

A Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held this date in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse, with Vice-Chairman Kenneth H. Mohr, Jr. presiding.

This meeting was called for the purpose of reorganization of the Board of Commissioners for the year 1984.

The Clerk, Lorraine R. Berta, called the roll. Members present: Commissioners John W. Brosious, Donald H. Davies, Judith R. Diehl, Leon W. Eisenhard, Dr. John F. McHugh, Kenneth H. Mohr, Jr., John F. Pressmann, Sterling H. Raber and John Yurconic. Also present were: Solicitor Lawrence J. Brenner; James P. Creedon, Legislative Aide for the Board of Commissioners; David K. Bausch, County Executive; Dale Daubert, Property Services Director; Rob J. Fulton, Director of Human Services; Terry B. Schutten, County Administrator; Michael Starshic, Director of Planning; and, Charles J. Dorn, Director of Personnel.

Vice-Chairman Mohr called the meeting to order and announced that this meeting is being taped for public record.

The prayer was offered by Commissioner John F. McHugh, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Vice-Chairman Mohr opened the nominations from the floor for the position of Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the year 1984. Commissioner Diehl nominated Commissioner Kenneth H. Mohr, Jr. for the position of Chairman of the Board for the year 1984. Commissioner Mohr accepted the nomination. Commissioner Davies placed the name of Sterling H. Raber in nomination for the position of Chairman of the Board for the year 1984. Commissioner Raber accepted the nomination. Commissioner Pressmann made a motion to close the nominations from the floor for Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Diehl. The vote was unanimous; therefore, Vice-Chairman Mohr declared the motion passed and the nominations for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the year 1984 closed.

Commissioner Diehl asked both nominees, Commissioner Mohr and Commissioner Raber the following questions:

Question: "Why do you want to be Chairman?"

Answers:

Raber: "I haven't been Chairman of this Board and I have served on this Board since we have the new Home Rule Government. I feel that I have a good grasp of this county government as well as anyone else on this Board; therefore, this is why I'm a candidate for Chairman of the Board".

Mohr: "I put myself out as a proposed candidate of Chairman of the Board, because I know how important it is now that we've just gone through our infancy here in Lehigh County to start moving ahead in a very aggressive, a very skillful and a very special way. I have some definite ideas on how I would like to move in that particular direction. I've had the experience as being Vice-Chairman for two of my past four years on the Board and Chairman for one year, and I think I've demonstrated those skills in the past".

Question: "What kind of plans do you have for reorganizing the Board?"

Answers:

Raber: "This is exactly what we are doing now, we are reorganizing the Board. The first thing that will be done is naming the chairmen of the committees. After that it will be practically the same routine. There will be some changes as we go along as we are always improving this form of government. I think that we are going to see a few changes as we go along in that particular manner".

Mohr: "I'm thinking in terms of organizing the Board, what I would like to see is that as Chairman I would spend an awful lot of my time trying to meet with those who are involved in the day to day operation of government to make sure that I'm made aware as Chairman of all the issues that involve us right now, and bring them forward to the Board. I would try to direct them in a very constructive way into the committees of this Board so that things would not be rehashed and hashed and legislation be written and rewritten and coming out as nowhere to this Board. I would like to see it come out of the committees, have it directed into the committees and those committees selectively receive

the input of the public and the members of that committee, write the legislation, and then bring it forward so that by the time it would come to the Board as a whole for the first reading and the second reading it would be in a form that is very palatable and would hopefully take minor adjustments to go through which would cut down at our meetings and at the same time it would be working through the committee system which I think should happen. I don't think the system has always worked so strongly in the past. Those are the directions that I would like to take."

Question: "How do you see your role as Chairman in terms of working with the Administration and the Judiciary".

Answers:

Raber: "I feel that this Board, hopefully will have a more harmonious effort with both the Judiciary and the Administration compared to some of the Boards that we have had in the past. I also think that as we progress, like Ken was saying that we have difficulty with the committee system, I think that this Board's makeup will probably minimize this situation. Some of the experience is there with some of us that have been on the Board already and with bringing the new people on the Board this system will improve. I feel that the duties of the committees will be working much better. I also can inform you that I can put a lot of effort into the chairmanship, because I'm available during the day anytime that I'm needed which makes me a lot more flexible than some people that work eight hours that don't have the flexibility or put their jobs in jeopardy to carry on this function".

