

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

The first regular meeting of April 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. Pastor Ben Willis of the First Presbyterian Church in Milford offered the opening prayer.

PRESENT: Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg; Chief Clerk Orben; Assistant Solicitor Beecher.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEM MOVED TO THIS POINT

Pike County Interagency Council presenting David Willson, Aging Comfortably at Home - Modification and In-Home Assistance. Mr. Willson of Aging Comfortably at Home, LLC, handed out brochures on modifications and in-home living assistance and making your home safe for independent living for senior citizens. Aging Comfortable at Home is now being sponsored by United Yokefellow Ministry to serve a large portion of the elderly population in need of financial assistance for home modifications. ACAH works with subcontractors, manages all contracts, and is the contact for the client, their families and subcontractors to serve the needs of the senior citizen population.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the April 1, 2015 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the March 18, 2015 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the March 18, 25 and 31, 2015 Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$632,687.48, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **DEBT SERVICE FUND (PNC-interest)**, in the amount of \$12,887.94.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **HOTEL TAX FUND (March blog)**, in the amount of \$100.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$38,355.35.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe, advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, the following individuals as Correctional Officers for the Correctional Facility, effective April 6, 2015, for a 40 hour work week, with benefits after 90 days: **JOHN CAHILL, CHRISTIAN FILS-AIME AND CHRISTOPHER MALZAHN.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe, advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **JOHN BEIHL** to fill a Maintenance position at the Correctional Facility, effective April 6, 2015, for a 40 hour work week, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Sheriff Philip Bueki advising that he has hired **JOHN CONTE** as a full time Deputy Sheriff, effective April 6, 2015, for a 40 hour work week, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

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

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

A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to open bids received for the CDBG Matamoras Borough Firehouse Residing Project.

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

Assistant Solicitor Beecher opened the following bids: Zitone Construction & Supply Company Inc. in the amount of \$98,630; and Grimm Construction in the amount of \$154,146.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to table bids received for the CDBG Matamoras Borough Firehouse Residing Project until April 15, 2015 for review by CDBG Consultant and Solicitor.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to open bids received for the sale of the following vehicles: 2004 Subaru WRX Impreza, VIN #JF1GD67554H518206, 158,494 miles, AS IS, minimum bid of \$4,000; and 2007 Ford Mustang, VIN #1ZVFT80N375336733, 96,917 miles, AS IS, minimum bid of \$6,000.

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

No bids were received, therefore, it was suggested to re-advertise for bids.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to re-advertise for bids for the sale of the following vehicles: 2004 Subaru WRX Impreza, VIN #JF1GD67554H518206, 158,494 miles, AS IS, minimum bid of \$4,000; and 2007 Ford Mustang, VIN #1ZVFT80N375336733, 96,917 miles, AS IS, minimum bid of \$6,000.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to open bids received for the leasing of approximately 80 acres of tillable fields for the purpose of planting for the 2015 growing season.

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

Assistant Solicitor Beecher opened the only bid which was from Julio Santos in the amount of \$2,500.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to accept the bid in the amount of \$2,500 from Julio Santos for the leasing of approximately 80 acres of tillable fields for the purpose of planting for the 2015 growing season.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to adopt Resolution No. 15-07, Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation – April 2015, which was read by Commissioner Osterberg.

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

David Bever of Safe Haven introduced his staff Molly Carson, Hayley McLeish and Rebecca Ken, and new outreach advocate, Myia Woodson. Mr. Bever stated that the theme for this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is "No means no". It is important to discuss not only "risk reduction" with potential victims but also to discuss "don't rape, don't sexually assault, be respectful" with young men in particular. Safe Haven is a shelter for domestic violence victims and also sexually assaulted victims. Mr. Bever thanked Orange & Rockland Utilities, Davis Chant Real Estate, Glass King in Port Jervis, Sharon and Gene Lewis, Ray's Auto Repair, Wayne Memorial Health, Whispering Pines and Pike County Taxi for their sponsorship and support. There are several events for fundraising and awareness efforts. Grotto Restaurant is hosting a fund raising dinner on April 10; the first "Take Back the Night" event will be held on April 22; and Open House at Safe Haven will be held on April 24 from 2-4 for the opening of the Tranquility Project; a Child Safety Fair on April 25th at St. Vincent DePaul Church; and the last event at the Pike County Library on April 30 will be

