

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

The first regular meeting of October 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 Pastor Ben Willis of the First Presbyterian Church in Milford.

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

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

Motion: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Public Hearing regarding the 2017 Pike County CDBG Plan.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HEARING 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.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the October 4, 2017 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the September 20, 2017 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the September 28 and October 2, 2017 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted 'aye' on the October 2nd minutes. Commissioner Caridi abstained from the September 28th minutes 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 **\$476,146.85**, 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 **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE FUND** in the amount of \$3,738.35.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, 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 2, 2017, with benefits after 90 days: **STACI HILLER, SAMANTHA FRANKLIN, KATRINA ZELOSKO, ALEX LEONTYEV AND CURTIS SAFFOLD.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, 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 16, 2017, with benefits after 90 days: **GARY LEWIS AND THOMAS HAMBY.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **JO ANNA FRIZZIOLA** as a full time Administrative Clerk for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective October 2, 2017, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has promoted, with Prison Board approval, **JAMES D'UVA** from Acting Director of Building Services to Director of Building Services at the Correctional Facility, effective September 27, 2017, with continued benefits.

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 open bids received for the 2017-18 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, Caridi and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid received which was from Lattimore Construction: Brooks, Stone Quarry and Tower Roads - \$782 per application for plowing and sanding - \$330 per application for sanding only; Old Owego Turnpike and Raymondskill Road - \$406 per application for plowing and sanding - \$226 per application for sanding only.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to award the bid to Lattimore Construction for the 2017-18 winter snowplowing and ice control as presented: Brooks, Stone Quarry and Tower Roads - \$782 per application for plowing and sanding - \$330 per application for sanding only; Old Owego Turnpike and Raymondskill Road - \$406 per application for plowing and sanding - \$226 per application for sanding only.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 17-17, Pike County, PA Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 17-18, Domestic Awareness Month, October 2017, which was read by Commissioner Guccini and presented to Safe Haven. Included with the agenda was a calendar of events of Safe Haven, which is an important part of the community in preventing abuse, and also now houses the Children's Advocacy Center. Stacey Pituch, Direct Service Supervisor, gave a brief overview of the calendar of events and thanked the Commissioners for their support. Since they reopened in March, they have already served 75 new clients.

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 Change Order No. GC20 between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike, for an additional \$6,132.97, for additional work for hyphen roof and added curbs relating to the Courthouse Addition project. These modifications needed to be made to join the buildings together.

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 Change Order No. GC21 between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike, for an additional \$5,639.60, for additional work for two visitation windows relating to the Courthouse Addition project.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the PCCD Grant Application for the Pike County Special Victim Advocate Program, on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.

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

District Attorney Ray Tonkin explained that the funding for the above application comes from the federal Victims of Crime Act, which Senator Toomey of Pennsylvania was very instrumental in getting this released to the communities rather than being held by the federal government to act as security for the debt of the federal government. This is a special program that will focus on several areas, most importantly the children and the elderly. This will bring an individual into the District Attorney's Office that will work with those populations to better service victims in Pike County.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Request for Extension to DCED for the HOME Grant Agreement until May 29, 2018, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Sub-Grant Agreement for the State Food Purchase Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program between Blooming Grove Food Pantry and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

Commissioner Osterberg stated that September was Hunger Awareness Month and there was a lot of activity in the County, one of them being the United Way of Pike County, of which he is the President of, put a partnership together with the local scouting troops. Over the month of September they have dropped off in excess of 200 bags of groceries to service all of the food pantries in Pike County. It is important to remember that the food pantries need continued support throughout the year. They are constantly in need of food. He said that all of us whether we live in the eastern end of the County or the western end need to support all the food pantries in the County because if one falters, the other will have to pick up that burden. The United Way of Pike County supports every food pantry in Pike County by having fundraisers. Chefs Do Dinner will be held on October 18th which is an important event where all the restaurants (Chefs United) supply food. It is a benefit dinner for all the food pantries and for other organizations. Commissioner Osterberg asked everyone to see their way clear to attend the benefit for a great cause.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Senior Rental Assistance Voucher for October 2017 to Delaware Run in the amount of \$814, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Medical Assistance Transportation Grant Agreement and the acknowledgement letter for FY 2017-18 for \$293,673, on behalf of the Transportation Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the purchase of a Bobcat Skid Steer Loader for the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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 Department of General Services Salt Contract Participation Agreement on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Osterberg commented that the items under Miscellaneous are all tied together to the opioid epidemic that is spoken about at every Commissioner meeting.

