

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

The second regular meeting of January of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Caridi at 9:00 a.m. at the Pike County Administration Building, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Rob Elliot of the Milford Bible Church.

PRESENT: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner; Chief Clerk Orben; Solicitor Farley.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Chief Clerk Orben, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

A RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the January 15, 2014 Agenda.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the December 18, 2013 and January 6, 2014 (Reorg) Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye' except that Commissioner Wagner abstained from the December 18, 2013 minutes due to his absence. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the November 14, 2013 Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye' except that Commissioner Wagner abstained from the December 23 and 26, 2013, Commissioner Osterberg abstained from the January 7 and 8, 2014 due to his absence. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment of **COUNTY BILLS**, in the amount of \$140,109.43, subject to further review.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **HOTEL TAX FUND (Bushkill Inn-filing fee (2))**, in the amount of \$176.50.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **LIQUID FUELS FUND (1/2-7 plowing/sanding)**, in the amount of \$4,775.00.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **2012 BOND, SERIES C (1/1-15 reim. expenses)**, in the amount of \$59,672.99.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$115,963.41.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Sheriff Phil Bueki advising that he has hired **KEVIN GUMBLE**, as a full time Deputy Sheriff for the Sheriff's Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective January 21, 2014, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to hire **SARAH MINASSIAN**, as a full time Caseworker for Children & Youth Services, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective January 21, 2014, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to hire **MEGAN MOSTELLER**, as a part time temporary Intern for Children & Youth Services, for less than 30 hours per week, effective January 22 through May 10, 2014, with no benefits. This is a part time temporary position.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to promote **JAMES RABBAS, JR.** from Aging Care Manager I to Aging Care Manager II retroactive to December 30, 2013, due to the satisfactory completion of his probationary period.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

Motion: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Salary Board Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to open the bids received for the purchase of groceries and frozen foods for the Correctional Facility.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

Solicitor Farley opened the following bids for various amounts due to the fact that bidders are only bidding for certain food items: Sysco Foods-\$33,503.66; Benjamin Foods-\$108,550.91; Mivila Foods-\$131,689.11; Kareta Foods-\$138,658.00; Bernard Food Industries-\$12,207.88; and Maines Paper & Food (did not use proper form, so it could not be determined what the actual amount of bid was). All bids included 10% bid bond.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to table the bids received for the purchase of groceries and frozen foods for the Correctional Facility for review by the Warden and Solicitor.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to execute the Letter of Understanding between Zelekofske Axelrod and the County of Pike, for the audit of the CFA Local Share Account Grant for Lily Pond for the period May 5, 2011 through October 31, 2013.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Pike County Public Library's Keystone Grant Project 3rd Quarter Report.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to authorize the Chairman to execute Change Orders No. 4M and 5M between DJ Heating and the County of Pike, for the Interim Court Project, to repair existing heater and provide thermostat locks.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to execute the County Maintenance of Effort for the reporting period July 1 to December 31, 2013 for the HAVA Title II Financial Assistance, on behalf of the Election Office.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to execute Amendment #5 to the SRCP Grant Contract for the Development of the Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for an extension through December 31, 2014, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the PCCD Acceptance Letter for "Advancing Information Data Systems" grant funds in the amount of \$10,327, on behalf of the Probation Office.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Maintenance Renewal Acceptance Form between Eaton Corporation and the County of Pike, for the UPS System at the Communications Center.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to authorize the Chairman to execute the 2012-2013 MATP Allocation Acknowledgement Letter in the amount of \$253,314, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Contract for Professional Services between Ray Evans and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging, for modifications/adaptations of senior citizen homes.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreements for Professional Services between Annette Merola and Dorothy Dexter and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging, for exercise classes at the Lackawaxen Senior Center.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the CDBG Annual Fiscal Reports for 2010, 2011 and 2012, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the DCED Fair Housing Action Report for 2013, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Senior Rental Assistance Contract #7A and #18, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Rental Assistance Subsidy Voucher in the amount of #1,470 for Delaware Run for January 2014, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to authorize the Chairman to execute two Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Liens, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

VOTE: Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Cindy DeFebo, Workforce Development Director, introduced Charles Montalbano, the new Veteran's Employment Service Representative from Monroe County CareerLink. Mr. Montalbano will be working with Veterans and employers to bring them together for employment opportunities. He will be in the Pike County WDA office every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Also introduced was Michael McGowan, Monroe County CareerLink Employment Specialist, who is in the WDA office every other day.

Sheriff Phil Bueki presented the Joint State Government Commission Report addressing fire arms and school safety. Commissioner Osterberg read a letter from the Executive Director of the General Assembly of PA. Sheriff Bueki represented Pennsylvania at the request of the Governor. The Sheriff stated that many laws were rewritten based on the report concerning mental health, school safety and funding, and also major changes were made to the Uniforms Firearms Act. The laws were updated to address school security and safety, bullying, mental health, and other current issues.

Christine Kerstetter, Human Development Director, introduced Donald Kavulich, Housing Rehabilitation Consultant. Mr. Kavulich has been serving the County in this capacity since 1983 under the PA Community Development Block Grant Program, and is retiring. The Commissioners presented Mr. Kavulich with a plaque for appreciation of his 30 years of service.

County Engineer Michael Lamoreaux of McGoey, Hauser & Edsall presented preliminary plans showing the status of the courthouse expansion which were also submitted to the Architectural Review Board, Planning Commission and Milford Borough Council. Some of the objectives are to enhance the Court system, enhance the security, consolidate into one facility. The objective is to maintain the existing Courthouse and utilize it to its fullest extent. It will not change that much except for upgrades. Its space allocation will stay the same. In order to achieve that a few different options were reviewed, such as utilizing the annex as it is, utilizing the annex with an addition, and not utilizing the annex at all, but going behind Gooseberry Alley. The end result is to remove the current judges' annex, remove two parcels across High Street and behind Gooseberry Alley because one of the things that needs to be incorporated in the design is the septic. The backyards of these two parcels will be used for the primary septic system. A secondary system is also needed. As of now the backup system is being proposed for the front yard of the existing courthouse. The secondary will only have to be built if the primary fails, but regulations state that a space must be designated. Mr. Lamoreaux presented a visual of the proposal, which shows a new addition on the adjacent lot, and utilizing the front space where the two buildings were, for additional parking which will meet the Borough's ordinances. The Planning Commission was notified that certain variances would be needed such as set back and building height variances. The building height proposed is lower than the existing courthouse. Mr. Lamoreaux went on to explain the various height perspectives and showed different views of the proposal. It is intended that upon completion of the Malhame Building and the Courthouse addition, the Magistrate and the District Attorney will be placed in the Malhame Building. The two buildings set for demolition house the Auditors and the Public Defenders who would then move into the Magistrate and Sheriff's buildings. The addition will house the Sheriff's office on the lower level including the holding areas. The main floor will hold the Probation offices and the next level would be for the Courts. The reason for those County offices being consolidated into one building is to maximize the security benefit. There is currently a severe security issue which will be drastically improved with the proposal, which will include a sally port for prisoners with a complete separate independent pathway through the entire facility, and another complete independent secure pathway through the entire facility for the judges and staff. Mr. Lamoreaux continued with the proposed floor plans and explained the space utilization. Solicitor Farley asked Mr. Lamoreaux to explain why the building has to be where it is. Mr. Lamoreaux again explained that the main objective was to obtain the consolidation and enhancement of security and also the enlargement of a second courtroom. It is very desired to have this facility with one path for the judges and staff's security, one path for the public and one path for the prisoners. This is a state-wide and global guideline for a facility of this nature. The other objective is to keep all court facilities in one location. The services of the existing courthouse will be utilized, thereby, deeming the addition to the courthouse a necessity. The Keystone Building, of all the spaces that were looked at, is the most viable. This property was investigated and justifying the costs of using that building is still going on continuously every day. Mr. Lamoreaux stated that they are aware of the sensitivity and questions and are pursuing further justification on a daily basis.

The Sheriff added that this year 1,232 inmates were moved from the Sheriff's office to the Courthouse by crossing West High Street. Inmates must be separated by the nature of their crimes and gender. Juveniles cannot be within earshot or in view of an adult defender. There is not enough room in the current Sheriff's office to maintain a safe environment for inmates, staff and public, nor is it safe to be moving inmates across a pedestrian used street.

Mr. Lamoreaux stated that the additional costs associated with going back would involve a real estate swap of the Keystone Building and the Annex Building. There is a cost associated between those differences in appraisals and moving the utilities. The cost to relocate the Verizon lines is estimated at about a half a million dollars. There are many complications involved with that. Verizon will be submitting a proposal in writing. The other significant cost, approximately one quarter of a million dollars, is that the addition will fit on one lot so there was no need to pursue the purchase of a second lot.

Bill Kiger, a member of the public, forwarded legal advice regarding any utility that would not back down on their costs. He stated that there is legal precedent for a utility having to deal with a municipality in terms of their desire to move things around. He would like the Commissioners to take that into consideration. Mr. Lamoreaux said that Verizon stated that it is now one million dollars and that there is not any type of precedence for them to relocate their utilities for this project. They also stated the current PennDot project on Route 01 is up to \$2 million for the relocation of Verizon lines on Route 01. Solicitor Farley commented that the prices are going higher, and he asked Verizon for an explanation in writing what the costs would be and the justification of those costs. Every effort will be made to continue with this project at the lowest possible cost.

Questions and comments were opened to the Public and the Press.

In answer to questions about the Verizon lines, Mr. Lamoreaux stated that Verizon cannot run the line below the building or above the building. He inquired about rework the lower level of the building to make pedestrian travel ways between the two buildings lower in height and run Verizon over the top and they said absolutely not. He also inquired if the foundations could be separated and allow the trunk of Verizon to run below that and they said no. The only option was to go around to 5th Street because they are aware of the previous conversations that brought all the utilities off of Broad Street to keep the street scape as is. Prior to Verizon taking any further steps, the County needs to provide them with the paths, routes and easements before they will even get into a hard study, which at this time initially a minimum of \$400,000 and as much as \$600,000. That number has recently gone up. Solicitor Farley said that they are trying to get Verizon to do a decent study without spending \$50,000 just to prove the point that Verizon cannot do it. Commissioner Osterberg commented that Orange & Rockland's bid is \$98,000, and UGI has not even been addressed yet to move the gas line. Blue Ridge Cable did not offer a cost because they considered it to be a cost but insignificant compared to the other utilities.

Mr. Lamoreaux also stated that the Commissioners have decided that if there is an interested party in moving the Kenworthy Building (Annex) that would be very viable. Any organization or individual who is interested in moving the building would get a subsidy from the County that would be equivalent to the building demolition costs if the project moves on as proposed. That will be officially announced and go out to bid or auction to have the interested party buy the building.

Someone asked if anyone has looked at moving some of the buildings that are being built into pre-existing municipal buildings, and would that take away some of the power load and some of the cost toward power, or would it be cost effective to move some of the non-criminal offices to another location rather than construct a gigantic campus style building. Mr. Lamoreaux answered by stating that meetings were held with the Sheriff, Judges, Probation and the AOPC (Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts) who oversee the courts and have security requirements. All of these offices are being consolidated for security reasons. If these offices would be separated, there would be duplicating services with regard to screening, duplicating pathways, and an increased amount of staff in security to try to accommodate that. The Malhame building is currently slated for Courtroom #2 for immediate use because Courtroom #2 in the Courthouse was the old law library, which is a very small room. Solicitor Farley commented that Courtroom #2 holds family law, the most volatile part of the law and the judge is being put next to people who are losing their children. That is a very unsafe situation and needs to change. Mr. Lamoreaux once again stated that there are three levels of approximately 10,000 square feet for each level. He stated that for security purposes and interaction of the offices and pathways that 30,000 square feet is what is needed. There is also an additional 12,000 square feet in the courthouse, which brings the total to 42,000 square feet in a functioning system that is accepted by all the departments involved. The Malhame building is approximately 6 to 7,000 square feet. If there was the decision to do this project at the Malhame building, the building would need to be 6 or 7 story building in order to accommodate the space needs that are required, and then the Courthouse would be empty. In an effort to minimize the costs, this was objectively looked at and it was decided to maintain the historic Courthouse, utilize it to its fullest extent and add on to it to maintain that secure complex. Once outlying buildings are used the security is lost transporting prisoners. He stated that the Tom Quick is a timber framed building, does not have proper fire separations, does not have proper load ratings and does not lend itself to accommodating any type of courthouse facilities. The renovations to that building would be massive and not cost effective. Commissioner Wagner advised that he is on the Courts and Corrections Committee for 12 years, and the AOPC is an integral part of that committee, and their recommendation is to have all court related facilities in one structure for security reasons. Mr. Lamoreaux indicated that these buildings are extremely old and none of them meet today's standards. These buildings have to be upgraded and have a change of occupancy. All of today's standards must be met when renovating one of these old buildings.

Bill Kiger introduced a "Concerned County Citizens" Group with 400 signatories to the editorials that were published. He introduced Karen Kontizas, representing the "Concerned County Citizens". She urged the Commissioners to suspend further proceedings, expenditures for engineering, architectural hours on the current proposal for expanding Courthouse space, and to seek an alternative which enjoys support from a broad cross section of the community while still being fiscally responsible. The group is requesting a public hearing and the dialog to address the many critical issues and those issues pertaining to protecting the integrity of the Milford Historical District, which defines Milford as an attractive place to live, visit and do business. She questioned why if, according to the Sheriff and Solicitor Farley, there are so many foreclosures in the town, then why is the expansion necessary if the population growth has been going down. Commissioner Caridi responded that the criminal population has increased not decreased. Commissioner Wagner maintained that the criminal population is going up, but the other factor is that Judge Chelak is in a small room and security wise the County is open to a

lot of liability. Solicitor Farley acknowledged that the population has continuously contracted since 2007, but crime is not contracting. Pike County has a major heroin problem, crime is up and there is a need for two judges. This Courthouse has been in Milford since 1817. In 1990 there was also a push to do an addition to the Courthouse.

Ms. Kontizas stated that no one is objecting to the expansion, but the process in which it is reached. She questioned why there could not be a public hearing open to the public. She again asked that the project be suspended and that a public hearing be held.

