

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

The second regular meeting of October 2019 of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Osterberg at 9:00 a.m. at the Pike County Administration Building, followed by the “Pledge of Allegiance” to the flag.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini; Chief Clerk Orben; Assistant Solicitor Beecher.

***Public Comments/Questions concerning today’s agenda.***

Commissioner Osterberg announced Mr. Mike Donlon is in attendance for the presentation of the check to Habitat for Humanity. This past weekend Commissioner Osterberg attended the dedication of house #29 and the groundbreaking for house #30. To see the happiness on the family’s faces as they present the keys to these families is incredible. We are honored to be able to fund this type of program. These last couple of weeks we have been to a couple of things with the Re-entry program and we are rebuilding lives here in Pike County in a number of ways. This is bringing families together in their own homes. It is a beautiful home, it is a beautiful family and the next family is just as much. I think they have #31 getting ready to go in Sunrise probably next year. We allocate funding out of the Affordable Housing Account - it comes from recording the documents in the County and we give Habitat for Humanity a total of \$150,000.00 a year for these programs. We have a check for Habitat for Humanity \$75,000.00. Commissioner Osterberg said it is important to recognize the volunteers and he was just at the luncheon for the volunteers. There’s 100 people there that put this program together-it is amazing to see the relocation of these families. These volunteers put all of this time in and help build houses and bring coffee and desserts. Mike Donlon said they have had a very successful year. A family of five moved in to a house in August and a family of four moved into the house two weeks ago. We built a ramp at the request of Robin Skibber from Area Agency on Aging in Marcel Lake about five or six weeks ago and we built another ramp last week for a family in Dingmans Ferry-a 52’ long ramp. We broke ground for #30 and we are having surveyed this week the house in Sunrise for house #31. Commissioner Guccini asked Mike Donlon if it is true that the first house he did, the first family, has just paid off their mortgage. Mike Donlon said the first family that they built a house for in Pike County paid off their mortgage this year - she came to the dedication of house #28! Commissioner Osterberg presented Mike Donlon with the check for Habitat for Humanity.

***MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to recess the Commissioners’ Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.***

***VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.***

***A RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.***

***MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to reconvene the Commissioners’ Meeting.***

***VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.***

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the October 16, 2019 Agenda.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the October 2, 2019 Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the October 8 and 10, 2019 Commissioners’ Conference Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’ except that Commissioner Guccini abstained from the 10<sup>th</sup> due to his absence. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$618,324.69**, subject to further review.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE FUND**, in the amount of **\$74,445.25**.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **PC AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND (Habitat for Humanity)**, in the amount of **\$75,000.00**.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **KATHRYN DOMZALSKI** as an Accounting Clerk in the Finance Department, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective October 15, 2019, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

*Motion: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Salary Board Meeting.*

*Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.*

**A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.**

*Motion: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.*

*Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award the bids for groceries and frozen foods for the Correctional Facility as follows: Mivila Foods - \$97,378.62; Keyco Distributors - \$32,291.63; Bernard Foods - \$12,380.80; and Sysco - \$12,101.94.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 19-23, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2019, which was read by Commissioner Schmalzle.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

Commissioner Osterberg introduced Victims' Intervention Program (VIP), a program offering services in the County and now in the Borough and, at the same time, recognized Safe Haven for their 28 years of service in the County. Safe Haven did very good work and we are very sorry to see them leave. Things move on and now VIP is the new provider. It is important that the community knows that there are many volunteers in that organization that provided much needed services to the community over all those years. Commissioner Osterberg then welcomed VIP, the new provider located in Milford. The County has been able to allow VIP to use vacant space on West High Street where the Auditors were before. The building's exterior is being worked on right now and soon, probably by the end of this month, VIP will be moving into the entire building (the Auditors' old building). Commissioner Schmalzle added that it is important to recognize that we have always provided some funding to the organization and provider, and will continue to do that through this building and the use of County space.

