

**Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

The first regular meeting of September 2019 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. Pastor Leonard Gilpin of Hope Evangelical Free Church offered the opening prayer.

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

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 4, 2019 Agenda.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the August 21, 2019 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 August 15 and 29, 2019 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye', with the exception that Commissioner Guccini abstained from the 15<sup>th</sup> due to his absence. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$680,567.09, 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 **PC EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE FUND**, in the amount of \$6,736.00.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve exonerations as presented by **CYNTHIA GEHRIS**, Tax Claim Bureau Director, for 29 properties sold out of the County Repository in the amount of \$4,874.71.

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

**PERSONNEL:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Judge Gregory H. Chelak advising that he has hired **NINA BREUER** as a Probation Officer for the Adult Probation Office, for a 40 hour work week effective September 16, 2019 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 change the title of **J. BERNARD SWARTWOOD** from Director of Communications/Department of Public Safety to Director of Public Safety/Director of 911 and Emergency Communications effective September 16, 2019.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to promote **KRISTA GROMALSKI** from the Conservation District to the newly created position of Communications Director for the Commissioners' Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective September 16, 2019.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to change the title of Education/Outreach/County Communications Coordinator to Communications Coordinator for the Conservation District Office and to hire **DEVAN GEORGE** to fill this position, for a 40 hour work week, effective September 16, 2019, with benefits after 90 days.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the lateral transfer of **CHARLYNN SCHEUERMANN** from the Prothonotary's Office to the Election Office as an Election Clerk, effective September 16, 2019 at her current rate of pay. 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 hire **KIM TITMAN** as a Housekeeper in the Maintenance Department for a 40 hour work week, effective September 6, 2019, 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 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: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Tanya Carrelle to the Children & Youth Advisory Board to fill a vacancy for a term ending December 31, 2020.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Lease Agreement between Akorn Properties, Inc. and the County of Pike, for the District Magistrate's Office located in the Palmyra Professional Complex, 106 Shook Road, Hawley.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the demolition of 3 cabins in Akenac Park, Delaware Township, contingent upon receipt of a Maintenance Plan for the Park approved by Delaware Township, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program Board.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Certification Statement for Children & Youth Social Service Programs for the period 4/1/19 to 6/30/19.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the 2019-20 Purchase of Service Agreements between the following Providers and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services: Cornell Abraxas Group, VisionQuest National, Second Haven Services for Youth, Forensic Counseling Associates, Edison Court and Torrance Cove Prep.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Penn State Extension Calendar of Events – September 15-30, 2019

**PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Reporter Chris Jones asked why does the County need to approve what is happening at Akenac Park? Commissioner Osterberg answered because there was funding used to purchase that through the SRCP (Scenic Rural Character Preservation) fund. Commissioner Guccini added that there were cabins demolished a year or two ago and the Township wanted to demolish 3 more. The SRCP Board met and was okay with it, given the conditions of the cabins, and they want to see a comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the Park to make sure their plan is in place, to make sure there is still adequate public access, etc. Reporter Chris Jones then asked if that is the last of them? Commissioner Guccini answered no, there are a couple more. Another meeting attendee added that the "major building" was repaired where the kitchen is and that was redone by the Township.

Reporter Chris Jones asked about the Director of Communications/Department of Public Safety, J. Bernard Swartwood, if he "moved up", is that more work for him? Commissioner Osterberg answered no. By hiring Krista Gromalski and giving her the title of Communications Director, it was confusing that we had "2" Communication Directors. Now we have defined that J. Bernard Swartwood is Public Safety and the Communications Director **for 911**. Different communication.

Reporter Chris Jones then asked what has expanded in terms of what Krista Gromalski is going to do? Commissioners Osterberg explained that Krista will now take charge of communications that come out of the Commissioners' Office. When we want to have something promoted, like within in the next month or two, we will be talking more about treatment and the role of drug addiction. We feel it is important to have somebody that really will go out there and help you in the press understand what it is that we are doing in this office and things that are being promoted in the County. The job is all encompassing, it's every department. At different times she may do a report on what is going on in Tax Claim, Transportation, the 911 Center or the Jail. Commissioner Guccini is working with a Re-entry Program - sometime next month that will be rolled out. Krista Gromalski will really help explain and help to put that together in a Press Release so the community knows what we are doing here. It is hard for us to be able to put those things together and format the documents to give to the press so the press understands what we are doing. Krista is Public Relations for

the County and she will be dealing with the website, social media and newsletters. Commissioner Schmalzle added that the County wants to and will do better in the future to communicate what's happening in the County and we're pleased to have Krista with us to help us communicate. Another meeting attendee stated it sounded like a lot of liaison work in addition to Communications. Commissioner Schmalzle said that is correct.

Reporter Chris Jones asked if anything was heard about the Sewer Study? Commissioner Osterberg said there is a meeting today at 3:00 PM. The first Wednesday of every month, all the townships and engineers meet with the Commissioners. Each of the Municipalities have sent out letters to a sampling of the residents to survey what kind of septic systems they have and questions about any problems with their septic or when the last time they had the septic serviced. Milford Borough has already sent out that letter. This is all required by law to do the 537 Plan. Milford Township has sent one out to their residents and so has Matamoras. I'm not sure if Westfall Township needed to because I am not sure if they're updating their 537 Plan. That is where we are right now. An attendee of the meeting said she lives in Westfall and she did receive one. Another attendee asked if it would be correct to say that, the more people who join in on this Authority, the fees will likely diminish? The approach or the strategy would be to get as many people behind you as possible? Commissioner Osterberg answered that the Authority is already in place, Milford Water Company is an Authority that serves Milford Township with water not the sewer, Westfall has a Sewer Authority and Matamoras has a Water Authority. They are all meeting here today at 3:00 PM and the meetings are open.

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**