

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

The second regular meeting of March 2020 of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Osterberg at 10:00 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; Solicitor Farley.

Commissioner Osterberg announced that there will be an abbreviated meeting here with some of the things that are on line. First, we have a Notice from the Court and we're going to allow the President Judge to explain to us what this Declaration means to the public and all of us in the County as far as how County operations will continue during the crisis.

President Judge Gregory H. Chelak said the Court remains operational. We are reducing the number of cases and the number of people that come into our courthouse to avoid any spreading or exposure to viruses (not just the Coronavirus). We have taken certain steps through the Court system that includes not just the Court of Common Pleas, but our Magisterial District Judges' Offices (4 of them) and Probation Department (Adult, Juvenile and Domestic Relations). As of yesterday, I did sign a Declaration on behalf of the Court as has been authorized by our Pennsylvania Supreme Court for the Declaration of Judicial Emergency within Pike County. Those words itself don't mean everything shuts down. It just means the Court has certain authorities that, under the Rules of Judicial Administration, very particularly important to our operation is the enhanced use of video conferencing proceedings, which I will be using today myself with our jail. We have coordinated with our jail and the attorneys (the Defense Bar and the District Attorney's Office) for the enhanced use of the video conference proceedings. That will have the incarcerated defendant in a criminal critical case present by video conferencing. That individual will not be leaving the jail or transported to Court, but we will be able to conduct the hearing and resolve that matter in Court without the person being physically present. The attorneys will be present during the proceedings and several court personnel. It will obviously reduce the need for our Sheriff's office to transport individuals to the Court for proceedings and hold them in holding cells. I believe that will certainly help us not only remain operational, but also keep physical distance and contact with people. We expect within the next 2 weeks, Judge Gaughan, Court Administrator Venditti and I have gone through the Court schedule and right now we have addressed a 2 week time frame. The Court, in essence, will have video conference proceedings. The in-person proceedings are limited if we have any at all. The timing of this was fortuitous for myself as the Judge handling criminal cases in the sense that there was a special trial that was scheduled that has been continued. That avoided us having to bring in close to 150 jurors for that trial and for the trial time itself. That created open court time for myself and obviously we're not going to fill that time. We have been working diligently to address the Court schedule. We have constantly been talking to our staff. I appreciate the Commissioners addressing the maintenance and sanitizing issues, even without our office, because it is very important. We're going to continue to monitor our situation, both on the MDJ (Magisterial District Judge) level and the Court of Common Pleas level on a week to week basis. We will address our Court schedule every 2 weeks. At the end of this work week we will then look and see where we stand for the following week after next week. It's a very fluid situation and we're just going to address it as we go. We're going to try to give as much notice to the attorneys and parties because we don't want people coming into the Courthouse unnecessarily, especially if their cases have been continued.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.

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

A RETIREMENT 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.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the March 18, 2020 Agenda with the following change: Move Item No. 3 under New Business to the end of the Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the February 19, 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 February 19, 25, March 2, 5, 12 and 17, 2020 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye, except that Commissioner Schmalzle abstained from the March 12 and 17 minutes 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 \$255,115.96, 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 AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND (Deed Recording Fees), in the amount of \$638.50.

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 INS. FUND in the amount of \$398,249.76.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve exonerations for a property in Delaware Township, as presented by Cynthia Gehris, Tax Claim Bureau Director.

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 **MATTHEW MCDONALD** as an Adult Probation Officer for the Probation Office, for a 40 hour work week effective March 30, 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 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 March 9, 2020, with benefits after 90 days: **JOSEPH CARBONE and DUSTIN SMITH.**

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, **JORDAN RYAN** as a Food Production Supervisor for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective March 9, 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 **LAURA KROGER** from Caseworker 1 to Caseworker 2 for Children & Youth Services, effective March 16, 2020.

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. 20-05, Women's History Month, March 2020.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-06, C.A.S.U.A.L. Day, March 26, 2020.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for bids for the purchase of groceries and frozen foods for the Correctional Facility.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to recommend William Kerstetter and Peter Wulforth for appointment to the Board of Directors of the NEPA Alliance for the new fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Pike County Scenic Rural Character Preservation Program Grant Contract between Milford Borough and the County of Pike, for \$25,000 for the Milford Borough Comprehensive Plan Update, 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 the Pest Management Service Agreements between Ehrlich Pest Control and the County of Pike, for the Correctional Facility and ICE Building, as recommended by the Prison 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 the PREA Auditing Contract between Patrick J. Zirpoli LLC and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility as recommended by the Prison 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 the Inspection Agreement between Beach Lake Sprinkler and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility as recommended by the Prison 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 the Annual Service Agreement for the Water Storage Tank/Clarifier Cathodic Protection System between Corpro Inc, and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility as recommended by the Prison 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 the Contract for Professional Services between Hailstone Economic and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Human Services Office with respect to the CDBG and HOME programs.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute and adopt the Citizen Participation Plan in accordance with the HUD Guidelines for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

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 Affordable Housing Fund Payment Voucher in the amount of \$2,345.09 payable to Diana T. Myers & Associates for the Pike Strategic Plan for January 2020, on behalf of the Human Services Department.