Michele Minor Wolf, the Executive Director from Victims' Intervention Program introduced herself. She was joined by VIP's Board Chair as well as many of the staff members. Michele explained that some of the staff are full time in Pike County only and some that are full time in Wayne County only and a few staff members that go back and forth in Pike and Wayne Counties. VIP was established in 1988 in Wayne County as a grass roots organization. We have grown out of the grass roots to a normal, private, non-profit organization. VIP has been behind the scenes in Pike County for a few years in intervals when there were gaps in services. We helped to fill in and effective July, 2018, VIP received State contracts for Domestic Violence Services and Sexual Assault Services in Pike County. We did have offices in Lords Valley, but we decided that we'd see a lot more action happening here in Milford, especially if they need the court system. However, we provide services to many victims and survivors that have nothing to do with the court system. We have a new service available – our Civil Legal Representation Project. That is when an attorney that is part of our staff can represent victims of domestic violence. It is an income-based project, so they would have to fall below a certain income to be eligible. Our attorney can help them, whether they are male or female, with custody, child support, divorce, immigration issues, human trafficking or domestic violence issues. We also do a grant through the DA's office with the Commissioners; our attorney can help with the final Protection from Abuse Order issued in Court. We will also be working with the prisons – our Economic Justice Project- we have a financial component to that and we have a career development component to that. We help people get on their feet and learn how to get out of debt, clean up their credit and get jobs. A lot of the people we help have been out of the work force for a while. Michele introduced John, VIP's Community Service Manager; Stacy, Counselor Advocate; Randy, Chief Programs Officer; Diane, Krista, Amanda and Linda from the Honesdale Office; and Keith, VIP's Board Chair.

A meeting attendee asked if the phone numbers would be the same. Michele answered that the (570) 296-HELP or (800) 698-4VIP – the hotline numbers, would remain the same.

Another attendee asked if they accept donations. Michele responded yes – but, it depends. We don't take: car seats because we can't confirm they haven't been in a car accident; cribs, because of the regulations; used stuffed animals-because of germs and stuff; we take donations depending on what it is. Keith added that on October 25, 2019 VIP is having an Annual Gala at Silver Birches, it is \$50.00 per person, dinner, dancing, silent auction and raffle. You can call the VIP number and make reservations. Michele also said that they are selling purple tee-shirts too and the proceeds go to support victims in the program.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Lisa Clementoni to the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District as the Lackawanna County At-Large representative to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2022.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Mary Little to fill a vacancy on the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a 3 year term ending December 31, 2022.  
**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the following Change Orders between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike, relating to the Courthouse addition:

No. GC45 Rev	Removal of opening in Mediation Room from contract	\$6,500.00 credit
No. GC46 Rev	Removal of curved glass from contract	\$10,000.00 credit
No. GC47 Rev	Removal of Sally Port from contract	\$40,000.00 credit
No. GC48 Rev	Removal of Paving & Sidewalk from contract	\$70,000.00 credit
No. GC49Rev	Removal of work in existing Courtroom from contract	\$12,000.00 credit
No. GC50	Addition of storm line	\$5,671.71 additional
No. GC51	Renovation of existing rooms	\$31,282.94 additional

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement for Information Technology Products and Services between Avenu Enterprise Solutions and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Recorder of Deeds Office.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the 2019-2020 PA Partners in the Arts Project Stream Grant Award Agreement between Pocono Arts Council and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the 2019-20 Purchase of Service Agreements between the following providers and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services: KidsPeace National Centers and Valliere & Counseling Associates, Inc.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Lien on behalf of the Human Services Department.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Michael Lamoreaux and Rachel Moyer– Gregory W. Moyer AED Foundation Donation.  
 Mike Lamoreaux introduced himself as Principal of McGoey, Hauser & Edsall and County Engineer. One of the things that I owe an obligation to the County was to provide AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) to the County building. It is a public building and it’s something that the Commissioners and I have spoken about for months. I finally found a source of those defibrillators last week and I met Rachel Moyer. Rachel has a fund in Monroe County named after her son, Gregory, who tragically passed away in 2000 at aged 15 on a basketball court in East Stroudsburg North High School. Since then it has been Rachel Moyer’s mission to make sure that the defibrillators are in public spaces to save those individuals who have some type of an issue needing a defibrillator.

Rachel Moyer said she taught school in Port Jervis for 15 years. In 2000, we went to East Stroudsburg North – it is 23 miles from the building to the closest hospital. As a teacher in Port Jervis, I could take everyone out for a fire drill, but I did not know how to do CPR. When my 15 year old, who had 3 sports physicals a year, played the first half of the basketball game at East Stroudsburg North, 2 minutes later a kid came to my husband and I and said “Greg needs you”. We walked in and my son was on the floor and no one was doing anything. I did not know what to do. The athletic trainer came over from the other side and finally did CPR. They couldn’t get a land line without the custodian-in 2000 cell phones were not that prominent. We had to find a custodian to call 911 and it took was an half hour before we got Greg help. That night, in the hospital, the nurse said there should have been an AED there. I didn’t know what an AED was. I promised myself that I would not put a headstone on my son’s grave until there was an AED in every school in this country. I recognize after 15 years, that was not an easy task. Finally, this year in Pennsylvania (we are the 39<sup>th</sup> State to do this), it is a requirement that CPR/AED instruction be taught in all public schools in Pennsylvania. In the States where they have had it for more than 4 years, there has been a significant increase in by-stander CPR. When my son died the AEDs were \$3,400.00, now they are less than \$1,500.00. They are easy enough to use for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. They are the latest FDA approved, they are portable and you can read them. When they need new batteries or electrodes, they will beep every 20 seconds until you pay attention. We are so happy Mike is donating these AEDs to Pike County. You will be heart-safe here. Mike Lamoreaux added that on April 25, 2020 there will be a

fundraiser for the Gregory W. Moyer Fund to be held at Shawnee. With that said, we have AEDs for the Commissioners. It is my understanding that there will be one in each courtroom, one for the lobby in the new complex and one for John Street and one left over to be used by Rachel Moyer to donate to someone who can't afford one. Michael Lamoreaux presented Rachel Moyer with a check for the Gregory W. Moyer AED Foundation. Rachel Moyer was asked by reporter Chris Jones what percentage of the cost comes from donations? Rachel answered that every penny we get we turn around and buy an AED for some place that can't afford them. We have trained 25,000 people in CPR/AED for over 19 years. Commissioner Osterberg did add that Rachel Moyer is the wife of Monroe County Commissioner John Moyer. Commissioner Guccini said that getting the information out there is critical. He stated about 3 years ago he was in Anchorage, Alaska, in a restaurant, and had to perform the Heimlich Maneuver on somebody and thinks that he saved a life. It was something I learned when I was on Ski Patrol for years and year. Unless that information gets out there, people just don't know how to do these things. Just getting the information out there on a variety of things is critically important-thank you.

- Jerry O'Connor, Wallenpaupack Vets for Vets –

Commissioner Guccini introduced Jerry O'Connor, whom he met six weeks ago, because they live in the same area and he was only a little bit familiar with his organization. I met with him to get some more information on what he does and thought it would be a good idea to have Jerry come here and tell us what his organization does. Jerry O'Connor circulated business cards and said they are in the process of getting money and giving money to Veterans and First Responders. There were 3 of us five or six years ago that were meeting for breakfast every Wednesday morning. We talked about how we felt there wasn't being enough done for the individuals in the area and the world who are in financial straits. Financial straits in our definition are anyone who has their financial line broken. Some of the people that we help are the mother of 3 teenaged girls and son that is 3 years old. Her husband suffers from PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). She would like to have a choice of either paying her taxes or fixing her car. We (Wallenpaupack Vets for Vets) paid the taxes so she could pay for the car. We don't ask for any recompense on the money. We give it freely without expecting any payback. We also do a certain amount of vetting. We look for individuals who know people who have issues, or we look for individuals who do have issues. We don't make contact with the individual, the individual will get one of our business cards and they call us. We can't go out and solicit-it is against the law. With the act of picking up the telephone and saying I have an issue, that also commits them to the fact that they have convinced themselves that they have an issue; and that is a big step when they contact us. Next step is to go out and speak to them face to face. You would be surprised how quickly we get down to business. These are people who can lose their homes or need tires for their cars or trucks. One of the individuals we did help a year and a half ago, who didn't have a job because he didn't have a car. We spoke to a dealer and got the guy a car and he got a job. Jerry then introduced Janet Sellitti, Vice President and Secretary of Wallenpaupack Vets for Vets. Janet added that when someone does come to them and they are a veteran they need to show their DD-214. If they're a first responder, we go to whatever fire company they are supposedly working for to verify that they are actually active. We have helped a number of people with their immediate needs. We do for long term needs, if needed. We're very careful. We don't give any money to people-we give it to vendors. If you have your roof done, we give it to the roofer. It's a pretty new organization, we've only be in existence as "Vets for Vets" for a year. We're going to meet tomorrow with other agencies. We have worked with the SHARE Group and got one of our clients set up with them and they help this person. We're still finding our way and getting the word out that we're here to help and hope to be around for a long time.

A meeting attendee asked where they get their money from? Jerry O'Connor answered he was at the Newfoundland Rotary and they held a 50/50 Raffle. The gentleman that won the 50/50 came out and gave it to us. From individuals themselves-all donations. Janet Sellitti added that the main fundraiser is a yearly golf outing. This year is was at Paupack Hills, we don't know where it will be next year. Jerry concluded that they are looking for another Board person, who is a veteran, who would be willing to help us out and be on our Board of Directors if you hear of anybody that would be interested.

- Dr. Robert Ollar and Brian Snyder – Tick Borne Diseases Task Force.

Commissioner Osterberg introduced Dr. Robert Ollar and said he is extremely versed on Tick Borne Diseases and this gives us great recognition in Pike County for what we're doing. We are at the forefront at developing programs and educating the public about Tick Borne Diseases – not only in Pike County, but recently with State Representative Rosemary Brown at a hearing before an assembly and educating them on what we're doing here so that other counties can follow our suit. Dr. Ollar has been recognized by an organization out of New York City. Dr. Ollar is here to talk about what his studies have revealed and now we know it is more than just Pike County, Pennsylvania recognizing this. It is a national organization. The poster he has developed is going to be on display this Saturday in New York City. Dr. Ollar said for five years now we have been working with the Task Force on problems related to tick infections. We modeled a program for the State of Pennsylvania, if not the Country. Describing the scan for pathogens that our ticks are carrying is probably the most complete scan in the whole Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, if not the world. An area that is very important to us is not only do we need to know what pathogens the ticks are carrying, but what are the ramifications of tick viruses as it relates to the

