

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

The first regular meeting of May 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. Rabbi Shaul Elkeslasi offered the opening prayer.

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

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

In conjunction with Pennsylvania's Corrections Employee Week, Warden Craig Lowe presented Michael Buckingham the Correctional Officer of the Year Award for 2014.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the May 7, 2014 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the April 16, 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 April 17, 23, 30, May 1, 5 and 6, 2014 Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$1,077,320.87, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve payment from **HOTEL TAX FUND (Gelderman, Forrest & Sons, Lock Data)**, in the amount of \$6,994.91.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$56,822.36.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to transfer **LOUIS BLACK** from the Sheriff's Office to the Transportation Office as a part time Van Driver for less than 1000 hours per year, effective May 5, 2014, with no benefits.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to change the Caseworker Manager position to a Caseworker Supervisor position, and to promote **CONSTANCE CIERVO** from Caseworker to Caseworker Supervisor for Children & Youth Services, effective May 5, 2014.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to hire **KYLE ROHNER** as a part time Training Assistant at the Training Center, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective May 10, 2014, with no benefits. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to hire **SCOTT MEAD** as a part time Training Assistant at the Training Center, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective May 10, 2014, with no benefits. This is to fill a newly created position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **ANNEMARIE VEGA**, as a summer intern at the Correctional Facility, for less than 1000 hours, effective May 12, 2014, with no benefits. This is a temporary position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **ROSS ROSENCRANCE**, as a Food Production Supervisor at the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective May 12, 2014, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Judge Gregory Chelak advising that he has hired **ANTHONY MCINTYRE**, as a summer intern for the Courts, for less than 1000 hours, effective May 19 through June 27, 2014, with no benefits. This is a temporary position.

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: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to adopt Resolution No. 14-12, Supporting the Goals and Ideas of National Nurses' Week – May 6-12, 2014, which was read by Commissioner Osterberg and presented to Linda Harding, District 4 Pennsylvania Nurses' Association. Ms. Harding introduced Sharon Temple, Acting Director of Nurses at Milford Senior Care, and Carol Mazda, former employee at Twin Cedars and an LPN student working towards her RN. Ms. Harding thanked the Commissioners for the resolution and support and gave an overview of the legislative goals and ideas. She also mentioned a documentary that will be following the lives of some nurses.

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 amended 2014 Intermediate Punishment Plan, on behalf of the Courts, as per recommendation by the Prison Board.

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 Annual Re-Evaluation for Rohman Park, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Rental Assistance Subsidy voucher in the amount of \$1,820 to Delaware Run for May 2014, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to execute Amendment #1 to the SCRP Grant Contract between the Conservation District and the County of Pike, to extend the Groundwater Baseline Temporal Study Project for three months, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Timothy Knapp, Training Center Director, presented copies of a special report that was done by the Emergency Services Preparedness Committee from Senator Baker's office that deals with the challenges facing today's emergency responders. He also presented his first quarter report of the Training Center. He noted that there were 16 different classes offered, compiling 122 hours of training, with approximately 35 people per class, which is just below the state average. Besides fire training and EMS training, the Training Center also hosts a wide variety of entities, such as Probation, Corrections, Source Water, Children & Youth, etc. The center is used an average of three days a week, not including fire departments that attend drills in the evening. Mr. Knapp also went over more programs that will be offered in the future. The Training Center, in conjunction with the State Fire Academy, hosted a flashover simulator. There are only 7 flashover containers in the state of Pennsylvania and Pike County is the only place other than the State Fire Academy where the class is taught by the state. The kick of Jr. Weekend was a great success also with between 60 to 80 children and instructors participating. Recruitment and retention programs have also been developed with the Wallenpaupack and Delaware Valley School District.

Lana Romeo, representing Pike County Area Agency on Aging, recognized the PA Department of Aging celebrating 35 years of service, and Older Pennsylvanians Month – May 2014. Ms. Romeo gave a brief presentation on the programs being offered this month for free at the Senior Centers in Lackawaxen, Delaware and Blooming Grove. She also announced the opening of a new Senior Center in Milford at the Pike County Public Library on Wednesdays and Fridays. She stated that a program is now being offered at the Delaware Senior Center on Wednesdays for individuals that can bring their loved ones who cannot be left alone. There is a nurse in attendance who will oversee these individuals. Ms. Romeo distributed the AAA newsletter with all the programs that are offered.