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 Affordable Housing Fund Payment Voucher in the amount of \$1,164 payable to Delaware Run for the March 2020 Senior Rental Assistance Subsidy, on behalf of the Human Services Department.

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 Pike County Rental Assistance Contracts #32, 35, 36 and 38, on behalf of the Human Services Department.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Service Agreement for Housing Out-of-County Juveniles between the Bucks County Youth Center and the County of Pike, 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 execute the FY 19-20 2nd Quarter Act 148 Certification Statement for Children & Youth Social Service Programs.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Antenna Site Agreement between SBA Towers and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Communications Center.

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 Project/Pass Through Fund Agreement between the Greater Pike Community Foundation and the County of Pike for the Pike County Emergency Services Initiative Fund.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-07, Declaration of Disaster Emergency, which was read by Commissioner Osterberg.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

- Pike County Emergency Services Initiative Fund – Commissioner Osterberg explained that community member Bill Lovejoy had an injury at Christmastime and saw the issue with training. In trying to help alleviate the issue with volunteers, has graciously donated \$25K to begin a fund at the Greater Pike Community Foundation. The agreement with Greater Pike Community Foundation is on the internet and there is an application that is being completed. The program is a step in the right direction for us to incentivize and urge people to volunteer. We need to make sure that people are assisted to get their EMT Training and EMR Training and there's lots of other initiatives that we can provide here in the County. It's people like Jason (Ohliger) and Bill Lovejoy who have really spearheaded this. You will hear more about this as we move forward with where you can donate. There are some advertisements in the newspaper that you can send donations to the Greater Pike Community Foundation. Jason Ohliger and Ashley Zimmerman – thank you both. Jason Ohliger said that we had initially announced back in September, 2019 that we were going to commit a \$5K pledge to EMS Training to individuals that it would actually incentivize the individual to offset the cost of training and offset the cost of attending training. That was structured as five \$1K scholarships. Those are still available. We are keeping this in place as direct incentives for individuals but, as Commissioner Osterberg noted, Bill Lovejoy came along and announced the \$25K pledge to EMS Services. What we did is we all got together, the Commissioners, Mr. Lovejoy, the Training Center and ourselves, and tried to figure out how it is we are going to get the best use out of money and create the best bang for the bucks. We partnered with the Greater Pike Community Foundation to create what is called the EMSI (Emergency Medical Service Initiative). That fund will be grown and used directly for training purposes within the County. There is a lot going on right now and people are concerned with the future with COVID-19 issues. I would ask the community that when the pandemic starts to ultimately blow over, it is important to donate your own personal funds. Please take a look at the Pike EMSI as a possible destination for funds. The plan is ultimately to grow that and our firm is going to roll out a plan for that, but we're hoping that we grow that fund and use it for direct funding of training at the County level which is critical in creating that incentive and removing some of the disincentives for folks to train and volunteer. Ashley

Zimmerman added that we are members of this community, this is very important to us as a firm and as individuals. Mr. Lovejoy is one of the many reasons that we need to continue this going. I know that as a mother, when I was having my children, the concern was if I have my children at home what would happen? This is something that is very important to us and we want to continue to grow. We hope that others will look at this initiative and really give to it as well and continue what we started. We will continue to support it as well and we're looking forward to watching it grow. If anyone is interested in donating, donations large and small, contact the Greater Pike Community Foundation, the Pike County Commissioners or Weinstein, Zimmerman & Ohliger. Commissioner Osterberg added this is wonderful news for Pike County to have support like this from the community at this time of what we're going through. We're in this together. We will be doing more to celebrate this in the future because we think it deserves a lot more. We had a plan for that today, but those plans are not able to be completed but they will be in the future to recognize those who stepped up and are doing the right thing for the County. Commissioner Schmalzle thanked them for their leadership and for being role models. Commissioner Guccini said they had hoped to roll this out in a grander fashion so to speak at the Training Center and we still hope to do that in the future. For obvious reasons, we need to address most of our meeting to the COVID-19 situation. Thank you very much.

