

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

The first regular meeting of July 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. Opening Prayer was offered by Deacon John Babbitts Jr. of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Shohola.

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

NOT PRESENT: Commissioner Wagner.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the July 1, 2015 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the June 17, 2015 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the June 17 and 24, 2015 Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$128,270.73, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **DEBT SERVICE FUND (PNC Bank-bond interest due)** in the amount of \$13,032.76.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$65,717.68.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE FUND (repairs/service)** in the amount of \$3,512.20.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, 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 for the Correctional Facility, effective June 29, 2015, for a 40 hour work week, with benefits after 90 days: **ALLISON GOMER, JEREMY HERNANDEZ, STEPHANIE MONTANYE, DARNELL SALMON AND ALEXANDER WEBB.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe, advising that he has promoted, with Prison Board approval, **THOMAS WETKLOW** from Correctional Officer to Sergeant for the Correctional Facility, effective June 29, 2015. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Denise Fitzpatrick, Prothonotary, advising that she has hired **RENEE GIFFORD** as a full time Clerk in the Prothonotary's Office effective June 29, 2015, with no medical benefits as requested by Ms. Gifford.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to hire **MICHAEL FISCHETTA** as a part time Training Assistant at the Training Center, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective June 29, 2015, with no benefits. This is to fill a newly created position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to hire **ERIC CHARLES** as a full time Aging Care Manager I for the Area Agency on Aging Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective July 13, 2015, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Salary Board Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to open bids received for the sale of the following vehicles: 2006 Ford Crusader Bus, wheel chair accessible, 9 passenger, VIN #1FDWE35S56DA88492, with 207,341 miles, AS IS, for a minimum bid of \$2,500; and a 2006 Ford Crusader Bus, wheel chair accessible, 9 passenger, VIN #1FDWE35S26DA47163, with 189,667 miles, AS IS, for a minimum bid of \$2,500.

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

No bids were received and since the vehicles were advertised twice, Solicitor Farley advised that the County can do with them as they see fit. Christine Kerstetter, Human Development, will check with the Department of Transportation to make sure that there are no other stipulations. If there is not, it was decided to donate them to Habitat for Humanity, which is a not for profit organization.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Local Share Account Grant Commitment Letter and Contract between the PA Financing Authority and the County of Pike, for \$500,000 for the Courthouse Expansion Project.

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

Commissioner Caridi commented that the LSA funds are from gaming funds. He thanked Senator Baker, Representatives Peifer and Brown for representing the County to the Commonwealth Finance Authority.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement for Professional Services between McGoe, Hauser & Edsall Consulting Engineers and the County of Pike, for the Courthouse Expansion Project.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to execute the Debt Collection Agreement between National Bond and Collection Associates and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Courts.

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

Solicitor Farley explained that the Debt Collection Agreement is an additional attempt to collect money from defendants in the criminal system and also civil fines. Under the law, the Court always orders the defendant to pay costs for a PFA. Some of these defendant's do not pay the fines and costs so this Agency will do that as a Collection Agency. In the criminal system, many people do not pay their fines. Fines are collected by the Probation Office and is distributed accordingly to the Commonwealth, the County, etc. There is a percentage of people who do not pay their fines and Probation has not been successful in finding them, therefore, the County will now be using National Bond and Collection Associates as a collection agency, which is permitted under the law to do so. They receive a percentage based on what they collect, and will be given the cases where the County has been unsuccessful in obtaining the funds. This is of no cost to the taxpayer. This was a collaborative effort by the Commissioners, Courts and Probation to reach a final agreement. Commissioner Caridi complimented Jeff Angradi, Chief Probation Officer, for bringing this collection agency to the Judge's attention and meeting with the Commissioners to finalize this agreement.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to execute the 2015 Renewal Provider Agreement between Twin Cedars and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Training Site Letter of Agreement between Pathstone Opportunities for Seniors Corp. and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging for the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to execute the 2015-16 Human Services Development Fund Plan, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute two Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Liens, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to execute a letter to DCNR for consideration in the 2016 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program, as requested by the Conservation District.