human and to animals. I am a professor of neurology at New York Medical College. We specialize in infections of the brain. Also, I serve as the consulting microbiologist for the County and for the non-for-profit, Tick Borne Diseases Network. One of the most tragic things that we have seen is the factor of mimic. We have neurological Lyme Disease that can mimic Lou Gehrig's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease and, probably the most tragic mimicry of all – Alzheimer's Disease. We have, as per [alzheimer's.org](http://alzheimer's.org), 280K cases of people with Alzheimer's Disease in our Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, circa 2018. None of these documented cases that we have available, whether from [alzheimer's.org](http://alzheimer's.org), the State of Pennsylvania, the United States NIH (National Institutes of Health), or any other body of government, can tell us the number of cases of people who also have positive reactions for Lyme's Disease. Alzheimer's Disease has no cure, but we do have neurological Lyme Disease that presents, clinically, as Alzheimer's. Sadly, too few of our doctors are aware of the fact that true Alzheimer's has no cure, but neurological Lyme Disease can be cured, if caught early, with antibiotics. The case of Kris Kristofferson, a country/western singer, illustrated this problem. He was misdiagnosed as having Alzheimer's Disease. It turns out Mr. Kristofferson did not have Alzheimer's Disease, he has neurological Lyme Disease. Only one doctor got it right and Mr. Kristofferson was given antibiotics and it was a miraculous reversal. It is very important for us to know in the Commonwealth that we lead the nation in tick borne disease and is number two as far as the senior citizen population this is a double whammy. We have to be able to distinguish true Alzheimer's cases from cases of people who have neurological Lyme Disease, which can be cured. We also have people who have neurological Lyme Disease and Alzheimer's. This is something we're looking at. This poster represents a new foray for us into Tick Borne Diseases. We are starting to look at something that has no statistic – there is no statistic in the United States or Pennsylvania to tell us how many cases are true Alzheimer's versus how many cases of neurological Lyme Disease are present. This poster is part of a work that we have been working on for the last 5 years and writing several articles on that. We received a lot of attention about this. We have had over 250 requests for the original article that was written on this in countries from the United States to Europe and elsewhere in the world. The fact that they realize the very serious problem. This poster is going to be displayed at the LymeMIND Convention. That is the largest Lyme and related tick borne diseases convention in the United States. It is going to be hosted this coming Saturday and it represents the efforts of our County group and our special patients' support network that is focusing on these problems. My desire right now is to say we are kicking off a program and we're going to start looking at all of the cases in Pennsylvania of people who have Alzheimer's also can be cases of people who have positive Lyme Disease. We want to start telling the doctors that we do have more ways of distinguishing between the two and it's time that they understand that people have to be diagnosed based on the fact that we not only have a large elderly population, we also have an endemic area of tick borne diseases. I hope that we can actually start a small project and requesting a grant to study this problem-we have the support of our Commissioners as well as Representative Rosemary Brown to aid us in this quest to generate this first data on this – distinguishing the true disease from the mimicry. Dr. Anthony May, the President of Neurological Society of Pennsylvania, has fully sanctioned this effort and will be working with us to generate the data in United States. We also want to get doctors to be aware of the fact that this poster can show that we do have ways of distinguishing these two diseases. Too far doctors are aware of the fact that this is just not looking at clinical manifestations. where grandma is a little slow and her memory is gone. There are laboratory methods that have to be used. This poster is the first attempt to get the word out in a National forum about this problem. We hope this is the first of many posters that our County will be displaying at other gatherings in the United States. Commissioner Osterberg said that we recognize through Dr. Ollar's efforts and the Task Force, Wayne Hospital in Lords Valley has a clinic that deals with Lyme literate doctors that deal with specific blood work. If you go there, they are receiving phone calls from all over the country. I believe it is the first of its' kind, at least in the Commonwealth, that specifically works on Tick Borne Diseases.

A meeting attendee asked Dr. Ollar if they are just looking a people with Alzheimer's or other neurological issues? Dr. Ollar responded that the other diseases mentioned, Lou Gehrig Disease, Parkinson's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis will be looked at also. This is the first because it is the most well know problem we have in the State. Mimicry will also be looked at with these other diseases. With Alzheimer's Disease, we have the markers than enable us to distinguish the true disease versus the mimicry. These are very important factors and 20% of people with Lyme Disease end up with neurological manifestations. In these cases of people with neurological manifestations, frequently you never see the bullseye rash at all. Neurological Lyme Disease and neurological manifestations are an entity unto themselves

Reporter Chris Jones asked if Dr. Ollar is currently on the faculty there and how does he have a connection with Pike County? Dr. Ollar said yes he is a clinical Assistant Professor of Neurology at New York Medical College and he is a resident of Pike County. When the story of tick borne diseases came out in a newspaper article, I contacted Mikki Weiss and Marty Theys of our group "Lyme Tick Borne Diseases". Mikki and the group then recommended that I be appointed to the State Commission. Reporter Chris Jones then asked if he has a long commute? Dr. Ollar said he is semi-retired now, as a university professor you don't go every day like a high school professor.