- Cancellation of Pike County Fishing Derby - Commissioner Osterberg announced the cancellation of the 24th Annual Fishing Derby. It was planned to be April 25th at Lily Pond, but we want to make everyone understand that, unfortunately, we don't see a way to be able to continue this. This is officially cancelled.
- Jill Gamboni – Reality Tour – April 23 and May 14, 2020 – Check On-line – During this crisis these dates may be adjusted. Any changes will be posted to our website as to the programs that will most likely be cancelled or postponed.
- Penn State Extension Calendar of Events – April 1-15, 2020 – Check On-line – During this crisis these dates may be adjusted. Any changes will be posted to our website as to the programs that will most likely cancelled or postponed.
- Resolution No. 20-07 – Declaration of Disaster Emergency – Commissioner Osterberg said that we are able to move forward with purchasing of needed supplies without adhering to guidelines we normally have to follow. They will all have to be in relative connection to COVID-19. It also gives some ability for the Emergency Management Coordinator to do his job more seamlessly. When all this passes over and there is funding out there to help us cover the expenses of this, to not just us, but many in our community including the business community, we will be eligible for those funding sources through Federal and State Government. There has been 1 person in Pike County who has tested positive for COVID-19. This individual is an adult male who had out of state contact. This person is in isolation at his home and is in regular contact with the Department of Health. Our residents should know that we and our Public Safety Department are in continual contact with Public Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the Pennsylvania Department of Health and other involved agencies involving guidance and protocol related to COVID-19. GO TO OUR WEBSITE www.pikepa.org and you will see “COVID-19”. We are updating that daily as we receive updates from the Federal Government and from the Department of Health. We are urging you to follow what the Department of Health is telling us to do in this community. We all need to do the same thing as we're doing here: social distancing. Let's continue to go to the websites and do that. As far as our facilities are concerned, we're limiting large public gatherings within the County facilities. We are asking the public to postpone any non-essential County business for now and to contact our offices by phone or through our website – pikepa.org. We will be posting a list of all County services that can be done on-line. Under our Transportation Department, we have limited the amount of trips. We are dealing with people who have serious medical conditions: dialysis and cancer treatments. We are also taking trips to food pantries and supermarkets. You can call the Department of Transportation (866) 681-4947 with questions. At the same time, please understand we need to be taking care of the folks that need transportation the most because they have life changing medical treatment that must be done daily. We ask for your patience.

Commissioner Guccini announced that it is our understanding that these limitations on transportation have been mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in a common sense fashion to limit the trips to medical emergencies and obtaining food and medication. I will be referring to essential services. As we tried to indicate to the public and our employees, this is a fluid situation. What we tell you now can change 10 minutes from now if we get directives from the State or Federal Government. If that happens, we will update our website and do our best to update everybody else. The other essential services have to do with our Aging Office. It is well known that seniors are most vulnerable. What we are doing is not having congregated care with people normally coming in and sharing a meal at one of our senior centers. We are doing continuing and updating our home delivery meal system and that will continue out of the Blooming Grove Senior Center and the Lackawaxen Senior Center. There will be meal distributions and we will continue the meal delivery systems. The Dingman's Ferry Senior Center was closed as of yesterday for meal distribution and likewise the Eastern Pike Center at the Matamoras Fire Department. The Saw Creek Center will be closed until further notice. We will continue to get meals out there to people who need them. The main number for the Area Agency on Aging is (570) 775-5550. You can contact them with any questions you have about the services. The other essential service is Children and Youth Services. They are required to be open by State law – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Those services will continue and have made certain arrangements with our case workers and employees to work primarily from home, which they have the capability of doing. Those services will continue. There will be someone there in the office to answer phones and calls that come into Childline, which is a Statewide registry – those services will continue. There will be some changes that have been authorized by the State to allow contact with families in ongoing cases to be done by phone instead of in person, but other requirements in terms of going out and making investigations will continue – it is essential that those services continue.

The County 911 Center is, in terms of having public meetings for those of you who have been there or familiar with that Center, we have several different large meeting facilities that the public can use, closing those facilities for public meetings, but the 911 and Communications Center will continue to remain on a 24/7 basis. We've received some guidance for businesses in the area in terms of how they may be helped after this crisis is over. This is a fluid situation as well. There is legislation being discussed in Washington to assist employers and

employees to help with leave, pay for time out of work and those kinds of things. We had a conference call last night with Congressman's Cartwright's Office. While that legislation is before the senate, it's unclear what is going to be happen with that legislation, but we just ask everybody to keep in mind that as time goes forward, some of these questions are going to be answered by that legislation and other matters. The one thing we do know is that there are already in effect-loans authorized through the Small Business Administration and we will continue to try to get that information out to employers and employees as we moved forward.

