

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

The first regular meeting of February 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. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Shirley Geffrand of Faith Tabernacle Ministries, Port Jervis, NY.

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

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the February 5, 2020 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the January 22, 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 January 22 and 29, 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 **\$163,520.02**, 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 an abatement of delinquent interim taxes for a property located in Delaware Township for \$259.14 and approve an exoneration for a property located in Porter Township for \$120.08 as presented by Cynthia Gehris, Tax Claim Bureau Director.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, 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 for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective February 10, 2020 with benefits after 90 days: **MICHAEL COOK and KYLE NORMAN.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **GREGORY VAN PELT** as a full time Maintenance Staff Member for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective February 10, 2020, with benefits after 90 days. This is a newly created 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 bids for the purchase of groceries and frozen foods for the Correctional Facility as follows: Mivila - \$56,723.36; Driscoll - \$40,232.71; Sysco - \$28,268.99; Keyco - \$22,284.06; Bernard - \$12,380.80.

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. 20-03, Creating a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the appointment of Brian Noonan to the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District Board to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2021.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Marcellus Mini Grant Agreement between Palmyra Board of Supervisors and the County of Pike for \$25,000 for the Gorge Trail Development Project, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program Board.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Agreement Letter between Genevieve Davis Bus Company and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility as recommended by the Prison Board, for buses in case of emergency evacuation.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Preventative Maintenance Agreement between Winter Engine-Generator Service, Inc. and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Electronic Monitoring Service Agreement between BI Incorporated and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Probation Department.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Statement of Work/Agreement between CDI/BTM and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Probation Department for offender case management.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Contract for Professional Services between Pike County Domestic Relations and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services for testing services.

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 Heart & Wings Home, Inc. 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 authorize the Chairman to execute the Local Agency Grant Agreement for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program between the PA Department of Agriculture 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 Agreement for Subcontracted Services between Les Ely and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging for training services for a Fiscal Assistant.

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 December 2019 Pike Strategic Plan in the amount of \$1,404.83, 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 Delaware Run for the February 2020 Senior Rental Subsidy in the amount of \$2,068, on behalf of the Human Services Office.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

- Liz Forrest – League of Women Voters Centennial Birthday.
Liz Forrest announced that on February 14th the League of Women Voters turns 100 years old. Our history goes back to 1919. We have attachments in Pike County to the Suffrage movement which started at Grey Towers with the Pinchots as well as Governor Spool who signed the Pennsylvania Resolution approving the 19th Amendment. We educate voters. We try to tell the taxpayers and voters what they need to know about participating in local government. We are an organization at the national level. We have more than 700 state and local leagues with more than half a million supporters and members. Our local chapter was founded in 2015. We were told at the time that we were the first new chapter, new league, to be created in Pennsylvania in more than 20 years. We are a completely non-partisan group. We do not support political parties or candidates. We do provide a non-partisan platform for candidate forums as well as instructional seminars that local officials and some of the county personnel, particularly Nadeen (Manzoni, Pike County Elections Director), have been very generous and supportive of. They have given us access to the Training Center in order to have some of these programs. We register people to vote. Not only are we 100 this year, but we will be celebrating our 100th year of Suffrage in this Country for women. We will be participating in the National Day of Action, which the League of Women Voters U.S. has called. On February 14th we will instigate a social media blast to achieve several objections. We believe this is a way that anybody can participate and reach out to non-members through social media. Many of our members are snow birds and they can do this activity on the internet from wherever they may be. We are in a Tri-State area and will be reaching across to other States- it's not just about Pennsylvania. There have been changes to Election Law this year that don't necessarily have anything to do with New Jersey or New York, but we still need to let them know to get out and to vote. We're going to use non-partisan messages on social media and media to educate the public on Mail-In Ballots. Nadeen Manzoni has put together a brochure to tell you about Mail-In Ballots. This is the first time that you

can apply for the ballot on line and it can be mailed in. If people think they can't get a day off to go and vote, they can sign up for Mail-In Ballots from now until forever and they will automatically get the ballots mailed prior to every election. We want to get the word out there. There are extended voter registration windows. In the past you had to register by 30 days before the election, now it's down to 15 days. These are things we want to let people know. People don't realize they can register on-line. Go to: votespa.com. These are things that we want to blast on-line through social media so they understand – it's easier to vote now. At vote411.org we have a non-partisan site where you can go and check out any State or National candidate and, many times, Local candidates and it's all on-line. Anyone can register to vote on-line. We also want people to participate in the 2020 Census. We are going to be re-apportioned. People who make those decisions need to know how many people are here in Pike County and where they live. This will start to happen on April 1st. We try to encourage people to do that as well. We're going to use paid Facebook advertising. We're going to be boosting posts so that you can share them with friends. You can use your e-mail accounts to do it. The best social media that there is—we will be giving you information face to face. Talk to your friends. We'll provide materials. Contact us if you would like to participate. All you have to do is go to our webpage or Facebook page and share it with your group. It is totally non-partisan. I hope that you participate. It's been a pleasure to work with the Commissioners of Pike County and Nadeen Manzoni has been great. Contact information and cards were circulated with the Fall (2019) schedule, not for the Winter yet. It shows you the kind of activities we participate in. Thank you very much. Commissioner Osterberg added that we recognize the women in Pike County that have stood out over the last century: Cornelia Bryce Pinchot; Dorothy Stroh Tisdale, from Milford Borough, first elected female District Attorney in the State beating an incumbent who held office for 31 years; Margaret Mary Jonas, first female County Commissioner; Honorable Kelly Gaughan, first female Judge; Shirley Reardon, first female Borough Councilperson; and Cordelia Christianson, not from Pike County, but was the campaign manager for Gifford Pinchot in the 1920's – he made her the District Manager of Penn DOT in the 1920's and 1930's. She lived to be 101 years old and I have a history of her life that she wrote when she was 93 years old. Liz Forrest added that they are thinking about doing a program with Commissioner Osterberg for the actual Anniversary on August 18th—we would love to have Commissioner Osterberg be a part of that in any way. We have other things that are coming up, but haven't done the cards yet.

- Shannon Wisniewski – Carbon/Monroe/Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission.

Shannon Wisniewski said Catholic Social Services was a primary drug and alcohol provider in Pike County for a number of years and they closed in December. The Caron/Monroe/Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission decided they were going to open a standing unit in Pike County. We did that and have been open for 6 weeks, licensed by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. We have counselors on staff. We have seen about 70 Pike County residents. The office is a fully functional drug and alcohol outreach program. We offer levels of care in our office intensive out-patient and out-patient services. We have case managers and counselors in the level of cares will access people to the full continuum of care. Accessing detox services and rehab services for clients that need that. We started with a counsel at the Pike County Correctional Facility who is offering out-patient services there. We are working with inmates there as well as offering groups that focus on MRT, which is a cognitive behavioral therapy that functions to help with their addictive behaviors and some of the criminal behaviors that have gone with that. We offer that in the office too so when they're discharged from the correctional facility they can continue with those services. We also offer an (866) number, (866) 824-3578, a 24 hour hotline to access treatment any point in the day. We are the provider and funder for people that don't have insurance or are underinsured. Those people that don't have insurance can call the hotline or come into the office and still access the full continuum of care. We are working with the Pike County Probation Department in the court system to offer the CRN assessments and the alcohol program. The CRN assessment is the court required Court Reporting Network assessment. The assessment looks at people at risk of recidivism, people who have had prior DUI's and what kind of services are going to be needed moving forward. Report Chris Jones asked where the local office is located? Shannon answered 10 Buist Road, Suite 201, Milford, PA 18337 (the Milford Professional Plaza). Commissioner Guccini added that nobody had any notice about Catholic Social Services leaving and, within a couple of months, Carbon/Monroe/Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission did the facility over again. They remodeled it, got the licensing and has just been pretty remarkable how quickly they have gotten it done.

- Jill Gamboni – Reality Tour – April 23 and May 14, 2020.

Jill announced she is from the Pike County Alliance for Prevention Programs (PCAP). We sponsor any kind of prevention program or help to raise money for any kind of prevention program. We conduct a Reality Tour, which is a drug prevention program. We will have them on April 23rd and May 14th of this year at the Milford Bible Church. There is a flyer in the packet circulated. We send about 1,800 flyers to the schools and we never get more than 50 people to show up. We need to get the word of mouth to get out there about this. A meeting attendee asked if they have an electronic version of the flyer that can be shared on-line? Jill answered she does, e-mail me at: jgamboni@pahousegop.com or (570) 390-9102 and it is on the County website: www.pikepa.org. It is a 3 hour program and we do it 4 times a year. We've had to cancel in the past, but the last couple I have gotten pretty good participation. We ask for sponsorship because it costs money to mail 1,800 flyers out. Kannebecker and Mincer was our sponsor for this program and I thank them for that. It is for children 10 and over with their parent—they must bring a parent. This is a licensed program. It's at the Milford Bible Church because that is where the license is – I cannot take this around Pike County, it is not a travelling program. That is why we have to do it there. I have been asked to do it all over the place and I can't do that. The annual fee for the license is \$3,500.00 and that is paid by our District Attorney. Commissioner Osterberg added it is a preventative measure that is effective. We need to be sure that people will get the word out and come with their children. It's important that we make sure that the press and everybody talks about this. It's about addiction, risky behavior and if you haven't been to it – go. It's well done. Jill puts her heart and soul into this along with many other volunteers. Jill said they teach different things to the kids on how to say no. It promotes drug testing children at a very young age so that it's just part of your family health policy. When I started this program 12 years ago the average age a child began using drugs was 13. Now the average age is 9.

