

**Wednesday, September 5, 2018**

The first regular meeting of September 2018 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 Pastor Leonard Gilpin from Hope Evangelical Free Church of Matamoros.

**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 5, 2018 Agenda.  
**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the August 15, 2018 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 22 and 31, 2018 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 **\$133,452.15**, 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 **\$620,759.84**.  
**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 Chelak advising that he has hired **CASSANDRA MILLER** as a Probation Officer for the Juvenile Probation Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective August 27, 2018, 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 acknowledge receipt of a letter from Sheriff Kerry Welsh advising that he has hired **DANNI SELL** as a Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective September 4, 2018, with benefits after 90 days. This is to fill a newly created 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 adopt Resolution No. 18-14, National Recovery Month, September 2018, which was read by Commissioner Schmalzle.

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

Commissioner Osterberg stated that the County has had an Opioid Task Force for a year. During this meeting announcements will be made by different individuals of various programs throughout the County regarding Recovery Month. Commissioner Osterberg read an excerpt from the book "Dopesick" which he is currently reading. "This evil is confined to no class or occupation. Its numbers among its victims some of the best women and men of all classes. Prompt action is then demanded lest our land should become stupefied by the direful effects of narcotics and thus diseased physically, mentally and morally. The love of liberty swallowed up by the love of opium, whilst the masses of our people will become fit subjects for despot". This was written on January 25, 1884. This has been going on for a very long time. He suggested that if people read Dopesick they will be concerned about this epidemic and at the same time a little angry about how it has gotten to this point. The book came out in August 2018 and is telling what is going on in communities regardless of location. We in the County need to do what we can to at least help the residents that live in Pike County. Commissioner Osterberg had wrist bands available with the words "Recovery is Possible" and recommends that everyone wear one. The reason he wears one every day is to stir conversation and make people aware of this epidemic. He also had a flyer out of Washington from the Sheriff about fentanyl and talks about the concerns of first responders dealing with fentanyl in homes that they service and the possibility of they themselves overdosing by touching it in the wrong manner. This is another reason for having naloxone readily available for everyone, because it is not just someone who is overdosing who is addicted to it, but it is also the innocent people who are trying to help these individuals who can become affected by this.

Angie Smith, Penn State Extension Educator, began with the reading of the attached Recovery Month Public Service Announcement developed to give out to agencies to be able to promote their efforts this month. Wallenpaupack and Delaware Valley School District have also received copies and have agreed to deliver the message at their home games and other venues. There was also a binder of resource materials which have so far been distributed to different doctors, dentists and

physical therapy offices throughout the community. They will also be distributed to local businesses. There is a list (attached) of events and activities going on throughout the month supporting the Opioid Task Force mission.

Jill Gamboni thanked the Greater Pike Community Foundation for the grant that enabled all the information be distributed to the community. She announced that October 11 and November 8 are the dates for the upcoming Reality Tour. The first 40 people who register will be free due to a donation from a woman who lost her cousin.

Kingsley Greis, Community Relations Representative for Pyramid Healthcare, which is one of the largest health care providers throughout the state or Pennsylvania. They also have some facilities in New Jersey as well as North Carolina and Georgia. Ms. Gries is the local representative in PA. They have various levels of care throughout Pennsylvania ranging from detox in patient stays and out patient offices. They are striving to be one of the leaders in behavioral healthcare throughout the state, assisting those who are working towards a lifestyle of recovery to overcome substance abuse. They have recently been funded through Carbon/Monroe/Pike Drug & Alcohol to provide a free educational program called Recovery Awareness for family and friends to residents in those counties that are affected by individuals using substances abusively or striving towards recovery. The educational program will begin September 10 at the Pike County Training Center from 6 to 8 pm. Registration is required. This 4 week program for friends and family will educate on addiction as a disease concept, efforts towards recovery and supporting someone and yourself through that process, relapse prevention and recovery moving forward.

Commissioner Osterberg referred back to the book Dopesick saying that a lot of this was created and forced upon the public by pharmaceuticals. In 1884, over 100 years ago, there were the same feelings and concerns as today, although it was somewhat legal to receive this type of opioids. They knew then that they needed to stop this, yet the FDA and pharmaceuticals saw differently in the 1990s and just pushed this across the country haphazardly without thinking about the ramifications and paying doctors exorbitant fees and taking them on luxurious vacations to say this is good stuff, give this to the population. Eighty to ninety percent of the individuals in the Correctional Facility are there because of an addiction. There is frustration on whether this should be treated with naloxone, when ambulances go out multiple times to save someone, but which of us wants to be the one to stand over someone's loved one and says this is number 6, I'm not giving it to you anymore. Who is going to live with that for the rest of their lives? The EMS workers who continually have to deal with this feel the frustration because they don't understand why there isn't help readily available out there. When you hear that there are naloxone parties tell them to prove that to you. You want factual evidence that someone sat in a room waiting for someone to overdose, another one of their friends, so that they could bring them back. There is no factual evidence to it. It is a rumor out there, but it is thriving, and it shouldn't be because we cannot turn our backs on these individuals. They are our family members and our neighbors.

Commissioner Schmalzle added that in his first month and a half as Commissioner this has been the thing that has stunned him the most. He would say that he walked into this arena as being naive to a lot of this and it was not from within his world and now it is deep in his world. It is something that we need to continue to work really hard on and see if we can somehow make a difference in changing things in Pike County and the direction we are headed. He said he does not know how, or when, or if it is even possible, but he stated that the three Commissioners will be strong advocates of this.