Commissioner Schmalzle spoke about the topic of sanitizing. Our maintenance and housekeeping have been directing to step everything up a notch and to follow the guidelines being distributed by the State and Federal resources. I think that if you go to the Department of State Health Site, they have produced a number of fantastic posters and guidance for everyone individually. One of the best ones is how to protect yourself and I think you have all heard it – wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. You should cover your face with your arm when you cough or sneeze. Don't touch your face. Clean surfaces often and stay home when you're sick and avoid sick people. Yesterday we had a teleconference meeting with our Department Heads and provided directives for them moving forward to operate. We are going to see most businesses and governmental people operating from home and that takes technology, flexibility and willingness to work in a different way than we're used to working. We explained very clearly that it's not equitable – for some this is easier than others. For some in the County, they will continue as they have to. As Steve has noted, some of our services cannot stop. We've heard over and over again on the news and here today that this is a fluid situation and whatever plans we create today can be changed in the next hour or next day. As a lifelong business owner, I want to inspire you to follow the guidelines, to do your part. I was recently away in a family vacation and I will tell you, it was not in a place of concern, but when I drove over the border into Pike County – I was home. It's been home for me for my entire life and home for my family for almost 4 generations, but I feel being home and being in our community is the place that I want to be to fight and overcome this challenge. I want to fight it with my neighbors and I want to win with my neighbors. Winning in this situation just means doing our part. We asked valuable employees with the County to do their part and we are going to ask all of the citizens of Pike County and beyond to do their part. How can you do that? We're getting very strong and good guidance about social distancing. I think when you walk around, we see people adhering to that and we are encouraging people to adhere to that as we get through this. It's also important to recognize the businesses in our communities and in our County. They are going through a challenge that they have never gone through before, but businesses are resilient. Businesses are innovative and people with character that can get through challenges. Being a business owner is a challenge in itself. This is an obstacle that they have ahead of them. I urge you to continue to support them when they offer curbside services and when they offer delivery services to your home – I ask you strongly to consider supporting them. To consider going out to their businesses and picking up something at their curbside services and calling them or going on-line and ordering to get services delivered to your home. Lastly, we will get through this and we will get through this – all doing our part in Pike County. We have to think beyond this and today we will start a discussion about recovery. We'll start a discussion about a task force – we're looking at how we can help our community and our businesses and all of the people of Pike County to recover from something that is really unprecedented and something we've never seen before. Doing that takes leadership, leadership from every single resident of the community. We will do our part and we want to ask you to do your part in providing leadership as we come through this obstacle in our way. Please – there is very good guidance out there in how you should act individually and how we should act as a community – that guidance is from the Governor's Office, from the Department of Health and from the CDC and others. I urge you to continue to follow that guidance and, if you have any concerns, we will be here – either by phone, e-mail or physically be here. We will continue to serve our community as we were elected to do and provide leadership as we get through this and into the future.

Commissioner Osterberg said when we talk about our business community, we want to make sure you know that we have an Economic Development Authority (EDA) here in Pike County. We have already directed its' Director, Mike Sullivan, to begin to look at what kind of programs may be coming. Nothing is written in stone, but we want you to know that we feel for these businesses and all of us in this community should because these businesses are the backbone of what we have here and we have to make sure they get through this and all of us get through it. The Chamber of Commerce is beginning programs called Gift Cards. Call your favorite business, you don't have to go there, call on the phone and give your credit card and order a gift card. You're going to go to dinner at some point. Help them now. We have to make sure that when this is all over, and it will be, that they're still here. The other thing is, many local leaders are here doing extraordinary work in extremely difficult and stressful times. If there are residents that have questions and concerns, we are here to keep you calm. Call our offices and call your local municipal leaders – they were all elected to provide this service to our communities. We are hearing from the State about mental health. This is very stressful on people and mental health needs to be addressed. If you listen to the Department of Health, and Dr. Rachel Levine, she will direct you to where you can get those types of services in the County and in the State. We're all in this together.

Commissioner Guccini added that there is specific information that the Commissioners' want to give you. If you have any questions for us, please message us through our COVID-19 Link on our website: www.pikepa.org or you can call us here (570) 296-3569. We also want to give you the toll free number for the Department of Health (877) PA-HEALTH. The only other closing comment I have is my personal observation is that most people are trying to do the right thing. I will urge those people who perhaps are not worried about social distancing, because maybe they are not in a risk group, we are all in this together. If you're out there and are at risk of spreading this to somebody who may be very adversely affected – the elderly or someone with pre-existing medical conditions, you really have to think about that. Many generations before us have undergone much more adversity than this and you just really need to think about what you're doing out there.

PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ADJOURNMENT:
THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.