

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018**

The first regular meeting of April 2018 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 Diane Sommers of the United Methodist Church of Matamoras offered an opening prayer.

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

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

*Presentation of \$75,000 to Habitat for Humanity representative Mike Donlon. These funds come from the recording of documents in the County deposited in the Affordable Housing Fund. Mr. Donlon advised that Habitat for Humanity has completed 26 homes and is now working on 27 and later in the year will begin on 28. The 27<sup>th</sup> home is being built in Sunrise and the 28<sup>th</sup> will be in Pocono Mountain Lake Estates in Delaware Township. They also build ramps for people in need. The Commissioners commended the Habitat for Humanity for their service to Pike County. There are approximately 100 volunteers. A home is now costing about \$90,000 to build with no labor costs. Habitat for Humanity gives a mortgage interest free for 30 years and payments are no more than \$700 per month. That \$700 includes community dues, real estate taxes and insurance. The mortgage itself would only be approximately \$275 per month. Mr. Donlon thanked the women who volunteer to bake for the crew every day.*

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the April 4, 2018 Agenda.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the March 21, 2018 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the March 26 and 29, 2018 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$75,621.49** 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 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Habitat for Humanity)**, in the amount of **\$75,000.00**.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **HAZARDOUS MITIGATION ACCOUNT (Transfer)**, in the amount of **\$2,497.76**.

**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 INS. FUND** in the amount of **\$12,085.00**.

**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 District Attorney Raymond Tonkin advising that he has hired **SARA LOEB** to fill the full time Special Victim Advocate position in the District Attorney's Office, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective April 2, 2018, with benefits after 90 days. This is a newly created 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 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 16, 2018, with benefits after 90 days: **NOAH HIGGINS and KIMBERLY BEATON**.

**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, **SHAUNA HUBER** as a Summer Intern for the Correctional Facility, for 120 hours, effective May 22, 2018, with no benefits. This is a temporary position.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to promote **PENNY SELTZER** from Caseworker 1 to Caseworker 2 for Children & Youth Services retroactive to February 1, 2018. **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: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 18-06, Safe Haven of Pike County Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2018, which was read by Commissioner Osterberg.

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

Members of Safe Haven were present including new Director Christina Byrne. Chelsea Falotico, Outreach Advocate for Safe Haven, thanked everyone for their support. She gave an overview of the events for the month of April and distributed a calendar listing the events. Christina Byrne introduced herself as the new Executive Director of Safe Haven.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 18-07, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 8-14, 2018, which was read by Commissioner Caridi.

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

District Attorney Ray Tonkin thanked the Commissioners for the Resolution. The theme of Crime Victims' Week this year is "Expand the Circle", which is expanding outreach to all victims, and with the hiring of Sara Loeb, this goal is being accomplished. She previously worked in the District Attorney's Office, left to raise a family, and already has foundational training in victims' services. This position is fully funded by the Federal Victims of Crime Act thanks to Senator Toomey's efforts. One of Sara's main focus will be the Child Advocacy Center which is partnered with Safe Haven. Her main responsibilities will be communicating with the families of the abused and neglected children who are brought to the Child Advocacy Center and connecting them with services.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 18-08, National Library Week, April 8-14, 2018, which was read by Commissioner Guccini.

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

Rose Chiochi, Executive Director of the Pike County Public Library, thanked the Commissioners and the community for their support. There is a raffle taking place for free if you apply for a library card, update a library card or check out an item.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to appoint Michael Weinstein to the Pike County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2019.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to appoint Nicole Patrisso to the Economic Development Authority to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2018.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Joinder Agreement to the Guardian RFID Master System Agreement between Guardian RFID, the PA Counties Risk Pool and the County of Pike, on behalf of 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 execute the 2017 Hazardous Material Emergency Response Report Certification, on behalf of the Emergency Management Agency.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Agreement for Subcontracted Services between Allied Services and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

**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 Senior Rental Voucher for Delaware Run for the amount of \$1,318 for April 2018 on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Tim Knapp, Emergency Management Agency Coordinator, announced that the EMA in conjunction with the Commissioners, will be conducting an after-action meeting on April 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Training Center, on the past two snow storms that crippled Pike County. They will be answering questions and presenting a power point presentation and a time line of events. This is open to the public. The Commissioners have invited all municipal leaders from every township, PennDot, State Legislators and Representatives and National Park Service to come to the meeting to discuss the strengths and weaknesses during the storms. They will be compiling a report, and then they will be reaching out to the utilities with the concerns of the County to see what solutions may be offered. Mr. Knapp stated that during the storm Code Red was used a lot. This is the County's emergency notification system. He urged people to sign up to receive notifications during an emergency. This is a free program which works all over the country. It is not just about Pike County, it is wherever you travel. Water emergencies, road conditions, etc. are some of the notifications you will receive. They are also working with 4-H for emergency preparedness.

Jordan Wisniewski, Training Center Coordinator, announced that the Steven Boo Junior Firefighter Weekend will be held on April 28 and 29 at the Training Center. The Junior Weekend was named in memory of Steven Boo who was a firefighter with the Forest Volunteer Fire Department and was very instrumental in the past Junior Weekends. This is a free training weekend for all junior members in the County. They do not need to be affiliated with a fire department and/or EMS agency to participate. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year for the Junior Weekend where Senior members of fire departments help train the Junior members. Recruitment efforts will take place in the three school districts.

Matt Barr, Watershed Specialist at the Pike County Conservation District announced that the Groundwater Study was released in December 2017. The study was conducted by the Conservation District and the US Geological Survey (USGS) with the cooperation of Pike County residents. The purpose of the study was to get a baseline assessment of groundwater resources in the County ahead of any possible shale-gas development. Overall, the quality of the groundwater was generally within U.S. EPA drinking water standards. The results of the study is available on the Conservation District website. Krista Gromalski, Education & Outreach Coordinator, had supplemental information and a list of previous studies if anyone was interested.

Cindy DeFebo, Workforce Development Agency, stated that the Job Fair, which will be held on April 17 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Best Western Inn at Hunts Landing is filled to capacity with 70 of a wide variety of employers. Ms. DeFebo discussed the workshops in preparation of the upcoming Job Fair, which will include what to expect the day of the event, identifying the jobs of interest through the directory available, what to say, what to wear and resume review. The workshops will be held on April 10 and 12 at 2 p.m. at the Workforce Development Office.

Angela Smith of Penn State Extension discussed the Penn State April 4-19 2018 Events. Some of the events highlighted are a Home Water and Septic Workshop in Honesdale on the 5<sup>th</sup>; Cooking for Crowds on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Training Center for non-profits for fund raising dinners; another new leader recruitment workshop on the 5<sup>th</sup>; and the 4H National Service Learning Month which culminates with the 4H Day of Service on April 28<sup>th</sup>. All of the 4H groups have been tasked not only with their own individual group projects, which range from the Horse Club helping GAIT prepare for their Horses for Heroes Event; Cooking Club working with the Food Pantry; Archery Club cleaning up Veterans Park; providing a activity for the community at the PEEC for the Environmental Fest; accepting donations for the Pike County Humane Society. As their unified service learning project, 4H will be spreading the word about Code Red.

Commissioner Osterberg reminded everyone that the Opiate Task Force meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Training Center at 10:00 a.m. that is open to the public. Some of the discussion was for Penn State Cooperative Extension and 4H to put together a program for the schools to bring awareness of the Opioid epidemic and to reach out for prevention.

**PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**