Chris Jones of the Dispatch commented that the Commissioners blame the pharma, but what about individual responsibility? No one takes the pill and drops it in your mouth, so what about the individual? Is that not politically correct anymore?

Commissioner Osterberg replied that it is, but when he goes to the dentist and he has a tooth pulled and he needs to have 30 oxycodone given to him, he is not sure that was the proper procedure to give to someone. Again, he stated, when you read the factual evidence in the books, and you see that this affects people in different ways. You and I may be able to take one of those pills and walk away from it. He said that he went through major surgery and had this type of drug, but he was given them for a reason, not because he had a sore tooth or his shoulder hurt. The over prescription is what happened. There is so much of it out there in the public. There is personal responsibility, but addiction is a disease and some people are affected differently. Why did the pharmaceuticals have to pay doctors to give it out then? Why did they give doctors lavish vacations to make sure they were prescribing this? Why did they do that? They just did that because it was all about money. When you look back to the 1880s and early 1900s they knew that this stuff was not something that should be so haphazardly pushed out there into the public. There is a need for it, he understands that there are people who are suffering from life ending diseases and serious surgeries that need this prescribed to them, but he's not sure that every high school kid that sprains his ankle needs to get oxycodone or OxyContin. He is not sure that is the case, and he will stand by that. Yes, there is some personal responsibility, but there is also responsibility of how we prescribe this into the public. 25,000 prescriptions out of a doctor's office in Milford? You think that's being responsible to a pregnant woman? But people believe their doctor.

Mr. Jones said that he wrote that story, but again, he still thinks that a lot of people have been to the hospital, he has had major accidents and surgery, and been prescribed medication, but it is your decision if you want to get up the next morning doped up. Everything is advertised – alcohol is, it's everywhere, but are we going to take on the liquor companies or the state stores?

Jill Gamboni responded that the doctor is not prescribing alcohol. You trust your doctor. Commissioner Osterberg said sometimes you have to question your doctor.

Mary Little, who just recently was appointed to the Drug & Alcohol Commission, said she is very impressed on the Board level and gave an update on the facilities and programs. She gave kudos to the staff and administrator.

Commissioner Guccini addressed Chris Jones by saying that we all have to be personally responsible, but now we are looking at the situation where the awareness and public education is out there. Twenty and thirty years ago people were being told that this stuff was good for you and not addictive. It is not much different than cigarettes in the 1950s. There was a commercial where you're supposed to smoke menthol cigarettes because they are really good for you. We look at that now and laugh and think how stupid could we have been, but thirty years ago people were being told that if you have this pain take this stuff and you won't have pain and it's good for you, it won't hurt you. So at some point it is easy to look at this now and say now we know. But when we didn't know and the government and the doctors and the professionals were telling you to take this stuff, people were taking it. He thinks we need to look at this differently in 2018 than we looked at it in 1980.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Kathy Otting and Cheryl Schmitt, as alternate, to represent Porter Township on the Pike County Road Task Force 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 Rev. Luana Cook Scott to the Pike County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board to fill an unexpired term ending 12/31/19.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for the 2018-19 winter snowplowing and ice control for the following roads as one bid: Brooks Road, Old Owego Turnpike from Raymondskill Rd. to Route 6, Stone Quarry Road by Eureka and Tower Road.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the FY 2018/21 Amended Contract for Professional Services between Ray Evans and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the FY 2018/21 Agreement for Subcontracted Services between Dongy Homecare and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute Provider Agreements between the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services, and the following providers: Children's Home of Easton, Community Solutions (17-18), Community Solutions (18-19), Cornell Abraxas Group, Inc., Diversified Treatment Alternative Centers, LLC, Families United Network, Inc., Forensic Treatment Services, Vallierre & Counseling Associates, Inc., George Junior Republic of PA, Judith Munoz, KidsPeace National Centers, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, Little Acorns Daycare, Merakey Pennsylvania, Northern Tier Research, Pentz Run Youth Services and VisionQuest.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the 4th Quarter FY 2017/18 Act 148 Certification Statement on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program Marcellus Mini-Grant Award of \$9,340.50 to Delaware Township for the Akenac Park Fishing Dock Replacement Project, as recommended by the SRCP Board.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute Senior Rental Assistance Contracts #37 and #38, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Senior Rental Assistance voucher for Delaware Run for \$1,306 for September 2018, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Penn State Extension Schedule of Events – September 1-17, 2018. Peter Wulfhorst spoke on the Spotted Lanternfly, which has been found in 13 counties and Pike County adjoins to Monroe County. There has been training available to educators to restrict these insects from entering other counties. Adults are now laying eggs on many kinds of surfaces. There is a warning to business and such to go into those counties to be aware and to prevent them from coming outside the quarantine area. The Extension website has links for education on these insects. Mr. Wulfhorst had flyers and posters available for distribution.
- Annette Haar discussed the Gar-Po-Fire Community Auction Fundraising Event to support the Milford Garden Club, the Milford Police Department and Milford Volunteer Fire Department. The Milford Garden Club, who celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, would like self-watering urns to make it easier for the volunteers. The auction will be held on Saturday, September 22 at 12:00 noon at St Patrick's Parish Hall, with a sneak preview on Friday, September 21 from 5 to 7 pm. Commissioner Osterberg commented that any donations would be from the Commissioners personally and not from government funds.

#### **PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**