

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

The first regular meeting of November 2016 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. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Leonard "Butch" Gilpin from Hope Evangelical Free Church.

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

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

PRESENTATION OF APPROPRIATION CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,500 TO THE FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION. MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER, PRESIDENT OF THE FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION, ACCEPTED THE APPROPRIATION. Mr. Christopher explained that their duty is to respond with the Fire Departments to perform traffic control in case of an accident. They also perform scene safety, crowd control, scene security, and police assistance. He also explained that the Fire Police are not covered under the normal public safety officers' benefits under the federal government. Therefore, if there is a death or major injury, they do not get the same benefits as a police officer or a volunteer fireman. With the appropriation check and through the Association, there is an insurance policy for all members to provide them with accidental death and dismemberment benefits. A majority of the members are former firefighters who can no longer fight fires, but they still want to contribute to the community. He again thanked the Commissioners for their support. JoAnna Donahue, Treasurer of the Fire Police Association, also added that some of the money is to pay for equipment that individual fire departments cannot provide for them, such as flairs, etc. The Commissioners thanked the members of the Fire Police for their volunteer services. Questions from the press/public were entertained.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the November 2, 2016 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the October 19, 2016 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the October 24 and 27, and November 1, 2016 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$867,679.49, subject to further review.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Judge Joseph Kameen advising that he has hired, **MELISSA BARRERA**, as a full time Adult Probation Officer, for a 40 hour work week, effective November 7, 2016, with benefits after 90 days. This is to fill a newly created position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, the following individuals as full time Correctional Officers at the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective November 7, 2016, with benefits after 90 days: **STEPHANIE LANDRIO, JAMES WALKER AND ASHLEY JIMINEZ.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **DENISE STEUHL**, as a full time Food Production Supervisor at the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective October 31, 2016, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to hire **ERIC PASSARO** as a part time Training Assistant at the Training Center, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective November 7, 2016, with no benefits. This is a replacement position.

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

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

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

A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 16-31, NET Cancer Awareness Day, November 10, 2016, which was read by Commissioner Caridi and presented to Lori DeVoe.

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

Ms. DeVoe, who is a survivor fighting this cancer, explained that this is a slow growing and rare type of cancer with no cure. There is only symptom control through chemotherapy, medication and surgeries. Many times this cancer is miss diagnosed and may take an average of 5 to 7 years to diagnose. November 10th is a world-wide NET Cancer Awareness Day. Ms. DeVoe stated that she is locally starting a support group. It is very difficult to find doctors who specialize in this type of cancer. She has travelled to Tennessee and New Orleans to find doctors.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 16-32, Establishing Goals for Minimum MBE and WBE Participation.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to appoint Heather Hopkins to the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2017.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Consulting Agreement between Christine Kerstetter and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Human Development/Transportation Offices.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute Senior Rental Assistance Contract #8, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Senior Rental Assistance Subsidy Voucher from Delaware Run for November 2016 in the amount of \$1,752, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute the 2014 Community Development Block Grant Exempt Status Determination.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to accept the proposal from Ray Evans for the CDBG and HOME Programs Housing Rehabilitation Consultant.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to accept the proposal from TCI Environmental Services for the CDBG and HOME Programs Lead-Based Paint Evaluation Services.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Contract between BTM Software Solutions and the County of Pike, on behalf of the District Attorney's Office for technical consulting related to the Central Booking Center.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Pike County Correctional Facility Corrections Officers, AFSCME, AFL-CIO District Council 87 and the County of Pike.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Savin Maintenance and Service Agreement between the PA District Attorneys Institute and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the 2016-17 Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant Agreement between PA Emergency Management Agency and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Pike County Emergency Management Agency.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute Service Agreement 2016-01 between Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the County of Pike, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board, for conducting annual monitoring visits on deed restricted properties.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Purchase of Service Agreement between Geisinger Clinic for the Child Advocacy Center of the Central Susquehanna Valley and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Carl Wilgus, CEO of Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, distributed their Annual Report. Mr. Wilgus gave an overview of the statistics of the tourism industry and the affects in Carbon/Monroe/Pike Counties. He also talked about the different advertising marketing campaigns initiated this past year in promotion of our region, including the activity on the web site which is available through tablets, cell phones and desk tops. Social media activity has increased dramatically. He spoke about the growth of the tourism industry in this area. Many sports and sporting events keep the tourism going in the off-season. There are four main sources of revenues for the PMVB, which are memberships, county room tax, cooperative advertising within the memberships, and committee and other revenue opportunities. There has been a huge growth of 22.3% in room tax revenues, due to 1,100 new rooms. There has also been increasing revenues due to short term rentals. The increase allows more to be spent on advertising. There has also been some growth on website activity since Wayne County has joined and promotions are being made jointly. Keith Williams, Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors Center Manager of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, stated that the Travel Guide was a joint effort where Discover Pike evolved to the North Pocono Mountains. In prior years 40,000 catalogs were generated with some left over. This year it was bumped to 90,000 and they are running out of them. The people that are picking them up are very positive about what is inside of it. The digital billboard campaign outside of the region to make people aware of the major event in this area went extremely well. Questions were entertained at this time.

Dominion Voting Systems Ownership: Fact Check sheet was handed out. Commissioner Osterberg expressed the importance of this fact check sheet (which he read) on the County's voting machines which was released from the manufacturer of the voting machines. These machines are sanctioned by the State of Pennsylvania. On Election Day a representative from Dominion is present for any questions that may arise. Commissioner Caridi added that despite the rumors, Pike County's voting machines/systems are not connected to the internet. The only thing on the internet are the results after they are secured from the machines. The machines are not in any way accessible to the internet, so there cannot be corruption from the outside in. Each one goes through a logistics and analysis procedure to make sure that they are correctly reporting the votes that are cast. Two rovers from Dominion are paid to be on duty during the election so if there are any problems and/or complaints, they can address them. Commissioner Guccini also commented that there are no USB ports, no Bluetooth or wireless capability. They are stand-alone independent machines that do print out tapes so there is a paper trail.

Michelle Newberry, CTSP Coordinator for Lackawanna and Pike Counties, who is a coordinator by PennDot to work with the Highway Safety Program through a grant. She would get out information regarding drunk/drug/distracted driving, child passenger safety, school bus safety and bicycle safety. She has reached out to the schools, senior centers, libraries, beer distributors, etc. Ms. Newberry works in the schools, with local police departments for the Click it or Ticket Buckle Up PA, Drunk/Drug/Distracted Driving which she speaks about in schools. She visits senior centers and discusses the Mature Driver, the Yellow Dot Program, how their prescriptions affect their driving, and other different programs.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.