

**Wednesday, August 5, 2020**

The first regular meeting of August 2020 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.

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

***Public Comments/Questions concerning today’s agenda.***

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the August 5, 2020 Agenda.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the July 15, 2020 Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the July 15, 23 and 30, 2020 Commissioners’ Conference Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$167,371.33**, subject to further review.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **PIKE COUNTY EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE FUND**, in the amount of **\$49,149.24**.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to transfer **LISA KURLAND** from a part time Clerk II in District Justice Magistrate Cooper’s Office to a full time Clerk I in District Justice Magistrate Fischer’s Office, for a 40 hour work week effective August 3, 2020, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to promote **STACIE CAPRONI** from a Caseworker Aide to a Caseworker I for Children & Youth Services, for a 40 hour work week, effective August 3, 2020. This is a replacement position.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to recess the Commissioners’ Meeting to hold a Salary Board Meeting.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to reconvene the Commissioners’ Meeting.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open bids received for the purchase of fortified flavored beverage bases for the Correctional Facility.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the bid received for the purchase of fortified flavored beverage bases for the Correctional Facility until August 19, 2020 for review.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open bids received for the Pike County Correctional Facility Waste Water Treatment Plant Controls Building Roof Replacement Project.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid which was received from Grimm Construction in the amount of \$69,370.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the bid received for the Pike County Correctional Facility Waste Water Treatment Plant Controls Building Roof Replacement Project until August 19, 2020 for review.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-20, Proclamation, Americans with Disabilities Act's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Roger Howard as Matamoras Borough representative to the Pike County Road Task Force to fill an unexpired term ending 12/31/22.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint David Zeiler to the Pike County Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term ending 12/31/20.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Juliette McKerrell to the NEPA Alliance Board to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2021.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the 2021 membership to the Central Westmoreland Council of Governments.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Grant Agreement between the PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs and Carbon/Monroe/Pike Counties.

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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Tim Knapp, Emergency Management Coordinator – EMS Classes beginning in August – Commissioner Osterberg announced that this initiative began not even a year ago. It began with generous donations from Jason Ohliger and his law firm and then continued with Mr. Lovejoy's (Bill) participation, along with our partnership with the Greater Pike Community Foundation. Matt then introduced Tim Knapp. Tim Knapp said we have gotten approval from the Department of Health, the bureau and educational institute at Pike County Training, so we don't need to source stuff out. There was a standstill from the end of March until about 3 weeks ago where all training was stopped by the Department of Health. We did still advertise our EMT class and I am here today and happy to say that Monday night was our registration orientation for the class and we have 24 candidates-the max which we can have in one class in Pike County. Of those 24 candidates, 8 are outside citizens of the community (not tied to an emergency organization). We have worked hard to put together a group of instructional staff. There is a current waiting list of 14 students to take the next EMT class. It has been decided that if things go as we expect them to go, within the next 2 or 3 months we will run a parallel class so we'll bring those other 14 people in. We will do the one class Mondays and Wednesdays and we'll do the other class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tim thanked the support of Jason and the law firm and everybody who has donated and contributed to this fund. Commissioner Osterberg added it is important to recognize that out of those individuals, they are representing 8 different fire companies or EMS Services in the County. We are hoping that people would be connected to the fire companies and ambulance services so that when they're done it'll provide some services with them. The other side of it is that, through generous donations, it saved local emergency services \$10,400. We would like other people to donate to this fund – this is something that we can continue to do every year. Tim Knapp continued that he has been talking about using an LMS (Learning Management System) System to offer blended courses where some of it is on-line and some will be in the classrooms. That seems to be the popular thing now. We're hoping to get there one day.

Bernie Swartwood (911 Communications Director) read the agencies that are represented in the class. There are 2 candidates from Greeley Fire Department; 2 from Milford Fire Department; Delaware EMS; Lackawaxen EMS; Westfall Fire Department; Blooming Grove Fire Department; and Matamoras. Bernie thanked Tim Knapp, the County Commissioners and the partners that helped with the funding. It has been a great community effort to get this up and running. To be able to run these classes on our own is going to be great for everybody. We can create our own schedules to meet the needs of the students and we won't be under the arm of somebody else on what we can or can't do. We will follow all the requirements of the Department of Health, but from our educational facility (Pike County Training Center). Thank you.

