

December 3, 2013

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

Mr. Giles, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 7:00 p.m. at the Erie County Council Chambers, Erie County Courthouse, Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Loll recited the following prayer:

“Let us pray. We just had a holiday that everyone gives thanks to our Lord for something they are thankful for. Some are thankful for friends and family, some wealth and prosperity, some a home over their head and others are thankful for getting together for a good meal and warm place to eat it. Health is one thing always on the list. We thank you and the veterans for our freedom that we enjoy. Dear Lord we all have just that one special thing we are thankful for and some express it easily and others secretly will convey it to you quietly in their own way. Dear Lord we now express our special thanks to you...Amen.”

Roll Call

The County Clerk called the roll:

Members Present: Mr. Giles, Chairman
Mr. Cleaver, Vice Chairman
Mr. DiMattio
Mr. Fatica
Dr. Foust
Mr. Leone
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk
Joseph Maloney, Council CPA
James Sparber, Director of Finance
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting

Presentation
Of Citation

Mr. Giles invited Mr. Cleaver to present Mrs. Beverly DiCarlo with the citation on behalf of the County of Erie. Mr. Cleaver praised Mrs. DiCarlo for her accomplishment and read from the citation, including the fact that Mrs. DiCarlo completed 51 half-marathons in 50 states and the District of Columbia, and raised \$50,000 for Autism awareness as a result of these monumental efforts, aptly named "Race with Grammy". This effort took her three and a half years to complete. Mrs. DiCarlo introduced her family and stated that they took on this cause for Autism, as her grandson, Aidan, has Autism. She stated that he has been helped tremendously by the service providers in Erie. Her family wanted to give back and one of her children came up with the idea to do this race in all 50 states. She stated her family has supported her throughout this effort. Mrs. DiCarlo stated that donations came in locally and to all kinds of Autism centers throughout the United States. She thanked County Council on behalf of her family for the citation and recognizing her efforts to bring Autism awareness to the forefront.

Hearing of the
Public

Ed Kissell, 2815 Sigsbee Street, Erie, PA. Mr. Kissell spoke regarding Item B, the possible adoption of Resolution 18, 2013, in support of the corporate and/or private funding as a match for the RELCO grant. Mr. Kissell stated that many months ago when discussion began regarding RELCO, Council wanted to see more work from municipalities to match the \$100,000 that Council is holding. He stated that this has been done by five municipalities – Lawrence Park, Harborcreek, Summit, Millcreek, and Fairview, who have come up with the match. He commented that there are other interests by private stakeholders to help supplement that, but he feels that the agreement has been put together and turned into the Clerk on the five municipalities. He encouraged Council to pass Resolution 18, 2013, so that the emergency vehicles can get where they need to go in a quicker manner. He stated that on April 17, 2013, Council passed a resolution granting \$350,000 out of a \$500,000 grant from LECOM for digital computers in emergency vehicles to be able to track where they are going and help with quicker response to get medical information to the hospital. He felt that with the RELCO system, along with this system, it is a win-win for the County. One other issue he explained was that the city is not involved with this at the present time, but did a lot of the early groundwork for the RELCO system, they use the system currently, and hopefully the City will see in the future the need to put this system throughout the city. He thanked Council for their attention and hoped that Council would pass Resolution 18, 2013.

Approval of
Minutes

Mr. Cleaver moved to approve the minutes of November 6, 2013. This was seconded by Mr. DiMattio. Mr. Giles asked that the minutes from November 6, 2013, be amended to include the write up from the Erie County Convention Center Authority "Erie Events". Mr. Leone seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Giles asked for a roll call vote on the minutes of November 6, 2013, as amended, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Finance
Committee

Mr. Leone stated that the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, November 27, 2013, at 12:00 p.m. and discussed the following items:

- Ordinance 126, 2013, Public Health fund supplemental appropriation of \$6,000 for an immunization grant
- Resolution 18, 2013, in support of private or corporate funding as a match for the Erie County Radolite System grant (tabled on 4/9/13), and needs to be removed from the table
- First reading of Ordinance 130, 2013, Public Health supplemental appropriation for \$3,836 for increase in funding of tuberculosis Grant bureau, and recommend a second reading
- Resolution 60, 2013, exonerating taxes on one abandoned trailer in Wattsburg School District and Venango Township
- Sale of Parcels from Repository as listed
- Added this evening was the possibility of adopting Resolution 61, 2013, to approve the annual budget of the Erie County COG, as well as Resolution 62, 2013, in support of the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ)

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Personnel
Committee

Dr. Foust stated there were no proposals brought forth so the Personnel Committee did not convene.

