

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

The first regular meeting of June 2016 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. Deacon John Babbitts, Jr. of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Milford, offered the opening prayer.

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

A check in the amount of \$50,000 from Act 137 funds was presented to Mike Donlon, representative of Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Donlon stated that they are working on their 24th and 25th house. They also built three handicapped ramps; one in Palmyra, one at Pocono Woodlands and one in Wild Acres. United Way and the Rotary Club in Lords Valley started a ramp fund a number of years ago, which is a self funded account where people pay back whatever they can afford for the materials. They also have fundraising efforts to help with the program. Lots are donated in communities, but they cannot accept all the lots they are being offered because the Habitat for Humanity cannot afford the real estate taxes and community due. There are five lots that they are carrying, ready to build on. They have only had to buy one lot. There are a lot of volunteers that come out to assist.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the June 1, 2016 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the May 18, 2016 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the May 23, 2016 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$99,854.44, 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 **HOTEL TAX FUND (Bailey Design/PMVB)**, in the amount of \$53,000.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACCOUNT (Habitat for Humanity)** in the amount of \$50,000.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **PIKE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE FUND** in the amount of \$295,142.99.

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 Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **DARREN S. SCHMITT**, to fill a full time Maintenance position at the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective May 31, 2016, 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 acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **AMANDA REUMAN**, as a temporary summer Intern at the Correctional Facility, for 120 hours beginning June 1, 2016, with no benefits. This is a temporary position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, 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 June 6, 2016, with benefits after 90 days: **REBECCA GERON, STEPHANIE MEDICO, EARL WALDSMITH JR. and BRAD HOWLETT.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to hire the following individuals as part time Transportation Drivers for the Transportation Office, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective June 2, 2016, with no benefits: **JOSEPH BARCA, PHILLIP HOUSEKNECHT and ROBIN CHIUSANO.** These are replacement positions.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to hire **WILLIAM GAA** as a temporary full time Supervisor for the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program of the Workforce Development Agency, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective June 20, 2016 through August 31, 2016, with no benefits. This is a temporary position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the lateral transfer of **MARISSA RAND** from the Prothonotary's Office to the Public Defender's Office to fill the position of Legal Secretary, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective June 1, 2016, at her current annual pay. 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 purchase of Inmate Commissary Services and Accounting Software for the Pike County Correctional Facility to Keefe Commissary Network, Option #1.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to open the bids for the Mink's Pond Road Bridge Replacement Project.

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

Solicitor Farley opened the following bids: Latona Trucking - \$416,562.50; Fabcor, Inc. - \$569,938.90; T. Brennan Heavy Equipment - \$983,900; and Leward Construction - \$497,000.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to table the bids for the Mink's Pond Road Bridge Replacement Project until June 15, 2016 for further review by the engineer and Solicitor.

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. 16-17, Pike County Parkinson's Awareness Month – June 2016.

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

Marsha Guberman accepted the Resolution for the Michael J. Fox Foundation Pocono Fo Trot 5K for Parkinson's Research and announced that last year they raised and donated \$22,200 to the Fox Foundation. The money that is raised goes under the title "Team Fox" and 100% of those funds goes to research, nothing to administration. There are 32 sponsors and to date there are 173 participants signed up. The website to sign up is www.poconofxtrot5k.org.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute the 2015 CDBG Contract Appendix C Modifications, 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 the Act 148 Third Quarter FY 15/16 Certification Statement, on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Interagency Council Presentation – The Advocacy Alliance – John Konopki, Certified Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator, explained that the Advocacy Alliance focuses mainly on mental health in 37 counties and recently received a grant to do navigation to help people find health insurance mostly through the marketplace. Their goal is to help people who call them to find health insurance. The office is in Lackawanna, however, they do serve Pike County. The number of uninsured in Pennsylvania have gone down. The Advocacy Alliance reaches out to different counties that may have a little higher uninsured rate. They are a resource, they do not help people or make the determination of what plan to choose, where to go, what to do, etc. They help people make an informed choice. Mr. Konopki continued to explain the process involved in assisting individuals to make an informed choice. This is a free service.

Third Annual Pike County Elder Justice Day, June 21, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Vincent's Parish Hall. This is a program to educate and prevent seniors from abuse and exploitation.

Commissioner Guccini spoke about the crisis at Child Line, which is a toll free number to anonymously report suspected child abuse. Because of the Penn State/Jerry Sandusky scandal, a panel was implemented by the Governor to come up with recommendations to change the system legislatively. Numerous changes to the Child Protective Services Law were made and they became effective January 1, 2015. There were changes in terms of who is considered to be a child abuser and what kind of actions constitute child abuse. Those in the children's issues field are not necessarily opposed to the legislation but saw that there were going to be huge problems at the state and county levels for Children & Youth workers with no money to pay for it. Of course, that is what is happening now. It is affecting workers here, although not nearly as bad of a situation as some counties. The numbers of calls are up 200% in some counties with no additional money in terms of caseworkers and other resources to pay for. He urged that people speak to their local legislatures, both federal and state regarding this matter. Commissioner Caridi added that Pike County Children & Youth workers are faced with the additional burdensome paperwork and bureaucracy compliance as opposed to focusing their energy on children and families.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.