

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

The first regular meeting of May 2018 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. Rabbi Shaul Elkeslasi of Chabad House of Pike County offered an opening prayer.

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 May 2, 2018 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the April 18, 2018 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the April 18 and 26, 2018 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 **\$153,318.09** subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **BOND ACCOUNT 2012 C PROJECT (March/April)**, in the amount of **\$505,716.68**.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **OPERATING RESERVE (March/April)**, in the amount of **\$537,362.56**.

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 Denise Fitzpatrick, Prothonotary, advising that she has hired **CHAR SCHEUERMANN** as Fiscal Manager in the Prothonotary's Office, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective May 7, 2018, 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 **FRANKIE MARKS** as a Clerk in the Elections and Finance Office, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective May 14, 2018, 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 promote **JOAN EDEL** from Aging Care Manager I to Aging Care Manager Supervisor I for the Area Agency on Aging, for a 40 hour work week, effective April 30, 2018. 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: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 18-10, Tick Borne Diseases Awareness Into Action Month – May 2018, which was read by Commissioner Guccini.

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 #GC28 between Mar Paul Construction and the County of Pike, for an additional \$12,760.09 to rework ceiling grid systems, build additional bulkhead and beam enclosure, relating to the Courthouse Addition Project.

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 #GC29 between Mar Paul Construction and the County of Pike, for an additional \$6,969.51 for additional work on the 2nd floor of the existing building, installation of plywood and conceal fasteners for holding cells and additional attic floor work, relating to the Courthouse Addition Project.

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 #TM05 between Troy Mechanical and the County of Pike, for an additional \$4,624.62 for the fabrication, relocation and installation of ductwork per sketches, relating to the Courthouse Addition Project.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the SRCP 2018 Marcellus Mini Grant Agreement between Lackawaxen Township Board of Supervisors and the County of Pike for \$21,000, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Preservation Board for Sunrise Park – Accessible Trail and Picnic Grove Project.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the SRCP Grant Contract between the Pike County Conservation District and the County of Pike for \$32,000, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Preservation Board for the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network IV Project.

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 Acceptance of Proposal from Thomas J. McLane Associates for the Environmental Science/Wetland Consulting Services for the Correctional Facility Wastewater Treatment Plan Expansion for \$2,450.10.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Agreement for RN Services between Wayne County Area Agency on Aging and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Pike County Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Contracts between Avanco International and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services for CWIS 2.0 FY 17-18 and Consulting Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute Purchase of Service Agreements between KidsPeace National Centers and Mid-Atlantic Services and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services for FY 2017-18.

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 Voucher for Delaware Run for \$1,269 for May 2018 on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Nicole Chinnici of ESU spoke on the Tick Borne Pathogen Study. In 2017 a study was conducted with Milford Borough looking at 100 ticks and determining the prevalence of a couple of pathogens. 45% of those ticks were infected with a pathogen. The Commissioners just signed an agreement to test ticks throughout the County. The County will be divided into 9 grids and collecting about 100 to 150 ticks per grid. Ticks will also be recollected from Milford Borough for comparison to last year's study. The ticks will be tested for 7 pathogens at the Northeast Wildlife DNA Lab at East Stroudsburg University. The result of the study are significant as they will go to the physicians, who will then understand what is in the environment and what they should be looking for treatment purposes. Commissioner Osterberg commented that the Commissioners meet with the Tick Task Force once a month, and this is a project that is being undertaken by the County. A number of years ago, the State passed two bills and this is one of the initiatives that the State of Pennsylvania was supposed to take on, but have yet to take action. So many people in the County are suffering from these different pathogens from ticks that the Commissioners felt it important to do the study so that it can be taken to the state to show them what the Commissioners are doing to help the residents of Pike County. The doctors in the community will also be educated as to what is in these ticks. It is more information and education for the general public. The funding for this study is from Act 13. A \$5,000 donation from the Delaware Valley Educational Foundation was received, and the Commissioners will continue to solicit funds from other individuals. Hopefully, testing will continue in the future for comparison. The gridlines were determined by highly populated areas, highly visited areas such as State Game Lands, recreation areas, lake communities, etc. The Commissioners stressed the importance of checking for ticks when returning from the outdoors. Commissioner Guccini added that the collection of ticks will also be from the school areas. The study will be concluded after the fall collection.

Dr. Robert Ollar, microbiologist and member of the Tick Task Force, said that the most important job is to educate the physicians. He attended a meeting in Pike County recently with infectious disease specialists, internists, neurologists, pediatric neurologist and a doctor of functional medicine. He stated that the main point that needs to be stressed is the fact that when you are bitten by a tick it is a multi-pathogenic event. Physicians need to be aware of the importance of broad scale scans. As time goes on the number of physicians aware of the implications will be expanded so that all physicians are well educated.

