

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

The first regular meeting of October 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 Shirley Geffrand, Faith Tabernacle, Port Jervis, NY 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 October 2, 2019 Agenda with the amendment to Item #1 under Old Business to be changed to "award" instead of "table" the bid for the John Street Complex Roof Replacement Project.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 18, 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 September 18, 20 and 25, 2019 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye', with the exception that Commissioner Guccini abstained from the 25<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 **\$277,974.89**, 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 **ACT 13 FUND (HRG-Act 537 Study)**, in the amount of \$7,000.

**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 Sheriff Kerry Welsh advising that he has hired **DOUGLAS SCOTT** as a Deputy Sheriff for the Sheriff's Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective October 14, 2019; and to approve Mr. Scott's transfer from the Probation Office with his current benefits. 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 Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, the following individuals as full time Correctional Officers for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective October 15, 2019 with benefits after 90 days: **AUSTIN ANTOINE, TYLER KINZEL, GINO CARACHILO, ANTONIO DOMINGUEZ AND SARA FABIAN.**

**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 Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **EDDA RIVERA** as a temporary Intern for the Correctional Facility, for less than 1000 hours from September 30, 2019 through December 31, 2019, with no benefits.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **BRIAN EVICHIN** to fill the newly created position of Interim Veterans Affairs Director for a 37 ½ hour work week, for a six month period beginning October 7, 2019, with no benefits.

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

Commissioner Osterberg announced that Veterans Affairs Director Pierce Bunce, after 12 years, is contemplating his retirement and introduced Brian Evichin as the new Interim Veterans' Affairs Director. Pierce over the years has done great work, not only here but at the Pike County Correctional Facility dealing with all the issues that Veterans need to deal with in this day and age. Brian Evichin is coming on to replace him and this is a transition period and it is important for the public to meet Brian. The Veterans have already met Brian and will meet him again at 1:00 PM.

Pierce Bunce said he met Brian at the Veterans' Mobile Unit. We offer services, mostly for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, but also other Veterans passing by looking to find out what we're doing. We have met a lot of people. We have been able to provide benefits to them. The meeting that Commissioner Osterberg is talking about is a very important meeting because the group is all Combat Veterans that have Post-Traumatic Stress. We have 4 guys from World War II, 3 from Korea and we have mostly Vietnam Veterans. Anyone from that era to the present, attend the meetings and it is a life-saving program. Many of the Veterans just don't have any connection with people. Here they have a brotherhood, it is truly a brotherhood because we all have common ground. I am glad we did that program. We have a counselor here 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I would imagine the Office of Veterans' Affairs has serviced about 800 Veterans over 12 years. They are getting what they deserve and that is very important. Brian also worked for the VA and that is how we got to know each other over the last 4 years. I am confident that Brian is going to be able to do an excellent job. My goal is that he will be better than I am. You will be left in good hands (the Veteran population). It is not only the Veterans we do a lot with, it is with the widows too - each year there are more of those. We are able to help them. We have a fund here at Veterans' Affairs if you're in need, we can help you out - the widows too. Brian will do an excellent job. If anyone has any questions for Brian, you can ask him.

Brian Evichin said that he is excited to get started and service the community and the Veterans. I have known Pierce for 4 years and he does an amazing job-I have big shoes to fill, but I am excited to get started and help out the Veterans.

Reporter Chris Jones asked Brian if he worked with Pierce on the Veterans' PTSD Program? Brian responded no - he knows a lot of the Veterans, but his is not on that program.

Reporter Chris Jones then asked where Brian worked for in the VA? Brian responded through the Veterans' Center in Scranton, PA, I worked primarily with Combat Veterans for PTSD and counseling.

Commissioner Steve Guccini followed up that Pierce usually gives an update on the money end of things - how much funding he brings in for Veterans. It is pretty impressive compared to some of the other Counties, so thank you for that. Commissioner Osterberg added that maybe he can get that information to the Press, because that is important. Compared to other Counties, you'll see that Pike County, as small as we are, Pierce does an incredible job with helping Veterans get the benefits that they need.