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

Matthew Ebert thanked the Commissioners and Chief Clerk Gary Orben for providing the information that he requested regarding the courthouse expansion. He stated that he is working on an engineering plan that will save the County money and also raises money for preservation. He said that he has his plan but is still working on some numbers around run off and water and utilities. He would like to make a small presentation to the Commissioners at the first June public meeting. Commissioner Wagner said they are past that point. He said Mr. Ebert can make a presentation to the ARB, Planning Commission or Milford Borough Council. The Commissioners have made their presentations at those meetings. Commissioner Wagner said it would be a waste of time to make a presentation to the Commissioners since he would have to focus his attention to the Milford Borough agencies that are working on this project at this time. Mr. Ebert asked if it would be better to present his plans on the same night as the Commissioners present theirs? Commissioner Wagner said that would be up to the Borough Council or ARB or Planning Commission if he wants to get on their agenda.

Beth Brelje of the Pocono Record asked Mr. Ebert about his engineering background, to which Mr. Ebert responded that he worked as an intern/producer at Microsoft Studios in Washington. She asked him what he was a producer of. He stated multimedia. He was the first person to broadcast out a video from the facility and also internet and intranet, developed a high speed data transmission center for the program canvas and the outside production facility. Ms. Brelje said she was curious about his background in buildings. He said that during the period that he worked there from 1995-1999 they engineered a building that is probably about three times the size of. Ms. Brelje asked when he said "we engineered", who drew the plans for that. Mr. Ebert responded that it was done by the chief engineers that he worked with. He does not know who the designer or the engineering firm that Microsoft used because a lot of that was classified information and by revealing it he would be breaking confidentiality. He cannot reveal that much but he can tell about his background. His background on the project with Microsoft was both sort of an intern to the chief engineer, so he followed him around during the entire process of wiring the entire building and he would do the practice things using a DOS based system. He worked as an end user side to practice the design of the building, the technology of it and also worked with the plans, had access to the site plans and the engineering plans, helped designed three sound stages, networked about 16 editing rooms, sound rooms. He said it's just like working with complex engineering plans that he had to utilize. She asked "on a DOS system"? The software he started using was DOS. Ms. Brelje asked if the DOS system is relevant today? He said no, but he migrated to Windows, so Windows is relevant today. Ms. Brelje said "just yes or no", "do you have any experience or education in actually designing municipal buildings?" Mr. Ebert said "no", this would be his first time designing. Ms. Brelje asked if he had the educational background for it. Mr. Ebert said "non", his educational background comes in part in design. He then recalled he worked for 10 years in entertainment, and he was art director. Ms. Brelje asked one last question, "What are you doing professionally today?" Mr. Ebert said he works on a farm. He migrated out of technology, entertainment and design to work on the land. She wanted to know what qualifies him to make these plans. He responded just curiosity and he's driven by the complexity of the civic issue. She said she is curious as to why he is questioning the Commissioners who have paid professionals with backgrounds and history in doing this, and she is trying to understand why they should stop the rail that they are travelling down to visit your plan. He sees 11 hurdles in the Commissioners' plan, which is construction variances, and each one of those costs taxpayers a lot of money. He said if he takes off the hat of engineer and put on the hat of..... Ms. Brelje said, "but you're not an engineer". Mr. Ebert said he is self-taught. Ms. Brelje thanked Mr. Ebert.

Kirk Mackey, President of the Pike County Public Library Board, reported that the usage of the library is up 20% over last year, seeing a majority of the new patrons are young mothers with their children, and also a lot of seniors are making use of the library. The Community Room, which seats up to 75 people, has the most activity. The room is used by many non-profit organizations at no cost. Their latest partnership with the Area Agency on Aging is something that they are very excited about. Mr. Mackey stated that the AAA gives so much back with the services provided to the seniors of the community that they will be allowed to use the library at no cost. The PCPL is doing an analysis of the feasibility of purchasing a book mobile. The book mobile would reach out to the outlying areas of Pike County that have difficulty reaching the Dingmans or Milford branches. They are sending out letters to all the municipalities to get input as to their feelings on whether this would be a worthwhile investment, as well as the usage that would be done by their municipality. Nursing homes and child care centers will also be contacted. Many seniors do not have the transportation to get to the libraries so this will be a benefit to them as well. Commissioner Caridi commented that the County gets funding through PennDot for transportation vans, and sometimes these vans get retired. He said he will try to investigate what the disposition process is and this may help the PCPL with an inexpensive vehicle. Mr. Mackey stated that there are many communities throughout the United States that were using book mobiles, but because they are funded through their tax base, they have expanded the building, so they no longer have a need for those vehicles. The PCPL is looking to purchase one of those on a secondary market and save substantial dollars. Their objective is to have the bookmobile stop at various municipality buildings, nursing homes and child care centers to provide these services. The Friends of the Pike County Library are holding their book sale on June 5, 6 and 7.

Mr. Ebert commented that he likes the library and uses it all the time, and buys books there all the time because it's so great. He asked if some of the rare books and rare collections are going to be sold. Elspeth Gooden commented that they are partnering with Shop Ship in Shohola (across from Sagamore) who has someone that posts the books that may be more valuable. Approximately 20 books were sold for more than \$400.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.