

**Wednesday, December 2, 2015**

The first regular meeting of December, 2015 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 Rev. Van A. Bankston of the Church of the Good Shepard & St. John the Evangelist.

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

**Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Public Hearing.**

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

**A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE KINTZ CREEK DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT 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 recommend that NRCS apply to the federal government for engineering and funding for the rehabilitation of the Kintz Creek Dam.

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

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the December 2, 2015 Agenda.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the November 18, 2015 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the November 18, 25 and December 1, 2015 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye', with the exception of Commissioner Caridi abstaining from the November 25 and December 1, 2015 minutes due to his absence. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$182,346.88, 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 **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$83,965.58.

**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 Judge Joseph Kameen advising that he has hired **ANDREW FELTZIN**, as a full time Law Clerk for the Courts, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective November 30, 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 acknowledge receipt of a letter from Judge Joseph Kameen advising that he has hired **WESLEY SPEARY**, as a full time Law Clerk for the Courts, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective November 30, 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 acknowledge receipt of a letter from Judge Joseph Kameen advising that he has hired **KIM WALKER**, as a Legal Secretary for Adult Probation, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective December 7, 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 acknowledge receipt of a letter from Judge Joseph Kameen advising that he has promoted **JUNE GONZALEZ** to Financial Caseworker for Adult Probation, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective December 14, 2015. 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 **BRENDA EVANS**, as a part time Van Driver for the Transportation Office, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective December 3, 2015, with no benefits. 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 **SALVATORE PALAZZO**, as a part time Van Driver for the Transportation Office, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective December 3, 2015, with no benefits. 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 open bids received for the purchase of fresh bread and baked goods for the Correctional Facility.

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

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid received which was from Bimbo Bakery in the amount of \$70,320.13.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to table bids received for the purchase of fresh bread and baked goods for the Correctional Facility for review until December 16, 2015.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the revision to the SRCP Program Comprehensive Grant Manual Section 4-Eligible Applicants adding "Municipal Authority" as an eligible applicant, 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 execute the SRCP Grant Contract between the Pike County Conservation District and the County of Pike, on behalf of the SRCP Program, for the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network III project, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board.

**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 CDBG 2011 and 2012 Project Extension Letters.

**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 Senior Rental Contracts #7, 8, 14A, 15A and 17.

**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 Subsidy Voucher for December 2015 in the amount of \$1,011 to Delaware Run.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting and reconvene on December 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. to present the 2016 Pike County Budget for public inspection.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Carl Wilgus, President/CEO, Keith Williams, Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors Center Manager, and Eric Ehrhardt, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau presented their Annual Report. Mr. Wilgus gave highlights of the annual report including the number of visitors to the Pocono Mountains., advertising, web site visits, social media, etc. Tourism contributes to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Pocono Mountains area. Among the increase in revenues was the growth in membership, room tax collection increased by 11% and coop advertising grew by 43%.

**PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting and reconvene on December 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. to present the 2016 Pike County Budget for public inspection.

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

**RECESS OF THE COMMISSIONERS MEETING TO BE RECONVENED AT 9:00 A.M. ON DECEMBER 9, 2015.**

**DECEMBER 9, 2015 - 9:00 a.m.**

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting of December 2, 2015.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to present the 2016 Pike County Budget for public review for 20 days and to be adopted on December 30, 2015.

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

Commissioner Caridi announced that there is no tax increase. There is a new line item in Accounts Receivable from the Commonwealth of PA for \$2 million which is what the state owes the County at this time. Commissioner Caridi stated that although the County has not received any money from the State, the County has not cut any services.

Commissioner Wagner commented that many counties get a tax anticipation loan. Usually, there is a \$1,300,000 carry over but this year there is only \$500,000. There is an operating reserve which is \$2.2 million, so if more is needed, the County can borrow from that. John Gilpin stated that the County has never had to take a tax anticipation note in his or the treasurer before him history. That is a normal part of business for our neighboring counties, but Pike is very fortunate not to have to do that. He did say that the County received a few quotes from local banks and it will not cost the County in the event that it does need to borrow money. The local banks gave the County very friendly rates and we are fortunate that the banks work with the County if need be.

**PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**