Pierce added that this year we've drawn in \$1.8M in benefits. The benefits truly have changed lives. I remember one WWII guy, he's in the group, he didn't want to go for his Veterans' benefits and it changed his life. They can use it for a car, to buy food, medications and things like that. He went and got his 100% and it changed his life. Brian has a heart for this job and I believe he will do well.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **BETTY ANN MALUK**, as Lead Housekeeper in the Maintenance Department for a 40 hour work week, effective October 8, 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 hire **SARAH BRODOWSKY** as a part time Training Assistant for the Training Center for less than 1000 hours per year, effective September 30, 2019, with no benefits. 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 **FRANK VOGEL** from Aging Care Manager 1 to Aging Care Manager II for the Area Agency on Aging, retroactive to September 15, 2019.

**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 award the bid to Grimm Construction for the John Street Complex Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$209,871.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award the bid for the 2019-20 winter snowplowing and ice control to Lattimore Construction for the following roads: Old Owego Turnpike from Raymondskill Rd. to Route 6 at \$419 per application (plowing and sanding), \$233 per application (sanding only); Brooks Road, Stone Quarry Road by Eureka and Tower Road at \$806 per application (plowing and sanding), \$340 per application (sanding only).

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to accept the proposals for municipal solid waste and/or residual waste disposal services for County-generated waste and to execute Municipal Waste Disposal Capacity Agreements with Grand Central Sanitation Landfill, Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Alliance Sanitary Landfill, CES and Pioneer Crossing Landfill; and to execute Municipal Waste Transfer Facility Agreements with Beach Lake Transfer and Lehigh Valley Recycling. **VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Larissa Kimmel to the Children & Youth Advisory Board to fill a vacancy for a term ending December 31, 2021.

**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 PCCD Subgrant Award Notification for "The Center Project" in the amount of \$188,478, on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.

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

District Attorney Ray Tonkin said this was previously presented to the Commissioners in an application form, this is just the final Grant Award where Pike County has been awarded a total of \$188,478 from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for The Center Project which is moving a Victim's Center and a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) over to 103 West High Street, Milford, PA. Commissioner Osterberg added this is all a transition of moving facilities to John Street, the Magistrate's Office will be moving to 102 East John Street and it all has to be coordinated with the State, probably not until November. At that point, the CAC which is located upstairs and the Victim's Center will be relocated into the building that Magistrate Fischer's office is now in. This is some money to do renovations in that building to put a medical facility in there. District Attorney Tonkin said the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has a partnership with us. We are working on firmly establishing that partnership, there was a Grant awarded to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to do that. Pediatricians have been up here twice. Once for a fantastic meeting and what services they'll be able to bring to our Children's Advocacy Center and the other following up with the I.T. needs. I have talked to and hope to, as an employee of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, have a Physician's Assistant who actually will do the exams here on site.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Financial Statement of Funds expended under Grant-in-Aid for Juvenile Probation Services for FY 2018/19, Letter of Compensation and FY 2019/20 Juvenile Probation Services Grant Agreement, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Purchase of Service Agreements between the following Providers and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services: FY 2018/19 and FY 2019/20 Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA; FY 2019/20 Pennsylvania Mentor.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Agreement between Kathy Johnson and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services for training services.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the 2019 October Senior Rental Assistance Voucher for Delaware Run in the amount of \$1,725.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Commissioner Guccini and Hampton Morgan – Pike County Reentry Coalition – Commissioner Guccini introduced Hampton Morgan. We are co-chairs of the Reentry Coalition. The idea of having a formal Reentry Coalition is to bring together as many people and organizations as we can, not just County agencies, but Non-Profits and Faith Based Initiative Groups, to establish formal procedures for individuals who are going to be released from the Pike County Correctional Facility (PCCF) and to make sure they have services in place while they are there and to follow up on those services once they're released. These coalitions are not new. There are many number of Counties around the State