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

Kelly Rodemich, Gypsy Moth Coordinator of the Conservation District, gave an update on the gypsy moth situation. The gypsy moth hotspot is along the 390 corridor starting at 507 and up through Promised Land. DCNR did spray approximately 3,600 acres of State Forest Lands, mostly the Promised Land and White Deer Lake. DCNR advised that there is money in the State budget for DCNR employees to run the program as far as aerial applicators and contractors that would need to be hired. DCNR anticipates hearing about the budget and having a decision on or around July 15th. Commissioner Caridi said that there is a lot of coordination and a lot of work to keep track of spray blocks and determine the spray blocks. People have to go out in the field, identify the spray blocks, etc. Late summer, early fall there will be egg mass counts in different areas. If people in the community have experienced damage from gypsy moths, please contact the Conservation District. They are keeping a record and sending that information to DCNR to impress upon them that the County needs the gypsy moth funding. In 2013 the

Conservation District received 9 phone calls, 2014 they received 8 and so far in 2015 they have received close to 90 calls regarding gypsy moth issues. Based on the egg mass counts last year, DCNR did not anticipate the infestation in certain areas this year because of the dry spring. There is also a natural virus and a fungus that can eliminate them. The rain also helps eliminate them.

The question of whether or not the gypsy moth survey will also aid in finding ticks was addressed by Commissioner Osterberg. Commissioner Osterberg said that the County is pursuing that avenue and needs to be a coordinated effort because once the information is obtained who is going to move forward with it. Members of the Pike County Tick Task Force were in Harrisburg at the State Task Force meeting and will report back about what is transpiring regarding this issue. By September the white paper will be out from Harrisburg as to what will be done as a Commonwealth to face this issue. They did share with Commissioner Osterberg that many of the ideas such as seminars, education, prevention and treatment will be included in that white paper. Since Dr. Ollar sits on that State Task Force, the County is ahead of the curve as far as what is being reported. This past week, the first two seminars were held in Pike County. One was a safety seminar given by a member of the Task Force from Orange & Rockland on what to do, how to treat themselves and what to be aware of, which included approximately 30 to 40 roadmasters/representatives from the townships. The other seminar was given by Meaghan E. Bird, Infectious Disease Specialist from the Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory working out of PSU, to about 25-30 Pike County Department Heads educating them on the environmental side of the disease. The Task Force also has bookmarks which are being distributed throughout the County. In October, there will be a seminar at the Training Center which will include physicians and the medical field, and veterinarians, to educate them and bring them into the discussion. Pike County is moving in the right direction by educating the public. Commissioner Osterberg also announced that the Rotary Club was making a donation in his name to the Pike County Alliance for Drug Prevention Programs and also to the Tick Borne Disease Task Force which operates out of PEEC. There is the County Task Force and also a group that has been running out of PEEC for the past two years. This funding will help pay for educational purposes.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to execute the Pocono Counties Workforce Investment Area Financial Agreement between Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne Counties for Employment and Training and Related Administrative Services, on behalf of the Workforce Development Agency.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to execute the PA Board of Probation and Parole FY 2015-16 Grant-In-Aid Application and Agreement for the improvement of Adult Probation Services and related documents, on behalf of the Adult Probation Office.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Rose Chiocchi, Pike County Public Library Director, expressed the need for AED machines in both branches of the library. It is important for the safety of the Area Agency on Aging who use the library twice a week, children and approximately 60,000 people per year visit the library during the year. The library is unable to afford the AEDs at this time, so they are asking for donations at this time. The Newton Medical Center is willing to donate half of each one plus the training. The amount needed is \$1,400. The Commissioners stated they would each donate \$50 of their personal money to this fundraising event. Commissioner Osterberg stated that he saw on the news about how important it is that this type of equipment is made available to people because the first three to four minutes of a heart attack is the most vital.

Sheila Theodorou, Administrator, Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health/Developmental Services, announced that they will be holding a Pike County Educational Day on July 17, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 10 Buist Road, Suite 404, Milford. One of the things needed is increased community presence and education about the services offered and available by MH/DS. Behavioral health care is becoming increasingly important. Staff will be available to answer questions regarding the programs.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.