

**Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

The second regular meeting of March of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Caridi at 9:00 a.m. at the Pike County Administration Building, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

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

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

***Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.***

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

***A RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.***

***Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.***

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the March 19, 2013 Agenda.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the March 5, 2014 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Commissioner Wagner abstained due to his absence. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the March 4, 11 and 18, 2014 Conference Minutes.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Commissioner Wagner abstained due to his absence. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$393,556.73, subject to further review.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **DEBT SERVICE FUND (Bond Interest)**, in the amount of \$508,032.17.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **SRCP DEBT SERVICE FUND (Bond Interest)**, in the amount of \$120,575.33.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$69,741.10.

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

***Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Salary Board Meeting.***

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

***A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.***

***Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.***

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

**PERSONNEL:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from District Attorney Raymond Tonkin advising that he has hired **DEBRA BANACH** to fill the newly created full time position of Criminal/Forfeiture Case Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office, for a 37.5 hour work week, effective March 17, 2014, with benefits after 90 days.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to hire **JOHN VODILKO** as a part time Van Driver for the Transportation Office, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective March 19, 2014, with no benefits.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to award the bids for the purchase of groceries and frozen foods for the Correctional Facility as follows: Benjamin Foods-\$62,971.92; Karetas Foods-\$52,073.50; Mivila Foods-\$29,504.92; Sysco Central-\$14,370.87; Bernard Food Industries-\$11,699.24; and Maines Paper & Food Service-\$4,133.33.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Grant-in-Aid Financial Statements, Equitable Compensation Letter and Proposed Budget, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office.

**VOTE:** Commissioners Caridi, Osterberg and Wagner voted 'aye'. Commissioner Caridi abstained. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement for Subcontracted Services between Connect America and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Lori Strelecki gave an update on Pike County's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which includes a banquet at Woodloch on March 26, 2014; Zane Grey Fishing Derby on opening day of the 2014 fishing season; and a Tri-State History Expo at the Riverview Inn on April 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

Robin LoDolce, Area Agency on Aging Director, Lana Romeo, Site Manager, and Gwen Watford of Quality Health Care, discussed the Enhanced Senior Center program starting on March 5th 2014. The program will provide extra care through Quality Health Care aides for people who would like to attend the senior center but are not independent enough. This is provided through PA lottery program and will provide services to consumers at the right time, right place, and right intensity for their needs and wants as is consistent with the PA Department of Aging's four year plan goals. Also discussed were the two programs being offered at all three of Pike County's Senior Centers including Healthy Steps for Older Adults and Chronic Disease Management. These are multiple week long programs and are meant to increase the independence and safety of consumers in their own homes and in their communities. Lastly Lana discussed the upcoming Shingle Shot clinic at Lackawaxen on March 26th. For un-insured and under-insured which may cost \$5.00. This is in collaboration with the PA Department of Health

***Questions and comments were opened to the Public and the Press, which included further discussion on the Courthouse Expansion.***

Bill Kiger, former Milford Councilman and a member of the Concerned Citizens of Pike, commented that there should be a way to accommodate the county's space needs and preserve the historical buildings. Mr. Kiger asked how much it would cost to incorporate the Kenworthy building into the proposed expansion without moving or demolishing it. Mike Lamoreaux, the County's Engineer, stated that this could be done but it would need to be a 4 story building connected to the back of the courthouse with fire suppression issues interfacing with a "timber building". Also, putting two stories underground could be done but the costs would be excessive. He said that a cost analysis had not been done on incorporating the Kenworthy house, but stated that time would be wasted on that analysis when he knows it would be a costly endeavor. Mr. Kiger then said that the Commissioners were not exploring all the options available. Commissioner Caridi told the group that the Commissioners would be following the suggestions of the engineer rather than waste more tax payers' dollars. He also stated that Mr. Kiger could hire and pay an engineer to do further exploring. Commissioner Osterberg stated that "it is not something that we have looked at lightly. A lot of work has gone into picking the final design that provides the best security and space needs for a courthouse while also considering the costs. I don't think there is a businessman who would say let's spend \$1.2 million on a lot in Milford because we need to preserve a building when we have an option to move it. I think that is where we need to start looking at". Commissioner Wagner expressed his frustration by saying "we have been trying to satisfy the groups' concerns my meeting and speaking with them. We represent everyone in the County not just the people of Milford Borough". He continued by saying that he is at the point right now that the Milford Borough Council and Architectural Review Board handle it. He said they are getting nowhere and does not believe they will be able to satisfy everyone.

Matthew Ebert, a Milford resident, asked why McGoey, Hauser & Edsall was being named in a law suit in Orange County because the court house project there was over budget. Commissioner Wagner said that when lawyers sue, they go after everybody. Mr. Lamoreaux said that suit had nothing to do with Milford. Commissioner Osterberg reiterated that MH&E have been a trusted firm in Pike County and that their integrity should not be attacked. He said that the County's Training Center was a much larger project handled by MH&E which came under budget. Ellen Schaffner, Director of the Pike County Library, also came to MH&E's defense by adding that MH&E designed their beautiful new library which was also under budget.

Someone suggested that the parking facility and the new courthouse be lined with trees. Another suggestion was to avoid moving the Verizon lines in back of the courthouse and to make the annex on West High Street a separate building and connecting the two with a tunnel under the alley. Mr. Lamoreaux again said that anything could be done, but then the annex would displace the Chelak building on the other side of the Keystone building. It would also cost more money to add more deputies, put in separate elevators, etc.

Commissioner Osterberg said that everyone's emotions need to be taken out of the equation and to just look at the facts. He said an additional \$1.2 million would be spent to expand to the rear, instead of just moving the Kenworthy house and expanding on Broad Street. He said that the large brick courthouse expansion should be on Broad Street, which is the commercial district rather than on High Street, which is a residential district.

The Commissioners are still putting the Kenworthy house out for bid to have it moved, and the money that would have been used to demolish the building will be used towards moving it. Commissioner Osterberg again added that he was sure that if everyone works together, this could be done.

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2014, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**