and across the country that have them. I became interested in it when I was running for this job. One of Hampton's associates, Jack Donson, asked me to go to an annual meeting they're having of a coalition in Lackawanna County. I went to observe and I was very impressed by what they did. In December of 2018 we obtained a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to hire a consultant. We hired Melanie Snyder, the consultant, from Lancaster County and beginning January, 2019 until last month, we held five or six 4 hour meetings to come up with a strategic plan. We have prepared and finalized a strategic plan saying what we're going to do now. The planning process is over, it now up to us to implement it and to make sure we do what we need to do going forward. The plan has been approved by CJAB (Criminal Justice Advisory Board) here in the County. It now has to be sent to the PCCD for their approval. We held this series of meetings over the Winter and Spring. The meetings were very well attended, attendance never really dropped. I was pleasantly surprised by how many people showed up and a variety of different groups. There weren't only County people, there were as many or more Faith Based Groups, Non-Profits and just interested individuals. I just talked to Krista Gromalski and our plan is not yet on the County website, but it will be so that anybody who wants to read it can read it. Most importantly, this coming Monday, October 7, 2019 at 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, we are having a Kickoff Event at the PCCF for this group. There will be free food-the folks at the PCCF are doing a barbeque for us. Hampton, myself and some others will be giving an overview to anybody who attends. This is something that has been on my radar for a while now. Matt Osterberg and Ron Schmalzle have been very supportive of this and helping us get through this process. We now have to do it. The strategic planning part is over, now the hard work really starts.

Hampton Morgan came into this after doing Reentry Programs in several Northeast Pennsylvania Correctional Facilities for 10 years. I started at USP in Canaan in Waymart, PA, in a faith based program I was recruited by a neighbor. I have been doing it ever since. The first volunteer appreciation dinner was given for several of the volunteers at that facility and the Warden stood up and said "just imagine if there is just one person whose life is changed because what you do, imagine the benefit that that has for society". I look back on that now because that's what he said every year. I had a friend who was an economist and I said let's sit down and calculate what that might look like. I was blown away by how much is saved by the Criminal Justice System, how much this contributes to society in terms of social good as well as financial good and if you want to fire-up a volunteer, that might be the way to do it. All of my fellow volunteers and I are highly motivated to change that one person. One day you walk into the room where you've been delivering programming for a while and you find somebody who got released six months ago and they're back. You ask, "what went wrong"? Is this my failure? Their failure? The system's failure? There is a whole lot more to this than that room inside the Correctional Facility. There are so many possibilities for people to fall through the cracks then to get out. That is my background and when I first heard about Reentry Coalitions. I was actually doing programming in Lackawanna County at the Facility there and got invited to go to those meetings. I went to quite a number of them and I was very impressed. The number of people gathered in that room all represented expertise involvement, both at a governmental level and non-profit level. If there is a solution to bring those planks together so fewer people fall through them, then this is what it takes. A big investment from faith, community, law enforcement, non-profits, those working in mental health, substance abuse and so forth. When I heard that this was going to happen, I said make sure I'm on the list to hear about that. We actually work together well, Steve describes himself as a recovering lawyer and I as a recovering preacher. I would like to share the vision of the Coalition. It's simple statement – "Returning citizens will integrate into their communities achieving success and independence". Our Mission Statement – "The Pike County Reentry Coalition seeks to reduce recidivism by supporting returning citizens as they transition to their communities after incarceration. Members of the Coalition, which include private citizens, medical and therapeutic professionals, faith communities, employers, educators, non-profit agencies and government entities will help to facilitate the transition by identifying needs and making referrals to those agencies that want to help individuals attain success and independence". Commissioner Guccini mentioned that we have a strategic plan and we will make that available as well on our website. Commissioner Guccini added that when Melanie Snyder came on board, she had done 8 or 9 of these in other Counties. She was very impressed by the programs that we already had at the Correctional Facility. All sorts of programs, a lot of faith-based programs. That part of the process was, to some extent, already there. All we are really doing is trying to expand on that. Most of the programs were already in place before I became a Commissioner, so I am not looking to take any credit here. That was Warden Craig Lowe and his staff. Five years ago I went to one of these meetings in Lackawanna County and there was a woman there who told about her struggles after she was released. She said I am still in the facility in Lackawanna County, I'm able to get a job interview for when I get out and it looks like a pretty good job. What she realized was that she had no appropriate clothing to wear to this job interview. That has always stood out in my mind, because it was something that simple. Someone had to get her some decent clothing to wear to the job interview. A lot of these issues are not giant leaps, they are just little things that help people. These are the things we are trying to work on. Hampton has been doing this a long time and the group that he's a part of, Choosing Integrity, does work not only at the jail but are instrumental in implementing some counseling and frequent services around the County.