Tribute to Catherine
& Edward DiMattio

Mr. DiMattio stated that two years ago, his daughter, Emma, turned 16, and with the old saying that you should embarrass your children as time goes on, so while he was announcing at a soccer game, he made sure to announce that it was her 16th birthday. When she turned 18, it was during a Fort LeBoeuf home football game, and he made sure to announce that it was her 18th birthday. He also included his wife and at a fundraiser at his church, he had everyone sing happy birthday to her. He asked that his twins, Catherine and Edward, stand up and be recognized for their 16th birthday and he asked that this be put into the record. Mr. Giles stated on behalf of Erie County Council, happy 16th birthday to both Catherine and Edward.

Certificate of
Appreciation
Presentation

Mr. Leone then presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mr. Giles and Mr. Cleaver from CCAP. He read from the certificates, "The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it – John Russell". He congratulated both on their efforts with CCAP.

CCAP Conference
Update

Mr. Leone discussed the CCAP fall conference. There are numerous things going on with all the committees, including Human Services, Military, Veterans Affairs, Energy, 911-Public Safety, Election issues, the Ag Committee, Assessment and Taxation, Economic Development in County governments, Courts and Corrections, Election Reform Committee, VA medical services, etc. He went over a couple of the highlights from that conference. He first stated that he is on two of these committees and that involvement is very time consuming. At the conference, he discovered that Mr. Giles serves on five insurance committees, and he congratulated Mr. Giles on his involvement. Mr. Leone further stated that Mr. Giles is on the Board of Directors of CCAP and is the state representative for NaCO, and he stated he appreciates the time Mr. Giles has put into all of this involvement.

Mr. Leone then highlighted some of what occurred at the conference. Regarding the Military and Veterans and Affairs, there is training for supervisors of Veterans Affairs and they all now have to be called "Directors". He stated there are some problems in that particular area, including veteran solicitation, which is usually fraudulent. There was feedback on 911 and Public Safety in the area of county governance and the funding stream, and reauthorization of that funding stream. He stated that as of June, 2014, the funding stream for cell phones is done. He explained that some type of legislation has to go through so that the funding stream would continue. They also discussed the fact that they are looking at landline fees again. Mr. Leone does not feel that increasing landline fees is going to do any good as far as 911 funding is concerned. More people are getting away from landlines. He also stated that when you buy a pre-paid card for your cell phone, there are no fees being paid for the 911 system. They are also going to be looking at Title 35, which is the emergency management revisions, and electronic advertising, which he hopes passes. This is a costly item to all counties based on the fact that they have to advertise.

Another issue discussed was the Open Records revision. There are remaining issues that are problematic. Some of the commissioners and council members that were at the conference indicated some of the requests that they get are more costly than what is received as far as the time that is spent finding the information requested, but unfortunately, there is a certain charge and in some cases, counties are losing money.

They are also discussing elimination of tax collectors. This could potentially save in excess of \$600,000 if it was done in Erie County.

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Mr. Leone also commented that the prevailing wage was increased from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

Mr. Leone stated that if anyone was interested in obtaining any of the information he received at the conference, they could let him know and he would provide copies.

Mr. Giles'
Report

Mr. Giles began his report by stating that when he began with the County Commissioners Association several years ago, he was very grateful for creating the Veterans Committee. At first, it was an ad hoc committee and it is now a standing policy steering committee as part of CCAP's structure. One point of interest is that the legislature oftentimes is looking for someone to partner with, so having the County Commissioners align with veterans' initiatives has, in the past three years, helped with remarkable laws that have occurred that were on the shelf waiting for an "assist", and in turn these laws are now passed. One in particular is the designation of veteran on a driver's license. There was also the creation of Veterans Court

Mr. Giles stated that while at the conference, he gave the flag "Don't Give Up the Ship" to each of the CCAP board members to commemorate their visit to Erie. Mr. Giles also commented that at the end of the conference, it was announced that Erie would be the site for the conference in 2017. This is a fairly quick turnaround because they are scheduling out to 2019. He stated that the Board really appreciated all the work that he did and hoped he would remain the Ambassador. Mr. Giles indicated if the vote tipped one way or another, he would be the Ambassador again for CCAP to ensure the conference goes well. Mr. Giles thanked everyone for their hard work and that the Erie conference was flawless. He was happy they are returning in 2017.

