

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

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 Doug Rhine of Blooming Grove Baptist Church offered the opening prayer.

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

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

Presentation of \$100,000 to Pastor Niels Nielsen, representative of Habitat for Humanity. These funds are from Act 137 funds for Affordable Housing which are collected through the recording of deeds. Habitat for Humanity is in the process of building houses 21 and 22, one of which is handicapped accessible. Pastor Nielsen stated that the handicapped accessible house is for Ian Knox, long time resident and County employee. There is still a mortgage on the homes but with no interest. He thanked the Commissioners for their support and partnership.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the April 2, 2014 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the March 19, 2014 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the March 17, 21, 26 and April 1, 2014 Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$716,972.63, 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 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND (Habitat for Humanity)**, in the amount of \$100,000.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **ACT 44 FUND (Upgrade Bridge Design Software)**, in the amount of \$100.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **HOTEL TAX FUND (Gelderman & Appropriations)**, in the amount of \$29,250.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$81,516.77.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, 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 April 21, 2014, with benefits after 90 days: **NATALIE CUNNINGHAM, JUSTIN ESPOSITO, RYAN JONES, PATRICK KERR, SOPHIA KRESSE, RICHARD LEANDRY AND MARTA SMICKLE.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to hire **MARIANNE EDWARDS** as a part time Van Driver for the Transportation Office, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective April 3, 2014, with no benefits.

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 Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, 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 the bids received for the sale of a 2002 Ford Econoline Club Wagon, VIN #1FBSS31S32HA47911, with 73,583 miles, AS IS.

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

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid received which was from Jersey One Auto Sales in the amount of \$2,331.99.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to award the bid for the 2002 Ford Econoline Club Wagon, VIN #1FBSS31S32HA47911, with 73,583 miles, AS IS, to Jersey One Auto Sales for \$2,331.99.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to open letters of interest received for the local bridge inspection program.

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

Solicitor Farley opened the letters of interest from the following: HRG (Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.), Harrisburg; CECO Associates, Scranton; Dawood Engineering, Allentown; Basset Engineering, Montoursville; Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson; Pickering, Corts & Summerson; CC Johnson & Malhotra, Camp Hill; and McGoey, Hauser & Edsall, Milford. The Solicitor and Chief Clerk will review the letters, make a recommendation to PennDot, and await a final decision from PennDot.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to table letters of interest received for the local bridge inspection program for 60 days until June 4th, 2014.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to adopt Resolution No. 14-07, Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation, April, 2014, which was read by Commissioner Wagner, and presented to members of Safe Haven of Pike County. Dave Bever, Executive Director of Safe Haven, asked the men of Pike County to sign a commitment to support the end of violence towards others. Mr. Bever gave an overview of the programs that will be held this month. Safe Haven was awarded a grant for \$87,000 from LSA Gaming Funds which will be used to improve the building they are currently occupying. The funds will also be used to establish a tranquility garden. Mr. Bever thanked all the sponsors who support Safe Haven.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to adopt Resolution No. 14-08, National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 6-12, 2014, which was read by Commissioner Osterberg, and presented to Mary Beth Sayles, Victim Witness Coordinator with the District Attorney's Office. Ms. Sayles explained that this is the 30th year of celebrating Victims' Rights Week and that a rally will be held in Harrisburg on Monday, April 7th. She also presented an information board which will be displayed in the lobby of the Administration Building with services that are provided for crime victims.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to adopt Resolution No. 14-09, Calling for the Implementation of a Flood Prevention Policy to Control the City of New York's Reservoir Levels which Impacts the Flooding of the Delaware River. Commissioner Caridi stated that the County is partnering with other organizations and municipalities asking that the level of the reservoirs along the Delaware River, which supply potable water to New York City, are examined as far as their levels to reduce the potential of breaching and flooding upstream counties, such as Pike.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to adopt Resolution No. 14-10, Autism Awareness Month, April 2014, which was read by Commissioner Caridi and presented to members of Pike Autism Support Services. They went over the programs and activities being sponsored by the group in their fundraising efforts. A t-shirt, created by a Delaware Valley School District student, was given to the Commissioners.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to recommend Bill Kerstetter and Peter Wulforth for appointment to the Board of Directors of the NEPA Alliance for the new fiscal year commencing July 1, 2014.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to execute the Personal Services Contract between Barbara Ulmer and the County of Pike on behalf of the Probation Office, for Motivational Interviewing Trainings.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to execute the PCCD Grant Application for the "Victim/Witness Program VOJO", on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.

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 2012 and 2013 Fair Housing Reports, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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 Agreement between Pioneer Construction Co. and the County of Pike, for the CDBG Milford Borough Parking Lot Project.

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 2013 CDBG Project Exempt Status Determination, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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 Rental Assistance Subsidy voucher in the amount of \$1,820 to Delaware Run for April 2014, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Lori Strelecki, of the Pike County Historical Society, briefly spoke about the 200th Anniversary Dinner held at Woodloch, which was enjoyed by all. The next event scheduled will be the Zane Grey Fishing Derby on April 12, 2014 through July 6, 2014. Prizes will be awarded at Zane Grey Days which will be held on July 12, 2014. It is a catch and release program, where you put your fish on a ruler, take a picture and submit to the Historical Society. They are also sponsoring a "Go Fish" event. Simply stop by the Columns and pick up a fish to paint and return it to the Columns for exhibition at the new fishing exhibit in the Columns and auction at a date to be

announced. Commissioner Osterberg commented that Ms. Strelecki is doing activities keeping family involvement in mind. He spoke of Zane Grey and his catch and release philosophy.