Pastor Shirley Geffrand said she was very happy to hear about this program and that she volunteered at Pike County for about 7 years. In our church, we have people that were in prison and I am getting letters asking “what do I do when I get out”? Just last week I received letters. I have been praying about it. This is something that I would like to do and would like to join in and be a part of this. I think this is amazing. What do you do? Where do you send them? They are sending letters to me asking “what do I do” and “where do I go”? Some of them have children and can’t get in contact with their children, they have no one to reach out to, they can’t get resources. Commissioner Guccini responded that, if these are people that have been in the PCCF, there has been in a place for a long period time, a very thorough Resource Guide, which everybody gets when they first go to the jail, not just when they are going to get out. There are counselors at the jail who go over these things with them and I can talk to you more after this meeting. There are a lot of things that are already in place before we started.

Pastor Shirley Geffrand asked when is the next meeting? Commissioner Guccini answered October 29<sup>th</sup> (the last Tuesday of each month) from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. We meet in Lords Valley at the Pike County Training Center (135 Pike County Boulevard, Hawley, PA). Commissioner Osterberg added that our Wardens (Craig Lowe, Jonathan Romance and Robert McLaughlin) are truly dedicated to the individuals that are incarcerated at the Pike County Correctional Facility and are doing their best do see that they do not come back. Our recidivism rate is about 19%-20% - which is a really low number. It hurts them to see someone they release one week and two weeks later they are back in the jail. I look forward to this being extremely successful. The other program that Hampton Morgan has helped us put in place is Smart Recovery, which is very successful, for outreach for people with addictions. There is another group called Hope 4 Pike, they are having a candlelight vigil at the Community House, 201 Broad Street, Milford, PA, at 7:00 PM tonight because this is Substance Abuse Prevention Month. They do their best to bring awareness to this and remove the stigma for both families and the community. We invite people to come tonight-there will be pizza. Thank you Steve Guccini and Hampton Morgan for this. There are a lot of people who put in their time and effort into this. Commissioner Guccini added that if you want to attend Monday (Reentry Coalition BBQ), call the Jail (570) 775-5500 and ask for Amy or Susan.

Penn State Extension Calendar of Events – October 15-31, 2019- Peter Wulfhorst of Penn State Extension said Greater Pike Community Foundation reached out to him to partner on some workshops and in our calendar of events two of them are happening. One will be in November at the Training Center. The first one is on Board Developments for Non-Profits. Any time you have an organization, you have a Board. It is crucial that that Board truly understand what their role and responsibility is. It is the Board that is setting policies for their organization. Some Boards are volunteer Boards, which is unique to certain things. They have to deal with other volunteers and employees that may be on the Board. We are doing this Workshop on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October from 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM . It’s \$10.00 and there will be a breakfast. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of October and the 12<sup>th</sup> of November we’re have a couple of Grant Workshops. One is Finding, Funding and Establishing Your Need and the second one is Grant Proposal Writing. They are going to be held in the evening at the Training Center from 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM. It is open to anyone, it doesn’t have to be a Pike County organization.

Commissioner Osterberg added that the County was awarded \$42,500 from Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) account, which is more funding for us to help expand the infrastructure in the County for water and sewer. This \$42,500 is for the County’s continued development of the Blooming Grove property and this money adds to the engineering costs to build that project. We know it is important that we develop properties that can handle businesses in the County. Just yesterday, at an EDA meeting, we spoke about the number of leads that Mr. Sullivan gets at the EDA through an organization. How many of them come through and come here and get interviewed and the thing that always comes to the stopping point is that we have lack of infrastructure. We have lack of water, sewer and gas in locations. To go through the other steps of putting in sewage plants or whatever for these businesses is just not viable for them to do – they move on. On that note, and there is a report that Mike (Sullivan) has on that, this is why it is important that we get these funds and continue with this. It is a slow process, but we have to continue however slow the process is.