“What’s Missing from Your Medicine Cabinet” – Opioid Meeting, St. Patrick’s Church, Milford – 7 pm to 9 pm on October 17, 2017. Deb Frohm, Social Concerns Coordinator, Social Concerns Committee of Pike County, said there is a large group from the community expected. Over 200 flyers were distributed and after meeting some people when putting up the flyers, the need just seems to be screaming out especially when speaking to those in their 20s and 30s. She encouraged everyone to pass the word and attend the meeting. Commissioner Osterberg said that the biggest problem is to remove the stigma and make people understand that this is truly a problem because there are people out there that do not understand that this is an epidemic. It is up to everyone to continue to teach people through these type of events.

Jill Gamboni announced that the Pike County Alliance for Prevention Programs is doing a Reality Tour Drug Prevention Program on October 19 and November 16, 2017 from 6-9 p.m. at the Milford Bible Church. The one on October 19th is already booked with over 60 people attending. She thanked District Attorney Ray Tonkin who pays the \$500 annual licensing renewal fee for the Reality Tour program through his office.

A press release was issued and Jill Gamboni stated that the Pike County Alliance for Prevention Programs is donating \$9,500 toward the Strengthening Families Program in Delaware Valley and Wallenpaupack Area School Districts. Jill introduced the following board members from the Pike County Alliance for Prevention Program: Elaine Tucker and Vice President Mark Moglia. Jill thanked the board members and the individuals of the community who are willing to help and volunteer their time to do these grants and Reality Tours. She explained that the Reality Tour is a three hour drug prevention program consisting of 6 scenes, peer pressure, arrest, overdose, emergency room, jail and funeral scenes. A parent and child 10 years or older must attend together, although the average age that children begin using drugs is 9 years old. Ms. Gamboni is trying to get the required age for the program lowered as well. The program ends with an exit packet with national, state and local resources for drug prevention programs. There is also a law enforcement and recovering addict question and answer period. A recovering addict comes out and talks to the kids and tells them what happened to them and that recovery is possible.

Strengthening Families is a 7-week program. It is not called a prevention program but it does have a prevention dynamic to it, which is why the Pike County Alliance for Prevention Programs is supporting it. The Alliance received funding from four different sources – Pike County District Attorney Ray Tonkin, Wayne County District Attorney Janine Edwards, the Greater Pike Community Foundation and Wayne Memorial Health Foundation. Ms. Gamboni introduced Jack Dennis from Wayne Memorial Health Foundation; Sean Strub, Lara Ann Dodsworth, Rosann Kalish, Maryanne Monte and Jim Pedranti from Greater Pike. Ms. Gamboni expressed her thanks and said that it takes an entire community to do this. Jim Purcell and Vivian Bruno from Delaware Valley School District accepted a check in the amount of \$5,750; and Keith Gunuskey and Frank Williams of Wallenpaupack School District accepted a check in the amount of \$3,750. The difference in the funding is because Wayne Memorial Health Foundation decided to give \$2,000 directly to the Wallenpaupack School District, so the Alliance split the money and gave the balance to the Delaware School District, so they are getting equal amounts, just different funding sources.

Commissioner Osterberg asked representatives from Penn State Cooperative Extension to speak about the Strengthening Families Program. This program is proven to work. This is an evidenced based program in schools. Commissioner Osterberg continued that although recovery and treatment is spoken about many times, the focus also needs to be on prevention. Children need to be taught proper behavior and the fears of risky behavior, along with their parents understanding what is going to happen as they move forward. The program is meant for ages 10 to 14, because when children get into middle school things change such as pressure in school and this needs to be recognized. This is a great community effort where everyone came together. Wallenpaupack and Delaware Valley having these programs, along with Life Skills, which is the next step and also an in-school program, is very important. The schools are going to offer to the District Attorneys, the Greater Pike Community Foundation and Wayne Memorial Health Foundation to come in and view these programs as they go on. Commissioner Osterberg said that he went to one of the programs and you see families coming together right before your eyes. The schools needed to be trained for this program and Penn State Extension trained the teachers because this is an after-school program where teachers were willing to become participants.