Rosemarie Schoepp, Chairman of the Pike County Tick Borne Disease Task Force, stated that it is her job to educate the public. A Tick Borne Disease Support Group meets the second Saturday of every month, however, on

May 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the Pike County Library there will be an open session to allow those afflicted with tick borne diseases to tell their story of what it is like to live with these pathogens. The Tick Borne Disease Support Group is sponsored by the Tick Borne Disease Network Incorporated. The Network has produced many materials including one called Complexities, and outlines issues that a person with a tick borne disease will encounter once they are infected. Those resources are distributed to people who come to the support group and they are given as a way to help them on their journey to remission. Another meeting will be held on May 17 at Milford Borough Hall from 7 to 8:30 p.m. where the results of the testing by ESU of Milford Borough ticks will be announced. Nicole Chinnici will also be speaking about the ecology of the tick in the Borough and Dr. Ollar will be speaking on the medical side of tick borne illnesses and the dangers of ignoring tick borne diseases. She thanked the Commissioners for their support. Commissioner Osterberg stated that more results will be forthcoming. He also mentioned that there is still no County Nurse, and that nurse is a direct connection with the Department of Health in PA, especially since the County does not have a hospital, it is important to have someone in that position.

Nadeen Manzoni, Elections Director, spoke about election security and the procedures followed to secure elections. There has never been a case in Pennsylvania or the Country where a voting machine has been hacked into and the results altered. There has never been an interception of electronic submission of election results between Counties, the State and the Federal government despite what is implied and the perception out there. The voting machines used by the County are not internet facing programs to program the ballots, never connected to an internet or network at any time. She did demonstrate the security of the election machine. Logistics & Analysis testing is done on each machine to test the calibration and tested multiple times to ensure the machines are working properly. A technician from Dominion Voting Systems tests each piece of equipment, including ADA compliant devices. The machines are then sealed and stored securely until they are delivered with a secure chain of custody to the polling locations. Machines are then turned on the morning of the election and a zero report prints. This zero report indicates that no votes were cast on that machine prior to the election. This report is posted at the polling place. Poll workers are trained to be diligent in checking voters in on a numbered list which is maintained by one of the elected Inspectors. Throughout the day they are checking the number of voters to the number of ballots cast on each machine. After the polls have closed, a report is printed containing the election results which is posted at the polling place, a copy returned to the County and another is retained by the elected Minority Inspector. The machines are then returned to the County on Election night by the Judge of Elections, along with the memory cards. The machines and memory cards are stored and locked away until the next election. There is a computation team on Election night that is physically looking at the tapes, adding absentee ballot results and populating a spreadsheet available on the County website as the precincts report in. Results to the Department of State are submitted via fax and not electronically. The Department of State also checks the County website periodically and does a screenshot to update their website. County officials report multiple times across the state so even those that do use an electronic means to transmit their results are checking the Department of State's website against what they have reported. On Friday after the Election, a canvas of votes is held which is another unofficial reporting to the Department of State. Seven days after the Election the County certifies their results and again report to the Department of State and within 30 days report again. If there was a cyber threat that altered results it would be quickly found and corrected. Every State uses a state-wide voter registration data base that houses all voter registration information. The Department of Homeland Security and Department of State have been reaching out to County officials and County IT Departments to let them know what to be aware of and what to look at. Poll workers are trained to recognize and report any spike in discrepancies in voter records when they show up to vote at the polls. There will be additional provisional ballots issued at the polls in the event that a voter's information does not match what is on file or if they claim that they are registered to a different party, or if they inadvertently were moved to a different polling place. Cyber threats are actually undermining voter confidence in the election process which results in lower voter turnout and lack of trust in results. Voters can check their voter status on www.votespa.com. If they do notice a discrepancy they can call the Election Office to correct the information. Voters should carry ID with them also. Voters should stay informed and get out and vote. Ms. Manzoni also spoke about her trip to the Department of State, as the State has mandated by 2020 new voting machines need to be put in place. The process has just started. There are voting machines that are in the certification process now, and funding options being discussed. She went through a history of voting machines. To eliminate human error, electronic voting machines are now used. There are many different systems that they are looking into but at this time there are more questions than answers as far as funding options, etc. The target date for the new system is November 2019. Ms. Manzoni continued with descriptions of the possible voting machines that may be certified by the Commonwealth. She also noted that all polling places are equipped with generators in the case of a power outage.

Jill Gamboni introduced Lexi Fean as part of her presentation of the Reality Tour, a community based drug prevention program through Pike County Alliance for Prevention Programs. There are 6 scenes, namely, peer pressure, arrest, jail, overdose, ER and funeral scenes. It goes through the full stages of drug addiction, recovering addict question and answer, law enforcement question and answer and different resources. Lexi went through the program and also volunteered for several years. May 31st is the next scheduled Reality Tour at the Milford Bible Church from 6 pm to 9 pm. The May 3rd tour was cancelled because there were not enough families registered. Lexi graduated from Delaware Valley in 2016 and was in the Drama Club. She was the overdose actor in the program. She believes that the scenes that they portray are so realistic. The first time she acted her parents brought her younger brother and her mom had to leave the room because it was so realistic and scary to watch. It is such a serious issue and this program shows kids first hand that this is the reality of it, it is the Reality Tour, and definitely something that should continue. They also need more kids for the acting portions and asked that everyone spread the word. This is a licensed program and she is required to charge \$5, but they will never turn a family down who can't afford it. The Pike County Commissioners; Weinstein, Zimmerman and Ohliger; and RH Worthington Group are the sponsors for this tour. Children must be 10 years of age or older and must be accompanied by a parent.