Mr. Giles then discussed some of the gifts that were presented to him while he was there and that these gifts are on display in the County Council office. He commented that they did aggregate numbers of his service and came up with 76 years for his involvement. One gift in particular was given to him from Doug Hill, a beautiful bottle of Grappa. He explained the story of how grappa is a spirit distilled from the fermented remains of grapes after pressing. Mr. Hill expressed that it reminded him of Mr. Giles – "you can press him and press him and press him, and when you think there is nothing left, there is still more". Mr. Giles stated he was touched by the poetry of all of it. He commented that each event he went to, different segments of CCAP presented different items to him. Another of particular interest to him was a bottle of Chartreuse that was given to him. He explained that this is an after dinner liqueur and that the name actually comes from the beverage. The recipe is only shared by three monks and none of them have the same recipe so you need all three to create Chartreuse. He advised everyone that all the items he received are displayed in the County Council offices for their review.

Mr. Giles gave a heartfelt thanks to everyone for all that they have done for him and all that they have allowed him to do for them. He is in deep appreciation. Mr. Leone interjected that Erie County will be receiving a check for \$55,000 because of the good insurance program in the County. Mr. Leone also stated that the Veterans Affairs program is coming up to date. There are 10,000 homeless veterans, some single moms and children that are homeless, and PTSD for the veterans today – there are 22 who commit suicide every day. He felt that something more has to be done for our veterans and especially our veterans in Erie County. Mr. Leone stated that he had the opportunity to meeting with the Adjutant General, and received a book called "Korea After".

Mr. Giles encouraged everyone to get involved and that there are numerous opportunities out there. At this last conference, he had the opportunity to present the Adjutant General a five star profile collection of the five star generals – a mint coin collection with the three coins – to celebrate the five star generals. He stated in that meeting, there were only five people, he along with a commissioner from Jefferson County, two staff people, and the Secretary of Drug and Alcohol – Tim Basil. Mr. Giles commented that the Secretary was most interested in Erie and what we are doing with drug court. He stated they are working on an initiative and are looking for pilot counties to prevent citizens from getting lost in the correctional system and get to them before they

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get pulled into a system that oftentimes they don't get out. He also stated that they have asked him to do a 32 year retrospect for their bi-monthly magazine and he has agreed to do it.

The last part of Mr. Giles report pertained to the discussion of the move from Civil Service to Merit Hire. The Administration has already taken some steps in that direction. The Committee will meet before the end of the year. The Committee includes Mr. Giles, Mrs. Loll, and Dr. Foust. Mr. Giles has copies of the details from the state which includes the "How To" protocol. Mr. Giles suggested that this be plugged in to what CCAP is offering in order to make it work right. The Committee will meet before the end of the year to ensure this moves forward.

Amending of
Agenda

Dr. Foust moved to amend the agenda by making a second reading out of Ordinance Number 130, 2013, to pull off the table the possible adoption of Resolution 18, 2013, and add Resolution Numbers 61, regarding the approval of the COG annual budget, and Resolution 62, which is in support of the establishment of the CRIZ. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 130, 2013

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 130, 2013, "Eighth 2013 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,836 from Increase in Funding for Tuberculosis Grant Bureau". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Res. 60, 2013

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 60, 2013, "Exonerating Taxes on One Abandoned Trailer/Property in Wattsburg Area School District and Venango Township". This was moved by Mr. DiMattio and seconded by Dr. Foust. This carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Sale of Parcels
From Repository

Dr. Foust moved to approve the sale of parcels from the repository according to the index numbers of the agenda – 15-020-027.0-127.00 and 45-007-012.0-010.09. This was seconded by Mr. Leone. This carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Second
Readings

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance 126, 2013, "Seventh 2013 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$6,000 from Increase in Funding for Immunization Grant Bureau". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. DiMattio, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 18, 2013, in totality:

"RESOLUTION NUMBER 18, 2013

**In Support Of Corporate And/Or Private Funding As A Match
For Erie County's Radolite System Grant**

WHEREAS, Action Sheet No. 31 in the General Fund of the 2013 Erie County Budget provided a \$100,000 County grant for the upgrade of Radolite Systems in Erie County to work in conjunction with \$100,000 in Gaming Funds and a matching \$100,000 grant from the lead municipality applying for the funds; and

WHEREAS, the grant parameters as approved by County Council include:

1. Funds will be placed in a restricted account
2. Gaming Authority agrees to additional \$100,000 before these funds can be released
3. Each and every Applicant (municipality, borough or township) must agree to maintain the system once it is installed
4. The Applicant guarantees that the funds are used in a competitive bid for the services provided

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5. The installer will guarantee the final results along with penalties for failing to complete the system

WHEREAS, limited budgets make it difficult for municipalities to acquire \$100,000 in matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of the County of Erie that the County Grant for upgrade of the Radolite System be made available to any private or public entity able to provide matching funding of \$100,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that work on the Radolite System move forward without Gaming Funds so long as there is a public or private donation of \$100,000, PennDOT guidelines are met as outlined on Exhibit A, and Council removes the restriction.”. This was moved by Dr. Foust and seconded by Mr. Leone.