Deb Albrecht of Penn State Extension, explained that the Strengthening Families Program is part of the Prosper Model which is a collaboration of the community, the schools and the University to have these programs in place either in school or out of school. The Strengthening Families Program is unique because it is families, and one of its goals is to increase and improve the communication between parent and child. It creates a sense of belonging to the family and not the influences that would draw a child into risky behaviors. She said that the counselors and the teachers have been doing such a great job. Delaware Valley's Strengthening Families Program begins tonight with 9 families registered. The more families that know about the program and participate the better.

Angela Smith of Penn State Extension added that this is an evidence based program where data was collected on the outcome of the children who participated which is shared with the University. This also runs in multiple counties throughout the state. She also stated that this is a great program and although she is new here, it has been great to work with the school districts. If you not able to attend the program this time around, there will be others beginning in the spring. It will be a continual process.

Keith Gunuskey spoke on behalf of the Wallenpaupack Area School District and said that they are in the middle of their third class and second year of the Strengthening Families Program. It has become a school wide program in that in an effort to try to bring as many families out as possible, they are trying to remove the barriers that would not allow families to attend the program such as their Culinary Arts Program provides great dinners for the families every night. The Child Care Program provides child care for families who have younger children that need to be looked after during the program. Also trying to rid the stigma that Strengthening Families is something for a family that is desperate. Their motto is "Making Strong Families Stronger". It's really telling for every family to participate in this program and they are looking to bolster the numbers and continue to perpetuate this program into the future.

Jim Purcell spoke on behalf of the Delaware Valley School District stating that they are very excited to starting the program tonight at the Middle School, with 9 families attending. He thanked the community, the school board, the Commissioners, all the organizations that contributed to getting this program up and running. He also thanked the school Social Worker Vivian Bruno who is coordinating the program in both Middle Schools. She has a great team with 11 people that were trained to help facilitate this program. He thanked Wallenpaupack School District who so graciously hosted Delaware Valley and fed them, which he also attested to was delicious. They are also providing dinner and child care and they also hope to remove all the barriers and to build on to the 9 families that they have into the spring. He thanked the Penn State Cooperative Extension for the training.

Frank Williams, facilitator that runs the program at Wallenpaupack, commented that there is a tremendous amount of evidence and data that shows how effective the program is, but what no one ever talks about is how much fun this program is, both for the kids, for the parents and the facilitators. That is why families keep coming back for 7 weeks for 2 ½ hours every night, which is a great commitment. They are not only being effective, but they are providing families with good experiences together and fun times together.

District Attorney Ray Tonkin explained that the money from the DA's Office is actually from the Drug Forfeiture Fund, so it is money being forfeited from drug dealers reinvesting back into the community to help families.

Maryann Monte, Chair of the Grants Committee for the Greater Pike Foundation, who spoke on behalf of the board members identified the underlying theme of the foundation is to make a difference. Through the grants program last year the Alliance was awarded \$1,000 from the Barbara Buchanan Fund. This year in the spring, the Alliance was one of two organizations that received the maximum allowable grant amount of \$5,000 from the Richard Snyder Award. Ms. Monte expressed the hope that as a foundation that they are making a difference.

Jack Dennis of Wayne Memorial Health Foundation confirmed that they run a mini-grant program that was started about 7 or 8 years ago. They try to donate the funds to worthwhile causes and this has been one of the most worthwhile projects. The Commissioners congratulated Mr. Dennis on his promotion as Executive Director.

Commissioner Osterberg expressed that the program continues in future years but everyone as a community need to remember to support it, because this is not going to continue unless the community stands behind it both financially and spreading the story. Hopefully these programs can be expanded into all of the schools in each district. Flyers were distributed regarding the program.

Angela Smith, Penn State Extension, highlighted the October 4-19, 2017 events. This week is National 4-H Week, so they are trying to raise awareness about 4-H programs throughout the United States. The next two weeks are Paper Clover Days at Tractor Supply Company, which is a huge supporter of 4-H throughout the United States. When you shop at Tractor Supply, donate \$1 and get your paper clover put up, and that will fund Pike County children going to state and national events and camps as well. Some of the 4-H groups are getting together through the generosity of Key Foods on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Farmers Market selling popcorn hands of help for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. On October 8 at the Pike County Training Center, a family emergency preparedness workshop will be held to assist in being prepared in case of emergency and developing an emergency plan for your family and learning about the resources available in Pike County to assist in the event of an emergency. October 15th starts the new 4-H year, with many many children but leaders are needed. Ms. Smith will be doing a series of workshops every month for new leaders to learn about 4-H and the different interest areas that you can become involved in. The next workshops will be on October 17th at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.