Angie Smith of Penn State Extension gave an update on the Opioid Task Force Meeting, which is a working meeting. They are working on the prevention, education and stigma committee and were tasked with creating an event to raise awareness in the month of September, which is Recovery Month. In addition to one event, they have decided to have a month long awareness campaign that will cover all aspects including people from law enforcement, the school districts, the office of the Aging, etc. They are also reaching out to townships to get educational materials out to their events, having a speaker come back again, working with Hope4Pike and other organizations, and using those opportunities to promote the Reality Tour and all their programs, and to promote 4H. There will be a list of all the different organizations and different things that are being planned for September from prevention to treatment to recovery. They are reaching out to all school districts. Ms. Smith also mentioned that the 4H National Day of Service was held on April 28th which involved children from 4H doing community service. She also mentioned that on May 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office there will be a new leader recruitment workshop. They are in desperate need of adults to work with the 4H children. The Master Gardeners are scheduled every other Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Penn State Extension Office. If anyone has any questions for the Master Gardeners they are welcome to come in.

Commissioner Osterberg commented that the Opioid meeting included many issues of drug addiction, and that there were 4 overdose deaths in Pike County. Last year there were 17 overdoses in Pike Counties. The Opioid meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Training Center and is open to the public. This is about the community coming together to come up with solutions that can be used in Pike County. These programs are in place to teach people, make them aware and reduce the stigma. There is a plan to have a rally in October and we need to get people out there, because that will also reduce the stigma. If friends and neighbors come out for support, then the people that are suffering from this will feel welcome in their community and will tell their story and feel that there is support for them.

Commissioner Osterberg announced that on May 30 at 2:00 p.m. at Grey Towers there will be a Spotted Lantern Fly Informational Meeting given by the Northern Tier Hardwood Association in conjunction with the Pike County Conservation District. The Commissioners urge people to attend as this is becoming a major issue and getting closer and closer to Pike County. They are already in Monroe County. There does not seem to be any known predator to it. It is a hopper so we could end up in a quarantine county and they will talk about what a quarantine county is. It is not good for businesses or hardwood industry in this state. There were flyers available.

Commissioner Osterberg reminded everyone that on May 9th there is a Best Management Practice Field Tour by the Conservation District for municipal officials and one on May 15th for the general public. This tour is to see what the Conservation District's Best Management Practices are and what a great job they are doing in the County in preserving our natural resources.

Commissioner Guccini mentioned that on Monday the Commissioners attended a Joinder Board meeting which is Commissioners from Carbon, Monroe and Pike Counties to discuss mental health and drug and alcohol issues. One of the things that came up was that the Pyramid Office at the Lake Region is having some slow numbers. Obviously as was just discussed, there are problems and there should not be slow numbers. It may be that people are just used to going to locations that existed for a while, such as Catholic Social Services in Pike County and Wayne and Monroe Counties also have providers. He asked that the press spread the word that there is this facility which is directly across from the Visitors' Center on Route 6. They also have a walk-in service, so you can just walk in and they will do what they can to help. Commissioner Osterberg said that there are support groups there also for family members.

PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayne Witkowski asked for explanation of item #7, the expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Facility at the Blooming Grove Complex and if it will be the beginning of exploring central sewage and accessibility for the development of businesses in that area. Commissioner Osterberg replied that this project will enable the County to entertain businesses to moving into that region and using some county-owned property. Commissioner Caridi clarified that it is not just commercial businesses, but entities that could exist to serve a county need such as senior housing that the County tried to establish there but could not because there was not a wastewater treatment facility with sufficient capacity. The facility would have to be expanded to further develop that property. Commissioner Osterberg said that the senior housing has been relocated to Westfall because of that specific reason. Westfall has the infrastructure, central water, central sewer and gas. That is the one thing that is lacking in Pike County, but the process is long and arduous to try to expand it. There are many regulations. The grant came from LSA funds in the amount of \$485,000 to expand that. The State even understands that economic development growth is important to this County.

Commissioner Osterberg gave an update on the Courthouse expansion, saying that the elevator inspection has delayed the Courts moving in. The Courts probably won't be functional until July or August, but the other agencies should be. Moving the bodies is a whole other job because these offices need to continue to operate as they are moving. A meeting with the Courts is scheduled every Thursday for discussion. It is a bit of a slow process now until all the punchlist items are reviewed and then the temporary Certificate of Occupancy and then getting the Certificate of Occupancy.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.