

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The first regular meeting of April 2019 of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Osterberg at 10:00 a.m. at the Top of the World Restaurant in Bushkill, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

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 April 3, 2019 Agenda with the amendment to remove item #3. (to appoint Rachel Posavetz to the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District to fill an unexpired term ending 12/31/19).

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the March 20, 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 March 20 and 28, 2019 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$205,411.65**, 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 **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE FUND (Cables)**, in the amount of **\$435.36**.

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 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 April 29, 2019, with benefits after 90 days: **DEBORAH DAVIS and BRANDON SALAS.**

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 promoted, with Prison Board approval, the following individuals from Correctional Officers to Sergeants at the Correctional Facility effective March 31, 2019: **AMANDA MILLS, JASON ANNUNZIATA, EDWARD GEISLER and BRAD**

HOWLETT. These are replacement positions.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **ROBERT SHEETS** as a part time Van Driver for the Transportation Department, effective April 4, 2019 for less than 1000 hours per year, 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 create a full time Housekeeper position in the Maintenance Department and to hire **CECILIA SZMETENA** to fill this position, effective April 8, 2019 for a 40 hour work week, with benefits after 90 days. This is a newly created position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to promote **ELIZABETH DEBLON** from Aging Care Manager I to Aging Care Manager II for the Area Agency on Aging, retroactive to March 18, 2019, due to successfully completing her probationary period.

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. 19-07, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, April 7-13, 2019, which was read by Commissioner Schmalzle.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 19-08, National Service Recognition Day, April 2, 2019, which was read by Commissioner Guccini.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the following Change Orders between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike, relating to the Courthouse addition:

No. GC33	Deletion of Acoustical Sound Panels	\$5,278.50 credit
No. GC34	Signage credit	\$1,811.00 credit
No. GC35	Unused contingency items	\$11,245.00 credit
No. GC36	Wood work credit	\$3,182.84 credit
No. GC37	Overhead door credit	\$8,910.72 credit
No. GC38	FRP Column credit	\$790.00 credit
No. GC39	Excavation and backfill of abandoned cesspool	\$2,538.00 additional
No. GC40	Demo/Removal of concrete slab, gravel and new floors	\$8,918.75 additional
No. GC41	Breakroom Casework	\$2,718.59 additional
No. GC42	Otis Elevator Inspection	\$4,342.14 additional
No. GC43	Epoxy resin floor overtime	\$1,144.44 additional
No. GC44	Hall 247 work (furring, drywall, tape, spackle, door)	\$1,949.24 additional

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Cooperative Site Use Agreement between the PA Game Commission and the County of Pike, for the transfer of the High Knob tower site equipment shelter and generator, on behalf of the Department of Public Safety.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Appalachian Regional Commission Grant Application for \$42,500 to partially cover engineering costs for the Pike County Blooming Grove Complex Sewage Expansion Project.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the Proposal for Architectural Services from Lacy Thaler Reilly Wilson Architecture and Preservation for the renovation of the historic court room in the Pike County Courthouse.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Agreement between Scott Eyler and the County of Pike for accessible adaptations of a property located on Bennett Avenue in Milford, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Agreement between Robert Vicari and the County of Pike for accessible adaptations of a property located on Bennett Avenue in Milford, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Inspection Agreement between Beach Lake Sprinkler and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility as per Prison Board approval.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Penn State Extension Schedule of Events – April 15-30, 2019.
- Open Mic Night, Safe Haven – April 13, 2019, 6:30 p.m., Frisky Goat Coffee House.
- Candlelight Vigil, Safe Haven – April 18, 2019, 5:30 p.m., Milford Community House.
- Nadeen Manzoni, Elections Voting Machines Demonstration.
Nadeen Manzoni announced that last spring the Pennsylvania Department of State mandated that every County across the State of Pennsylvania update their current voting system regardless of what type of voting systems they use to a paper based voter verifiable system. After months of sitting through demos, talking with other County officials about what their thoughts were and sharing a lot

of information, the system we have chosen is a Precinct Scan System from Dominion Voting Systems. I will give you an overview of the way the system works and, after the meeting, I will be here and you can test the equipment and ask any more questions that you may have. Demonstration followed.

We have gotten a lot of positive feedback from anyone who has come into the office and has had a demonstration on the equipment. It is very simple to use and I hope that afterwards, you will come up and try it for yourselves. The process when you go to the polls will very much be the same as far as signing in goes, but instead of an access card and voting on the touch screen, you will be handed a paper ballot and a sharpie. They recommend sharpies on the ballot because ball point pens can sometimes not dry and if it is sent into the scanner without the ink drying, it will smudge the glass that reads the ballots. You will walk over to a privacy booth and you will have any many privacy booths set up as you had machines before. You will vote your ballot and go over to the scanner and feed your ballot into the scanner (you can feed it in upside down, backwards-it doesn't matter) and the scanner will tell you it's processing the ballot. It will tabulate your votes, casting the ballot and you will hear it drop down and you're done. It is very simple to use. If you come in and you have a physical disability where you can't hold a pen, cannot mark your ballot or if you're visually impaired and can't see, there is a touchscreen with the ADA equipment on it. Voters can use a hand-held ATI (Audio Tactile Device). It has braille on it so you can read it. They give detailed instructions on how to use the equipment to navigate through the ballot. This equipment will be kept in its' own privacy booth and it is ADA compliant.