Child Abuse Town Hall working with a multi-disciplinary investigative team that looks at child abuse cases. Safe Haven will also be working with some churches in the area doing a Candlelight Vigil on April 13th to recognize victims of sexual assault.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Master Agreement between Beach Lake Sprinkler Corp. and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Remote Dial In 2015 Accreditation Quote from Esitech, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute the 2014 Consolidated Capital Assistance Vehicle Grant Agreement between the PA Department of Transportation and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Transportation Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Lien Mortgage Satisfaction, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to execute the Senior Rental Assistance subsidy voucher from Delaware Run for April 2015 in the amount of \$1,850, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to execute the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Grant Application for the Victim Witness Program (VOJO), on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.

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

District Attorney Ray Tonkin announced that funds for this grant are up 36% for the victims of juvenile offenders. This is now an 18 month project instead of an annual project.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Commissioner Osterberg stated that the Reality Tour was very successful and the next one will be held on April 23. There are still some openings although not many. Health issues are an important topic in Pike County, such as drug awareness and lyme disease. In the next month, Erin Stroyan of MHDS will be having first aid classes at the Pike County Public Library. These are free trainings. Youth training will be held on April 7 and 9 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. This is for adults but deals with mental health and first aid needs for children. The adult mental health and first aid will be on April 28 and 30. Brochures were distributed and you can also register at the library. Commissioner Osterberg asked that the media spread the word about these trainings.

Commissioner Caridi stated that in the ongoing efforts to address the drug problem with our youngsters and parents, the Commissioners are trying to establish a Reality Tour at the Wallenpaupack School. Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg, and Jill Gamboni did have a meeting with the Assistant Superintendent to try and reinstitute that program there. Hopefully this will happen next year so that both ends of the county will have the Reality Tour available. Jill informed the Commissioners that she did get a positive feedback from Wayne County Heroin Task Force and she feels that this will be a good partnership. Commissioner Osterberg said that there are numbers of ways of addressing the drug problem, one of which has to do with the drug courts on the Judicial side. While the County funds that, the Commissioners do not operate that program. That is done through the Judiciary, but what the Commissioners can do is help facilitate organizations like the Reality Tour to help raise awareness of mental health and educate people about the harmful effects that opiates are having in our community. The Commissioners part is to push the education part of it and try to find the funding and treatment through the Correctional Facility and also trying to extend treatment out on the street to the general population. The Commissioners are trying to get grant programs to extend treatment through Catholic Social Services. As far as the drug court, Commissioner Osterberg said that the Commissioners support that, although there are some who think that the Board of Commissioners do not support it. This is going to take time for the Judiciary to process. In May of 2014, the Commissioners sent a letter to the Judges saying that they support drug court and asking what the Commissioners need to do. The Courts need to give a budget to the Commissioners so that they know what to expend on this. Commissioner Osterberg does not want the misleading information to indicate that the Commissioners are doing nothing. The

Commissioners are doing something every day to address the drug issues. Reiterating what Commissioner Caridi previously stated, they did meet with Wallenpaupack School to address and assist the schools get the education program out there. Commissioner Caridi stated that all three Commissioners did sign the letter to the Courts requesting that they pursue a drug court in Pike County. Commissioner Wagner stated that he and Commissioner Osterberg went to CCAP in Harrisburg and that he attended a Courts and Corrections Committee meeting (which he has been on for the past 12 years). He spoke to Mary Beth from the AOPC which is the Court Department, and she told him that it is up to the Judges. It is a decision that the Judge has to make, the Commissioners have to help with the funding, but ultimately the decision is within the Judiciary.

