

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

The first regular meeting of April 2017 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 Rev. Alfred Vito of St. Patrick's Church in Milford.

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

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the April 5, 2017 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the March 15 and 16, 2017 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted 'aye' on the March 15 minutes; Commissioner Caridi abstained from the March 16 minutes due to his absence. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the March 6 and 7, 2017 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg and Caridi voted 'aye'. Commissioner Guccini abstained due to his absence. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the March 20 and 31, 2017 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg and Guccini voted 'aye'. Commissioner Caridi abstained due to his absence. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the March 22, 23 and April 4, 2017 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 \$221,678.11, 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 Sheriff Philip Bueki advising that he has hired **RYAN FULLER** as a Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective March 27, 2017, 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 **PAULA VENNIE**, as a part-time Case Aide I for the Area Agency on Aging, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective April 4, 2017, 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 promote **TRACY SIMON** from Aging Care Manager II to Aging Care Manager III for the Area Agency on Aging, for a 40 hour work week, retroactive to March 6, 2017.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to promote **LISA HANIUK** from Caseworker Supervisor to Case Manager for Children & Youth Services, for a 30 hour work week, effective April 11, 2017 at her current hourly rate. This is to fill a new position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to promote **ANGELA FUCCI** from Caseworker 2 to Caseworker Supervisor for Children & Youth Services, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective April 11, 2017. 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:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to award the bid for the Pike County Correctional Facility Cooler and Generator Enclosure Mechanical and Electrical Systems Project to Richard Mellow Corp. for the amount of \$49,400. Due to the change in the general scope of the project the Mechanical portion of the bid is no longer required.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to open bids received for the leasing of approximately 80 acres of tillable fields for the purpose of planting for the 2017 growing season.

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

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid which was received from Tom Owens of Hillcrest Farms in the amount of \$2,500.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to award the bid to Tom Owens of Hillcrest Farms in the amount of \$2,500 for the leasing of approximately 80 acres of tillable fields for the purpose of planting for the 2017 growing season.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 17-07, Safe Haven of Pike County, Inc., Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April 2017, which was read by Commissioner Caridi.

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

The Commissioners presented Safe Haven with a check for \$10,000 which represents their allocation for 2017. Commissioner Osterberg stressed the importance of Safe Haven, who are also running the Children's Advocacy Center. Tamara Chant, Executive Director, thanked the Commissioners and presented them with T-shirts. Kayla Bolger, Outreach Coordinator, also thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. She gave an overview of the purpose and goals of Safe Haven and asked for community support. She introduced Tamara Chant, Executive Director; Julian Lugo, Bookkeeper; Alyssa Centeno, Empowerment Advocate; Justina Welsh, Empowerment Advocate; and Stacey Pituch, Supervisor.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 17-08, Autism Awareness Month, April 2017, which was read by Commissioner Guccini.

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

Commissioner Osterberg introduced and thanked Jeanmarie Passaro, who represents the Pike Autism Foundation, for their valuable service to the families in our community who are in need of this service. Ms. Passaro gave T-shirts to the Commissioners, explaining that this year's theme is "Growing Acceptance". There are several activities in support of Autism Awareness Month including a poster contest which is open to Wallenpaupack and Delaware Valley School Districts. She displayed some of the artwork from the students. This enables discussions between students and teachers and exposure to autism and understanding the children who have autism. They are holding a "Hand-Bag Designer Bingo" as a fundraiser at St. Patrick's Hall. This organization has been serving Pike County for over 22 years and are grateful for the businesses in the area who employ persons with autism. They provide parent training, ipad program for non-verbal children, social and recreational opportunities, coach and sponsor special needs baseball, scholarships, etc. Commissioner Osterberg stated that the Commissioners met with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to develop an employment program in the County to service special needs individuals, and have reached out to local businesses to bring people from the Human Resources Center which provides a sheltered workshop for these individuals. He stressed the importance of recognizing the assistance that families need, such as contacting business and asking them to find jobs for these individuals to better themselves and their families. He applauded Jeanmarie and her husband who have dedicated their lives to this program.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to recommend the appointment of Derek Bellinger to the Board of Directors of the NEPA Alliance to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 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 Change Order GC04 between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike for an additional \$6,196.80 for the supply and installation of metal furring, drywall and finishes pertaining to the Courthouse Addition.

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 Change Order GC05 between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike for an additional \$3,378.40 to remove firewall and supply and install concrete corbel to carry firewall pertaining to the Courthouse Addition.

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 Change Order GC06 between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike for a credit of \$761.61 for revised work at the roof parapet pertaining to the Courthouse Addition.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Bridge Maintenance Agreement between Monroe and Pike Counties for the Winona Falls Bridge (County Bridge #19), subject to review and approval of Monroe County Solicitor.