Mike Sullivan, of the Pike County Economic Development Authority, reported on the economic development program in the County. The Bureau of Labor statistics recently came out with salaries of different industries and the differences there. Mr. Sullivan handed out an information packet with the statistics and analysis. Pike County salaries are very low compared to national averages. A recruitment effort is now in place for the manufacturing industry. They have identified 66 industries that would fit nicely into Pike County. This effort will try to reach potential industries and persuade them to come to Pike County. Commissioner Caridi stated that they would like to find businesses that fit the smaller pieces of land that have less impact on the community with congestion, municipal services and transportation.

Commissioner Caridi announced that the Pike County Fishing Derby, which should be held on April 12, is in jeopardy because of 15 to 18 inches of ice on Lily Pond. The State has stocked the lake with 11 to 15,000 trout. The County has not yet stocked the trout purchased from Blooming Grove Hunting & Fishing Club, which is usually an evening event on Friday, April 11th. A final decision will be made by Friday, April 11th to determine whether the Fishing Derby will be cancelled.

Questions and comments were opened to the Public and the Press, which included further discussion on the Courthouse Expansion.

Matt Ebbert stated that he has been coming to the meetings for a while and has been a thorn in some people's side but he has been coming for about 10 weeks and over the time that he has been attending he has been thinking a lot about the courthouse. Although he has a disability regarding remembering words and names, he is very good with numbers, number crunching and design. He worked at Microsoft, Apple and Dell and was notable for redesigning technological facilities in order to generate data out to. He has looked at all the plans for the current courthouse construction project and he believes, using CAD and some other software, he came up with a design that reduces not the footprint or any of the functionality, but first and foremost, improves security. He also believes it reduces costs by about \$1.67 million dollars, and allows for slightly less square footage on the imprint but less than 12%. He believes he can do it at a cost less per square footage than currently available. He has consulted with some brave architects including Peter Bolan who designed the Apple Facility and he has consulted with Philadelphia based historic preservation architect as well. He has consulted engineers including some from Microsoft themselves who designed the building that he worked on years ago. He believes that he can make this project go faster if, instead of using the current Greek pediment revival standard, the building is designed to match the Queen Ann style of the current Kenworthy building. He has taken particular attention to the record storage and saving the \$60,000 currently being spent on rent. He has designed a wonderful filing structure that moves data quickly and efficiently into records. He has designed a wonderful internal network that actually works very privately and exclusively. He has kept it to the campus structure because he realizes that the Commissioners would rather keep this in one facility. He believes that this plan vastly improves the one in process. The other thing he improved were the utilities. He spoke to an old friend who is now a VP of Verizon and he asked him pointedly why the County is having such a delay in getting information from Verizon. Commissioner Caridi confirmed that the County still does not have the information from Verizon. Mr. Ebbert was very concerned about that and so was his friend. They talked very seriously about some of the things that can be done to expedite this process. Mr. Ebbert said he has done all this work behind the scenes and has worked nights and many hours to do this and talked to the right people. He believes very strongly that he can improve this and get it into working form, past the ARB, past the Borough Council and get it working by Fall of this year. He has worked very closely with other historic preservation architects to try to determine how this can be done expeditiously and get through the ARB, and help some of the local business owners come around. He is wondering if there is any opportunity for him or what he can do to present his plans. Commissioner Wagner said he mentioned two key words, the ARB and the Borough Council. Commissioner Wagner does not want to be redundant, but at the last meeting he said the Commissioners were proceeding to go before the ARB very shortly and the Borough Council. He suggested Mr. Ebbert go there. Mr. Ebbert said he has been going to those meetings. Commissioner Wagner said the ARB can entertain it if they want to, the Borough Council can entertain it, but the Commissioners have spent months and months and months going back and forth on this and he is not going back and forth anymore. The Commissioners are going to the ARB and the Borough Council, who are the final arbiters on this. It is their decision. The Commissioners have to satisfy them and if they are interested in Mr. Ebbert's suggestion, they will find out.

Commissioner Caridi commended Mr. Ebbert for his efforts and said that if there is anything that is positive that can be incorporated, and it benefits everyone in the County, that is the Commissioners' goal. He asked if Mr. Ebbert had the documentation so that the Commissioners can look at it or have the engineers review it. Mr. Ebbert responded, he would love to submit it to the County. Commissioner Caridi said that if there is something in there that can make more efficient use of space, and the engineer can look at it with his expertise, and come back to the Commissioners and say this is a good idea, this works, or this doesn't, it is incumbent upon the Commissioners to look at everything.

Commissioner Wagner said that eventually the engineer will look at Mr. Ebbert's plans, but he suggested that they still move forward. Commissioner Caridi said he is not trying to delay the process, he just said that if the Commissioners have that and it's verifiable in writing that somebody with superior intelligence to the Commissioners when it comes to construction, can analyze Mr. Ebbert's plans, he believes they should. Mr. Ebbert said that the goal is not to come at the Commissioners saying that they are doing it all wrong and they have to do it his way. Commissioner Caridi said it is not perceived that way at all, and that it is obvious that Mr. Ebbert has invested his passion in this and they want to look at it. Commissioner Caridi used the phrase "good carpenters measure twice, cut once". He said they have not gone out to bid or finalized anything. They have to go to the local municipalities and get their input, and if there is something there that makes sense, saves money for taxpayers and also makes more efficient use of space, and enhances security, the Commissioners want to hear about it. Mr. Ebbert thanked the Commissioners.

Dave Hulse asked if there was anything regarding any ballot petition that may be coming. The Commissioners responded that they have received nothing. Commissioner Caridi said he would rather not see this community divided again, de ja vu, the library tax. He would rather come to the table and have everybody work together and everyone recognizes the need. He cannot stop citizens from pursuing that legitimate venue, but he would rather see everyone work together instead of this becoming such a divisive issue in the community that pits one geographic segment against another.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2014, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.