A member of Safe Haven recognized the causes of substance abuse. Many of their clients are users of substances because of root causes of other issues such as sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, etc. She offered Safe Haven as a partner with the Commissioners for victims who have those issues. Commissioner Osterberg said that all the parties need to be brought together to work as a community. Commissioner Osterberg stated that he has heard throughout the police force that we are not going to arrest our way out of this problem. We need to treat the root causes. It will take everyone together to accomplish this feat.

On to another topic, Commissioner Caridi said that recently there seems to be a renewed interest in the logistics behind the decision that the County made to end the recycling program in Pike County, and defer that responsibility to private waste haulers. He went on to explain that there are a number of reasons why the Commissioners did that and he believes that what must be readdressed is the press release that was provided to the media and the public on April 15, 2012. In the interest of transparency and to clarify some misinterpretations and misinformation, the Commissioners put recreated and reissued the same packet that was handed out in 2012 so that the public would understand why the recycling program was ended as a County-wide program and deferred to private industry. The reasons stated in 2012 were the loss of hauler licensing revenue due to DEP changes in licensing requirements, loss of Monroe County recycling revenue to the reduction and downturn of the recycling markets, the loss of DEP grant funding due to the shortage of state funds and due to the increase in priority funding for communities mandated by law to initiate a recycling program. Once a municipality reaches a population level of 10,000, they are mandated by the state to begin their own municipal recycling program. There are two municipalities that have reached that, namely, Dingman and Lehman, and two others that are very close to that in Lackawaxen and Delaware. Also, Pike County as a County is not mandated to provide county-wide recycling. There was a decrease in administrative fees paid by landfills to the County due to less municipal solid waste going to landfills. In 2010 the Commissioners' began a privatization of the County recycling program that resulted in increased expenses. There was an introduction of many private haulers providing curbside single-stream recycling services to county residents. Commissioner Caridi stated that he was a strong proponent of terminating this program because he lives ½ mile back in the woods. He has been which Charlie Steuhl for almost 40 years or more, and all of a sudden County Waste purchased his business, came up one day and brought a green recycling container and a grey trash container. He received no price increase for removing the recyclables and he asked himself and fellow Commissioners why are we taxing our friends and neighbors to pay for a program that is losing money when we are being provided the same service curbside at our homes and people don't have to take their recyclables to a central location, spending gas, time and money to do that. It made no sense to be in competition with private industry when they are providing it at a better cost. Why duplicate the cost to the taxpayers privately as well as publicly to maintain a county-wide recycling program. That is Commissioner Caridi's personal experience. Since that time, this has expanded throughout the County with numerous additional waste haulers. He continued that Dingman and Lehman are two of the municipalities that would no longer even participate in the County-wide recycling program because they reached the population level that mandates that they participate on their own. Commissioner Wagner stated that it is almost a third of the population of the County.

Commissioner Caridi referred to the second handout which validates everything that was said. In July 2012, Christine Kerstetter, then Recycling Coordinator, prepared a budget on the Recycling Program. The acceleration of losses that were suffered by the County for recycling was noted in this budget. Commissioner Caridi pointed out the progression of the losses being incurred. Put that together with the fact that private industry is providing this to homeowners at no extra cost it seems senseless to duplicate the service and tax the homeowners at the same time. Using that information as a basis, the Commissioners took a hard look at the recycling program and made some hard decisions. On August 15, 2012 a press release was issued outlining the Commissioners' decision to suspend the recycling program in Pike County. On November 30, 2012 the Commissioners wrote a letter to waste haulers discontinuing collecting the \$7.00 per ton recycling sustainability fee. Contrary to what people have been led to believe in the newspapers, the Commissioners do not collect that fee. The Commissioners sent a letter to the landfills as well as the waste haulers saying that the fee was being suspended, no longer collected. On February 28, 2013, the Commissioners' Conference minutes showed a meeting with Mike Bedrin, the Northeast Regional Director of DEP, along with Bill Tomayko, Berit Case and Bob Pitcavage, after realizing and after the County sent him a letter stating that the Commissioners were going to suspend recycling as a County-wide service. On March 1, 2013 there was a newspaper article in the Pocono Record with quotes from Mr. Bedrin. "DEP Regional Director Michael Bedrin agreed that the preliminary data show curbside recycling pickup is working. Based on that, the DEP will allow Pike Co make a non-

substantial change to its plan. Bedrin said other counties are talking about changing their plans as well.” On August 13, 2013, the Commissioners sent a letter to DEP identified non-substantial changes to the Pike County Solid Waste Plan Revision. On February 4, 2014 a letter was sent to the Commissioners from DEP regarding the Pike County Solid Waste Plan Revision. These documents were put together without identifying people and names, but to deal with the issues and not subjective material. The Commissioners were accused of violating regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection by ignoring the process to update the County’s Solid Waste Municipal Plan. The evidentiary documents were just presented by the Commissioners’ to validate what they did and that they followed the rules and regulation from DEP. There is also an accusation that the \$7 fee on county waste was not rescinded. There is a document in the packet that shows that they County sent a letter to cease collecting the \$7 per ton fee. Commissioner Wagner said that obviously the incumbents are always subject to criticism, especially every 4 years when other people are running for office, and that is part of the game. The problem is, and what Commissioner Wagner takes offence to, is that is you are going to put something in the paper criticizing incumbents, you have to be accurate. If you’re accurate then we accept it. When it’s said that the Commissioners did something illegal by not notifying the townships, which they did, by not having a public hearing which they did, and mainly by not getting DEP approval to revise the plan, which they did get DEP approval, that is what Commissioner Wagner took offense to. So no laws were violated.

Commissioner Osterberg said that they mentioned that the \$7 was some type of windfall for the haulers. The \$7 was being paid by the haulers to the landfill. It wasn’t the other way around. The haulers weren’t getting \$7, and Commissioner Osterberg said that he doesn’t even know who they thought the \$7 was coming from unless all of us as residents were going out to hand the hauler \$7 every time they stopped. Commissioner Osterberg said that he was confused by that, but the landfills were told to stop collecting the \$7 from the haulers, because that’s who was paying it per ton. There have since been comments like are the taxpayers going to get back the \$7. This is what happens when people write articles that don’t know the facts. The \$7 was not being paid to the haulers, it was the other way around, and obviously from the enclosed documents, the landfills were told to stop collecting the \$7 from the haulers. Commissioner Osterberg said that that information needs to get out there as the truth. The private sector seems to be operating this pretty efficiently, and one of the sheets that were handed out shows that recycling has gone up in Pike County. In 2011 there were 2,620 tons. In 2012 with the County only operating the program until September and then the private haulers taking over for the last three months, it went up to 4,416 tons. It seems to Commissioner Osterberg that the private haulers have been able to do this a lot more efficiently and a lot more convenient to the residents, because they come to your house to pick them up. The next year in 2013, it went up again to 4,560 tons and in 2014 it dropped down to 3,914 tons, but no matter what the number has always been higher than when the County operated the program, while at the same time spending almost \$600,000 of tax payers dollars for the County to do this. It does not seem to be a very effective way for the County to be in business. Commissioner Osterberg argued that the County is not in business, so let the private haulers handle this project. They seem to be doing a fine job for the County. Again, the County is not going to pick up for 1/3 of the population, because they are mandated by their townships.

Commissioner Caridi explained that it should be understood how the County arrived at the tonnage rates. The private haulers have, by law or statute, to report to Christine Kerstetter every year their tonnage totals. That information then gets sent to DEP, so they are regulated as well as accountable, and that’s how the Commissioners can track and make graphs as to how much more they are actually accumulating and picking up than what was done previously on a county-wide basis, because it is more convenient for the people to walk out into their driveways and dump their recyclables and have them picked up, than to have them go to collection sites.

