

The Organizational Meeting of the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners was held on this date in the Public Hearing Room of the Lehigh County Government Center.

**Members Present:** Commissioners Thomas Creighton, Percy Dougherty, David Jones, Sr., Daniel McCarthy, Vic Mazziotti, Brad Osborne, Scott Ott, and Lisa Scheller.

The meeting was called to order. Under Citizens Input, Stan Bialecki, Lehigh County resident, congratulated the new Commissioners on their election.

Commissioner Dougherty said without a sitting Chair or Vice Chair it has been suggested that we have an impartial person run the election. He said that would be David Barilla, Clerk to the Board.

The motion of Commissioners Ott and Jones to have David Barilla, Clerk to the Board, run the election for Chair of the Board of Commissioners was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

## **Nomination and Election of Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012**

David Barilla said he would first like to review procedures. He said a Commissioner can nominate any other Commissioner for the position of Chairperson by stating that Commissioner's name. He said when there are no further nominations; we will have a motion and vote to close nominations. He said the roll will be called and Commissioners will vote by stating the name of the Commissioner they support for Chairperson.

### **Nominations**

Barilla asked for nominations for the election of the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Osborne nominated Commissioner Dougherty. Commissioner Mazziotti nominated Commissioner Ott.

With no further nominations, Barilla asked for a motion to close nominations. Nominations were closed upon the motion of Commissioners McCarthy and Scheller and a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner McCarthy said he would like to state that five votes are necessary to elect a Chairperson.

Commissioner Dougherty said he has signed the waiver to forego the additional salary that goes with the position of Chairperson. He said with that he is entitled to vote tonight and engage in discussion.

Commissioner Ott also submitted a waiver to forego the additional salary that goes with position of Chairperson.

Citizens Input

Everett Carr, Lehigh County resident, expressed his support of Commissioner Dougherty and encouraged the Commissioners to elect Percy Dougherty as Chair. He said it is important that we look to experience. He said he would implore the Board to look to Dougherty's experience.

Tracy Roman, Lehigh County resident, expressed her support of Commissioner Ott and encouraged the Commissioners to elect Scott Ott as Chair. She said she thinks the voters were pretty clear when they elected the three new members that it is time for change and new leadership. She said Mr. Ott has an extensive resume and the voters have asked for and deserve change.

Stan Bialecki, Lehigh County resident, said Percy Dougherty has served seven terms as Chair. He said no disrespect to Percy, but we need a change in venue, attitude, and people. He said the people of Lehigh County have elected a reform team and the people want to see change.

Vote

There was tie in the vote for Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012 by the following vote: Commissioners Creighton – Ott; Dougherty – Dougherty; Jones – Dougherty; McCarthy – Dougherty; Mazziotti – Ott; Osborne – Dougherty; Ott – Ott; and Scheller – Ott. The clerk announced four votes in favor of Commissioner Dougherty and four votes in favor of Commissioner Ott.

Barilla said since this matter is still before the Board and has been commented on by the Commissioners and the public, with no objections he will call the roll a second time.

There was tie in the second vote for Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012 by the following vote: Commissioners Dougherty – Dougherty; Jones – Dougherty; McCarthy – Dougherty; Mazziotti – Ott; Osborne – Dougherty; Ott – Ott; Scheller – Ott; and Creighton – Ott. The clerk announced four votes in favor of Commissioner Dougherty and four votes in favor of Commissioner Ott.

Barilla said with no objections he will call the roll for the third time. There was tie in the third vote for Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012 by the following vote: Commissioners Jones – Dougherty; McCarthy – Dougherty; Mazziotti – Ott; Osborne – Dougherty; Ott – Ott; Scheller – Ott; Creighton – Ott; and Dougherty – Dougherty. The clerk announced four votes in favor of Commissioner Dougherty and four votes in favor of Commissioner Ott.

Second Round of Nominations

Barilla said he will declare an impasse on the first round of nominations and we will begin the nomination process anew. He asked for nominations for the position of Chairperson for 2012.

Commissioner Jones nominated Percy Dougherty. Commissioner Mazziotti nominated Scott Ott. Commissioner Ott nominated Vic Mazziotti.

Commissioner Ott said his nomination of Mazziotti is in the interest of breaking the impasse.

Commissioner Mazziotti submitted a waiver to forego the additional salary that goes with position of Chairperson.

With no further nominations, Barilla asked for a motion to close nominations. Nominations were closed upon the motion of Commissioners McCarthy and Dougherty and a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Ott said this was not Vic Mazziotti's idea. He said he is fully confident in Vic's ability and his years of experience in government. He said that should eliminate the concerns that several Commissioners expressed to him regarding his inexperience.

Citizens Input

Fawn Strunk, Lehigh County resident, expressed her support of Vic Mazziotti. She said she trusts few politicians, but she totally trusts Mazziotti to represent us.

Everett Carr, Lehigh County resident, spoke in favor of Commissioner Dougherty's experience, knowledge of government, and his contacts in the community and all levels of government.

John Donches, Lehigh County resident, encouraged the Commissioners to vote for Scott Ott as Chair.

Vote

The vote for Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012 was as follows: Commissioners McCarthy – Dougherty; Mazziotti – Ott; Osborne – Dougherty; Ott – Mazziotti; Scheller – Ott; Creighton – Ott; Dougherty – Dougherty; and Jones – Dougherty. The clerk announced four votes in favor of Commissioner Dougherty, three votes in favor of Commissioner Ott, and one vote in favor of Commissioner Mazziotti.

Barilla said with no objection, he will call the roll for a second time. He said public input was offered on this slate of candidates.

The vote for Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012 was as follows: Commissioners Mazziotti – Ott; Osborne – Dougherty; Ott – Mazziotti; Scheller – Ott; Creighton – Ott; Dougherty – Dougherty; Jones – Dougherty; and McCarthy – Dougherty. The clerk announced four votes in favor of Commissioner Dougherty, three votes in favor of Commissioner Ott, and one vote in favor of Commissioner Mazziotti.

Barilla said we have an impasse on this slate of candidates. He said he will begin the nomination process for a third time unless there is a motion to take a ten minute recess.

Commissioner McCarthy moved to recess the meeting until 8:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones and approved by a unanimous vote.

#### Recess

The meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

#### Third Round of Nominations

Barilla asked for nominations for the position of Chairperson for 2012.

Commissioner Jones nominated Percy Dougherty. Commissioner Ott nominated Brad Osborne.

With no further nominations, Barilla asked for a motion to close nominations. Nominations were closed upon the motion of Commissioners Osborne and Ott and a unanimous voice vote.

#### Commissioner Input

Commissioner Ott said this is his second attempt of the evening to break an impasse. He said he thinks Brad Osborne would handle the duties of being Chairman effectively. He said he brings a fresh perspective, although not as much as we would like to see with someone from the so called reform team. He said Commissioner Osborne was elected at-large and Commissioner Dougherty was elected as a district representative. He said Osborne would be more representative of the voters of Lehigh County and shows that we did hear the voice of the voters.

#### Citizens Input

Ann Marie Slavick, Lehigh County resident, said it is a shame that we have another split Republican vote on the first night out. She said that is not what the voters voted for this past year. She said she believes Commissioner Dougherty voted for the 16% tax increase and voted against sending the budget back to the County Executive. She said she hopes that the next Chairman, instead of partnering with the County Executive, will do what the Board of Commissioners are supposed to and create a check and balance against the County Executive to ensure there is not a detriment against the taxpayers. She said it is unfortunate that there is another split Republican vote on the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Dougherty said for the record both of Slavick's comments were completely wrong. He said he did not vote for the tax increase and he voted in favor of sending the budget back.

Robert Hammel, Lehigh County resident, expressed his support of Commissioner Dougherty. He said it may be taken for granted how smoothly Lehigh County has been run since Dougherty joined the Board. He said from Dougherty he sees hard work and graciousness.

Stan Bialecki, Lehigh County resident, said he wants to see change, new thoughts, new ideas and new directions.

Everett Carr, Lehigh County resident, said change in and of itself is not necessarily good. He expressed his support for Commissioner Dougherty as Chairperson of the Board.

David Najarian, Lehigh County resident, said he has twice watched the Board of Commissioners not vote for a lesser tax increase. He said he is tired of those games. He said the status quo is what the voters do not want.

Commissioner Osborne submitted a waiver to forego the additional salary that goes with position of Chairperson.

#### Vote

Brad Osborne was elected Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012 by the following vote: Commissioners Osborne – Osborne; Ott – Osborne; Scheller – Osborne; Creighton – Osborne; Dougherty – Osborne; Jones – Osborne; McCarthy – Osborne; and Mazziotti – Osborne. The clerk announced eight votes in favor of Commissioner Osborne.

Osborne thanked the Commissioners for their support. He said he will represent the Board as a whole in matters that are important to this County.

#### **Nomination and Election of Vice Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012**

Barilla asked for nominations for the election of the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Scheller nominated Commissioner Ott.

With no further nominations, Barilla asked for a motion to close nominations. Nominations were closed upon the motion of Commissioners Jones and McCarthy and a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Ott was elected Vice Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for 2012 by a unanimous voice vote. Commissioner Ott thanked the Commissioners.

**Schedule of Meetings for 2012**

Commissioner McCarthy made the following motion: that the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners meet twice each month during calendar year 2012 as required by the Lehigh County Home Rule Charter. The Board will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Lehigh County Government Center with the following exceptions: the second meeting in November will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 and the second meeting in December will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dougherty.

Commissioner Ott asked if a decision was made to entertain "Government on the Go" meetings would this motion need to be amended. Barilla said once a different location is established for a meeting, we would need a follow-up motion.

Under Commissioner Announcements, Commissioner Ott said we should thank David Barilla for his service to the Board this evening; he did a fine job.

There was no Citizens Input at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



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David Barilla, Clerk to the Board