

**JANUARY 26, 2009**

On the above date at 10:30 A.M., the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened a special meeting with the following present: Maryanne Petrilla, Chairman; Gregory Skrepenak, Commissioner; Stephen Urban, Commissioner; Douglas Pape, Chief Clerk/County Manager; Vito DeLuca, 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; Andrew Reilly, Office of Community Development; 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.

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

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

**None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Carl Romanelli thanked the Board of Commissioners for putting the Home Rule question on the ballot. Mr. Romanelli commented on a court order he received in the mail giving him ten days to pay \$80,000 to lawyers that worked on the challenge of his 100,000 signatures. Mr. Romanelli stated that he felt the county has had its hands full with the courts, especially with judges who if they had any regard for the robes that they wore would have stepped down long ago under what is transpiring today. Mr. Romanelli stated that he believed he had every right to comment on this issue as a retired employee of the court. Mr. Romanelli stated in 2001 he was a working person on the lowest rung of the court system. He stated that he retired from a very comfortable and lucrative position in the Luzerne County Domestic Relations Office to speak against the reprehensible action of the Supreme Court in its appointment of George Bush. Mr. Romanelli stated that the county needed more court officials, attorneys, and elected officials to stand up against these acts that are happening. Mr. Romanelli commented that he hoped the pleadings announced today would not prevent the citizens of Luzerne County from learning the depth of this corruption and the details of these conspiratorial acts against the taxpayers of Luzerne County.

Bob Reilly commended the Commissioners for allowing the Home Rule question to be placed on the ballot without going through the petition process.

Mr. Reilly stated taxpayers of the county are currently paying millage towards the bond issue that was floated to pay for the dike and levee system. He stated that those who are paying money to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority are already contributing to the upkeep and use of the pump stations. Mr. Reilly suggested that the Commissioners set up a trust fund for maintenance costs like those set up for Kirby and Nesbitt Park. Mr. Reilly stated that everyone uses the dikes. He stated that the people that live near the dikes should not have to pay all the costs for that recreation.

Commissioner Petrilla stated that Mr. Reilly should attend a Flood Protection Meeting to voice his concerns on the levee tax.

Commissioner Urban stated that no meeting has been scheduled to discuss the levee tax. Commissioner Urban commented that the pumps the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority maintain are separate from the pumps that the county maintains.

Walter Griffith thanked the Commissioners for placing the Home Rule Ordinance on the agenda.

Mr. Griffith suggested that the Commissioners direct the Bureau of Elections Director to educate people on how to circulate a petition. Mr. Griffith stated this would prevent people from being eliminated on a technicality.

Mr. Griffith stated that the Commissioners needed to change the language in the personnel policy. Mr. Griffith stated that the policy should read that all hiring's or transfers between positions go before the Salary Board. He stated that this would provide Commissioners with more control over spending in the County. Mr. Griffith stated that the county code was very clear in stating that all salaries are regulated by the Salary Board. Mr. Griffith stated if this language was put into the county's personnel policy it would help with employees moving in house.

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

**MOTION**

**2009 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program**

Request a motion to approve the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' County/Municipal Cooperative Agreement FPM 09-01/02 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program in the amount of \$141,162.00.

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

**MOTION**

**911 Agreement/Geisinger Medical Center**

Request a Motion to authorize the proper 9-1-1 officials to enter into an agreement with Geisinger Medical Center through its Life Flight program “One Call System”. This agreement is non-binding and allows for the 9-1-1- telecommunicators to make one call and have the closest available air ambulance dispatched to a scene where requested. This system is endorsed by EMS of NEPA and allows the telecommunicators to concentrate more on coordination of other necessary medical care and transport services.

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

Commissioner Skrepenak questioned if there was anything Luzerne County could do to help Schuylkill County with their downed lines. Ed Casaldi responded that they had been in contact with them and offered Luzerne County's assistance. Commissioner Skrepenak questioned if this problem could happen in Luzerne County. Mr. Casaldi responded that it was very unlikely however they do have a backup procedure in place.

**MOTION**

**Adoption of an Ordinance of the County of Luzerne/Home Rule (Appendix Page 4 – 6)**

Request a Motion to Approve the Adoption of an Ordinance of the County of Luzerne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Directing That a Referendum be conducted in Luzerne County, Pursuant to the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plan Law and Third Class County Code, To Be Placed on the May 19, 2009 Municipal Primary Ballot

Commissioner Skrepenak asked Bureau of Elections Director, Leonard Piazza to prepare a brief to do list for the people interested in running for the study commission. Commissioner Skrepenak asked that the information be posted on the county's website. Mr. Piazza stated that the packets would be available for the candidates on February 2, 2009.

Commissioner Urban commented that he hoped the people who implemented the home rule study will educate the public on how to collect signatures on a petition.

Commissioner Skrepenak stated that in the upcoming election when this is on the ballot the people will be voting for the home rule question itself and for the individuals on the study commission in the event that the question passes.

Commissioner Petrilla asked the press to work with them and make sure that the information was out there for the public so everyone will know the process and it will get done correctly.

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

**END OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**PERSONNEL**

**TAX CLAIM BUREAU:**

Request a Motion to approve Re-Appointments and Appointments of Attorneys to perform title searches for the Judicial Sale in 2009 effective January 26, 2009. They are as follows:

**RE-APPOINTMENTS:**

Attorney Timothy Henry  
Attorney Lesa Gelb  
Attorney Joseph Joyce

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

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Attorney Matthew Reinert  
Attorney Girard Mecadon  
Attorney Richard Wojtowicz

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

**END OF PERSONNEL**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

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

*Respectively submitted,*



*Jennifer Thomas, Recording Secretary*

APPENDIX SHEET

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