraisal, whether or not her appraisal will be accepted by the panel for the formal appeal.

Jill Rosenstock is also from Penn Lake and is a member of Penn Lake Council. She said she has received calls from “lots of older, uneducated people in Penn Lake...” She believes the lakefront property owners at Penn Lake are being “crucified.” She also said that on average, for those lakefront property owners, the land is valued, on average, about \$5,000 a square foot. She focused on the “older, uneducated people”, some of who don’t have computers. She said the median income in Penn Lake is a bit below \$50,000. She feels 21st Century should bear the burden of the costs of their mistakes.

Dorothy Spencer has five separate properties, including “an imaginary house.” She was told at the informal hearing that she had to prove it wasn’t there. She is worried about the farmers, as according to her, farmers can just get by. She said that farmers usually work second jobs and the reassessment is going to affect the grocery stores.

Michelle Boice stated she was very sorry, that she hated the silence, that so many of you asked me to speak for you, and that’s not going to be allowed. (Boos)

Maryanne Petrilla stated that she suggested Mrs. Boice use her five minutes to speak.

(Boos)

Michelle Boice stated that these people are good citizens of Luzerne County (inaudible). You’re silencing the people! (Inaudible) (Cheers) So you stop the crap and cut me off when you want, all right?

Someone: Freedom of speech!

Maryanne Petrilla asked everyone to calm down. She stated that she knew a lot of people took time out of their busy day to come here and be heard. Now, if things don’t get under control, I will adjourn the meeting. (Boos)

Michelle Boice stated, now, Maryanne, everyone is in their seats. Everyone is in their seats. We’d like to continue on with the meeting. (Inaudible) You stop the clock and cut me off, thank you.

Someone: Grow up! Grow up!

Michelle Boice stated when we get a lawyer, we’ll see how you cut him off. (Cheers) All right, let me get through this, ‘cause I’m on the clock. The taxpayers of Luzerne County are sick and tired of being treated with disrespect. They want answers to their valid questions, and they want honest answers straight forward. I submitted a question on live TV. Mr. Barr said the county commissioners had a list of the employees, which is the key to this whole case. I’m sorry, because I am very emotional, but I’ll get through this. I’m a strong woman. Mr. Barr appeared on live TV and answered the question I submitted. He said the commissioners have a list of all the employees at 21st Century. I went down the courthouse and asked for it and was told the commissioners have no such list. I then walked over to the Assessors’ Office with Mr. Steve Urban and they had no such list. That was a lie that we have a list. That was just (inaudible). Even our county controller now is being denied the list of the employees. And one has to question why can’t we get a list of the employees? Even our county controller. Could it be that the field data collectors had as little as three to five hours of training before starting out on the road? Also on the same TV program, Mr. Barr said we have a couple dozen licensed appraisers that are (inaudible) on the project of 169,000 parcels in Luzerne County. Then he went on the radio show after that, said we have two or three. Mr. Barr, what is it? Two or three? Two dozen? You lied. We not only deserve to have, but we demand to know how this \$9,000,000 reassessment was conducted and by whom. I don’t think the project was done by computer programmers. That was spent largely on untrained data collectors. It seems to me the \$9,000,000 is nothing but a scam and we can’t get the list of the employees to blow the lid off this and show them the scam. Where’s our solicitor? This contract called for, it’s right in the contract, that 21st Century would provide trained, competent, professional employees to undertake this job. And we can’t find out if we have trained, competent, professional employees. I mean we want facts, we want the documentation. Where were they trained? How were they trained? I don’t want hear Mr. Barr on the TV or radio saying they were trained. I’d like proof that they were trained. (Applause) If we need to get the District Attorney involved in this, it’s high time we did. (Applause) –shouldn’t have to come here and take time off work and tell you people how to do your jobs. (Inaudible) errors, the gross, negligent errors. Some of them are ludicrous. (Inaudible) --in the newspapers, can’t somebody (inaudible) questions on

behalf of our \$10,000,000. (Applause) We came (inaudible) to last month's meeting and we pled for four hours. We told you our stories, and we haven't stopped things. The taxpayers held meetings, grassroots all over the county, standing alone or with crowds. They've written letters to you. They've written letters to the editors. They try to get the newspapers to print their horror story. I mean, they can only print so many of these stories before they start saying, "Where's the relief? Who's going to check into the validity of this contract?" Now, we have far more questions than answers at the long secrecy of this whole process. (Inaudible) –and it concerns me. (Inaudible) (Applause) My contention is this. When the largest city in the county, and the county seat, Wilkes-Barre, elected officials say delay, there's problems. And the second largest city, Hazleton, says delay, there's problems. And many more communities throughout the county said delay, there's problems, and most of these elected officials haven't got as much as a phone call. They're being totally ignored and disrespected, because I think it's disrespect when a mayor of a small community writes to the commissioners and tells them the plight of his people and how concerned they are at the number of errors, that there is no rhyme or reasoning for the process. Pretty much (inaudible) someone will come out and answer our people. And he can't even get a phone call. One person called on his way out of town, and that was Steve Urban and he said he'd get back to me. No one called. No one called the Mayor of Harvey's Lake. No one called me. I've written letters. I've sent emails. I've sent faxes of the atrocities. And you want respect? Where's my respect? (Applause) –the local real estate professionals have weighed in. Besides your elected officials in your biggest cities and in your small towns, local real estate professionals have told you this process has problems. There are serious flaws. Slow it down. Let's take a look. This is ridiculous. They were ignored. (Applause) The tax collectors have spoken up on behalf of the senior citizens. The senior citizens are who moved me into action because they would cry, call me on the phone and cry, stop in the streets and cry, visibly shake, telling me they're not going to be able to keep their homes.

Maryanne Petrilla asked Mrs. Boice to wrap it up.

Michelle Boice asked, you want me to wrap it? Okay, now I would say to anybody, I know some of you just aren't, you don't want to stand in public. But (inaudible) call your names and take your time back. Take your time back and just come up here and say something. (Inaudible) you want to cut me. And it's sad, because you know what Mary Ellen, Maryanne, whatever the hell your name is-- (Laughter) You are denying the opportunity for people that (inaudible) and a little shy. Hasn't anyone been accused of being shy? You're denying them. They came here today. They wanted me to speak for them, and you're cutting me off. Who do you represent? It's not democracy. (Inaudible) is not out of order. This is not Nazi Germany! (Applause)

Someone: I just, I'm not--.

Maryanne Petrilla: You're out of order.

Someone: You are too!

Maryanne Petrilla: Grace Griffin. Grace Griffin.

Grace Griffin asked the commissioners at the last type of meeting what type of plan they had for low income people and senior citizens so they could remain in their homes. She was upset she had not received an answer. She asked if they had an answer yet.

Steve Urban explained that a Homestead Exemption was introduced at the county level. He also explained that the county worked with the State Department when they were organizing the reassessment. It was discovered that there were 32,000 seniors in the county who did not apply for the rent rebate. There are also programs through the Bureau of Aging. There is also Meals on Wheels. He said the county will be glad to help needy people.

Grace Griffin said that in Florida, New Jersey, and other states, there are laws to put caps on real estate taxes. She said this has not been considered here.

Steve Urban said that this is legislation authorized by the legislators. He said they had met with Karen Boback and Lisa Baker and asked them to consider the real estate tax caps. He explained that these laws start in the state and the county does not have that type of authority. They asked the legislators to put in wage taxes or sales taxes. The people also voted against putting lower school taxes and have higher wage taxes instead.

Grace Griffin said there needs to be direction. She said there needs to be leadership to keep the people informed about property taxes.

Greg Skrepenak said he implemented his Action Plan on Friday that outlined several steps. He wants to delay the implementation to get it right. His mother told him that if he's going to do something to do it right. He said reassessment is the symptom of the problem. Allegheny County spent \$40,000,000 on reassessment and it was not implemented. He wants to discuss other options of new revenues. He discussed the Marcellus Shale issue. He cited an example of a town that used the natural gas from the Marcellus Shale to keep the town "recession proof." He also mentioned that he wants a "Green Revolution." He believes this would save us 25 percent on our electricity bills. He said the hands of the commissioners are still tied and that people ought to talk to their legislators and delegates about property taxes.

Vincent Kimsal mentioned that he is from Penn Lake. He asked if Michelle Boice had seen the list of 21st Century employees. Kimsal asked the commissioners for the list and whether or not it is available to the public.

Maryanne Petrilla informed him that this list is not available to the public. She told another man who was yelling that he was out of order. She explained that the 21st Century employees work for 21st Century, not the county, therefore the list is not public.

At this point the meeting erupted into chaos with people blowing whistles and shouting.

Michelle Boice interjected, but it was unintelligible.

Maryanne Petrilla informed the constituents that if the meeting did not get under control that it would end.

Rollie Schooley mentioned problems with land values and problems with 21st Century's database. He questioned the fact that lots are valued at high rates when they sold for much less. He said he believed Skrepenak had taken the position he had not to be popular, but to do the right thing.

Mae Robinson said she is from Penn Lake. She said Penn Lake is a blue collar neighborhood with no luxury homes. She said it is not a commercial neighborhood and that it did not even have motorboats. She said she believed 21st Century's values were skewed. She mentioned some examples to illustrate this point. She said she hoped the commissioners would make a "fair decision."

Dee Dee Barber Fisk started the meeting with a prayer. She prayed that the "Holy Spirit would descend upon the commissioners" so they would see how hard the reassessment is on families. She "rebuke[d]" 21st Century and the "corruption" in the county "in the name of Jesus." She used a surgery error as an analogy for the errors of 21st Century. She said the county should get rid of 21st Century and Tim Barr. She also compared the reassessment to Christina Applegate's breast cancer; Christina Applegate cut out all the cancer, ergo she believed the county should do the same with the reassessment and start all over. She wanted a lawsuit against 21st Century. She said that people can sue doctors. She also said she didn't like her hairdresser, and she found a new one. She said she believes Luzerne County should do the same with 21st Century.

Boyd Barber said Dee Dee Barber Fisk is his daughter. He said he would have given her his time because she was a good speaker. He said he wanted the reassessment to end. He said he "had a dream." He said his taxes are around \$12,000. He said in his dream, he had the answer. He said he had a dream someone in the courthouse had a set of keys and threw them on the floor and said, "We're going to hit you and we're going to hit you hard." He said the dream didn't make a lot of sense and neither did the reassessment. He wants to have the homes reappraised.

Walter Griffith mentioned the \$10,000,000 deficit.

Maryanne Petrilla said that what was projected in the budget did not come to fruition and that's why the county is in the situation it is in.

Walter Griffith then mentioned Sam Guesto's salary and asked how the county could pay it. He said he doesn't think Guesto's position is fair to the taxpayers. He suggested that salaries should be cut because the people don't have enough money to pay the taxes. PFM Management was paid by Greg Skrepenak,

Todd Vonderheid and Steve Urban in 2004 to restructure the finances. Now it needs to be done again. He asked Greg Skrepenak how much they were paid.

Greg Skrepenak said they were paid with a state grant of \$50,000.

Walter Griffith asked if the plan was inaccurate.

Greg Skrepenak said it was a five year master plan.

Walter Griffith asked how much the restructuring of the debt was going to cost this time.

Greg Skrepenak said he didn't know because it had not yet been voted on.

Walter Griffith said he didn't know how this could be voted on if the commissioners didn't know how much it was going to cost. He also urged the commissioners to vote against the motion. He wanted to know how many bids the county received for this.

Someone answered that there was only one bid received.

Walter Griffith mentioned that in October of last year, Greg Skrepenak called Steve Urban a "terrorist" and that Greg Skrepenak was "chastised beyond comprehension" for the comprehension. He said they hadn't heard Steve Urban say anything during the meeting. He also asked if Skrepenak had a plan about what to do if the reassessment is held up.

Steve Urban said that they sat down with the Board of Assessment Appeals and asked about suing 21st Century. According to the state, 40 percent of the current 1965 assessment is out of line. At this point, there are a little of 10 percent appealing. Andy Shiner said the only way to correct the process is through the informal and formal processes. The values were supposed to go up in May of 2006, but there was "stonewalling" done by the Board of Commissioners at that time. No locations were released, so there was no place to go for a formal or an informal. It was delayed in many ways to be held off until after the election. Some of the values are gone. He appealed his. His son appealed his. His brother appealed his. He stressed that they are working through a process to get everything corrected. If people don't have computers, they can go to the library or to the county. Steve said that people called him and said they don't have a computer and he and his assistant printed out the information to send to the people. He said he will do this for anyone. He said this process is similar to the IRS. He said the process is outlined in the law. He said that he does not expect the values to be certified if they are incorrect, but that the records have to get corrected until the legislature "gets the fortitude in this county, which they don't have, to change the law, we're stuck with the system that we have."

Walter Griffith said he is not concerned about the values; he is concerned about the process. He said that the commissioners have heard from people since May that the reassessment had not been done properly. He wants someone to do an informal analysis of 21st Century.

Steve Urban said the errors are being documented.

Walter Griffith talked about the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority and that a motion is to be put on the agenda for a \$68,000,000 mall rehabilitation project. That had been tried in the city with Mr. Sinawa. Steve Urban was angry that it wasn't fair that a private developer was coming in to get money and not pay taxes on it. He says that this is what the county is trying to do and wanted to know how the taxpayers could get that deal.

Greg Skrepenak said he came under great criticism for trying to slow the reassessment. Then he said that he had been proven right that there would be challenges. He said if one side of the reassessment is too heavy, then the other side is too light. He said that people whose assessments have been lowered are assuming their values are correct.

He said Venango County still had issues with their reassessment. He said the Tioga County Commissioners told him that they cancelled theirs because the values weren't in line with what they thought they would be. He said local professionals want more time and you would think that they and 21st Century would have the same goal, however they both want different things.

Richard Dean said that Penn Lake and other communities are being destroyed. He said he doesn't think anyone is deliberately doing it. He talked about his property in Penn Lake and its reassessment. He

mentioned some discrepancies. Someone broke into his car and stole his GPS and several other items. He called the police to complain about it. However, he doesn't know who he needs to go to in this situation. He said he can afford to pay the difference, but other neighbors cannot. He said he didn't bring "any tar or feathers." He said "the process is flawed, and I don't blame that on any one of you people." He said people coming from outside can afford the properties because they have a higher pay scale. He said he will only blame the commissioners if they don't do anything to address the situation. He said there are people who are not going to be able to stay in their homes. He compared this situation to socialism.

Jack Mundie is a Councilman in Hazleton. In June the commissioners came to Hazleton. He had seen the ones from Hazle Township and put a list. He spoke to Tim Barr and Steve Urban about them. Steve Urban said the land values were wrong. Tim Barr never got back to Jack about what they were going to do about the values. He said the people whose assessments got lowered or stayed the same got away with something. He mentioned people who don't have computers. He said there are people who aren't appealing who are going to lose their taxes. He said many of them aren't there. He said these people aren't appealing theirs because they don't want to. He was told he didn't need a lawyer or an appraisal and he disagrees. He also said he heard that they would examine homes of comparable values at the formals, but Andy Shiner said they would not. He said he heard that the City of Wilkes-Barre is not going to accept the new values.

Steve Urban said they had to accept the values.

Jack Mundie said that the City of Wilkes-Barre is rejecting the county. He said he has heard that some people have got help at the appeals and some have not. He said he feels that the reassessment should be put off. He also said that he hopes that Maryanne Petrilla will second the motion Skrepenak would later make about delaying the reassessment.

John Zimmiski said he was from Kingston. He mentioned some examples of discrepancies. He also mentioned some houses that were not on the tax rolls. He said he also knows of many under-assessed houses. He wants to know how the system is going to work and how it is going to be corrected when the people who are under-assessed are not coming forward.

Keith Sorber said he is from Lake Township: "If it is true that power to tax is indeed the power to destroy, then my question to you, Commissar Urban, including Marie Antionette Petrilla (inaudible). Commissioner Skrepenak, I applaud you."

John Newman spoke about formal appeals. Michael Buffer in the August 19th *Citizens Voice* included a quote about the 17,000 formal appeals that have been filed. Tim Barr had said that he expected 15,000 formal appeals. He said that at 11:15 that morning on the *Sue Henry Show*. Jennifer Learn-Andes in the *Times Leader* quoted county officials saying they have heard or scheduled 5,800 formal appeals. John Newman said he is counting those as being heard, which would leave 11,200 formal appeals to still be heard. He mentioned there were only 52 working days until October 31. That would be 215 formal appeals each day. He had his formal appeal. It took about twenty minutes. He said the individuals at his formal were very professional. It takes older people a longer time at their appeals. In an eight hour working day, at twenty minutes per hearing, only 24 appeals can be heard per day.

Bill Thornton commended Skrepenak for upholding the traditions of our forefathers. "Miss Petrilla and Urban, I would say to you, you allow this process to go forward and what you done is taken that tradition and turn it into people of the government, for government, and by the government. And, ladies and gentlemen, that's socialism, and if you want to turn this county into a socialistic government, shame on you!"

Larry Walsh asked Tim Barr if he wanted his parcels.

State Representative Karen Boback. She said she represents District 117, which represents 15,000 Luzerne County residents. She said her office has been inundated with calls from people who are concerned. Most of the calls come from senior citizens and first time homeowners. She said her office had received 260 calls from these people and that she is there to represent them. She asked how the 17,000 formal appeals could be completed by October 31st. She asked if there is aid for the elderly who cannot afford the formal appeals and how the errors would be fixed. She wanted the concerns to be addressed publicly and she told Tim Barr she wants the errors fixed.

Pat Ilana said if the reassessment goes that deeply, she won't come here anymore. She said this is an affordable place to visit. She said visitors spend a lot of money there. She said she feels sorry for the people there. Her family is all here and that they are going to lose their homes, and that they are basically being kicked out on the streets. She asked to know what the county would do about the homeless situation. She started working in Wilkes-Barre when she was twelve. She is now sixty. She said she would not come here now and buy a home. She asked where the county was going to get money when everyone is out on the streets.

James Gaydos, Jr. said he should have stayed at work instead of coming to the meeting. He said he does not wish to be associated with Greg Skrepenak. He said Maryanne Petrilla is skilled at dodging questions. He said that Steve Urban is waiting to see how it plays out. He said it is his understanding that Maryanne Petrilla wants to hang on until the end of October. He said he is fine with that and that it is fine if it is extended. However, 21st Century is getting paid to hear the appeals. If the reassessment gets dragged out, 21st Century is going to get more money. He said to follow the money. He said Mr. Barr has owned up to his own mistakes. He wanted Skrepenak's motion seconded. He feels that there were laws broken. He said he understands Maryanne Petrilla's reasoning, but he wanted her to think of the cost of hearing the formal appeals. He said the taxpayers need to ask themselves who's making out.

Irene Sankey just received her formal appraisal. The appraiser said it was going to be higher than Irene would have thought because of people from big cities purchasing properties. Yet the appraisal was \$400,000 less than 21st Century's valuation of the property. She did not go to the informal. She thought the purpose of the informals was to give Tim Barr more money. She also complained about her sister's reassessment. Her sister is going to lose her home. She heard that Tim Barr expected the process to be done again in seven years.

Lou Pugh told Tim Barr he understands where Mr. Barr came from when he developed a computer program to analyze values. He told Tim Barr that it is broken. He told Tim Barr that fees were not allowed to be charged for appeals according to Pennsylvania law. He said he has done appraisals in every county. He mentioned some examples of discrepancies. He asked Tony Alu if 21st Century had a maintenance contract for ten years with Luzerne County.

Tony Alu informed him that this information was untrue. They did have a maintenance contract for maintenance of the county system.

Lou Pugh asked if they have the rights to the records that are going into their computers.

Tony Alu said that they share information. Information in the county system is accessible to the county.

Lou Pugh said he would like to see the contract. Eight people had a meeting with Greg Skrepenak. He mentioned more discrepancies. He was opposed with Skrepenak, but Skrepenak understood their problems. Maryanne Petrilla and Steve Urban were not at the meeting because they were not invited. Lou Pugh said he would like to see better lines of communication between the commissioners. He feels that Steve Urban pushed the reassessment and 21st Century on the people.

Steve Urban said the job was advertised in the paper and on the internet. Three companies bid on the job. No other county came and no realtors came. This went on for around a year and a half. 21st Century was the best out of three. Tioga County praised 21st Century in 2001 for doing their job. 40 percent of the current values are skewed, according the state. The reassessment was put off because previous boards of commissioners did not want to face these sorts of crowds. Steve asked what his house was currently assessed at.

Lou Pugh said he was assessed at \$875,600.

Steve Urban asked him about 1965 value.

Lou Pugh said he was paying \$1,500 in taxes.

Steve Urban said then his house was probably assessed at around \$90,000. In the paper, Lou Pugh indicated his house was worth around \$400,000.

Lou Pugh said that was his best guess.

Steve Urban said that there is an inequity between \$90,000 and \$400,000. He said he cannot make excuses for prior boards. He said there is a process to fix this.

William Tattersall said he voted for Maryanne and Greg and worked the polls for them. He said for them to not come to ask him for a vote again.

William James said he addressed Tim Barr at the July meeting about property improvements. Tim Barr said property owners must provide official information at an informal or formal. At the informal, they told him they could not do anything about it and he would have to go to a formal. The fees for additional appeals would be \$125 and \$345 additional.

Maryanne Petrilla said they would let them know the exact costs.

William James said a title search could be done for \$150. This would be certified. That is the work of the prothonotary. He said there are a lot of properties that are unfairly assessed, and it pits neighbors against neighbors. He feels this is a scheme to turn people against each other.

Jon Miers, Jr. said he lives in Exeter Township. He went to an informal hearing and asked the person for the mathematical formula 21st Century was using. He was told it was a company secret and that it was recorded. He had two certified appraisals for 2005 and 2007. There was \$60,000 difference between those appraisals and 21st Century. He can't look back at 1965 because he got his home in the 1970s. He reminded everyone that some people built or purchased their homes after 1965.

Steve Urban said that 1965 was the last time the county was reassessed. Before that, it was 1955. In 1955, people were assessed at 35 percent of the value. Every year since then, the state sends the county a formula. Last year, it was 5 percent of the value.

Jon Miers, Jr. explained some issues with his daughter's house. In Exeter Township, you need at least an acre and a half to build a home. He owns two acres and doesn't know what to do with the other half an acre. He said he didn't know that he needed to dial a one before 21st Century's 877 number. He said many people wouldn't have known that. If there is a 10 percent error, he said he would not want to be on an airplane with that high of a percentage. He asked how many people were also confused about the 877 number and missed the deadline. He said there is a possibility of several charges being brought against everyone.

Mike Dzanko lives in Kingston Township. He talked about his own assessment. He used his blueprints and documents of his neighbors' houses at his informal. He was advised to file a formal appeal. He still has not yet been scheduled for his formal appeal. He was told it was taking so long because of the disarray. He was told sixty-five to eighty-five appeals were being scheduled per day. He wanted to know how they were going to get them done. He says if a contractor makes a mistake, the contractor has to correct the mistake at no charge. He is upset that he has to spend money to prove 21st Century's errors.

Marguerite Woelful said they would not look at land at her informal appeal. They have three properties and the land was valued at different base rates. She was told to go to the formal with proof that the land was un-tillable. She feels that a 30 day delay is not long enough. She said taxpayers don't understand their deeds. She has one deed, but two lots. The house was on two lots. They rejected her appraisal at her informal because they wanted her to have an appraisal for each PIN. She illustrated more errors with her other properties. She thinks there needs to be more time for people to get appraisals, etc. She asked the county some questions and they couldn't answer her questions. They referred her to her lawyer, who had initially referred her to the county. There was a continuing education course for the local lawyers. One of the things discussed was the reassessment process.

Andy Strutko said he would understand these taxes for living in the Hamptons, but not northeastern Pennsylvania. His friends called him, asking him how it felt to live in the Hamptons. He wants property taxes to end. He said he wants to see the county brought back to respectability. He said many of the tax relief programs are only band-aids. He mentions astronomical school taxes. His friend who has property in another state near a lake is paying one tenth of what he is paying. He researched different states with different plans. He wants to see an extension of the sales tax or real estate taxes on vehicles instead. He said the only time the legislature will change anything is when taxpayer advocates go to Harrisburg. In the meantime, he believes something needs to be done to rectify the current situation. The county budget is \$70,000,000. A 1 percent increase in sales tax will give the county an additional \$50,000,000.

Greg Skrepenak said that an earned income tax or a sales tax would be the most sensible options. An earned income tax wouldn't affect the seniors.

Andy Strutko said that a 1.286 increase in income tax would give us the \$70,000,000. He urged people to join taxpayer advocate groups. He encouraged people to email and letters to the legislators and to protest, as well.

Someone wanted to speak for Lou Ann Horsfield. Maryanne Petrilla agreed to allow it.

This woman said that she wanted Michelle Boice to speak for her originally, because she is disabled. She said she was going to lose her house until she became disabled. When she went to her informal, she was told that her home had "curb appeal." She disagrees with that statement. She wanted Michelle Boice to do this for her, because she is not a speaker. She says she is going to lose her home. They thought a dog pen was a patio, but they would not take it off of her assessment at her informal. She voted for the people she did because other people told her they were the people to vote for. She said she knows nothing about politics or anything about the people she voted for. She begged someone to second the motion.

Lou Ann Horsfield ended up taking her time anyway. She said she read the blueprint for local tax fairness. She asked the commissioners if they had read it. Governor Ed Rendell believes property taxes are unfair. She said she is disgusted with the situation. "And you people, I have no respect whatsoever, because I'm gonna be taxed outta my home! And you can sit there, and we're all payin' your bills...And how many properties do you own?...And you knew in 2003 that this wasn't gonna work out for these people? Why did you stop it then?"

Steve Urban said he did not vote to extend this contract. He wanted them mailed out in 2006.

Lou Ann Horsfield told them she has no respect for them. "all of you are gonna be outta here!"

Steve Urban talked about the County Commissioners Association Pennsylvania Blueprint that Greg Skrepenak mentioned.

Arline Sulewski said she is from Harvey's Lake. She said she has seen so much sadness, worry, and fear. She said the situation reminds her of the situation during the Civil War when values were inflated so citizens couldn't sell or buy property. She wanted to know what the plan is for the properties that are taken over. She feels "the burden of appeals should not be on the citizens." She said many people are unhealthy, or have jobs that they cannot come to the commissioners' meetings. She feels the county is too "nonchalant" about the appeals process. She feels the assessment should be started over or thrown away. She wants to know why local people are not appraising the property. She felt a memo sent via phone or email should have been sent to local companies about the job to do the reassessment.

Greg Skrepenak said there are only so many companies that do mass appraisals. The local people wouldn't have been qualified to do a mass appraisal.

Arline Sulewski then spoke about an outbuilding that she says is in poor condition.

Tony Biago said this is a "nightmare." He wants to know why the reassessment cost went from \$8,000,000 to \$9,000,000.

Maryanne Petrilla said the county had to pay them another \$1,000,000 for the delay.

Tony Biago asked if the Board of Appeals is getting paid.

Maryanne Petrilla said they are getting paid.

Tony Biago asked what they are getting paid.

Maryanne Petrilla said they are getting paid \$100 a day.

Tony Biago talked about his job experience, and said that he wouldn't put people on the board who aren't qualified to hear appeals. There were townhouses sold in the last few years. He is still being taxed for them. He spoke to Tim Barr about this and it was supposed to be corrected. He has no idea if it is yet corrected. Several professionals, such as doctors and engineers, told him they had been treated very rudely

at the informal appeals. He spoke about how there is not enough time to hear the rest of the formal appeals at the rate the county is moving. He said he was very appreciative of Karen Boback. He wanted to know why the rest of the legislators in Luzerne County were not at the meeting. He urged everyone to get after the legislators.

Millie Luba said she is the tax collector of Hanover Township. She wants the reassessment delayed or ended. Their work in the tax office has quadrupled.

Jackie Latosek said there are a lot of people who didn't file appeals because they didn't have the money. They believe the appeal date should be extended. She feels it should be put off for a year to get it right. She said Clean and Green is a joke. She talked about the high assessment of a working dairy farm. She a girl came to do the assessment and Jackie told the girl part of the house was built before the Civil War. The house has aluminum siding. The girl asked her if any improvements had been made to the house since then. Jackie said she was frightened by this. She said she went through the process. They took off a fireplace she didn't have, but they didn't take any money off of her assessment. She didn't feel she had to go to a formal, but she did. She mentioned some other errors that were made by 21st Century. She said it is wrong that 21st Century is encouraging people to "squeal on their neighbors."

Fred Murray said he lives in Jackson Township. He conveyed his frustration with the reassessment. He said he has nothing to show for his increase in property taxes.

Cynthia Manini expressed her displeasure with her reassessment. She was told she had to do an informal before she did a formal. Now it is too late for her to schedule a formal appeal. She gave examples of her issues with her reassessment. She mentioned some discrepancies in her neighborhood. She has to wait until next September to her formal appeal.

Russ Bigus talked about his time on a school board. He believes everyone should be on the same team because everyone lives in Luzerne County. He asked the commissioners to communicate what is decided at the meeting to the public.

Edie Brous said she lives in the Back Mountain section of Wyoming. She had previously lived in New York City, but moved to the area after September 11, 2001. She bought a farmhouse. She purchased her house less than two years ago. Housing values are declining. Mortgages exceed the value of the homes in many cases. Her value has increased 450 percent. She did not go to her informal appeal. She mentioned that she was assessed for more square footage than she has. She expressed concern for the senior citizens. She says people now must decide between food, medicine, or taxes. She is a registered nurse. She is worried about the mental stress that this is putting on the community. She says there will probably be a higher incidence of ulcers and other medical issues. She is also concerned because she is an attorney and is concerned about the process and goings on in the county. She wants to see an outside accountant do a forensic accounting of Luzerne County's books. She wants to hold people responsible on the corruption side and the criminal side. She made herself available to the public as a nurse and a lawyer. She said she might go back to New York City.

Gene Stil said he is from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He said Karen Boback is doing well, but all the other representative and senators need to be voted out of office. He wants the taxpayers to knock down PP&L's 40 percent rate increase. He mentioned that in the USA, one is supposed to be innocent until proven guilty. He said that in this county, one must prove one's innocence. He mentioned that he owns property in Wilkes-Barre. He said this area used to be the "Valley with a Heart." He urged the commissioners to vote against the reassessment. He mentioned the *Challenger* explosion and how people died because NASA made mistakes. He implied that the county should own up to its mistakes. He went to 21st Century's headquarters. He said, "This will cause people to die", meaning that their deaths are going to be caused by the reassessment. He urged the citizens to get up and say, "Second the motion!" Those in attendance did as he asked.

Bill Thornton said that he is from Penn Lake. He mentioned his displeasure at his land value, which went up 17,000 percent. His land was valued at \$280 in the 1965 database. If it were converted to 100 percent, it would be \$800. His land is currently valued at \$145,600, which is higher than the house on it. His total value is \$278,000. He expressed his anger that nothing could be done about land at the informal appeals. He said none of the papers printed the criteria used by 21st Century to arrive at the values. He thanked Steve Urban for calling him back and speaking to him at length. He said Steve Urban seemed to understand the problem. He gave examples of some of the errors at Penn Lake. He feels that the land

shouldn't be valued higher if there is a building on it. Steve Urban suggested they should get an appraisal to show the land value to be different. Steve Urban said this might affect everyone on Penn Lake.

Ed Chesnovitch brought up the point that the public was not given the names of the 21st Century employees because they work for a private company. Steve Urban had a 21st Century employee speak to Ed Chesnovitch. Ed Chesnovitch expressed his dissatisfaction to the employee. The employee told him that Luzerne County is the fastest growing county in the state. Ed Chesnovitch's opinion differed from that of the 21st Century employee. Ed Chesnovitch mentioned that Maryanne Petrilla said she was going to let the reassessment go through until October to get the errors straightened out. He wanted to know how the errors would get straightened out. He said that if everyone gets a reduction, the millage will be changed. The 21st Century employee said the company does not care what a house costs to build; their focus is for what amount the house can be sold. Ed Chesnovitch became irate when Maryanne Petrilla told him he was over five minutes. Mr. Chesnovitch disagreed that he had been given his five minutes.

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COMMUNICATIONS – DOUGLAS A. PAPE, COUNTY MANAGER/CHIEF CLERK

Minutes

MOTION

Request a Motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's Meeting held on July 16th, 2008.

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

Brian Shiner stated that his name was on the list and he was not called. Mr. Shiner stated he was from Kingston Borough. Mr. Shiner commented that he had a ninety one year old father who lives on social security. He stated that the cross valley was in his backyard. Mr. Shiner stated that people let it go when they received their assessments and now they can't go back and file an appeal. Mr. Shiner stated that he attended a meeting where Angelo Terrana explained the process, however now more steps were added to the process, which will end up costing a lot of money. Mr. Shiner commented that most people were not familiar with computers and didn't know what to do. He stated that the elderly feel that a large dollar value on their property is the amount they will be able to sell it for. Mr. Shiner stated that the taxpayers should have done all the work in the beginning and save the county \$8 million dollars. Mr. Shiner stated that he lived on a fixed income, was in the flood zone and now his taxes have doubled. He stated that the taxpayers elected the commissioners to do a job for the people and they needed to unanimously stop the reassessment. He stated that there were gross errors. He stated that the county was way over the 10% error margin and the commissioners needed to stop this. Mr. Shiner also commented that he contacted Representative Mundy's office and requested that the Attorney General and Governor be contacted.

Someone in the audience stated that they were not acknowledged to speak. They commented that Commissioner Petrilla had a problem with Michelle Boice and they were now being ignored. Commissioner Petrilla responded that giving their time to someone else to speak was not allowed. The taxpayer responded if that was the case then their time should be given back to them. Commissioner Petrilla responded that she would let them provide their comments at the end of the meeting.

Vouchers

MOTION

Request a Motion to ratify and confirm pre-payment of the following vouchers:

PNC Bank, Vouchers 466993GF – 468287GF
County General Fund for 2008

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

PNC Bank, Vouchers 502584LF – 502656LF
Liquid Fuels Fund for 2008

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

Wachovia Bank, Vouchers 400335WC – 400340WC

Worker's Compensation for 2008

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

Request a Motion to approve and release payment for the following amount::

PNC Bank, \$1,171,358.80
County General Fund for 2008

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

**REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING STATE OF EMERGENCY
EVENTS AND THEIR DATES AS LISTED:**

Hazleton and Hazle Township

Request a Motion to adopt a Resolution continuing a Declaration of a State of Emergency within the City of Hazleton and Hazle Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Resolution dated: July 23, 2008; July 30, 2008; August 6, 2008; August 13, 2008; and August 20, 2008.

Luzerne County State of Emergency – Bridges

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 dated: July 23, 2008; July 30, 2008; August 6, 2008; August 13, 2008 and August 20, 2008.

MOTION

Luzerne County Children and Youth Services - Declaration of Emergency

Request a Motion to ratify a Declaration of Emergency for Children & Youth Services occurring on August 1, 2008 regarding electronic, data and phone service wiring for new office space located in the City of Hazleton. By this action work completed or to be completed shall be outside the County's purchasing policy.

Commissioner Skrepenak asked for an explanation.

Doug Pape responded that originally the Children & Youth Department thought that they could do the wiring themselves in the Hazleton office. After looking at the project they decided that they couldn't do the work, however they needed to get it completed before the commissioners meeting so they could move in a timely fashion. Mr. Pape stated that he sent the commissioners an email on this issue and it was posted in the newspapers.

Jim Blaum stated that their lease expired on September 1st and they needed to be moved in. Mr. Blaum stated that he recommended that this be done.

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

MOTION

Reassessment

Request a Motion to delay the implementation of reassessment to assure new values are fair and accurate.

It was moved by Commissioner Skrepenak
Motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION

Monroe County Local Share Account Application/River Commons

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED), effective August 20, 2008, for Monroe County Local Share Account funds. The County's Single Application for Assistance will be requesting \$200,000 in funding to defray programming/operating expenses related to the River Commons.

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

MOTION

Monroe County Local Share Account Application/Equipment

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED), effective August 20, 2008, for Monroe County Local Share Account funds. This Single Application for Assistance will be requesting \$450,000 in assistance for the River Commons, specifically for the purchase of a stage, generators, restrooms and related equipment.

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

MOTION

Single Application for the Luzerne County's Sheriff's Department

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCED), effective August 20, 2008, as well as authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute any and all documents necessary for the application for and receipt of PA DCED funding. The County's Single Application for Assistance is requesting funding which will be used towards an Identification project.

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

MOTION

Luzerne County 9-1-1/ Declaration of Emergency

Request a Motion to ratify a Declaration of Emergency in the 9-1-1 Department as a result of damage to microwave radio links during storms occurring on August 5, 2008 at radio communication towers owned or leased by Luzerne County situated at Mountaintop, Nescopeck, Freeland and Shickshinny. By this action repairs made or to be made shall be outside the County's Purchasing Policy.

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

MOTION

Luzerne County 911 /Replacement Batteries

Request a Motion to approve/ratify the purchase of 80 UPS replacement batteries in the amount of \$24,000.00 from Batteries Plus through the PA COSTARS program.

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

MOTION

District Attorney’s/ 2009/2010 RASA State Grant Application

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners to approve the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency as well as authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute any and all documents necessary for and receipt of an award in the amount of \$319,552.00 for the 2009/2010 RASA State grant application. If awarded, this grant will allow the District Attorney’s Office to continue to provide comprehensive services to victims of crimes as outlined in the PA Bill of Rights for victims.

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

MOTION

District Attorney’s/ 2009/2010 VOJO State Grant Application

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners to approve the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency as well as authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute any and all documents necessary for and receipt of an award in the amount of \$158,550 for the 2009/2010 VOJO State grant application. If awarded, this grant will allow the District Attorney’s Office to continue to provide comprehensive services to victims of Juvenile offenders as outlined in the PA Bill of Rights for victims of juvenile crimes.

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

MOTION

District Attorney’s/ Project Safe Neighborhood Gun Buyback Program Grant Application

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners to approve the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development as well as authorization for the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute any and all documents necessary for and receipt of an award in the amount of \$10,000.00 for Project Safe Neighborhood Gun Buyback Program. If awarded, this grant will allow the District Attorney’s Office to be used to buy back unwanted guns of Luzerne County residents.

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

MOTION

Request for Proposals for Forestry Consultant Services

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to advertise for Request for Proposals for Forestry Consultant Services (including surveying services) to complete a PA DCNR approved forest stewardship project at Moon Lake.

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

MOTION

Bear Creek Charter School Real Estate Taxes – Tax Forgiveness

Request a Motion to forgive the Bear Creek Charter School real estate taxes for the year 2008 on property located at 1900 Bear Creek Blvd. Tax forgiveness has been granted from Bear Creek Township and the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. The Board of Assessment Appeals has granted tax exemption status for the years 2009 and forward. Pin # 4-I11S3-003-004 and Plate # 4-426-D1-D1-4.

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

MOTION

Hazleton American Legion Post 76 Real Estate Taxes – Tax Forgiveness

Request a Motion to forgive the Hazleton American Legion Post 76 real estate taxes for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 on property located at 305-07, 309-11 and 313-17 East Diamond Street in the city of Hazleton. Tax Forgiveness has been granted by the City of Hazleton and the Hazleton Area School District, for the pin and plate numbers as listed:

- Pin #71-T8NW33-016-002 and Plate # 71-14-451-6
- Pin # 71-T8NW33-016-003 and Plate# 71-14-5-18-7
- Pin # 71-T8NW33-016-04A and Plate #71-14-598-3

The Luzerne County Board of Appeals has granted tax exemption on these properties for the years 2008 and forward.

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

MOTION

Tax Refunds-Assessment Appeals Office

Request a Motion to approve the following refunds through the Assessment Appeals Office as listed:

Hartzel William A& Ruth, 5 Circle Dr. Dallas Township	\$92.98
Duermit Donald & Marie, 91 Grandview Ave.,Dallas Township	\$94.52
McNulty Geraldine, 6 Crestmere Terr., Jenkins Township	\$423.07
Van Fossen Alan Gary, 8163 Blue Ridge Trail, Dorrance Twp.	\$4.65
Searfoss Michael S. & Lori A., 53 S. Sherman Rd., Foster Twp.	\$457.54
Hensel Kenneth & Mary, 110 Blueberry Hill Rd., Jackson Twp.	\$541.36
Heiser Elaine, 80 New Street, Wilkes-Barre Twp.	\$83.69
Kosakowski Edward T. & Donna Marie, 153 Idetown Rd., Lehman Twp.	\$190.61
Hannon Stephen, 211 Greystone Drive, Pittston Township	\$172.01
Total Refunds-----	\$2,060.43

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

MOTION

2003 Capital Projects Bond Issue – 2003D-34 - Transfer (Appendix Page 33)

REQUEST A MOTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRANSFER OF \$1,407,740.52 FROM THE 2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS BOND ISSUE SERIES D FOR ITEMS IDENTIFIED ON SCHEDULE “A” OF REQUISITION 2003D-34.

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

MOTION

2003 Capital Projects Bond Issue – 2003D-34 - Payment (Appendix Page 33A)

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$1,407,740.52 FROM THE 2003 CAPITAL PROJECTS BOND ISSUE SERIES D FOR ITEMS IDENTIFIED ON SCHEDULE “A” OF REQUISITION 2003D-34 .

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

MOTION

Budget Transfer

Request a Motion to approve a 2008 General Fund Budget transfer of \$10,000.00 from the Courts-transcripts line item to the Central Court - supplies line item.

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

MOTION

Budget Transfer

Request a Motion to approve a 2008 General Fund Budget transfer of \$49,104.00 from the other financing sources/uses line item to the Buildings and Grounds – rent of buildings line item.

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

MOTION

Budget Transfer

Request a Motion to approve a 2008 General Fund Budget transfer of \$10,000.00 from the Court Stenographers - supplies line item to the Courts - supplies line item.

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

MOTION

RFP for the Sale of Tax Claims

Request a Motion to approve the advertising of an RFP for the Sale of Tax Claims that are secured by matured liens on real estate situated within the County of Luzerne pursuant to the provisions of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law (“RETSL”) (72 P.S. §5860, et seq.).

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that he thought the county was under contract with a collection agency. He stated that it was his understanding that this group could come in as well. Commissioner Skrepenak questioned the county’s future plans. Commissioner Skrepenak asked if the county was going to engage with both companies.

Budget Director, Tom Pribula, responded that the county was turning everything over to the collection agency and they would collect any way they wanted. He stated that the county was getting .90 cents on a dollar. Mr. Pribula stated that the Tax Claim Office would continue to do what they are currently doing.

Commissioner Skrepenak asked the amount of back taxes that were currently owed. Mr. Pribula responded it was \$5.4 million.

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

MOTION

Financial Advisory Services

Request a Motion to appoint Public Financial Management, Inc. (The PFM Group) as Financial Advisor to the County of Luzerne to provide financial and swap advisory services in connection with proposed debt restructuring transactions.

Commissioner Urban asked that the process be explained.

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that he was under the assumption that the county was under contract with a financial advisor until 2009. Tom Pribula responded that this would be looking at the overall debt structure of the county. He stated that he was looking at the best cost effective option to restructure or refinance to reduce the county’s debt payments and give an influx of cash.

Commissioner Skrepenak commented that the county would not be able to get insurance on this. Mr. Pribula responded that he had some positive conversations that indicated that the county would be insurable.

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

MOTION

NEPA Comp. Economic Development Strategy Plan

Request a Motion to continue to participate in the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Economic Development District.

Commissioner Skrepenak questioned if the county was asked to financially participate or just be a part of the process. Doug Pape responded the county would just be a part of the process, there was no financial commitment.

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

MOTION

Fedex Dropbox

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners to authorize the proper officials to execute a contract with Federal Express Corporation (“FedEX”) for installation of a FedEx DropBox outside the rear entrance to the Luzerne County Courthouse. Currently the last FedEx pickup each day is at 3:30 PM. Mail deposited in the drop box later in the afternoon will be picked up at 5:30 PM each day. There is no cost involved and the agreement can be terminated at any time by either Luzerne County or FedEx.

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

MOTION

Telephone System Maintenance Services

Request a motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners to advertise for maintenance services for the Nortel telephone systems that are used in the Courthouse, Courthouse Annex, Penn Place, and related offices. The one year maintenance contract will cover repair services and parts replacement.

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

MOTION

Request for Proposals

Request a Motion of the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners to RFP for the following:

Workers’ Compensation Claims Management Services
Workers’ Compensation Re-Insurance
Health Insurance Claims Management Services
Health Insurance Re-Insurance
Hepatitis B and TB Inoculation Treatment

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

END OF COMMUNICATIONS

TREASURER’S OFFICE – MICHAEL L. MORREALE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Request a motion to accept the following Treasurer’s Report:

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCES

As of: August 12, 2008

WACHOVIA BANK

General Fund (Old Account)	\$215,086.76
School, Road & Institution District (Old Account).....	719,966.77
Real Estate Tax Sale Account (Old Account)	292,423.45
Self Insured Workers Compensation Fund	138,041.77
Domestic Relations IV-D Fund	748,854.81
Patients' Personal Fund Account	7,551.89
9-1-1 Construction Fund	707,303.58
9-1-1 Operational Fund	4,976.86
9-1-1 Wire Fund	1,884,198.78
9-1-1 Wireless Fund	2,271,357.27

PNC BANK

General Fund (New Account)	\$6,147,868.65
Schools (New Account)	977,165.76
Towns (New Account)	91,696.02
Real Estate Tax Sale (New Account)	110,691.62
Transportation Department.....	499,151.37
Office for the Aging.....	299,842.13
Children & Youth Services	1,736,295.17
Mental Health/Mental Retardation	65,500.98
Office of Human Services	7,334.84
Drug & Alcohol Program	2,553.21
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	61,365.82
Luzerne County GWBIF Escrow Account	27,640.67
Juvenile Probation JCJC Grant-in-Aid.....	51.86
Act 44 Bridge Account.....	151,349.87
Redevelopment Assistance.....	0.00
Coroner VSIA Account.....	37,006.63

CITIZENS BANK

Adult Probation Special Account	\$346,664.78
Luzerne County Bridges.....	6,867.10
Hazardous Material Emergency Response Account.....	72,843.72
EMA Radiation Emergency Response Fund	47,865.14

FIRST NATIONAL COMMUNITY BANK

Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau.....	\$119,814.51
Luzerne County Agencies Account.....	942,868.94
Luzerne County Solid Waste Recycle Account	287,943.19
Luzerne County Property Tax Collection.....	269,292.37

FIDELITY DEPOSIT & DISCOUNT BANK

Wyoming Valley Airport Account.....	\$38,024.81
Tri-County Airport Feasibility Study	2,553.79
Luzerne County 2002 A & B Capital Projects	48,874.19
Luzerne County 2003 A & B Capital Projects	174,958.44
Luzerne County 2003 D Capital Projects	135,449.04

M & T Bank

Adult Probation Drug & Alcohol RIP Program.....	\$73,485.11
Riverfront-GG2.....	0.00
Nesbitt Park-DCNR.....	75,166.53

Community Bank & Trust

2008 Series A Settlement Fund.....	\$11,644.68
2008 Series B Bond Trust.....	0.00
2008 LCIDA Series Bond Trust.....	0.00
2008 Series A Project Fund.....	38,317,612.87
2008 Series A Sinking Fund.....	48,526.26

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

(Principal Values only)

As of: August 12, 2008

General Fund	\$12,000,000.00
Real Estate Tax Sale	\$750,000.00
Liquid Fuels Tax Fund	\$1,300,000.00
9-1-1 Construction Fund	\$200,000.00
Domestic Relations IV-D Fund	\$2,285,000.00
Transportation Dept	\$150,000.00
Office for the Aging	\$1,000,000.00
Mental Health/Mental Retardation	\$13,450,000.00
Office of Human Services	\$405,000.00
Drug & Alcohol Program	\$500,000.00
Adult Probation Special Account	\$2,200,000.00
Hazardous Material Emergency Response Account	\$160,000.00
Solid Waste Recycle Account	\$700,000.00
Luzerne County Agencies Account	<u>\$2,450,000.00</u>
Total:	\$37,550,000.00

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

CONTROLLERS REPORT- ACTING CONTROLLER, ANTHONY J. MARTINELLI

Acting Controller, AJ Martinelli requested that all motions be accepted as presented. Mr. Martinelli stated there were no changes made since the work session.

1. Request a motion to authorize the Controller to make the following payments under the Luzerne County Community Development Program for various services and projects:

\$560,238.74 Business Development Loan Program
 \$272,074.53 Community Development Block Grant Program
 \$ 27,645.00 HOME Investment Partnership Program

2. Request a motion to ratify and confirm the payment of **\$15,597.00** to the Penn State Cooperative Extension, 16 Luzerne Ave., Suite 200, West Pittston, PA. This is the County's appropriation for the month of August, 2008.
3. Request a motion to ratify and confirm the payment of **\$526,665.00** to the Luzerne County Community College, 1333 Prospect St., Nanticoke, PA. This is the County's appropriation for the month of August, 2008.
4. Request a motion to ratify and confirm pre-payment of the following vouchers:

Transportation Department:

Voucher No. 534268 to 534363 inclusive in the amount of \$ 590,853.87

Bureau for the Aging:

Voucher No. 719914 to 720512 inclusive in the amount of \$5,220,849.72

Children and Youth:

Voucher No. 735426 to 736422 inclusive in the amount of \$7,037,218.90

Mental Health / Mental Retardation:

Voucher No. 743915 to 744144 inclusive in the amount of \$19,598,641.66

Human Services:

Voucher No. 750771 to 750802 inclusive in the amount of \$ 2,315,572.38

Drug and Alcohol:

Voucher No. 761105 to 761141 inclusive in the amount of \$ 2,017,042.13

County Agencies:

Voucher No. 400846 to 400854 inclusive in the amount of \$ 906,431.12

Adult Probation:

Voucher No. 1000 in the amount of \$ 18,648.00

Adult Probation Special:

Voucher No. 400298 to 400304 inclusive in the amount of \$ 1,245,412.62

Juvenile Probation JCJC Grant in Aid:

Voucher No. 2 in the amount of \$ 319,036.49

9-1-1 Construction:

Voucher No. 400397 to 400400 inclusive in the amount of \$ 203,844.64

EMA Radiation Emergency:

Voucher No. 400105 in the amount of \$ 312.33

Hazardous Material Emergency Response:

Voucher No. 400166 to 400168 inclusive in the amount of \$ 13,895.44

Solid Waste Recycling:

Voucher No. 400743 to 400747 inclusive in the amount of \$ 460,200.24

Hotel Rental Tax:

Voucher No. 409 to 410 inclusive in the amount of \$ 214,067.04

Schools:
 Voucher No. 405049 to 405065 inclusive in the amount of \$ 2,112,695.69

Towns:
 Voucher No. 406231 to 406307 inclusive in the amount of \$ 252,662.65

Real Estate Tax Sale:
 Voucher No. 401018 to 401020 inclusive in the amount of \$ 764,648.13

Convention & Visitors Bureau:
 Voucher No. 403118 to 403145 inclusive in the amount of \$ 24,245.14

Flood Protection Authority:
 Voucher No. 400538 to 400550 inclusive in the amount of \$ 85,855.17

Wyoming Valley Airport:
 Voucher No. 400166 in the amount of \$ 400.00

5. Request a Motion to approve and release payment for the following amounts:

Transportation Department in the amount of \$ 4,342.70

Bureau for the Aging in the amount of \$ 1,612.84

Children and Youth in the amount of \$ 315.00

9-1-1 Construction in the amount of \$ 1,743.52

Convention & Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$ 7,382.50

Wyoming Valley Airport in the amount of \$ 411.21

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

HUMAN SERVICES – JOSEPH DEVIZIA, DIRECTOR

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT FOR THE PROVIDERS, SERVICES, TERMS, AND RATES SPECIFIED:

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE/ CONTRACT CAP</u>
<u>AREA AGENCY ON AGING:</u>			
Mercy Hospital Nanticoke	Lease Agreement for Nanticoke Senior Citizens Center	12/01/08-11/30/13	\$2,137.91/month
VL Enterprises, Inc. (dba) Home Instead Senior Care	Personal Care	7/01/08-6/30/09	\$1,000 \$18.25/Hr.
Senior Star LLC (Purchased Berwick Adult Day Care)	Personal Care	8/12/08-6/30/09	\$7,500.00 \$45.00 Full Day \$30.00 Half Day

Berwick Adult Day Care – Contract terminated due to sale.

OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES:

Volunteers of America	Youth Transitional Housing	7/1/08-6/30/09	\$65,000
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It was moved by Commissioner Petrilla, seconded by Commissioner Urban
“AYES” PETRILLA, SKREPENAK, URBAN

A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING CONTRACT AMENDMENTS FOR THE PROVIDERS, SERVICES, TERMS, AND RATES SPECIFIED:

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>	
			<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>

AREA AGENCY ON AGING:

Lamar Advertising Company	Advertising Apprise	7/1/07-6/30/08	\$15,300	\$18,300
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CHILDREN & YOUTH:

Integra \$115.00/hr.	CITRIX. Computer Serv	7/1/08-6/30/09	\$105.00/hr	
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DRUG & ALCOHOL:

Catholic Social Services \$4,613.00 (Luzerne County)	Intervention	7/1/07-6/30/08	\$4,000.00	
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<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>	
			<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

Community Counseling Services \$4,860,969	Comm. Srvs., ICM, OP, Day Treatmt., CE, Soc. Rehab., Crisis, Res., RC, Adm. Mangmt., Emergency, Comm. Habilit., & P/FDS Wv.	7/1/08-6/30/09	\$4,797,834	
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Step-By-Step, Inc. \$7,223,154	Residential, Employ., Comm. Habilit. & Housing Support	“ “	\$7,018,359	
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Nat’l Mentor Healthcare \$1,398,518	Home & Comm Hab., Respite & Res. Srvs.	“ “	\$1,445,274	
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Glayds Hummel Personal Care Home	Residential	7/1/08-6/30/09	\$10,184	-0-
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Comfort Keepers (Mountain Top)	Home & Comm. Srvs.	“	“	\$3,000	-0-
Associated Family Care Services, Inc.	Home & Comm. Srvs.	“	“	\$2,000	\$3,000
Bayada Nurses, Inc. \$277,120	Home & Comm. Srvs. & Nursing Srv.	“	“	\$251,620	
CareGivers America LLC	Home & Comm. Srvs.	“	“	\$14,040	\$16,290
Comfort Keepers (Hazleton)	Home & Comm. Srvs.	“	“	\$25,825	\$48,673
Erwine’s Private Duty Health Care, Inc.	Home & Comm. Srvs.	“	“	\$11,440	\$14,190
Home Sweet Home Personal Care, Inc.	Home & Comm. Srvs.	“	“	\$15,576	\$32,054
Interim Healthcare Srvs. \$246,968	Home & Comm. Srvs. & Nursing Srvs.	“	“	\$240,968	
Institute for Human \$4,657,159 Resources & Srvs.	Residential	7/1/07-6/30/08		\$4,611,812	
Step-By-Step, Inc. \$7,026,138	Residential, Employ. Comm. Habilit. & Housing Support	7/1/07-6/30/08		\$7,014,738	
Susan Gratalo \$114,944 D/B/A Castle Transp.	Transport Srvs.	“	“	\$114,944	
<u>No changes to final total – categorical funding changes</u>					
Luz. Cty. Transportation Authority	Transport Srvs.	“	“	\$27,500	\$28,000

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
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OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES:

Commission on Economic \$710,996 Opportunity	Rental Assistance	8/1/07-6/30/08	\$707,296		
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It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Petrilla
“AYES” PETRILLA, SKREPENAK, URBAN

**REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS,
REPORTS, APPLICATIONS/SUBMISSIONS, SETTLEMENTS FOR:**

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

An Agreement between the County of Luzerne, the University of Pittsburgh, and the following employees to participate in the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program:

Kellie Kizis
Randi Setta
Rochelle Mirowski

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

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

The amended County Income and Expenditure Report for Mental Retardation Services, for fiscal year 2006-2007 submitted to the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), Bureau of Financial Operations (BFO),
Revision #2.

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

TRANSPORTATION:

The settlement of the legal claim of Pompey Dodge, 303 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, PA, stemming from services rendered to Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Transportation Department vehicles in the amount of \$17,059.46. The services rendered were rendered satisfactorily to the Department.

Commissioner Urban asked the solicitor to provide some background.

Jim Blaum stated that services were rendered to county vehicles outside of the purchasing policy. Mr. Blaum stated that a claim was made by Pompey Dodge for the county to pay for their services. Mr. Blaum stated that he checked with the Transportation Department and the services had been provided satisfactorily. Mr. Blaum stated it was his opinion that the county was liable and he recommended that the invoice be paid.

Doug Pape commented that this was the amount the county owed Pompey Dodge before an RFP was submitted for general vehicle maintenance. Mr. Pape stated that this was the amount that was left over.

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that he reviewed some ACS reports and he had some unanswered questions on other costs associated with the vehicle maintenance and contracts. Commissioner Skrepenak stated that there were numerous entities on the ACS report for maintenance and he wanted to investigate the matter further.

Doug Pape responded that there were two specialty vehicle maintenance RFP's on Greg Hunsinger's agenda for the County and the Transportation Department.

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that there were a number of providers for maintenance on each line item for substantial amounts.

Commissioner Skrepenak requested that the motion be tabled for further investigation.

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

ENGINEER'S OFFICE – JOSEPH GIBBONS, ENGINEER

Joseph Gibbons requested that all motions be accepted as presented. Mr. Gibbons stated there were no changes made since the work session.

MOTION

Request a Motion to Authorize the proper officials to amend the Courthouse Exterior Renovations Design Agreement with Eyerman, Csala, Hapeman & Handman Architects, 69 Public Square, Suite 1000, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-2505 in the not to exceed amount of \$18,500.00 to include design of the Brominski Building Front Stair and Landing Replacement.

MOTION

Request a Motion to Authorize the proper officials to revoke the award of the Moon Lake Pavilion Project to Lowell Hartzell, Contractor, 154 North Sheridan Road, Newmanstown, PA 17073, in the amount of \$70,200.00 (Base Bid plus Alternate #2A) due to a bid infraction.

MOTION

Request a Motion to Authorize the proper officials to award the Moon Lake Pavilion Project to Power Builders, Inc., 7 Pethick Drive, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703 in the amount of \$84,200.00 (Base Bid Only).

MOTION

Request a Motion to Ratify the amendment of the Scour Repairs for Luzerne County Bridges over the Susquehanna River Agreement with Borton Lawson Engineering, 613 Baltimore Drive, Suite 300, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-7903 in the amount of \$4,890.00 to include design work necessary to obtain a PaDEP GP-11 for operation and maintenance of the Water Street Bridge (BMS #40 7303 2305 0004).

MOTION

Request a Motion to Ratify the request to advertise for the Nesbitt Park Boat Launch Installation Project.

MOTION

Request a Motion to Authorize the proper officials to execute the agreement with Borton Lawson Engineering in the not to exceed amount of \$5,220.00 for design services for the Penn Place HVAC Evaluation Project. This agreement is a subagreement to the existing two-year open end agreement.

MOTION

Request a Motion to authorize the proper officials to execute a Change Order with Hutchison Construction, LLC, RD #2, Box X-6, Hazleton, PA 18201 in the amount of \$1,871.01 for additional skylight flashing repair in the Luzerne County Boiler Plant Re-Roofing Project.

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

Request a motion to go off of the agenda.

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

MOTION

Request a motion to authorize the proper officials to reject all bids received for the Luzerne County 5-year Elevator Maintenance Contract to submission of qualifying bids.

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

MOTION

Request a motion to authorize the proper officials to re-advertise for the Luzerne County 5-year Elevator Maintenance Contract.

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

MOTION

Request a motion to adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the issuance of a letter by the County Solicitor’s Office to Bold Gold Media WBS, LP authorizing it’s use of a proposed Easement in exchange for it’s execution of an Extinguishment of Easement currently used for access by it to property of Luzerne County to which it is a tenant. Adoption of this Resolution will expedite the finalization of the conveyance of land at Valley Crest.

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

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT - JOSEPH GIBBONS, ENGINEER

Joseph Gibbons requested that all motions be accepted as presented. Mr. Gibbons stated there were no changes made since the work session.

MOTION

Request a Motion to Authorize the proper officials to adopt a resolution for supplemental Reimbursement Agreement No. 048848-A in addition to existing Agreement No. 048848 with PennDOT for the reimbursement of costs incurred by Luzerne County to repair damages to County Road No. 16, Hillside Road, Jackson Twp., PA from the June 2006 Flood. The supplemental agreement revises the funding breakdown from 80% Federal/20% Local to 100% Federal for construction costs only and provides for reimbursement to Luzerne County by the Commonwealth ACH System.

MOTION

Request a Motion to Authorize the proper officials to adopt a resolution for Reimbursement Agreement No. 04R018 with PennDOT for the reimbursement of costs incurred by Luzerne County to temporarily repair County Bridge No. 26119, Hillside Road, Jackson Twp., PA damage incurred by the June 2006 Flood. The supplemental agreement provides 100% Federal Reimbursement for construction costs only and provides for reimbursement to Luzerne County by the Commonwealth ACH System.

MOTION

Request a Motion to Authorize the proper officials to adopt a resolution for Reimbursement Agreement No. 04R017 with PennDOT for the reimbursement of costs incurred by Luzerne County to temporarily repair County Bridge No. 26114, Chase Road, Jackson Twp., PA damage incurred by the June 2006 Flood. The supplemental agreement provides 100% Federal Reimbursement for construction costs only and provides for reimbursement to Luzerne County by the Commonwealth ACH System.

MOTION

Request a Motion to Authorize the proper officials to award the Sutton Creek Road Retaining Wall Repair Project (CR #10) to Kriger Construction, Inc., 859 Enterprise Street, Dickson City, PA 18519 in the amount of \$372,815.00.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – ADRIAN MEROLLI, DIRECTOR

MOTION

Request a Motion to accept the proposal from Borton-Lawson Engineering to provide consultant services and prepare the Countywide Phase II Stormwater Management Plan and authorize the Chairman of the Board of Luzerne County Commissioners to execute the consultant agreement upon its submittal and review and approval by the County Solicitor. The proposal is for \$ 338,703 and is funded by a 75% state grant and our OCD office for the local share.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – ANDY REILLY, DIRECTOR

MOTION

Request a Motion approving an amendment to the Community Development Program for Fiscal Years 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2008, and submission of such to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the following:

Planning Activities:

Harvey’s Lake Borough Subdivision & Land Use Plan- \$16,000 (Transferred from FY 2004 Clearance activity).

Acquisition/Relocation:

Shickshinny and Luzerne Borough Acquisition Projects - \$105,000 (Transferred from FY 2008 Unprogrammed Funds).

Economic Development:

Edwardsville Borough/Municipality of Kingston NRSA - \$100,000 (Transferred from FY 2007 Public Facilities).

Edwardsville Borough/Municipality of Kingston NRSA - \$150,000 (Transferred from FY 2008 Public Facilities).

Project Close-Out/Cancellation:

Reimbursement of float funded acquisition of Market Street Square and to Unprogrammed funds - \$228,549 (Transfer from FY 2005 CEO Energy Crisis Assistance Program)

Wyoming Valley Drug & Alcohol - \$50,000 (Transfer from 2007 Acquisition activity to Unprogrammed funds).

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

Request a Motion to enter into a sub-recipient agreement with the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority in order to acquire parcels related to the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area in Edwardsville Borough and the Municipality of Kingston.

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

Request a Motion to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, Edwardsville Borough, and the Municipality of Kingston, in order to complete activities related to the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area in Edwardsville Borough and the Municipality of Kingston.

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

Request a Motion authorizing the Board of Commissioners of the County of Luzerne to enter into contracts, with each of the following, for the provision of professional services to the Luzerne County Office of Community Development for 2008, with the option for two additional years:

Secondary Legal Service and Advice: Gillespie, Miscavige, Ferdinand, & Baranko - \$100.00 per hour,
not
to exceed \$10,000 per year

Auditing Service and Advice: Jones Kohanski & Co. - \$13,500 (2007)
\$14,200 (2008 - option)
\$14,900 (2009 - option)

Commissioner Skrepenak questioned if something had changed on this motion since the work session.

Andy Reilly responded that Primary Legal Services was listed on the work session agenda, however it was suggested to him that the RFP be reviewed further before it was placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Skrepenak questioned if a reason was given. Commissioner Petrilla responded that one RFP came in at a lower rate so she wanted to review the qualifications.

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

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT-GREGORY HUNSINGER, DIRECTOR

MOTION

REQUEST A MOTION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS:

COURTHOUSE: RFP for Specialized Vehicle Maintenance and Towing of County Fleet

PROTHONOTARY’S OFFICE: FILE FOLDERS

LUZERNE/WYOMING COUNTIES TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT:

- 1. SALE OF SEVEN (7) VEHICLES
- 2. RFP FOR SPECIALTY VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

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

MOTION

REQUEST A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT WITH SWIDA FENCE CO. FOR THE MARKET STREET SQUARE PROPERTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,920.00 FOR AN ADDITIONAL 80 LINEAR FEET OF FENCING THAT WILL BE USED TO HOUSE COUNTY VEHICLES.

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

MOTION

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVIDERS FOR SERVICE SPECIFIED:

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

ADULT PROBATION: CHEMICALLY SEAL 150 PARKING SPACES

MARRIGGI PAVING	TOTAL BID: \$21,624.00
233 HOOVER STREET	
OLD FORGE, PA 18518	

LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE: NEW & RE-MANUFACTURED TONER CARTRIDGES

AUTOMATION AIDES, INC. 420 BABYLON ROAD SUITE B HORSHAM, PA 19044	111-ITEMS #1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11, 12,13,14,20,23,24,25, 27,28,34,35,37,38,39, 40,43,44,45,46,47,48, 49,50,51,52,53,54,55, 64,65,68,69,74,75,76, 77,78,79,80,88,89,90, 91,92,93,94,95,96,97, 98,99,100,101,102,103, 104,105,106,107,108, 109,110,111,112,113, 114,115,116,117,118, 119,120,121,122,123, 124,125,130,131,132, 133,134,135,136,137, 172,180,181,182,184, 185,186,187,193,205, 206,207,208,209,210, 211,212	TOTAL BID: \$9,482.20 (NEW \$4,557.56) (RE-MFG. \$4,924.64)
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<p>MORGANMAC, INC. 2230 WILKES BARRE TOWNSHIP MARKET PLACE WILKES BARRE, PA 18702</p>	<p>79-ITEMS #9,15,16,17,18,19,21, 22,26,29,30,31,32,33, 41,56,57,58,59,60,61, 62,63,66,67,70,71,72, 73,81,82,83,84,85,126, 127,128,129,141,143, 145,152,161,162,164, 165,166,167,168,169, 171,173,174,175,176, 177,179,183,189,191, 195,197,198,201,202, 203,204,214,215,218, 221,222,223,224,225, 226,227,230,231</p>	<p>TOTAL BID: \$8,361.07 (NEW \$5,929.21) (RE-MFG. \$2,436.86)</p>
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<p>UNIFIED OFFICE EQUIPMENT 1030 RUTTER AVENUE FORTY FORT, PA 18704</p>	<p>8-ITEMS #139,140,148,149, 151,153,190,194</p>	<p>TOTAL BID: \$774.00 (ALL NEW)</p>
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It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Petrilla
“AYES” PETRILLA, SKREPENAK, URBAN

MOTION

REQUEST A MOTION TO REJECT MCCARTHY TIRE SERVICE BID FOR 400 TIRES DUE TO NO BID BOND.

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

MOTION

REQUEST A MOTION TO RE-ADVERTISE 400 TIRES FOR THE LUZERNE/WYOMING COUNTIES TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO PURCHASE OFFICE FURNITURE OFF PA STATE CONTRACT TO FURNISH CHILDREN AND YOUTH’S HAZLETON OFFICE EXPANSION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$93,127.40 FROM ONE POINT, INC.

Commissioner Skrepenak questioned if this was put out for bid. Greg Hunsinger responded that they had to be ordered immediately in order for them to have it in time for the move to the new building.

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

PROBATION SERVICES - LARRY SABA, DIRECTOR

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVIDERS, SERVICES, TERMS AND RATES SPECIFIED:

<u>PROVIDER</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RATE/ CONTRACT/CAP</u>
<u>PROBATION SERVICES: (JUVENILE)</u>			
JCJC	Grant-In-Aid Award Revised	07/01/08-06/30/09	\$624,654.00 Invoice # G0808-40
<u>PROBATION SERVICES:</u>			
BI Incorporated (Adult)	Electronic Monitoring GPS	09/01/08-06/30/09 09/01/08-06/30/09	\$15.00 per day \$17.00 per day
BI Incorporated (Juvenile)	Electronic Monitoring	09/01/08-06/30/09	\$ 7.02 per day
Mid-Atlantic Monitoring Services (Adult and Juvenile offenders)	Alcohol Monitoring	09/01/08-06/30/09	\$11.00 per day
Redwood Toxicology Laboratory	Drug Testing ON-SITE	09/01/08-06/30/09	25/Box \$5.25 each 10-PANEL
	Dip tests		25/Box \$1.70 each 5-PANEL
	Lab Testing		\$4.00 Per Speciman 8 Drug Lab Screen
			\$9.50 Per Speciman 8 Drug Lab Screen W/Automatic GC/MSonfirmation

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

END OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

PERSONNEL

AUGUST 20, 2008

**REQUEST A MOTION TO AMEND THE FOLLOWING COMPENSATION PLANS
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 20, 2008 AT:**

Area Agency on Aging for Luzerne/Wyoming Counties
Luzerne County Children & Youth Services
Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program
Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS AT:

LUZERNE COUNTY 911:

Sandra Zurek, Dallas, Clerk Typist I at an annual salary of \$21,995, effective August 25, 2008, to fill a vacancy.

William Ives, Nanticoke, Supervisor at an annual salary of \$33,990, effective August 25, 2008, to fill a vacancy.

Joseph Lynch, Forty Fort , 9-1-1 QA-Public Awareness Specialist at an annual salary of \$35,500, effective August 20, 2008, to fill a vacancy.

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE:

The appointment of Vito DeLuca, Esq., Nanticoke, Solicitor at an annual salary of \$39,884, effective August 20, 2008, to fill a vacancy.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Charles E. Fritz, Wilkes-Barre, Custodian at an annual salary of \$18,500, effective July 28, 2008, to fill a vacancy.

SECURITY:

Roger Niski, Newport Township, Security Guard at an annual salary of \$18,800, effective August 1, 2008, to fill a vacancy.

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

The Appointment of the following Caseworker 2's at an annual salary of \$30,456:

- Janice Bonner, McAdoo, effective September 2, 2008.
- Marie Boyd, Old Forge, effective September 2, 2008.
- Mary Ladish, Dallas, effective September 5, 2008.
- John Landin, Pocono Summit, effective September 5, 2008.
- Lisa Ross, Dalton, effective September 19, 2008.
- Kathleen Stapleton, Mountain Top, effective September 2, 2008.

DRUG & ALCOHOL:

The Appointment of Jean Rokosz, Nanticoke, as a Drug & Alcohol Case Management Specialist at an annual salary of \$27,824, effective September 12, 2008.

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

The Appointment of Martha Ann Elmir, Kingston, Clerk Typist 2 at an annual salary of \$22,179, effective September 2, 2008.

The Appointment of Stanley Perry, Part Time Administrative Officer 3 at an hourly rate of \$34.25, effective August 22, 2008.

TRANSPORTATION:

The Appointment of the following Part Time Drivers at an hourly rate of \$8:

- Diane Deiter, Wilkes-Barre, effective June 24, 2008.
- Anthony Gabrys, Kingston, effective July 9, 2008.
- Leo Ziegler, Wilkes-Barre, effective July 9, 2008.
- Paul Davies, Shavertown, effective July 9, 2008.
- Pedro Molina, Hunlock Creek, effective July 9, 2008.
- Greg Durcik, Mountain Top, effective July 15, 2008.

The appointment of John Alu, Pittston Township, Fiscal Officer at an annual salary of \$35,000, effective August 18, 2008, to fill a vacancy.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RECLASSIFICATIONS AT:

AGING:

Connie Andrews to Senior Center Manager 2 at an annual salary of \$38,953, effective September 8, 2008.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY:

Jennifer Brizgint, Youth Administrative/Intake Specialist, at an annual salary of \$32,296, effective January 1, 2008.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PAY ADJUSTMENTS AT:

TRANSPORTATION:

David Bogaczyk, Part Time Driver at an hourly rate of \$9.00, effective June 30, 2008.
Charline Echart, Part Time Driver at an hourly rate of \$8.50, effective July 14, 2008.
Joseph Man, Part Time Driver at an hourly rate of \$8.50, effective July 14, 2008.

CHILDREN & YOUTH :

Rodney Hermanofski, Distributed Systems Specialist 2, at an annual salary of \$39,831, effective August 22, 2008.

ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT:

Diane Aponte, Executive Secretary, at an annual salary of \$32,000.00, effective September 1, 2008.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS AT:

TRANSPORTATION:

A Correction in the Appointment Date for the following Part Time Drivers, effective June 4, 2008:

Carl Larson, Nanticoke
Brenda Warke, Plains

A Correction in the hourly rate of Pay for Carl Scatton at an hourly rate of \$8.25, effective June 30, 2008.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS AT:

PUBLIC DEFENDERS:

Patrick Norwood, Clerk Steno II, effective August 15, 2008.

Vito DeLuca, Esq., effective August 20, 2008.

LUZERNE COUNTY 9-1-1

Alan Pugh, Director of Public Safety, effective October 2, 2008.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT:

William Pritchard, Maintenance Repair, effective July 18, 2008.

SECURITY:

Colleen E. James, Security Guard, effective August 1, 2008.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY:

David J. Breshock, OJT Contract Manager, effective September 15, 2008.

AGING:

Lisa Orth, Senior Center Manager 2, effective July 31, 2008.

Melissa Boettger, Aging Care Manager 2, effective September 3, 2008.

Ann Marie Carroll, Clerk Typist 2, effective August 12, 2008.

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

Tanya Seiwell, Social Services Aide 1, effective July 2, 2008.

Keri Fisher, Caseworker 2, effective August 18, 2008.

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

Jennifer Griffin, Caseworker 2, effective August 7, 2008.

TRANSPORTATION:

Carl Larson, Part Time Driver, effective June 27, 2008.

Greg Durcik, Part Time Driver, effective July 15, 2008.

Brenda Warke, Part Time Driver, effective July 15, 2008.

John McCabe, Part Time Driver, effective July 16, 2008.

Leo Ziegler, Part Time Driver, effective July 17, 2008.

Anthony Gabrys, Part Time Driver, effective July 16, 2008.

Jason Parrish, Fiscal Officer, effective August 18, 2008.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TERMINATIONS AT:

TRANSPORTATION:

Justin Krochta, Part Time Driver, effective July 3, 2008.

Gregory Harkins, Part Time Driver, effective July 9, 2008.

LUZERNE COUNTY 9-1-1:

Jamie Balliet, Telecommunicator, effective August 20, 2008.

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING LEAVES OF ABSENCE AT:

ASSESSORS:

An Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence Without Pay for Kathryn Mangan-Keezer, Clerk Typist I, effective August 4, 2008.

PURCHASING:

A Family Medical of Absence With Pay for Tammie A. Robbins, Clerk II effective, August 11, 2008 through September 2, 2008.

AGING:

A Leave of Absence Without Pay for John Gallagher, Aging Case Aide 2, effective May 27, 2008.

A Leave of Absence Without Pay for Anna Pocholonis, Senior Center Manager 1, effective June 5, 2008 through July 18, 2008.

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Jacqueline Repasky, Clerk 2, effective May 15, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Helen Ann DePrimo, Clerk Typist 2, effective May 21, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Marilyn Brennan, Caseworker 2, effective July 28, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Carol Galli, Caseworker 2, effective June 12, 2008 through July 15, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Leo Kaskel, Caseworker 2, effective July 24, 2008.

A Leave Without Pay for Jacqueline Silveri, Caseworker 2, effective August 18 through August 20, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Holly Long, Caseworker 2, effective July 30, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Jane Miller, Social Services Aide 3, effective August 18 through September 6, 2008.

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN:

A Leave of Absence Without Pay for Dawn Seidel, Director, effective July 25 through August 15, 2008.

HUMAN SERVICES:

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for James Kolojejchick, Project Coordinator, effective July 7, 2008.

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Mary Moyer, Clerk Typist 2, effective July 8, 2008.

A Leave of Absence Without Pay for Mary Boylan, Caseworker 2, effective August 1, 2008.

A Leave of Absence for Kelly Ann Kohl, Clerk 2, effective August 8, 2008.

An Intermittent Family Medical Leave of Absence for Denyse Duaimé, Caseworker 2, effective August 8, 2008.

TRANSPORTATION:

A One Day Leave Without Pay for Deborah Lloyd, Scheduler, effective June 30, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Charlotte Shinko, Driver, effective July 28, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for April Kelly, Scheduler, effective August 21, 2008.

A Family Medical Leave of Absence for Rose Capristo, Scheduler, effective August 26, 2008.

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BOARD APPOINTMENT:

LUZERNE-WYOMING COUNTIES DRUG AND ALCOHOL EXECUTIVE COMMISSION:

RE-APPOINT:

Kristen Huff
For a three year term
Effective January 22, 2008 through January 21, 2011

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

LUZERNE COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD:

APPOINT:

Ina Lubin, Lehman
For a three year term
Effective September 1, 2008 through September 1, 2011

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

LUZERNE COUNTY RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING:

APPOINT:

Marsha Spear – Retired Teacher
For a three year term
Effective August 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE/RATIFY THE FOLLOWING TRAININGS FOR:

<u>ATTENDEE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>APPROX. COST</u>
<u>BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS</u>				
14 Certified	Northeast Chapter	Lake Harmony	09/19/08	\$ 350.00

Pennsylvania Assessors' Association
Evaluators of PA Training Seminar
(NECAAP)

AREA AGENCY ON AGING:

Elaine Pucci	P4A Quarterly Meeting	Gettysburg	7/29/08	\$194
Anne Rappaport Mary Lou Zerfoss	Grant Training Workshop	King of Prussia	9/18-19/08	\$576
Mary Beth Farrell Barbara DaSilva Linda Lucas	2008 Building Bridges Conference	Grantville	9/22-24/08	\$926

MENTAL HEALTH/MENTAL RETARDATION:

Judy Welch	Certified Investigator Training	Harrisburg	9/22-9/25/08	\$425
Dale Klush	Successfully Managing Conflict as a Professional	Camp Hill	9/25/08	\$212
Gina Galli	Management Committee Meeting for Positive Health Practices	Mechanicsburg	9/25/08	\$120
Joseph Petrizzi Jean Noss	Cost Reports and Service Definition Statewide Training	State College	8/19/08	\$130

LUZERNE COUNTY DEPT. OF PROBATION SERVICES –ADULT DIVISION

Mark Buss Mark Kijek	Control Tactics Instructor Basic Recertification Course (Protective Safety Systems, Inc.)	Coplay, PA	10/6-10/9/08	\$1,050.00
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Commissioner Skrepenak questioned where the county was on this policy.

Human Resources Director, Doug Richards stated that he and the solicitor have been meeting to discuss some items which involved the county code. Mr. Richards stated that he would be sending a draft policy and would look for feedback from the commissioners.

Jim Blaum commented that the first draft did not include caps on reimbursements for certain meetings.

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

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that a new solicitor had been hired who has extensive knowledge and expertise in contract negotiations. Commissioner Skrepenak questioned if the county could terminate the agreements with the two local law firms that are currently handling this for the county.

Jim Blaum responded that he wouldn't advise that at this time. He stated that he'd like Mr. DeLuca to consult with these firms and get the lay of the land on the issues and actions that are outstanding. Mr. Blaum stated that in the future this could be done to save the county money.

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that Al Roman was in attendance at the meeting to act on a condemnation. Jim Blaum responded that he sent information on this matter to the commissioners and he would ask that the commissioners sit down with Attorney Aciukewicz and discuss the matter.

Commissioner Skrepenak thanked Alan Pugh for his long and distinguished career with the county. Commissioner Skrepenak wished Mr. Pugh the best of luck.

Commissioners Urban and Petrilla also thanked Mr. Pugh for his dedicated service to the county.

Commissioner Petrilla thanked the Sheriff and Security staff for keeping the meeting in order.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Commissioner Skrepenak, seconded by Commissioner Urban

“AYES” PETRILLA, SKREPENAK, URBAN

Respectively submitted,



Jennifer Thomas, Recording Secretary