Mohr: "Something that I feel is the keystone in any kind of operation, any kind of professional accounting is to have communications. The keystone is communications - it means to sit down and communicate and bring back objectively the issues of the day and again put them into the committees. I tend to believe that a committee is only as strong as its weakest link. It is only as strong as the people who are actually on that committee. I think that the Chairman can help that along very successfully by organizing that information, getting it to the committees and getting the left hand to know what the right hand is doing situation thereby alleviating a lot of the middle play. I tend to believe in the confusion which we've seen in the past on some committees, other committees have operated quite well. I tend to believe it is going to take a chairman who has organizational abilities, to be able to think and to be able to find what the various aspects are going to be of an issue and bring all those aspects together into the committee. Additionally, I think in terms of interaction with the Administration, interaction with the Judiciary and interaction with the row offices and departments. What's important for us to know is communications is a matter of objectively bringing back information. I think that something that is equally important is that we are all co-equal partners in this government, the Judiciary, the Administration and the Board of Commissioners. It is important that while maintaining our integrity to operating and communicating, as I see this as a very careful balance that has to be kept".

Commissioner Pressmann spoke in behalf of Commissioner Mohr's candidacy for Chairman of the Board. He stated that he was impressed with the way Commissioner Mohr handled the committee system in his previous term as chairman. He also said that he was impressed with Commissioner Mohr's energy as far as the position of Chairman is concerned and he should be commended for the amount of time he is willing to give to this Board. Members of this Board know Commissioner Mohr's ability to run a meeting, to run it well, his knowledge of the Rules of the Board and his knowledge of the 'Roberts Rules of Order' which we work under. Commissioner Mohr has been a real plus to this Board. Commissioner Pressmann asked each member of the Board to think of Commissioner Mohr's qualifications before they cast their vote.

Commissioner Diehl stated that she thought Commissioner Mohr is a workaholic and she likes his thoroughness in tackling issues.

Commissioner Brosious asked the following question of both Commissioner Raber and Commissioner Mohr:

Question: "How much time would you as Chairman spend with the individual committees. Seeing that the Chairman does not chair any individual committee, would you sit in at all of the committee meetings?"

Answers:

Mohr: "In the past when I was the Chairman, I did attend an awful lot of the committee meetings, because I felt that one of the primary focuses of this Board operating well with the committee system, as Chairman it was my job not only that the information was put into the committee, but to see that the committee was running with the ball. Many times as part-time Commissioners, again depending on the individuals in the committee, it needed some tending, it needed some prodding and reminding that an issue and time frame was coming up. I attended quite a few of the committee meetings, and basically tended to the system that I thought was necessary to run this Board".

Raber: "I have the time to attend quite a few of the committee meetings if that is necessary. I have no problem in doing this. It depends on the issues. I think that if your committee system is working very good, depending on the people that you have on the committees they should be able to come up with the knowledge that you need on the special subjects".

Question: "Is the Chairman a nonvoting member of the committees?"

Answers:

Mohr: "The Rules of the Board indicate that the Chairman is ex officio which is nonvoting of all committees of this Board".

Commissioner Davies spoke in behalf of Commissioner Raber's candidacy for Chairman. He said that he has gotten to know Commissioner Raber quite well since he has gotten involved in seeking the position of Commissioner. He said he was impressed by Commissioner Raber's integrity, his ambition, his willingness to work hard, the time that he puts in as a County Commissioner, with his seniority with the Board as he is one of the most senior members of this Board and with the fact that he has not served as Chairman of this Board in the time that he has served as commissioner.

Commissioner McHugh stated that when he was questioned by a member of the press concerning the possibility of voting for Chairman he had mentioned that his vote would be for Sterling Raber because of his years of seniority and for the input that he has given over the years to various boards of the commissioners. He said he also thought of the seniority system and this is why he said his vote would be for Commissioner Raber.

Commissioner Diehl asked the following question of both chairman candidates:

Question: "Are you planning to run for another political office this year?"

Answers:

Mohr: "No".

Raber: "No".

Vice-Chairman Mohr asked that each Commissioner state the name of the individual that they are voting for as chairman when the Clerk calls the roll. The Clerk called the roll, the vote being as follows: Commissioners Brosious - Mohr; Davies - Raber; Diehl - Mohr; Eisenhard - Raber; McHugh - Raber; Mohr - Mohr; Pressmann - Mohr; Raber - Raber; and, Yurconic - Raber. The results of the voting being five (5) votes for Raber and four (4) votes for Mohr. Vice-Chairman Mohr declared Commissioner Raber the new Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 1984. Vice-Chairman Mohr turned the gavel over to Commissioner Raber at this time.

