

**RESOLUTION R-2016-55
LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL**

*A Resolution of the Luzerne County Council to Abate Delinquent Luzerne County Taxes
for the Property Located at 205 North Street, West Hazleton*

WHEREAS, the Home Rule Charter, Section 2.09(B)(2), gives Luzerne County Council the power to levy, establish, alter and/or abolish taxes and assessments except as may be limited by the Charter or applicable law; and

WHEREAS, West Hazleton Borough intends to purchase the property located at 205 North Street, West Hazleton with assessed owners listed as Thomas Carey and John Verbitsky; and

WHEREAS, the property located at 205 North Street, West Hazleton has been placed with Northeast Revenue Services, LLC for tax sale due to the non-payment of several years' property taxes; and

WHEREAS, it is West Hazleton Borough's intent to secure a Community Block Grant for demolition of the existing structure which is in an advanced and deteriorating stage and presents a public nuisance to Borough residents; and

WHEREAS, West Hazleton Borough is seeking additional funding for the construction of a new fire station to service the Borough residents and would like to place the fire station at 205 North Street; and

WHEREAS, the liens encumbering the property from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor & Industry and the IRS have been released for the purpose of transmitting clean title to the property to West Hazleton Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Hazleton Area School District and Borough of West Hazleton have agreed to abate their delinquent taxes related to the property in order for West Hazleton Borough to take title to the property as set forth above; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding Luzerne County taxes, penalties and interest on the 205 North Street, West Hazleton property (as of August 3, 2016) are:

a. 2012:	\$1,708.95
b. 2013:	\$3,107.07
c. 2014:	\$3,128.99
d. 2015:	\$2,902.34
e. 2016:	\$2,770.13
Total:	\$13,617.48

WHEREAS, Luzerne County desires to abate the delinquent and current County taxes, interest and penalties on 205 North Street, West Hazleton in the amount of \$13,617.48 plus any additional interest that has accrued through the effective date of this Resolution subject to the following conditions:

- a. West Hazleton Borough must acquire the property and demolish the unsafe structures located on the property within one (1) year of the effective date of this Resolution; and
- b. If West Hazleton Borough ceases utilizing the property for municipal purposes or West Hazleton Borough sells the property, West Hazleton Borough agrees to reimburse Luzerne County for the full amount of taxes, penalties and interest forgiven by the County in the amount of \$13,617.48 plus any additional interest that accrues through the effective date of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the delinquent Luzerne County taxes, penalties and interest in the amount of \$13,617.48 will be abated subject to the terms and conditions set forth above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, West Hazleton Borough will purchase the 205 North Street, West Hazleton, property free and clear of the Luzerne County taxes from the designated owners.

This Resolution shall become effective six (6) days from adoption.

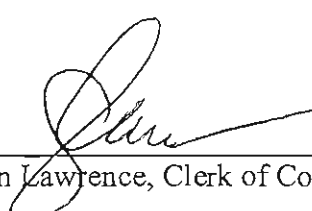
ADOPTED at a meeting of Luzerne County Council held on August 9, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE (10-0)

YES: Dobash, Haas, Kelleher, McGinley, Schnee, Sorokas, SA Urban, Waitkus, Williams, and Houck

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST:


Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

By: 
Linda McClosky Houck, Chair

By: 
C. David Pedri, County Manager