Reporter Chris Jones stated that, the age (of drug use) has gone down, while you're doing the program, that doesn't compute. Jill responded it's that we're not getting to everybody – I don't know. We do preview surveys and exit surveys because it is licensed and I have to report back. We know if they've learned something that night, we ask very specific questions on the exit survey. We have a good idea of what they learned and what they took away with them, other than that there is no follow up afterward. Commissioner Osterberg added that the age of drug use is a national average, not necessarily Pike County. We need to do something and this is just another tool for prevention. Another meeting attendee asked if there is a different kind of license that is available that would allow the program to travel? Jill answered no. The license is site specific and costs \$3,500.00. Our Board has talked about raising money to purchase another license, but our numbers are so low we can't justify doing that right now. In Butler County there is a wait list of a year to get into this program. Something is missing here and I'm not sure what it is because we've been doing it for 12 years.

- Tim Knapp, Emergency Management Director and Jordan Wisniewski, Director of Operations-2019 Training Center Usage Stats.

Jordan Wisniewski, Pike County Training Center, said in 2019 we had just over 300 events at the Training Center and just under 1,500 hours of training there – it was a very busy year. May and June are our busy months. June was our busiest month for events which was 41. That ranges from fire training, EMS training, law enforcement training, Pike County Children & Youth Services and the Pike County Correctional Facility uses our facility. We offer a variety of training. There is a big push right now for the EMS prices with the shortage of volunteers. We are pushing different ways to fund. We are trying to get the EMS Courses scheduled right now so that we have our EMT going. There is a limit of EMT instructors now.

For 2020 we have classes scheduled all the way to December. We have our Essentials Program which takes a firefighter off the street to be an interior qualified firefighter and that kicks off March 3rd. This past January we had 35 or 36 more people than we did last year in January. We are already above January's totals. The other night we did a class that we designed specifically for Pike County responders to discuss problems. We had just about 60 people in that room that night to listen to what we had to say. We are designing a lot of courses for the volunteer shortage to narrow down what these departments and agencies can do to better themselves and have better response times and better response qualified people. Tim Knapp added that January of this year we have seen our first class being hosted as our own ETA - Educational Training Agency. Normally, we would run all of our classes through Bucks County Community College. Right now we are transitioning into becoming an EMS/ETA. Basically, we feel that if we become our own EMS/ETA, this is going to afford us the quality control we need and the ability to hire our own instructors. A lot of exciting stuff is going on. There is a class every day. These last few weeks we've been busy day and night. Jordan added that we are there for the responders, whatever they want to do, we make it happen whether it is the day or night, we try to accommodate them to make it happen. Commissioner Schmalzle asked for them to touch on the partnership you're creating with the School District. Tim explained that he will come back and go full segment by bringing in a Superintendent from the school with us. Wallenpaupack is going to start a CTA (Career Tech Academy) program. This fall will be the first run of it. At the end of the pilot program if there is enough interest then we feel we can go recruiting at the school yearly. We feel there will be enough interest in this to make it happen. They will do the following year to a CTA where they'll start as a sophomore and do one year fire, one year EMS and one year in Law. At the end of that you have the ability to come up with 60 college credits before you leave high school. You are combat ready in 50 states. We did a lot of research on this and went to other counties to see how their programs work. It's difficult because when you go to these other counties there are a lot of people there. They have waiting lists, we have to make sure that we're going to have full classes so the schools make a commitment to hire an instructor and everything else to run this program. We think the pilot program with the school is going to work well. We're going to the school as early as next month to start recruiting. Jordan reiterated that they will come out of the program with nearly 60 college credits, national certifications as firefighters' and national certifications as EMT's. Commissioner Guccini asked Tim about some of the costs like how much money it would save by people actually doing the training, by becoming your own training facility rather than farming it out? Tim answered that right now by the time you take the EMS course you're about \$900.00 into it. Doing the leg work and becoming our own ETA or EMS we will be able to lower than cost to about \$400.00. That is a big savings – we're basically cutting out the middle man. Commissioner Osterberg said when we talk about scholarship programs, by them driving the costs down, it makes the money donated to us months ago by Mr. Ohliger and Ms. Zimmerman's law firm (\$5,000) and stretches that even further. We can now cover those costs to the individuals looking to train. Before it was nearly \$1,000.00, now they can drive that costs down to about \$300.00 or \$400.00. Tim added that we can't be successful without the people in Pike County. We have some of the best volunteers in the State of Pennsylvania and without them we are nothing. Nadeen Manzoni, Pike County Elections Director, said that she has spoken to Tim and he agreed that, with the focus on security and protecting our 2020 elections, he will train our poll workers on emergency practices. We will set that up for some time in October.

- Penn State Calendar of Events – February 15-29, 2020.
- Area Agency on Aging Calendar of Events – February 2020.

PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Reporter Chris Jones asked about the Gorge Trail Development. Commissioner Guccini explained that there is an existing trail and it starts at the dyke at Lake Wallenpaupack and goes north of the lake behind the school district. It will be designed to connect that portion in Pike County and part of Wayne County to the trail in Hawley, PA. If you're driving Route 6 in Wayne County, across the river there is a steep embankment/gorge-it's going to be on that side. They are trying to connect those 2 trail systems.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.