Mr. Fatica asked Mr. Smith if there was anything needed to be sure they are reading it as amended. Mr. Smith then read the amended points, starting first with the area of the requirements for eligible applicants:

“1. They provide conglomerate local matching funds from municipalities involved equal to the County’s appropriation.

2. They provide optional corporate or private funds.

3. All PennDOT guidelines are met, including those outlined on Exhibit A.

4. Funds must be used for installation of Radolite technology, not R & D or product development.

5. There is an executed agreement between all funding partners.

6. Council removes the restriction on the grant by a ordinance.”

This was a motion to amend by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mrs. Loll. Mrs. Loll then commented that the original Resolution had five “whereas” paragraphs and the amended one only has four. The second was removed from the original. Mr. Giles then clarified that the fourth “whereas” does not appear. Mr. Smith then confirmed that it was Section .2, which was the Gaming Revenue Authority grant, which came out of the equation, and when the amendments were suggested for the same Resolution, that was purposely kept out since it is not part of the equation.

Mr. Giles then commented that the one they are working from is the original Resolution that was tabled. Mr. Smith suggested that in Mr. Fatica’s motion, he could include that the amendments be made to eliminate Item #2 from the original, and amend with new language under “Now Therefore Be It Resolved”.

Regarding the amendments, Mr. Giles asked for a roll call vote. This carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Giles then asked if there were any other comments or suggestions on the Resolution. Mr. Fatica then thanked his colleagues and the Chairman as without their help, this would not have been possible. The Resolution then carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Res. 61, 2013

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Resolution 61, 2013, “Resolution to Approve the Annual Budget of the Erie Area Council of Governments for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2014”. This was moved by Dr. Foust and seconded by Mr. DiMattio. This carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Res. 62, 2013

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Resolution 62, 2013, “In Support of the Establishment of a City Revitalization and Improvement Zone (CRIZ) in the City of Erie”. This was moved by Dr.

Foust and seconded by Mrs. Loll. Dr. Foust commented that he was happy to bring this forward as he read today's paper and learned through Mr. Cuneo's column that Bethlehem and Lancaster seem to have the inside track on this particular designation, and he felt they needed to do all they can in Erie County to secure one of the two designations that are going to be awarded across the state. In addition to the people listed in the Resolution that will receive a copy, he encouraged Mr. Smith to send it to the Deputies of the Department of Revenue and Community and Economic Development, but also the principals regarding the GAF Bayfront Place, the Erie County Convention Center Authority, the Scotts of Scott Enterprises, and the Port Authority for McAllister Place, in case they are sending communications out in support of this effort. Mr. Fatica thanked Dr. Foust for bringing this forward and putting it into action.

Mr. Giles then asked for a roll call vote, and the Resolution carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Giles noted that President Judge DiSantis has been contacted and a meeting is anticipated to be scheduled in the short term, realizing that the IT issue would carry over into the next administration. He stated that they have made great strides in trying to create a unified computer IT system in the County. One of the things he wanted to put on record is that there are two things in the background that were discovered in the process of working through the budget. There are more than 26 employees who wear a jersey saying "IT". Somewhere in the entire system, there is a small battalion of technology people, and this effort to consolidate the management of technology makes a lot of sense. The second discovery was that the AOPC, which is the administrative arm of all of the Courts in Pennsylvania, is in support of doing this type of consolidation, and have been supportive in other jurisdictions. An example of a current County that does this type of thing would be Westmoreland County. There are models out there if the County wants to follow. Mr. Giles noted that this was going to be a challenge, change doesn't happen easily, but in the end it is worth it because technology is changing so rapidly and the faster government realizes what the benefits of that technology represents, the easier the transition will be. The only way to get there is to collectively work together to make this County truly technologically smart. He stated that elected officials like to buy things once and never replace them again, but the fact is that technology is such that it is dated almost by the minute so the sooner we get there collectively, the better we will all be. At the end of the day, there will be bumps and bruising and personalities and egos, but for the benefit of the entire the County, he wanted the incoming County Executive to make this a priority.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary
