

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

The second regular meeting of October 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.

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

*A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Ann Seaman for her 20 years of service as County Auditor.*

*A \$50,000 check from Act 37 Account was presented to Mike Donlon for Habitat for Humanity, who are on their 23 home. They are actively looking for a family for house 24 which will be built in Sunrise. Mr. Donlon said these houses would not be possible without the Act 37 funding.*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, 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 Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the October 21, 2015 Agenda.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the October 7, 2015 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the October 8 and 15, 2015 Conference Minutes.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$448,394.71, 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 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Habitat for Humanity)**, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

**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 (Courthouse – April/September)**, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$115,479.32.

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

**PERSONNEL:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Sheriff Phil Bueki, advising that he has hired **JOSHUA SCHMICK** as a full time Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective October 19, 2015, 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 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 award the bid to Lattimore Construction for the 2015/16 winter snowplowing and ice control for the following roads as one bid: Old Owego Turnpike from Raymondskill Road to Route 6 for \$371 for plowing and \$206.70 for sanding per event; Brooks Road, Stone Quarry Road by Eureka and Tower Road for \$715.50 for plowing and \$302.10 for sanding per event.  
**VOTE:** Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to adopt Ordinance #26 authorizing and approving, *inter alia*: (1) the incurrence of general obligation in the maximum principal amount of \$7,000,000, pursuant to the Local Government Unit Debt Act (Debt Act) evidenced by the County of Pike General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2015 (the "Bonds"); (2) the current refunding of the County's General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2010 outstanding; (3) accepting the Bond Purchase Agreement presented by PNC Capital Markets, LLC; (4) the pledge of the full faith, credit and taxing power of the County with respect to the Bonds; and (5) all other acts and actions by proper officers and officials of the County, the County solicitor and bond counsel, necessary and proper in connection with the issuance of the Bonds.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Commissioner Wagner abstained. Motion carried.

Dave Payne and Mary Ellen Kohler of PNC Capital Markets and Attorney Joseph Pierce, Bond Council from Eckerts Seamans were present to give an overview of Ordinance #26. Dave Payne explained that PNC keeps track of the County's bond issues and savings. Mr. Payne stated that at this time savings would be approximately \$288,000 due to the federal government's announcement that there would be no rate raises in September and with the strong indication that the markets would not raise rates in November. This is in comparison to a savings of \$190,000 in February 2015. The second aspect of savings is due to the fact that in 2014 Pike County was one of the very few local municipalities in Pennsylvania and across the country that had an upgrade in bond rating. When bond rating increases, new purchases will request a lower interest rate from you because the bonds are perceived to be more secure. Therefore, when the County was upgraded from A+ to AA- in 2014 that has also increased the savings opportunities on the bonds. This is an ongoing reflection of the County's stewardship of the general fund, reserves, administration, continuing disclosures, etc. These aspects give investors a lot of comfort with the potential to purchase additional Pike County bonds. The third aspect is that because the county has an AA- bond rating, the necessity to purchase bond insurance for this bond issue is not required, which is in the tens of thousands of dollars. Mr. Payne distributed a hand out regarding the bond issue and specs for the closing of the bonds. He went into a detailed explanation of the savings to the County of \$288,000. There is no change in the maturity date of the bond issue.

Joe Pierce presented Ordinance 26, which has been advertised according to law. He went over the next steps to close on the bond issue in mid-December and other legalities. Further discussion and questions were accepted.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to advertise for bids for the purchase of fresh bread and baked goods for the Correctional Facility.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to execute the Contract Documents between Grimm Construction and the County of Pike, for the Courthouse Front Entrance Modification Project.

**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 Order No. 3 for the Kimbles Road Bridge Emergency Repairs between the County of Pike and Pioneer Construction Company, for an additional \$24,767.29 for additional type II and III quantities, rebar in type III areas and labor for rebar replacement and cleaning.

**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 Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Lien, 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 execute the Agreement for Professional Services between Catholic Social Services, Inc. and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to execute the Addendum to Contracts with the following providers to include required language, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging: Alert One, Allied Services, Beck N Call, Care Givers America, Connect America, Devereux, Guardian, Carbon/Monroe/Pike MH/DS, Medscope, Medstaffers, North Penn Legal Services, Quality Health Care, Inc., Revolutionary Nurses and Wayne Memorial Department of Home Health Nursing.

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

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Erin Gilpatrick of Catholic Social Services Program, and Rich Shea, Treatment Specialist at the Pike County Correctional Facility gave an update of their outreach program at the Correctional Facility. Ms. Gilpatrick advised the group that Mr. Shea has been providing, for both males and females, evaluation, individual and group sessions, disease concept of dependency, relapse prevention, sober activities, healthy relationships, methods of coping and basic drug education. One of the purposes of the program is to create a link for individuals once they are released from the Correctional Facility so that they can resume their outpatient treatment while in the community. Some are referred to halfway houses, some participate in their local area, and some are in the Catholic Social Services offices in Milford or Stroudsburg. This program has been funded by the County in the amount of \$27,500 for six months. If these services were provided in the community and paid for by individuals it would cost over \$76,000. Once the \$27,500 is drawn down, services are provided at a cheaper rate. She continued to give statistics on the number of inmates served. There has been wonderful feedback from the participants. Rich Shea also spoke about his personal experiences with this program. Commissioner Caridi also commented that this program is also tracked by the judiciary and probation officers for individuals on probation. Commissioner Osterberg said that they are looking for additional funding for this program through the CDBG program. Commissioner Wagner commented that this program is necessary for continued treatment and also to aid inmates in applying for Medicare.

The Reality Tour still has openings and will be held Thursday, October 22 at the Milford Bible Church from 6-9 p.m. and also on November 19<sup>th</sup>. "Anonymous People" will be shown at the Milford Theatre on October 24 at 10:30 a.m. These programs are bringing continued awareness to the community of the drug problem.

Lana Romeo, Area Agency on Aging, spoke about October as "Residents' Rights Month and Care Matters". She asked for volunteer ombudsmen (citizen representative) to assist seniors in long-term care facilities. Some seniors in long-term care facilities never receive a visitor or have interaction with the outside, either because they have no family at all, or they are too far away. She stressed the importance of giving the seniors "a voice" when they have complaints or needs, or just to visit them. The ombudsmen program is designed to "support and empower" individuals in these situations. The ombudsman program has only three volunteers and they are in need of more. The volunteers will visit and assess situations that some of the seniors have concerns about. All volunteers would be trained and state certified.

Kelly Gaughan and Liz Kameen of the Pike County Bar Association announced that the Bar Association is doing their 2<sup>nd</sup> "Wills for Our Heroes" on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Pike County Training Center in Blooming Grove from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The volunteer attorneys will provide wills, living wills and power of attorneys at no cost to veterans and to first responders. Please call 570-576-1959 to schedule an appointment.

Robert Weintraub of Penn State Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, announced that a PA State Police Memorial Garden will be built in front of the Blooming Grove Barracks of the Pennsylvania State Police, in memory of Corporal Bryan Dickson, who was murdered on the site last year. Plans were presented of the rendering of the garden and the plan budget. Mr. Weintraub said that donations are needed for the \$14,000 budget to build and maintain the garden. Donations can be made to PSCE Program Account and sent to Penn State Extension, 514 Broad Street, Milford, PA 18337. The plot will include a monument and benches for contemplation. Ellen Orben of the Penn State Extension Office created the rendering and Jason Wolf of Brick House Garden Center worked to design the project and to come up with the budget. Brick House Garden will be donating much of the materials.

## **PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS.**

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**