Another gentleman asked if there were any bids received for this project and from how many architectural firms familiar with historical architectural designs. He asked if the County looked into the wires going underground, and if the County has taken over the PennDot building and why that building could not be used. Commissioner Caridi responded that 14 acres of land was traded for that 3 ½ acres of land with structures on it. Before that building is occupied, PennDot needs to vacate it, which means that they have to construct their new building in Lords Valley, so it would take too long. Commissioner Caridi stated that they have not contacted any other architectural firms. Solicitor Farley specified that a professional service in the Commonwealth and under County Code does not have to be bid, and that Mr. Lamoreaux is the County engineer. This County has used this engineer for the past 8 years and they are comfortable with him. Commissioner Caridi indicated that Tom Hoff submitted several courthouses that were presented to the engineer to take into consideration. Mr. Lamoreaux stated that he is only representing the project, he is not the only one working on this project. He hopes that people trust what he is doing, because he knows what he is doing and he also lives here. The project was presented to the Architectural Review Board, Planning Commission Milford Borough to gather ideas, comments, etc. In answer to the question of the wires going underground, Mr. Lamoreaux again for the second time stated that this was not permitted by Verizon.

Commissioner Osterberg stated that the Borough has an architect who also sits on the ARB. He explained that he was Milford Borough President for 20 years and was on the Milford Borough Council for 25 years and he assisted in forming the ARB in 1999. At that time there were many people opposing the ARB and there were concerns about the ARB controlling what people could do with their properties and stand in the way of economic development in Milford. No one likes change. The ARB knows the buildings in the borough that should be preserved, but not every home on Broad and Harford Street is going to be here forever. The Annex is a home. Some of these homes outlive their usefulness. Also being on the Borough Council, his role was to protect the commercial district and the residential zone. He lives in a residential zone across the street behind the Tom Quick and would not want an addition encroaching on his property. It would not be fair to residential zones to extend the courthouse on West High Street. This building is a commercial building that should sit on a commercial road. Houses have been moved before and the annex can be moved. Changes are inevitable.

Sean Strub stated that the security issue is very understandable and that is not being questioned. He also expressed that the question with Verizon and utilities is not whether it is \$400,000 or \$600,000. It is whether Verizon pays for it or the tax payers pay for it. He believes that there is some informal but expert advice from people who know a lot about Public Utility Commission law who have a very different understanding of what the law requires and what the case history is. He also believes that it would make sense for the County to engage some independent expertise or lawyer whose specialty is public utility law and who knows this specific issue who can give an opinion to the County rather than getting the opinion from Verizon. He questioned how was the determination made on how much space was needed for various offices, what assumptions were used, what populations and docket projections were used. He asked if the Prothonotary's office is intended to stay in the Courthouse and is this a requirement that it must stay adjacent to the Court. The answer was that yes, the Prothonotary's Office is staying in the Courthouse and the function of that office is to hold all the records of the Court. He asked how much of that space is for the storage of records. Commissioner Caridi stated that the County is digitizing most of the records and has been for the past three years. Mr. Lamoreaux said that digitizing and storing these records enhances the space that they need to operate as an office. Commissioner Caridi affirmed that there was a space needs study conducted several years ago. Mr. Lamoreaux also met with every office to determine the space needs. Mr. Lamoreaux said that the question was presented to each office about how much space they needed. He spent hours with them to see how personnel move through their current spaces, how security is working, took comments from department heads, and then made a floor plan with the required footage to meet code for that type of building. It was then brought back to the departments to see if they could function with the space allotted. Mr. Strub stated that it would be helpful to the public if this information was given to them. He wanted to know what population expectations have been incorporated into this. Mr. Lamoreaux stated that the criminal population is increasing and questioned how many inmates went through the courthouse in a day. He also reminded everyone that the criminal population needs to be separated. The conditions right now are deplorable regarding space needs and security.

In response to the Verizon issue, Solicitor Farley assured that Verizon would be asked to put in writing why they think they are entitled to this money, why they think the County should pay for it and why they have case law in support. Then the County can address their concerns, determine if they are correct or not and follow through from that point.

Mr. Strub questioned if there was any analysis of how the degradation of the historic district will affect the viability of businesses in Milford Borough, property values or future investments in Milford Borough. He stated that Pennsylvania is full of county seats that are essentially ghost towns except for county big box government facility. He believes that the long term viability of this county seat as a community, as a place for people to visit, live in and work is about maintaining a certain scale and certain architectural and historic character. He urged the Commissioners to look at a professional analysis of what happens when a historic district begins to be degraded.

Commissioner Osterberg questioned whether the historic district should be preserved at whatever cost it is to the residential zone. He has always been opposed to affecting the residential district, and offered some examples. The administration building was overpowering when it was first built also.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.