Commissioner Osterberg said you can see in the original packet from 2012, what was going on at those collection sites. People were not just throwing recyclables. They were throwing garbage, because these were unmonitored. The County could not afford to have someone sit there and watch people come in to drop off their recyclables. They were throwing garbage, lumber, everything else you could possibly think of and then the County had to pick up the expense to go and clean that all up. He showed pictures of the sites. The people that had these properties said somebody has to come clean this mess up, so the County had someone on staff that would go around and pick up all the trash. The other contributing factor was that the Commissioners could not control who was dumping trash, recyclables and garbage at these sites so a lot of commercial enterprises which shouldn’t be were, and the County was taxing the residents to pay for County personnel to pick all this up and clean it to be in cooperation with the site owners to allow the County to continue to put the containers there. Obviously, private industry can regulate that when they go to your home to pick that up and if you’re a commercial enterprise, you are going to pay commercial rates to the private hauler. When the Commissioners met with Mr. Bedrin, he also stated “Other counties are talking about changing their plan as well”. Commissioner Caridi said this is because it is not cost effective, especially when private industry is engaged in this to do it at the same prices they are picking up your trash at curbside. Commissioner Caridi showed an advertisement pulled from a large community newspaper over the weekend from Waste Management for recycling pick up dates in the community, bring your aluminum, trash, bottles, etc. No cost involved. Why should the County tax the residents for the same service. Homeowners in this County have suffered enough to keep their houses because of the taxes that are levied from the school, municipality and County. The Commissioners don’t want to add to that burden to build a County empire on something that is

more easily, more proficiently and more economically provided by private industry. Commissioner Caridi followed up on comments made by Commissioner Wagner without interjecting politics. The writers of the article that criticized the Commissioners have never been to a meeting where recycling was discussed. Neither of those writers were here three years ago when the Commissioners decided to end the County-wide recycling program, nor had they ever put in an open records request to ask for information about recycling and neither one of those individuals has ever sat down and talked to Christine, who ran the program, to be educated about recycling. So the question Commissioner Caridi has, using deductive reasoning, is where did you get your information, and why?

Commissioner Wagner said it was obvious to him that someone composed a letter for them, which is fine, except that they didn't have the knowledge to compose the letter and they didn't check out the facts, they just put it in the paper.

Commissioner Caridi, on a personal note, working for Karl for four years and serving with him for 12 years, and the three Commissioners working together for four years, he said, speaking on behalf of the three Commissioners, that when someone impugns your integrity and maligns you in the newspaper for something you have not done we take offense to it because it is hurtful. The Commissioners strive very diligently here to be faithful stewards of everything that they are entrusted to do and protect the people of the County. The Commissioners made the decision based on the fact that they would not have to take more money away from the residents, constituents, friends and neighbors because someone else was providing the same service for free. That's why the packets of information were distributed to justify historically as well as currently the Commissioners' position. They have tried very ardently to remain aloof from the politics, but they certainly needed an audience to defend themselves and their decision making process, and their integrity.

Reporter Dave Hulse asked if this would have been brought up in a non-campaign year. The Commissioners responded that the question would have to be asked of those that brought it up. The audience agreed that it would not have been brought up. Dave Hulse asked if these same questions were asked after 2012 up to this point. The Commissioners responded no, this has never been an issue before because the Commissioners felt that they did an adequate job informing the public as to why they made the decision.

Commissioner Osterberg stated that it was not an easy decision to make because it was in the County for a number of years. In fact, in 2012 the Commissioners put out RFPs to see if they should continue the program and see if it could be done in a different format at a cheaper price. There were two bids that were submitted then. This was just money that was to be paid to the haulers and had nothing to do with the expenses to the County of the employees, the clean-up, etc. One bid was \$460,000 and the other bid was for \$350,000. So it was still an expense to the County to do this, and on top of those expenses, the other aforementioned expenses had to be added, which included trucks which were in constant need of repairs, two employees, etc. Commissioner Osterberg said the program wasn't just ended like that. The Commissioners' made some hard decisions and they met with all the haulers and asked them their opinions. The haulers said they could do this curbside and include it. He said if you go online and to some of the waste haulers in the community, you will find out that to have garbage picked up in this County it costs \$22 per month including a free recycling container. So you get the recycling picked up right at your front door. This was a hard decisions, but the right business decision to be made. We should be spending a half a million dollars of taxpayers money on something that these guys are doing?

Commissioner Caridi stated that one of the contributing factors that heavily weighed on the Commissioners' minds was the fact that DEP stopped a lot of the grants for equipment purchases. The Commissioners were looking for a new recycling truck for the cost of a half a million dollars once it was outfitted. Previously this money was obtained through grants from DEP, but the grants were terminated. DEP is in a \$50 million a year deficit for the grants.

Someone from the audience said that they live in the Woodlands and a lot of the residents don't have curbside. They drive down to the community to drop off. She asked if the Commissioners have a feeling for the number of residents that actually have curbside. Commissioner Osterberg said that is located in Dingman Township and they are mandated. Commissioner Osterberg said that anyone that does not live in a community has curbside. He didn't know how they pick up garbage in Sunrise. Christine Kerstetter responded that it is curbside. Commissioner Osterberg said if you just look at the numbers of how much more is being collected in recycling, obviously whether you're putting it into the big containers at the Woodlands or someone in Sunrise is getting picked up curbside, there is more recycling going on in this County ever than when the County had the project. Commissioner Caridi said that was an excellent point, just to make a summarization. If the interest is to encourage recycling and protect the environment and the tonnage has increased each year considerably, dramatically, then obviously they have accomplished their goal by not having the County in it and deferring it private industry.

Christine Kerstetter commented that back in 2012 another decision that was made was that haulers were already picking it up at curbside while the County was still running the program on top of that.

So again, why compete with the private sector. Information obtained through DEP noted that 70% of the state's municipalities are using private haulers.

Commissioner Wagner said that the other thing to keep in mind is the \$7 fee to help run the recycling program, the Commonwealth Court ruled that any County in the state that imposed that fee could not do so any longer because under Act 101 only the state can impose a tipping fee, which they do. They collect \$2.00 a ton, but local municipalities could not under Act 101 impose their own administrative fee of \$7. When the landfill was called on that, that was going to go away. If that went away, then it would cost the taxpayers a lot more than it's costing them now.

Commissioner Caridi said he hopes that they have done a commendable and adequate job to try and communicate, although he is not trying to be condescending. There is a lot of information. The Commissioners have summarized this in 15 minutes, but this was years in development making decisions, talking to people, getting permission, assessing costs, expenses, loss of revenues. The Commissioners still stand by their decision. He thinks it was the right thing to do. Tonnage has gone up and they have relieved the taxpayer the burden of paying for it.

Commissioner Osterberg thought it important to note that while you say revenues, that there are also claims that we lost \$1.1 million. He doesn't know quite how you do that math, because if you look at the sheet that was distributed, we were losing a half million dollars. Prior years when the state was giving the County grant money, the program was looking like it was making money. It wasn't free. The State was giving the County a grant to operate the program and then that dried up, and commodities were up. Let the waste haulers deal with the commodity price and they are. They are in business. They are hiring people in this county to provide a service to this County. Who are we to compete with them to do it. It's a business decision.

In other business, an update on the Kimbles bridge was presented. Commissioner Caridi stated that another meeting was held with two engineers, Palmyra Township's Supervisor Tom Simons, their Road Master Brian Matthews, and they are putting bid specs together for a temporary reinforcement even though it may only last two years, to get the bridge open as rapidly as possible. They are hoping to get the bridge temporarily fixed by June. The specs are still being developed and the road is still closed. Contractors have already been contacted to get them in line because there is an emergency repair resolution because they understand the urgency.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.