Chairman Raber opened the floor for nomination for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the year 1984. Commissioner Eisenhard nominated Commissioner Diehl for Vice-Chairman of the Board for the year 1984. Commissioner Diehl accepted the nomination. Commissioner McHugh nominated Commissioner Eisenhard for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the year 1984. Commissioner Eisenhard accepted the nomination. Commissioner Davies made a motion to close the nominations for Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Mohr. The vote was unanimous; therefore, Chairman Raber declared the nominations for Vice-Chairman closed. Chairman Raber announced that each Commissioner state the name of the individual they are voting for when the roll is called. The Clerk called the roll, the voting being as follows: Commissioners Davies - Diehl; Diehl - Diehl; Eisenhard - Eisenhard; McHugh - Eisenhard; Mohr - Diehl; Pressmann - Diehl; Raber - Eisenhard; Yurconic - Diehl; and, Brosious - Diehl. The results of the voting being six (6) votes for

Diehl and three (3) votes for Eisenhard. Chairman Raber declared Commissioner Diehl the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the year 1984.

Commissioner Mohr made the following motion: "I move that the Board of Commissioners meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month at 7:30 P.M. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room." Seconded by Commissioner Eisenhard. The vote was unanimous; therefore, Chairman Raber declared the motion carried.

Commissioner McHugh read the following letter honoring the Allentown High School Band upon their return from the Rose Parade in California:



COUNTY OF LEHIGH
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

COURTHOUSE • P. O. BOX 1548
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18105
(215) 820-3050

January 3, 1984

Allen High School Marching Band
Allen High School
17th and Turner Streets
Allentown, PA 18104

Attention: Mr. Richard Hinkle

Dear Members of My Favorite Marching Band:

As my first official letter as a Lehigh County Commissioner at Large, I am sending my heartfelt greetings and best congratulations to the members of my favorite marching band for your splendid performance in California during the Rose Bowl festivities.

As I followed your activities, I began to appreciate even more the very fine talents you displayed. On behalf of all of the citizens of Lehigh County, and particularly as your former principal, I wish to thank you for your excellent representation.

The success of any band largely depends upon the talents of its director. Again, I wish to salute my good friend, Richard Hinkle, as one of the finest High School Band Directors in the United States.

Very sincerely yours,

John F. McHugh
Dr. John F. McHugh
Lehigh County Commissioner

JFM/ams

Commissioner Mohr reminded the members of the Board of Commissioners that if they have not turned their committee requests in to the Clerk for the year 1984 to please do so as soon as possible in order that the Chairman can review the requests to make the committee appointments for the year 1984.

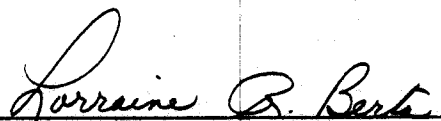
Commissioner Eisenhard announced that the Authorities, Boards and Commissions Committee will be meeting on Thursday evening, January 5th at 7:00 P.M. at which time the Lehigh County Authority will present their plans for 1984 and discuss the purchase of the Clearview Water Company.

Commissioner Diehl thanked the Board of Commissioners for voting for her for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Board for the year 1984. She also welcomed the three new Commissioners to the Board, and wished them well.

Commissioner Raber made the following statement: "I would like to thank the Board for nominating me as the Chairman of the Board. I'm going to try to do a good job and will try to bring harmony into the three branches of government. I'm going to make a special effort to bring more harmony between the branches of government than had been in the past. Lehigh County is a fast growing community. I don't think that some of the problems we will face for now and in the future will be minimal. In other words we are going to have some great problems in Lehigh County. There will have to be some very tough decisions that will have to be made by this Board. Among these are water, sewage, preservation of open space, farmland, etc. On the human services end of it as some state and federal program funding dries up - how much of the slack will Lehigh County pick up. In this last budget we started to pick up some of the funding already. I think that some of these programs can be handled better on a local level with some type of block grant or revenue sharing. In this manner the funds are passed down to the local level with the minimum amount of federal or state bureaucracy behind them. In this way we can shift money to where we need it. If we would stand at a standstill or no growth then we would not have to plan for the future, but that is not the case. Therefore, we will have to look at the expansion of our administrative system, the judicial system, and these things all cost money. One of the things that is dear to me is the development of our parks system in Lehigh County. I hope that this expansion can be carried on in a very slow but steady alternative. Thank You."

County Executive David K. Bausch welcomed the three new Commissioners to the Board and said that the Administration looks forward to working with the Board of Commissioners in the coming years. He said that the new members are bringing a lot of expertise with them and the Administration is looking forward to working with the new members as they each bring their own specialties to this Board.

There being no further business, Commissioner Pressmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Mohr. The vote was unanimous; therefore, Chairman Raber declared the meeting adjourned at 9:02 P.M.



Lorraine R. Berta
CLERK TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS