County Commissioners, Controller commend dropping of suit

January 19, 2012 (Norristown, PA) – The Montgomery County Commissioners and the county’s newly elected controller today hailed the decision by former controller Diane Morgan to drop her lawsuit against the commissioners before she left office.

Morgan sued the previous board of commissioners last year seeking additional professional staff she claimed she needed to perform her statutory duties; $25,000 in auditing software; and a restoration of $86,000 that had been shaved from her budget by the commissioners.

"The action by Ms. Morgan rightly closes another chapter in what was a contentious and, at times, non-constructive period,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the county commissioners. "I applaud her action. We now can look toward a more constructive future.”

“I am gratified that Diane Morgan has withdrawn the lawsuit against the board of commissioners,” said Commissioner Leslie S. Richards. “It avoids the county having to spend valuable time and money on an unnecessary fight.”

Bruce L. Castor, Jr., a member of the previous board and a consistent critic of Morgan, was also happy with the action. "This was a lawsuit totally without merit, and Montgomery County is better off today not having to deal with this distraction.”

Greenleaf, who had rebuffed a request by Morgan to join her in the lawsuit last year, repeated his belief that neither the lawsuit, nor what it sought is necessary.

"I was pleased to learn that my predecessor had discontinued her lawsuit against the commissioners before leaving office,” he said. "In difficult economic times, it is important to make the effort to perform our duties as public servants within the budgetary constraints we are dealt. I am confident this office can fulfill its important responsibilities without wasting precious resources through unnecessary legal proceedings."