Another meeting attendee asked what pathogens are in the ticks? Dr. Ollar answered that every tick carries a multiplicity of pathogens – not just the Lyme organisms. You have babesia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia and Bartonella. We have about 7 or 8 pathogens. If the doctors that we are working with send your blood out for analysis, we use a Tick Panel which I developed along with Dr. Gerritson and the people in the MDL Labs (Medical Diagnostic Labs) in Trenton, NJ. We always recommend to people when they are going to have it to tell their doctor it is not just a Lyme organism, you want the complete panel because all of these critters are alive and well in Pike County. This is one of the reasons why we have been so vigorous in our efforts to scan all of the major areas in our County for pathogens carried in our ticks. The report should be available soon, in November some time. This will allow our doctors in Pike County to know all the kinds of pathogens our ticks carry.

Another meeting attendee said she goes to doctors in Scranton, PA and that she had Lyme Disease years ago, and they just give you antibiotics-they don't test the tick. Dr. Ollar said that because she is a resident of the State of Pennsylvania, we have an organization called East Stroudsburg University D and A Lab, State Representative Rosemary Brown has provided the funding to allow you to send the tick to be analyzed at a tick lab. If you have a doctor that tells you that it doesn't matter – that doctor is a fool. I am a PhD and I teach doctors. When you have a tick and analyze it and the laboratory can give you an answer in 24 – 48 hours, the kinds of pathogens that they carry is very important to the doctor. Flying blind is not an option because there are plenty of tick borne pathogens that do not work very well with doxycycline. You can have 3, 4 or more pathogens. We have been working with our Representatives, Peifer and Brown, to demand that our medical community get a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program. If a member of your family goes to a doctor you will see a certificate saying that they have taken a State mandated course because too few medical people have a good comprehension of the kind of problem that they are dealing with.

A meeting attendee asked if there is a website they can go to? Dr. Ollar said yes, LymeMIND.org or Lymedisease.org. There has been a lot of educational information that has been put out by the Tick Borne Diseases Task Force that you should take with you. Dr. Ollar added that he has a patient support group that addresses the issues of people who actually have the problems. It's called the TBD Support Group and is founded by Mikki Weiss and it meets every second Saturday of the month in the Pike County Library at 10:30 AM. We have literature that focus on clinicals, specifically the clinical ramifications and to get people to understand the complexities and the particular doctors that have had the knowledge to treat you properly or members of your family with the correct information.

A meeting attendee asked if that is open to only County residents? Dr. Ollar answered no. Mikki Weiss added that they focus on the human being. We focus on people who have been bitten and who have been diagnosed with tick borne diseases. Once you have had the appropriate medication to deal with the situation, that's only the beginning. Once you acquire one of these pathogens, you're living with that until some aspect of the medical field can tell you that you are totally clear, they are with you. I wasn't going to say this, but the seriousness of this, in addition to Alzheimer', I have an aspect of dementia through my process, I have neurological Lyme disease, I also have ACF, Bartonella and Mycoplasmal Pneumonia- a respiratory infection. Unbeknownst to me at the age of 80, I had surgery in 2018, I never knew I had a predisposition for Leukemia. Prior to my operation, I had no problems, I was perfectly healthy except my TBD. I had the operation in August. By October, my doctor called me on a Saturday and said I have an appointment with an oncologist and they thought I had Leukemia. Sure enough, I went and I was diagnosed with Leukemia. Now I have not only my Tick Borne Diseases, but I have Leukemia. Our organization works with people like me with knowing what to do and how to take care of yourself once you have been bitten. Dr. Ollar said they have cases all over the country, it is not just in Pennsylvania. Mikki Weiss added that she has a grant from Greater Pike Foundation to continue some of the work that Dr. Ollar has mentioned. Anybody with a pre-existing condition, one of the things the oncologist said to me was to not get another tick bite. That would be a death sentence. If you have a pre-existing condition: COPD, HIV, Cancer, if you get bitten by a tick, you can possibly die, it is far more serious.

- Penn State Extension Calendar of Events – October 15-31, 2019.

**PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**