#### **PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Reporter Chris Jones asked for details on John Street – how much was the roof? Commissioner Osterberg answered \$209,871. That went to Grimm Construction-they were the lowest bidder. The reason we tabled it was because the engineer needed to talk about some of the components of the bid and he did.

A meeting attendee (a concerned citizen, a parent in the community) stated they are very concerned about the e-cigarette and vaping products falling into the hands of young people. We, as a community, are not doing enough on this issue. I want to try to bring some attention and focus to this today. I am seeking an open discussion about what we can do, as a community, to address this issue. Our community here in Pike County, particularly Milford, Westfall and Matamoras, have an unusually high ratio of tobacco outlets. I have counted 15 to 20 outlets in this small area, which is in close proximity to New York State. This coming Saturday,

New York is instituting a State-wide ban of all of these tobacco products-flavored cigarettes. I have visions of New Yorkers coming through Orange County, soon to be followed possibly by New Jersey (New Jersey has now had its' first death due to vaping). Pennsylvania, I get the sense from the State level, they are talking about raising the minimum age, which is late. Currently, we have high school students in Delaware Valley that are turning 18 that can literally walk into a tobacco store and buy these flavored products (called cotton candy and bubble gum-very deceptively marketed toward young people). I am here today to seek discussion-what can we do as a community? Who can we put pressure on, in terms of officials? We have to start to set some boundaries and set some regulations while we are waiting for the Feds and the State. Commissioner Osterberg introduced Jill Gamboni, she represents Michael Peifer, our State Representative. Banning these products needs to come from a higher authority than the Commissioners, it would have to be a State initiative. The other thing you need to know is a "needs assessment" needs to be done. A needs assessment is a program that is done through the schools called "PAYS" (Pennsylvania Youth Survey). We meet to assess this survey and vaping is one of the top priorities on there and we are sharing this with the school. Tomorrow there is a meeting at 10:00 AM at the Newton Wellness Center. This is being put on by Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol, the people that deal with addictions and PAYS. We understand the important of getting the education out there about how dangerous this is. Banning it in Pike County is going to be a State initiative rather than a County initiative. I have my personal thoughts about the dangers of vaping and cigarette smoking, but we have media out there saying it's good for you or better than smoking. Whether that is true or not is up to the experts to say. Jill Gamboni said Representative Mike Peifer is hearing this and, more importantly on a local level, I do a drug prevention program called A Reality Tour. We have added a new modular to this program solely to address vaping. I sent out 2K flyers to parents directly in their hand and spread the word of the Realty Tour and teach families in Pike County about this. It is a 3 hour program that kids 10 and older can attend with their parents so they all can hear the message. More often, the parent needs to hear it rather than the child. What we are hearing in these studies is the parents' acceptance of this. That is huge for us. The more people know about it, the better. I would love to see 100 people in that room if I could. We are sending out the materials, we are not getting the families. Commissioner Osterberg added that the survey done then was also followed up with a survey to parents and the conclusions that we are coming to is that parents feel vaping is better than smoking cigarettes. It is a mixed signal that we are sending to the youth in the community. I had one person tell me that he was told it was good for him. The needs assessment meetings are open to the public and it is a big process that the State puts us through, but it is important that we hear from citizens.

The meeting attendee asked if there was any concern that we are in close proximity to States that are more progressive in terms of banning these products and that traffic is going to be driven into a relatively small corridor here (to service this customer base)? Solicitor Tom Farley replied that the reason is because the cigarette prices are so much higher in those states. You have to recognize that each state has their own laws and Pennsylvania honors its own laws and there is nothing that prohibits us from selling it to someone who wants to do that. Commissioner Guccini added that these are issues that are really difficult to address because this has to be done by State Legislation. You have to inundate Representative Mike Peifer, Senator Lisa Baker and Representative Rosemary Brown to see what their feelings are on this and what we can do about it. It's going to be a process with a lot of different competing interests. Commissioner Osterberg also suggested that the school needs to come up with some evidence based education regarding the harmful effects of vaping, just like we with tobacco. The kids today are smoking less cigarettes and tobacco now, but they are vaping. Talk to the school about coming up with educations programs and they will. The schools are fully aware of this, they don't tolerate it in school.

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**