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

Commissioner Osterberg explained that Winona Falls Bridge is between Pike and Monroe Counties, and there was a question about the weight limit that was put on the bridge. Neither Monroe nor Pike County was aware who put the limit on the bridge. Monroe County is with Penn Dot District 5 and Pike County, is with District 4, and there was a little communication issue regarding the weight limit sign. The Counties will now share the ownership of the bridge, Pike County will provide the inspections, Monroe County will reimburse Pike County ½ of that money, and if there is construction on the bridge whether it needs to be repaired, replaced, etc. those costs will be shared equally.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute the proposal from TCI Environmental Services for lead paint testing services for the CDBG Matamoras Firehouse Residing Project.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Certification Statement for the 2015/16 County Human Services Non-Block Grant Report, 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 Pike County Rental Assistance Contract #30, 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 Payment Voucher for Delaware Run for April 2017 in the amount of \$2,428, 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 execute FY 2016/17 Purchase of Service Agreement between Kids Peace and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Cynthia DeFebo, Workforce Development Agency Director, announced that the Working Pike Job Fair will be held on April 20, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Best Western Inn. There are over 65 employers signed up to attend. Last year there were over 600 job seekers and they are hoping for the same this year. Mike Sullivan of the Economic Development Authority, stated that he received an email from someone who got a local job, through last years' Job Fair and his salary and benefits are better, plus he does not have to travel nearly as far as his previous job. This captures the spirit of what they are trying to accomplish, which is to enable Pike County residents to have local job options so they do not have to travel as so many do. Ms. DeFebo stated it is hard to judge the success of last years' Job Fair, but the employers who participated last year were more than eager to come back this year. Also if they don't see potential employees back again they consider that a good thing as that means they did get a job. There will be two workshops being offered at the Workforce Development Agency Office on April 6th and 13th on how to prepare for the job fair and also resume review. Mr. Sullivan also commented that they are working together with a number of houses of worship and are finding that people who drive so far to work are not able to volunteer as they may if they worked closer and are also not attached to people in the community or are aware of local resources. Commissioner Osterberg also commented that the exit interview packets which will be handed out to both employees and employers have been developed by volunteers. They are concerned about how people feel and what their reaction is after they have been at the job fair so that next year it can be made better. Employers evidently find this to be successful because they are back again, the fair is not free, and they are also using their time and effort. There was a survey sent out to the employers last year to determine how many people were hired, but only 2 responded. Employees are urged to bring resumes and dressed for an interview. The Workforce Development Agency Office does have a "clothes closet" with professional clothing and they also work with Calling All Angels for clothing. Everyone in attendance will receive an Employer Directory which has the list of employers and jobs available.

Sally Corrigan, Conservation District Executive Director, and Rebecca Holler, Education and Outreach Coordinator, presented their 2016 Annual Report. Ms. Corrigan gave a brief history of the Conservation District Office. She also highlighted the goals and accomplishments of the Conservation District for 2016, including the restructuring of staff positions to include an Education and Outreach Coordinator, working with the US Geological Survey to study Pike County's groundwater and groundwater levels, studying the health of streams and fish, carry out responsibilities for erosion and sediment control program and water waste management and continued involvement in major projects throughout the County. Rebecca Holler stated that the Conservation District worked with Lackawaxen, Shohola and Greene Townships to provide funds through the Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road Maintenance. Pike County received praise for their administration of the Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road Program. The Gypsy Moth program indicated a low number of egg masses in 2016 and there was no need for spraying this year. The monitoring of gypsy moths will continue. The District celebrated their 60th Anniversary with a picnic lunch. The District also adopted a new logo and made a new generalized brochure and web site. Ms. Corrigan also mentioned that there are 8 staff members; and their guidance and policies are put together by a volunteer Board of Directors. She introduced Kelly Stagen, a Director of the Board, and also serving as the Northeast Regional Director for the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Commissioner Osterberg stated that along with economic development it is also important to preserve our lands.

Jessica Grohmann, Assistant Planning Director, announced that each year the Commissioners are asked by the Ag Board to certify funding to purchase agricultural conservation easements for farmers who want to maintain agricultural activity on their land. This year there was a roll back tax interest, which is money from properties rolling out of Clean & Green a lower tax rate, in the amount of \$2,412. When the Commissioners certify that amount to the State, Pike County received over \$180,000 in state allocation. Ms. Grohmann showed a chart of what the County has received so far. Two farms have been saved with this money.

Dave Messersmith of Penn State Extension highlighted some of the events for April 5-20, 2017. The 4-H clubs are actively seeking new members for many of their programs. Master Gardeners are conducting workshops in preparation for spring. There are also online workshops including one for Forest Fermentables turning wild fruits into wine.

Commissioner Guccini mentioned, with regard to the Sexual Awareness Month Resolution, that people in this area view this as how people looked at the heroin and opioid epidemic 20 years ago, which was – it doesn't exist here. In 1981 he prosecuted his first child abuse case and continued to do that. There is a notion that it doesn't happen here, but it happens everywhere. He stated that the work that Safe Haven does is vitally important here.

In another matter, Commissioner Guccini stated that he received a call from a resident who lives on Twin Lakes Road, who is trying to do something about all the littering on the highway. He is trying to help her with an organization called Justice Works, who the County contracts with that does community service for juveniles. They already do a few different roads. In speaking with Penn Dot, there are not enough volunteers for the Adopt a Highway Program. He asked if the Press may want to do a story on shaming people to stop throwing trash out of their cars, and if there are any organizations who want to adopt a road, they would commit to cleaning up three times a year. Sally Corrigan added that the Conservation District has adopted a section of 402, and on April 17th the Commissioners and Board Members will be assisting in cleaning up.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Wayne Witkowski of the Pike County Dispatch asked about the progress of the Courthouse addition. Commissioner Osterberg stated that they are ahead of schedule, and could possibly get a certificate of occupancy in a year. They are pouring floors now. Someone asked if the trial was being affected by the noise of construction. There have been no complaints so far.

Tamara Chant thanked Commissioner Guccini for his concern about the roads and offered Safe Haven's services to adopt a road.

Still progressing through with the Mott Street Bridge project.

Another reminder of the Reality Tour on April 20th and May 18th. They are a little over half full.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.