

June 22, 2011

On the above date the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners convened a Salary Board Meeting with the following present: Maryanne Petrilla, Chairman; Thomas P. Cooney, Commissioner; Stephen A. Urban, Commissioner; Walter Griffith, Controller; Douglas Pape, County Manager for Legislation/Chief Clerk; Vito DeLuca, Solicitor; Andy Check, Director of Human Resources

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

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

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SALARY BOARD MEETING ON MAY 25, 2011.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cooney
“AYES” PETRILLA, COONEY, URBAN, GRIFFITH

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SALARY BOARD ACTION

FOR:

AREA AGENCY ON AGING:

Eliminate: One (1) Administrative Officer 1 at an Annual Salary of \$32,258 effective June 22, 2011.

Create: One (1) Senior Center Manager 2 at an Annual Salary of \$25,539 effective June 22, 2011.

Eliminate: One (1) Clerk 2 at an Annual Salary of \$21,261 effective June 22, 2011.

Create: One (1) Senior Center Manager 1 at an Annual Salary of \$23,744 effective June 22, 2011.

Eliminate: One (1) Clerk 2 at an Hourly Rate of \$10.90 effective June 22, 2011.

Create: One (1) Food Service Worker 1 at an Hourly Rate of \$10.12 effective June 22, 2011.

Walter Griffith

Is there a synopsis to determine why we are doing this? Why we are creating positions and eliminating others. I'm not aware of why we are doing all of this.

Joe DeVizia

I didn't get a synopsis on the Senior Centers but I got one on the professional changes in the department itself.

Doug Pape

I didn't receive a synopsis on this one. I don't see the administrative changes. Were they sent over to be on this Salary Board Agenda?

Commissioner Petrilla

This takes care of the Hazleton Senior Center.

Commissioner Urban

You are eliminating positions in the Area Agency on Aging and creating positions in the Senior Center. You are going to come up with quite a bit of savings then we are going to lease the building.

Joe DeVizia

Planning is still going on with that but that is the direction we want to go in. Keep it easy as possible for the participants.

Commissioner Urban

We want to make sure there is continuous service for the people using the Hazleton Senior Center.

Walter Griffith

I don't have a problem with that. I would just appreciate getting the information prior to the meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Urban
"AYES" PETRILLA, COONEY, URBAN, GRIFFITH

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SALARY BOARD ACTION

FOR:

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

Eliminate: One (1) Custodian at an Annual Salary of \$19,000 effective June 22, 2011.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cooney
"AYES" PETRILLA, COONEY, URBAN, GRIFFITH

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SALARY BOARD ACTION

FOR:

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE:

Create: One (1) Assistant Solicitor at an Annual Salary of \$39,884.26 with Benefits effective June 22, 2011.

Walter Griffith

Is there a way to modify this to say 6 months? I don't understand why we are doing benefits. These are the ones to replace for MH/MR, correct?

Vito DeLuca

The way I found out what was happening in MH/MR with the contract attorneys was the home rule transition team asked me to do a study on the best way to organize the Solicitor's Office to be prepared for home rule and the county council in January. Prior to now this position, the lawyers that handle the MH/MR hearings or mental health hearings were not under control of the Solicitor's Office. Right now we are spending \$95,000 that is being reimbursed 100% by the state. This would reduce the cost to approximately \$54,000, so we're still saving at least \$40,000 or better for the state. That would give my office supervisory ability over this attorney to make sure they are doing what they are supposed to do. It would still be completely reimbursed by the state under the MH/MR Program.

Commissioner Urban

Did you say there were 400 hearings?

Vito DeLuca

424 hearings. 271 were attended.

Walter Griffith

And there are two days a week they attend those hearings so are we going to allow that solicitor to do other work in the Solicitor's Office?

Vito DeLuca

We will have to be careful because with that attorney the commissioners will be reimbursed by the state. The reason there were two attorneys before was because there may be some issues with vacation or an inability to have someone attend the hearings and present orders. We will now keep track through my office and any of my assistants who do support work for MH/MR can make sure we also get reimbursed for those services by the state. It follows with the concept of the Home Rule Charter that was approved by the voters that says to have a unified legal team. Plus we are saving the state and the taxpayers at least \$40,000 or better and we're actually going to be doing the service that was supposed to be done.

Joe DeVizia

I suggest this solicitor be trained because it is a complicated system.

Vito DeLuca

Absolutely. For the next six months I'm going to be on the hook for mistakes that are made.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cooney
"AYES" PETRILLA, COONEY, URBAN, GRIFFITH

REQUEST A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SALARY BOARD ACTION

FOR:

ROAD & BRIDGE:

Create: One (1) Maintenance Repairman at an Annual Salary of \$21,500 effective June 22, 2011.

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cooney
"AYES" PETRILLA, COONEY, URBAN, GRIFFITH

Commissioner Petrilla thanked the supervisors and the senior citizens for their hospitality.

Commissioner Urban thanked everyone for their kindness and stated that the commissioners looked forward to coming back here again.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

It was moved by Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cooney
"AYES" PETRILLA, COONEY, URBAN, GRIFFITH

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Thomas, Recording Secretary