If somebody comes in and mismarks their ballot, they made a mistake on the ballot, somebody may mark the wrong oval and put an "X" through it and write "NO", if there is a problem with the ballot that the scanner can't read, the scanner will tell you right away that "there is a problem with this ballot". There is a "Cast" button and a "Return" button, you will be able to choose to "Cast" it as it is or you can hit the "Return" button. You can tell the poll worker you spoiled you ballot and get a new one.

Question: What happens if that happens with an absentee ballot?

Answer: On absentee ballots the voter doesn't have a chance to correct that and that has always been the case when we get an absentee ballot in. One of the reasons we chose this system is that we want to give the voter a second chance at voting if they make a mistake on them. On an absentee ballot it gets cast as is.

Question: Do you keep discarded ballots?

Answer: Yes. We have to be able to track every single ballot that is issued. We will track the number that is sent to the polls and the number returned to us. There will also be a "Spoiled" ballot envelope that they'll reconcile and turn into us at the end of the night. We retain the spoiled ballots and keep track of every single ballot.

Instructional flyers were left for distribution and sample ballots are now available on the County website www.pikepa.org.

Commissioner Schmalzle stated that he feels it is obvious that they have someone in the County who is passionate about this and is well versed and has guided us down a path that we are very proud of. If you check the other Counties in the surrounding area, they are not as ready as we are. We are proud of that because it sets a good precedent. The other thing to consider is, there is State funding for a portion of this new technology, it's not something that we wanted to do, it is something we are mandated to do. Fortunately, we are working with the same company that we used to work with, Dominion. That is an advantage because Nadeen Manzoni already has a relationship with that company and their representatives. We applaud Nadeen Manzoni for her leadership and pushing us forward with this and think that we have tried to make the very best decision for everyone in the County so we have a really solid voting system that is going to be this way for a long time. We are going to be able to process more people faster and we can put in as many of those privacy booths as we need in the future. Thank you Nadeen!

PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Beth Sayles, Victim Advocate from the Pike County District Attorney's Office, announced that Elder Justice Day will be held on June 12, 2019 at the St. Patrick's Church in Milford, PA, in their recreation room. Ms. Sayles has invited all Senior Citizens to attend and distributed flyers for the free event. We have people come and educate our Senior Citizens in the County on different issues at hand such as reverse mortgages, scams, safety and this year we have a person speaking about Alzheimer's.

Commissioner Osterberg announced the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 AM there is a meeting at the Training Center in Blooming Grove and is open to everyone to come to address the addiction issue that is going on. Whether it be alcohol, opioids or anything facing our community when it comes to health issues. We also had a meeting on is Tick Borne Diseases, another health issue facing this community. The Tick Borne Disease Task Force meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM and that is open to the public also. There are many members of our community suffering from the effects of Lyme disease and tick borne diseases. If you are interested in coming to those meetings, please come-we welcome everyone.

Question: Just recently, I went and looked at the Pike County Comprehensive Plan in 2006 and my question is, is that something we still monitoring and measuring how we are doing against the Comprehensive Plan? I know it was done by a different set of Commissioners.

Answer: Planning is in the middle of redoing that because we have to do it every ten years. It is a major project to do and we can get back to you. It is Mike Mrozinski from Planning in Shohola, PA.

Question: Why don't we mail out "samples" of ballots" since it is brand new so we know what it looks like?

Answer: Right now, County officials are working with the State on Election Reform and one of the things that they are looking into is "no excuse" absentee voting and vote by mail. Until this happens, we are probably better off with a wait and see attitude. If somebody wants to know what the ballot looks like, I mail sample ballots.

Question: Pike County Senior Bus Transportation does not have enough drivers. We weren't dropped off until 11AM and the driver returned at 1:30 PM and said he needed to get to the dialysis center. We are going to the senior center to socialize, not to eat and leave-it is not fair. A lot of the senior citizens have gotten disgusted and don't come. Why can't something be done?

Answer: The buses come from Penn DOT and we have to look into hiring more drivers. It all comes down to money. Under the rules and regulations that Penn DOT sets up, we have to give priority to the medical people opposed to someone who needs to go shopping. There is a pecking order that Penn DOT says we have to follow. It is a constant struggle. We are working on it.

Question: What about volunteer drivers?

Answer: All of our drivers are paid.

Question: How old do you have to be to drive the bus?

Answer: At least eighteen with a Pennsylvania driver's license.

Question: CDL?

Answer: No.

Today was senior day at Saw Creek. Every Wednesday in Saw Creek the Area on Aging comes here and offer many things for senior citizens. There is exercise, water exercise, yoga or chair exercises. Line dancing, meditation. There is lunch for \$2.50 and it is for 60 years and up. If you're under 60 years old lunch is \$3.00. Everyone is welcome. When we are done with our meeting, please come have lunch. Also, there are flyers for the Elder Justice Day that you can take advantage of. Thank you so ever much and I hope to see you here this afternoon!

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.