Tim Knapp said one of the things that we hope to accomplish, whether it's a volunteer agency or a paid agency, is to have enough people to fill these riding positions. It is important that everybody gets trained so we have enough people in the County itself to man these positions and take part when an emergency does occur. We have a great staff at the Training Center and they have been working their tails off to get where we are with this program. Matt noted that 8 of those individuals now have a career opportunity also. For reasons, whether they just couldn't join a service right now or don't have the time to do that when this over, but more importantly they are getting trained and it's because we have the local facility. They would not have done this if this was out of the region. Tim agreed and said we couldn't do it. Just listening to some of the people taking the class – we have a questionnaire and, basically, one of the things that we see on them is the availability of the class – everything is right here (Pike County). They don't have to go anywhere else. They don't have to travel – the feasibility of having it right here. That is thanks to the Commissioners – the foresight, seeing the need for this. The EMS, fires and everything don't stop. We have become one of the premier training sites in the Northeast. People are seeking us out to take our classes. I think things are going really good right now. Bernie Swartwood mentioned he had the opportunity to speak with one of the candidates that is from the public sector. They don't belong to an emergency service organization at the present time. They didn't say it was off the table for the future, but they just felt it was the right thing to do. Their regular employment deals with a lot of people, but they felt it would be a benefit to their employer and is doing this totally on their own. Commissioner Schmalzle thanked them for their leadership and said this was a severe problem before the pandemic, accentuated during the pandemic and will be a problem after the pandemic. This is leadership by Tim Knapp and Bernie Swartwood, leadership from the community – for giving us the initiative to begin this fund, and we want to thank Jason and his crew, and Mr. Lovejoy (Bill) for initiating partners in this. In a time when there's not a lot of good news, this is exceptional news. Thank you to all.

Commissioner Guccini echoed what Ron said and turned the meeting over to Jason and Mr. Lovejoy. They are really responsible, in addition to what Tim and Bernie have done, for really helping to make this happen. Mr. Lovejoy said that Jason and he were talking when the program was coming up and we are both thrilled. I equate it to the "Field of Dreams", when you build a Training Center you're going to get people to come. I would say that as many people as you can get – we will find funds to keep this thing going. This is critically important and from here we have to move on to paramedics and get ambulances and we need an urgent care center. This is a wonderful place to live, but a neighbor on my street moved because there isn't a hospital available or emergency services. Jason started this well before I got involved and we have just been able to come together. Kudos to Jason for taking the lead in his law firm.

Jason Ohliger said he was amazed when he got the most recent statement from how the balance had grown in the account. More importantly is the fact that it's not just sitting there doing nothing, it's being employed by the emergency management folks, Tim and Bernie. Everything is starting to gel. We will continue our fundraising efforts, in fact we just had a client who offered to donate \$600 just the other day.

Matt said it is appreciated – everything that Greater Pike Community Foundation is doing and pointed out that Gail Shuttleworth from the Community Foundation was also on the line and thanked her. Gail Shuttleworth said most of the work was done by Director Jenni Hamill, but she couldn't be on this call. This is exactly the kind of project we want to work with. How people get started, especially fundraising and our purview is holding and investing the money, writing the checks and helping with fundraising. I think one of the things that really worked well this year was the Need To Give Program. This year was the first year that we did this one day of on-line giving and it was critical that Jason and his firm matched the funds and that was super successful. Everything that we learned about the program is something that every year gets better and better. We hope that this is a long term fund and I would like it to become endowed as it were so that every year you can count on the money being there to train people. It can be expanded to whatever the community needs in terms of emergency services.

Bernie Swartwood added that the proper name for the fund is "The Pike County Emergency Services Initiative Fund". It started with scholarships and has now moved in to supporting the Training Center and is allowing the classes to be held at a much more reduced rate and free to the Emergency Services System. It evolved to several different things and there still is a scholarship fund for individuals that may already be certified, living in the community, but not participating in one of the local emergency services organizations. There are several different arms to this.

## **PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ADJOURNMENT**

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**