

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

The first regular meeting of August 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 Father Alfred Vito of St. Patrick's Church.

PRESENT: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini (via telephone); Chief Clerk Orben; Solicitor Farley.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the August 2, 2017 Commissioners' Meeting Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the July 19, 2017 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the July 19, 2017 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the July 21, 2017 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg and Guccini voted 'aye'. Commissioner Caridi 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 \$222,185.03, 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 **PROJECT SERIES C 2012 (May 2017 Ctse.)**, in the amount of \$577,260.40, 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 hire **JESSICA FRAWLEY** and **HAYDEN THOMPSON** as part-time Training Assistants at the Training Center, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective August 3, 2017, with no benefits. These are replacement positions.

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 table bids received for the CDBG Matamoras Borough Firehouse Re-siding Project until September 6, 2017.

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 purchase of fortified flavored beverage bases for the Correctional Facility.

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

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid received which was from Bernard Foods in the amount of \$8,176.32.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to table the bid received for the purchase of fortified flavored beverage bases for the Correctional Facility until August 16, 2017 for review.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the FY 2017/18 Title XIX Medicaid Grant Agreement and Amendment #2 for January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017, between the PA Department of Aging, PA Department of Human Services and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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 Data Sharing Agreement between the PA Child Welfare Information Solution and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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 Delaware Run Senior Rental Subsidy Voucher for August 2017 in the amount of \$1,600, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Robin LoDolce, Area Agency on Aging Director, introduced Larisa Yusko and Ryan Lohman, SHARE Housing Counselors, who gave an overview of the SHARE Housing Program. This program is a new pilot program for Pike, Wayne and Monroe Counties. The objective of the program is to encourage people over 60 to remain in their homes with minimal assistance. SHARE Housing Counselors take applications from people that have homes that wish to share with other people and people that are looking for homes that are willing to share someone else's home. One of the persons has to be over 60, the person sharing the home does not pay more than 30% of their income, so this is an advantage with persons who have an economic disability or anyone who is low income. As well as paying rent, there are options for exchange of services, such as driving to doctor visits, mowing lawns, housecleaning, etc. Robin stated they are very excited about this program and that this is something that was started a few years ago. With the advent of affordability and accessibility

of housing, they had a Pocono Housing Symposium in 2014, and had developers from Wayne, Pike and Monroe, which was sponsored by the Link Aging Disability Resource Centers from all three Counties and from there a federal grant was received. Pike County has signed on to be the lead county. This program has just started so the counselors are just beginning to schedule appointments, going to people's homes, etc. There is a rigorous background check application process so that both individuals will be secure. There is also a trial period and they will receive ongoing support. There have been different programs such as this one in Montgomery County, Lehigh County, PA and other places in New England. Many of the human service agencies in the three counties were having difficulty finding affordable housing for people. This takes advantage of the existing housing stock. There is no development that needs to take place, as it is repurposing and reusing homes to enable homeowners to stay in their home. Questions were entertained from the public and brochures were distributed.

Penn State Extension –August 3-23, 2017 Events – Commissioner Osterberg emphasized the Solar Eclipse Community Viewing Party on August 21 at Airport Park, which will be a great opportunity to view the eclipse.

Commissioner Osterberg mentioned that there will be another two Reality Tours in the fall to bring more awareness to the drug addiction epidemic. Carbon/Monroe/Pike Drug & Alcohol has bracelets that say "Recovery is Possible" available to be handed out from individual to individual when someone is recognized as suffering through the effects of addiction. Commissioner Osterberg has personally handed out 100 bracelets from his efforts to go to the 12 Step Programs and gave them to the group leaders to distribute to their members. The idea behind this is when you find someone, or know someone who is suffering through addiction you give it to them so when they have that one moment where they feel they need to reach out for help, when it is turned inside out, it gives the 800 number to Carbon/Monroe/Pike for drug addiction where someone will answer 24 hours a day. This is another effort to bring awareness to this epidemic and to help those that are out there and struggling to possibly save them and stop all the suffering that is going on in the community. The bracelets were made available to anyone that wanted them to distribute. The other effort is to get them to emergency services so that when the ambulance personnel and police officers show up at places where people are overdosing, they can stretch a bracelet over the person's arm and when they wake up the next morning, because they were saved from the narcan, that they will recognize that Recovery is Possible.

PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

A gentleman asked for an update on the Mott Street Bridge. Commissioner Osterberg said that there is a phone conference going on between the County Engineer and PennDot as far as the procedures of bidding the project out. At the same time, in 2020, PennDot will be refurbishing the 209 Bridge, which means the closure of the 209 Bridge. There is discussion now on how that is going to affect the Borough and how it affects the Mott Street Bridge and how people get in and out of Milford. PennDot claims that this is a six month project. As far as the Mott Street Bridge is concerned now, there is discussion to get this out to bid as a walking bridge by the end of this month. There are still a few hurdles, such as easements with the National Park and easements with private property owners. There are concerns regarding a cost overrun, as the County has \$461,000 towards this project which was received through a grant. PennDot has been informed at the beginning of the discussions that this is the amount that the County has for a bridge that is just going to be used for pedestrians. There are many bridges in the County that are much more significant to the movement of people getting to their homes. This is a walking bridge and this project is somewhere in the range of \$1.2 million. There is still the unknown, because this is a 100 year old bridge, and when they start to work on it, they may find more possible problems with this. The County's question to PennDot is who is paying that, because the County has been very strongly telling them we do not have any more money. The engineers are just about to the design part of the project where they can put the project out to bid. The easements will not be with any property owners that live there, but one that resides elsewhere. Commissioner Osterberg stated that the bridge will not be opened to vehicular traffic under the current conditions. The County is having discussions with PennDot regarding the bypass because of the affects it will have on Milford Borough. There is a plan to build a bypass through National Park Service property which goes behind the Callahan House. When he spoke to the National Park Service, they said that would never happen. The question is what will happen in this town when you shut down the main thoroughfare into this town for six months. Again, they are claiming six months. I took two years to do the bridge on Route 6, the Dwarfskill out by Gold Key seemed to be closed for 10 years, and that bridge is not anywhere near the size of the 209 Bridge. To clarify, Commissioner Osterberg explained that as you go around the corner towards the Delaware River Bridge that goes over to New Jersey, that bridge when you go out of town will be shut down over the Sawkill Creek. Now they propose to build a 200 foot bridge across the Sawkill Creek through National Park Service property where there was an old mill and all sorts of historical artifacts. Someone stated that considering that the Park Service would not let anyone even clear a path to the swimming hole while the bridge is being worked on, he does not think they are going to allow a bypass. Commissioner Osterberg said what a waste of money, we are going to put \$1.2 million into the Mott Street Bridge to make it a pedestrian bridge, build a 200 foot temporary bridge that when it's done will be ripped down, which is probably \$1.5 to \$2 million, so we are going to spend \$3 million on junk. We wonder why Harrisburg is in the condition it's in. This area depends a lot on tourism and when you put a large detour in, tourists are not coming, because if you're going to come across the toll bridge in Milford and make a left on 209, back up 739, all the way back down 01, that's probably about a 14 mile or longer detour. Go the other direction in Jersey, to River Road or Clove Road, come all the way through Port Jervis back into Milford, that's at least 14 miles again. Someone stated that none of this is news, but the bridge is falling into the river. Commissioner Osterberg is not saying that the bridge does not need to be replaced, and he agreed this is not news, but lay this on PennDot. They knew darn well that bridge could not have a single lane on it. He didn't know that, he's not an engineer. That bridge going out to 209 cannot be a single lane bridge; they can't do half and the other half because it's a double arch bridge. PennDot knew this and how long ago did they know this. Decades, since they built it, it's their bridge. Someone asked if that information was passed on to Hawley, Wallenpaupack, Honesdale, because all of the people, whether they stop in Milford or not, are heading to those communities. Commissioner Osterberg said it is now. The project is slated to begin in 2020. There was a meeting about this two weeks ago, where he raised the issue about maybe thinking about building bypasses around the Borough with Mott Street Bridge, which he knows will be some inconvenience for some residents, but we also have to think about the greater good of the community. This affects everyone, not only Milford Borough, but everyone west of here. This is a big entrance into this community. What happens if you're a store owner in this Borough? Remember when 209 closed three years ago from the flood, and the affect it had on businesses, and that was a natural occurrence and maybe it took too long to repair it.

Jill Gamboni announced that Representative Peifer is having a Senior Expo on Friday, September 8th, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Dingman's Firehall. There will be 60 vendors attending with a lot of information for seniors. Further discussion was held regarding the proposed detour road and the 209 bridge.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2017, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.