

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

The second regular meeting of October 2020 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; and Solicitor Farley.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: *by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hold a Public Hearing.*

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

A PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING 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.*

PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY BEST PRACTICES AWARD TO THE PIKE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO RECOGNIZE ITS MODEL RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMS – Via Zoom

Warden Craig Lowe, Assistant Wardens Romance and McLaughlin with volunteers, and Ms. Quigley, the Chairperson of CCAP's Committee and the Warden in Bucks County were in attendance. Commissioner Osterberg said how proud the Pike County Commissioners' Office were of the hard work that their Wardens do and all of our volunteers at the Correctional Facility. This is hard work on all of them and the Correctional Officers – everybody up there works as one team. The Warden has said in a Press Release that we put out "...together we continue to help offenders get back on their feet and have successful outcomes, I'm proud of our team and thank everyone for working together for the betterment of others...". Warden Quigley said it takes a team to win an award like this and put good programs in place. I am here on behalf of CCAP (County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania), I am the Chair of the County Commissioners Association's Committee for Criminal Justice. I am grateful to be able, if virtually, to present the jail and the facility and the whole team with the Committee's 2020 Small Jail Award for Criminal Justice Best Practices. Specifically, this award is being presented to you because of your jail's model recidivism reduction programs. It's one of several awards that seek out sponsors with it's partners, including PCCD, Pennsylvania County Corrections Association, Prison Wardens Association and the County Risk Pool (PCoRP). CCAP commissions a study to examine jail overcrowding in Pennsylvania and the intensive study looked at 16 different county jails that were clearly overcrowded and found consistently that population management and good programming, effective targeted practices, are appropriate and a lasting solution to overcrowding. The CCAP Board then adopted this strategy dedicated to encouraging counties to adopt these types of best practices to be effective and impactful population management for the long term. To promote the county efforts, the Committee created the Awards Program which was rolled out in 2008. Each year since then, we've been seeing an increase in the number of entries and we've also looked at the current trends in Corrections and expanded the focus beyond overcrowding. When one county finds a program that is successful and shares it for replication in other counties, I think our communities and the Commonwealth, as a whole, just benefit greatly. We're grateful that your Communications Director, Krista Gromalski, submitted this nomination on behalf of the fine work that your team at Pike County Correctional Facility. From that nomination I am highlighting some of that work. High recidivism rate burdens correctional facilities, tax payers, communities and families. By investing in the needs of the offenders during incarceration rather than exclusively upon exit of the system, we can insure people return to their communities equipped and motivated to contribute to society in sustainable, mutually beneficial ways. Beginning in 2002 to reduce recidivism at a local level in Pike County, the facility proactively developed and implemented a unique suite of offender programs which have been successfully providing offenders with tools for personal betterment, preparation for release and rehabilitation. All offenders entering your facility undergo an admissions process and assessed for suicide risk, their needs in the area of drugs and alcohol, the mental and physical health needs and then they are screened for eligibility into the CORE Recidivism Reduction Programs. Offenders search in a community resource guide so they have the directory that's with them when they are released back into the community. According to the submission, the results of the facility's programming include a positive correction environment with an exceptionally low recidivism rate. The submission cites that the National Recidivism Rate hovers around 70% according to the U.S. Department of Justice, suggesting that our county's current rate of incarceration in conjunction with some continued application of antiquated offender treatment programs, has resulted in some unmanageable correctional costs. Of note in the award nomination, it is the county's facility's reported recidivism rate of 19% over the last three years. Programs seem to offer an holistic approach, the opportunity for offenders to develop positive life skills, employment skills, the opportunity to participate in addiction programs and direct confrontation of the issues that need to be addressed relating to their criminal behaviors. The submission notes that the intake assessment, this early

introduction to these holistic programs, which emphasize life change through voluntary engagement, have created a positive correctional environment there, alleviated some unmanageable correctional costs and have garnered the support of the Courts, Probation and the Pike County Commissioners. Pike County continues to evolve and grow. I see that you've launched a 2019 Re-Entry Coalition, which I understand was established to leverage public and private partnerships, to enhance the programming at the facility and further insure that a good follow-up plan is placed, creating an opportunity to these former offenders to move forward in life. It is an honor to present this award and acknowledge the local government's support there for life change and the programs' successes led by Warden Lowe, his Assistant Wardens McLaughlin and Romance and his entire staff. I have also been told there are over one hundred volunteers and you're so blessed, because the volunteers in our field are unsung heroes! Especially to those of us that are balancing limited resources with these big visions of changing lives and restoring lives. You are very blessed all the way around. I thank you for sharing your program with others so we get inspiration and replicate it. I would like you all to join me in congratulating the Warden and his entire team at the Pike County Correctional Facility for the 2020 CCAP Best Practices Award – congratulations!

Warden Lowe thanked CCAP and said it is an esteemed honor. He also thanked the Commissioners, the Prison Board, the volunteers, staff, Re-Entry Coalition and our contracted programs help make our programs a big success. I'm proud of our team and thank everyone for working together for the betterment of others. We are truly blessed to live in Pike County. The amount of volunteers that give up their time. Again, thank you to everyone and thank you to Warden Quigley for taking time to be here today, I appreciate that. We're trying to make things work and I think if you look at our results the recidivism rate, the incidences inside the facility have been reduced and it's just a well-rounded system. We do share what we do here in Pike County with other counties and we really think that is what is important – sharing success stories and allow things to grow in other counties. Thank you everyone – I am proud to be working here at Pike County.

Assistant Warden McLaughlin said he appreciates the honor and repeated the Warden's sentiments, the Commissioners have supported our mission all along going all the way back to when we started, we appreciate your support, which fuels our ability to do what we do: recruit the volunteers, conduct the programs and provide materials that we have. I thank you very much.

Commissioner Osterberg concluded that we really need to be proud of what we do at our correctional facility and I think in many cases people here make up some stories that are not actually true at all. That's important that we have this award and we appreciate CCAP recognizing Pike County for all the hard work that's done up there. This isn't an easy job, but it's a job that needs to be done and we do our best throughout the entire county along with the Re-Entry Program, to make sure that everybody that enters the correctional facility is given the opportunities to get their lives back on track. I know that's what everybody's goal is – from the Warden's, to the treatment counselors to all the volunteers and residents of the county should be extremely thankful to all of the people who are up there.

Commissioner Guccini added that there was a meeting yesterday of a volunteer group that looks at children's issues in the child welfare system, I've been in the group for ten years and now those of us who have been there have to leave because it's too long. I was telling everybody that system is a process. There are no major quick gains, this is a process over time. If we go back thirty years, this is like a sea change and how we look at returning citizens, how we look at inmates, how we look at the issues we have. Craig and his staff and the counselors and everybody have just been all over this. They're one of the first groups to look at these issues in a different way. When we started the Re-entry Coalition, our coordinator, Melanie Snyder, was amazed at how many programs we already had in place. We had a big head start from other counties who are doing this. I just can't say enough about the work you guys have done, it's been remarkable – thank you all.

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

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

A RETIREMENT BOARD HEARING WAS HELD.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to reconvene 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 21, 2020 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the October 7, 2020 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 7 and 15, 2020 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$589,195.33**, 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 **ACT 13 (Zitone-Bridge repairs)**, in the amount of **\$5,825.00**.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND**, in the amount of **\$576,156.74**.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to change the status of **LAWRENCE SHEETS** from part-time Van Driver, to full-time Van Driver for the Transportation Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective October 19, 2020, with no benefits. 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 the Correctional Facility WWTP Controls Building Roof Replacement Project to Dunmore Roofing for the base bid amount of \$55,400.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open bids received for the 2020-2021 Winter Maintenance of County Roads.

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

Solicitor Thomas Farley opened only one bid – Lattimore Construction – Snowplowing and ice control, Brooks Road, Stone Quarry Road by Eureka and Tower Road - \$806 per application; for plowing and sanding \$340 per application. Old Owego Turnpike - \$419 per application; sanding \$233 per application.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the bids received for one week.

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. 20-26, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2020, which was read by Commissioner Guccini.

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

Commissioner Osterberg introduced Michele Minor Wolf from Victims' Intervention Program. Ms. Wolf said during COVID-19, while we closed our building, we did not stop any of our services. Our twenty-four hour emergency services which we continue to provide in-person and those include our shelter, going to the hospital with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and going to court when it was open as well as law enforcement interviews as they were open. The individual counseling and group counseling programs we did virtually. There weren't any services that we had to eliminate or stop while we were working remotely. They all continued – some virtual, some in-person. Three or four weeks ago, we did reopen our doors to the public, our clients, our guests, we call them, to come back. However, we encourage everybody to make an appointment and not to walk in – we are really limiting the amount of people in our building right now. They do, of course, have to have their temperature taken and take screening questions and things like that, but we have reopened so they can come in person if they choose to, but we are still offering virtual appointments for those who prefer that. Right now, we are testing out a new text chat system. A lot of people, especially teenagers and the younger adults, like to use that. That will be an additional service to our

hot line and counseling – we can do an instant messaging and text service for people who prefer that option. That’s where we’re at with that right now. We are going to be focusing this fiscal year is on stalking, especially intimate partner violence stalking and non-fatal strangulation. Some of use attended, virtually, a conference on non-fatal strangulation and learned quite a bit. It is really designed for law enforcement and prosecution and we’re going to be looking at that and educating the public, our clients and hoping to work with law enforcement and prosecution on that same thing. The STOP Grant in Wayne County - we have the funds in there and we’re bringing that conference to everybody virtually in Wayne County. All of our staff will get trained on it as well as our law enforcement/prosecution over there and I’m going to propose it to the STOP Team at our next meeting in Pike and maybe they’ll consider doing that here as well. It’s packed with information. It was a four day workshop they put into one, but maybe in a few years we can actually do all four pieces of it. That’s going to be our focus and we move forward in this fiscal year and the next calendar year for domestic violence specifically.

One last thing, I would like the public to know if there is anybody here with the media, is that domestic violence is not just physical violence. When you hear that word “violence”, most people tend to think that means physical battering. It’s emotional, financial, it’s sexual and Victims’ Intervention Program will provide services to any degree or any type of domestic violation always, not just during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Folks can call for an make an appointment or talk to us over our hotline. All of the services are at no cost to them and they’re confidential.

Michele then introduced her team – Randy, Chief Program Officer; Chelsea, Community Services Manager; Debra-Direct Service Supervisor; and Diana, Shelter Advocate. The rest are in the office working. Our website has a facelift so please take a look: www.vipempowers.org and we have new brochures as well (circulated).

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-27, Transfer of Funds Within the Budget.

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

Commissioner Osterberg said this has to do with what we’ve done in the last couple of weeks with restructuring our debt. We’re able to move some funds now out of certain accounts that we use into the General Fund to help us through these difficult times with COVID. We’ve had some changes in income and revenue coming to the County so that we can balance our budgets moving forward and get through this without having any tax increases.

Krista Gromalski said for the press watching on YouTube, if you received the Agenda yesterday, there was a revised version of Resolution No. 20-27 uploaded to the website this morning. If you’re referring to that in any media stories, you should go to the website today and get that new version. Commissioner Osterberg added that Resolution No. 20-27 was reedited this morning and reviewed by the solicitor and bond counsel.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-28, Naming TD Bank as Escrow Agent and Authorizing the Treasurer’s Office to Execute Documents Relating to the Series 2012 Refunding Escrow.

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

Commissioner Osterberg said this also ties together with Resolution No. 20-27.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-29, Designation of Agent for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-30, Pike County DCED-CDBG Program.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-31, Pike County Section 3 Action Plan.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint **GUY COOK** to the Road Task Force, as a representative of Blooming Grove Township, to fill an unexpired term ending 12/31/2023.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for bids for fresh bread and baked goods for the Correctional Facility.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the PCCD Project Modification Request for an additional \$29,350 for the Pike County Local Law Enforcement COVID-19 Relief Funds.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award the remaining COVID-19 County Relief Funds as follows:

Subgrantee Name	Total Award
Apple Valley Restaurant	\$175,000
Community Rental Centers	\$13,000
Dark Moon Entertainment	\$45,988
Fairbridge Inn	\$13,561
League of Women Voters	\$4,940

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 Senior Rental Assistance Contract #44, on behalf of the Human Services 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 Affordable Housing Fund Payment Voucher payable to Diana T. Myers & Assoc. for the Pike Strategic Plan for September 2020 for \$6,907.19, on behalf of the Human Services Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Purchase of Service Agreement between National Mentor Healthcare and the County of Pike on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Certification Statement of the 4th quarter FY 2019-20 Act 148 Invoice, on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Contract between BTM Solutions and the County of Pike, on behalf of the District Attorney’s Office for Central Booking.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Osterberg announced that we received an award from CCAP for the Correctional Facility. Back in April, we were recognized by the Governor’s Office for three outstanding programs that we’re running in the County. One of them, the Opioid Task Force, which we have been leading for two years now. The Re-Entry Coalition which Steve (Guccini) spoke about earlier, which ties together with the great work that’s going on in the Correctional Facility. The third one being the Tick Borne Diseases Task Force which was formed in 2014 and then in 2015 the Pike County Commissioners made it an official County Initiative, which has proven to be leading the way in the Commonwealth. These awards were supposed to have been done in April in Harrisburg, but because of everything going on they were postponed. What’s going to happen is, on Monday, October 26th, from 10AM-11AM, if you visit the news page of www.pikepa.org to register or you can view it on DCED’s YouTube Channel following the live event. These are really wonderful awards that the County has received. This is a testament to the volunteers that we have in the County – this is all led by volunteers in the community. While the Commissioners sit on these and the Wardens sit on them, for the most part it is many different volunteers and citizens of our County that felt it important to be involved in these. All of them now are being recognized by the Governor’s Office as truly innovative and initiatives that have really been beneficial to everybody in Pike County and leading the way in the Commonwealth to bring attention to all of these issues that we are facing in our community. I invite everybody to tune in and give thanks to all the people who volunteered so much as they did with the award that the Correctional Facility received.

PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.