

**Wednesday, July 7, 2021**

The first regular meeting of July 2021 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.

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

**Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.****PRESENTATION OF \$500 TO THE GREATER PIKE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE NEPA GIVES GOOD NEIGHBOR PRIZE WINNER POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER.**

Commissioner Osterberg said a few months ago the County Commissioners and our staff, Mr. Farley and Mr. Orben, made a donation to them of \$500 coming from all of us – not coming out of tax dollars or anything, and giving it to our community. It was a very successful day. We put that out there and there were a number of other individuals and organizations that made prizes available also and we are here to give them the check. Thank you for everything that you are doing in our community.

**Linda Fields – County Coordinator for Greater Pike Community Foundation** – The NEPA Gives was successful on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Overall, 5,786 went on-line on that day, it's a one day, on-line, giving extravaganza. Two hundred eighteen local non-profits registered and of those 20 were registered in Pike County. Most of them primarily serving Pike County. The donations to those organizations total \$21,094, but the overall total of \$1.246M plus for NEPA Gives surpassed their goal of \$1M and doubled what it did last year. The Pocono Environmental Education Center was one of the organizations that gathered great donations, over \$4K. Pike County Emergency Services Initiative Fund got nearly \$1,500 and we were really pleased to see that a matching donation from the Zimmerman Ohliger Law Firm doubled that. Delaware Valley Raptor Center got donations of over \$2K. GAIT (Therapeutic Riding Center) got \$2,600 plus and Pike County Hands of Hope got a little over \$1,800. Those are just a few examples. Just about any organization who registers with NEPA Gives got donations. The sponsored prizes made a big difference and Greater Pike Committee Foundation thanks the Commissioners for personally donating a sponsored prize – the Good Neighbor Prize. It went to PEEC (Pocono Environmental Education Center) - \$500. The Zimmerman Ohliger Law Firm sponsored a prize called the Legal Eagle prize and that went to the Pike County organization with the highest number of donations from 12AM – 6PM and that went to Hands of Hope. These prizes were all created to be fun for people to donate and see that their favorite charity was going to get plus dollars from these sponsored prizes. We appreciate that. McAteer Real Estate sponsored \$1K to a Heart and Home prize and that went to the first Pike County organization providing housing assistance to which \$500 in individual donations to Hands of Hope also. Hotel Fauchere sponsored the Good Taste prize of \$500 in \$50 gift certificates and they offered that to the first 10 non-profits in Pike County to get a donor outside of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The Never Too Late prize, sponsored by Jim Pedranti, Chairman of the Board and Rosann Kalish, Board Treasurer, \$250 went to GAIT. Those were some of the local Pike County non-profits that benefitted. There were also Pike County sponsored prizes that went to a regional pool this year. We wanted to spread the wealth, so to speak. The Greater Pike Board had a For Good prize of \$610 that went to the Junior League of Scranton. David Chant and the team at Davis R. Chant Realtors sponsored the Down Home prize of \$500 and that went to Equines for Freedom. The Historic Upper Mill sponsored a \$200 Millers' prize and it went to the Diocese of Scranton. We have a new boutique, I encourage all to check it out, Save the Bee Sola Boutique and Zero Waste Store, and they sponsored two prizes of gift baskets and that went to the Diocese of Scranton. Neversink Media really stepped up and donated two \$500 advertising vouchers to the Junior League of Scranton and Miss Greater Hazelton Scholarship organization. The Pocono Mountain Visitors' Bureau helped with the publicity. Overall, it was really, really, successful and we hope that it continues to be. I think that our local non-profits do a great job and have helped so many different areas and we're just so happy that everyone stepped up to the plate. We do thank the Commissioners for their sponsorship.

Commissioner Osterberg added that it is so important that the organization, Greater Pike Community Foundation, what they're doing in our community. As you can see and hear, many organizations benefitted from this. This is showing how a community can come together to serve all of us, especially as we come out of this pandemic, how giving everybody really is. Everyone of those organizations you mentioned do something to serve people that are need in our community. We thank the Greater Pike Community Foundation for what they're doing.

Commissioner Osterberg continued and stated that we work closely with them and, as Linda said, with the Initiative Fund, a fund started maybe two years ago with two individuals, Bill Lovejoy and Jason Ohliger. They stepped up and realized that the issues we are having with EMS training and donated funds to begin the program where individuals who want to be trained as an EMT can go to our Training Center in Blooming Grove and from there get the free training and we pay for all the training out of this fund. Recently, as was said, we collected some more funds during NEPA with Jason's generosity, but at the same time, the Greater Pike Community Foundation recently gave a grant to that fund in the amount of \$3,103.61. That just adds more to it, I think the balance I saw was somewhere in the range of \$25K and there is a class ready to go again. Last year, I believe they graduated 16 individuals who are now actively, not all of them, but many of them are actively working in our ambulance services in our County, which is what we need to stir volunteerism. There are a lot of hours people have to dedicate to this, never mind have to pay for it, we thank them for this grant. We know that we'll have more funds and will continue to work towards satisfying this somewhat crisis we have with EMS in the County. Thank you very much for that donation.

Commissioners Schmalzle and Guccini also thanked the Greater Pike Community Foundation.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the July 7, 2021 Agenda.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the June 16, 2021 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 June 16, 22, and 28 and July 2, 2021 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 the **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$801,212.51**, 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 the **ACT 89 ACCOUNT (Sparnon Wetland)**, in the amount of **\$2,550.00**.

**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 the Courts advising that they have hired **GABRIELLA FOSTER** as a temporary part time summer intern for the Probation Office, for a total of 120 hours, effective July 12 through August 20, 2021, with no benefits.

**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 the Courts advising that they have promoted **NATASHA SMOLINSKI** to the newly created Clerk I position shared by both Magistrate Cooper and Schmalzle’s Offices effective July 12, 2021, with benefits. This is to fill a newly created position.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **PAMELA DECOSTELLO** as a full time Site Manager for the Area Agency on Aging Office for a 35 hour work week, effective July 12, 2021, with benefits after 90 days. This is to fill a newly created position.

**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:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open proposals received for the Area Agency on Aging for services for the contract period 2021-2023.

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

Solicitor Thomas Farley opened the following bids:

Connect America Bid Statement -

Personal Landline	\$18
Emergency Cellular	\$18
System Response Mobile	\$25
Call “0”	\$27.95
Med Ready Landline	\$27.95
Med Ready Cellular	\$27.95

Traditional Home Care, LLC Bid Statement –

Personal Care Regular Unit Cost	\$5
Personal Care Available Rate	\$5
Home Support	Not Applicable

Caregivers of America Bid Statement –

Personal Care	\$21.50
Personal Care Regular 5%	\$22.50
Home Support	Same as Personal Care

Steven’s Pharmacy –

Personal Emergency PRS	\$25 per month
Bell Mobile	\$35 per month
Response System Bell Mobile	\$45 per month – one time set up fee of \$35 a unit will apply

Ryan’s Deli –

Per Meal	\$7
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Above the Rest Homecare –

Personal Care	\$26 an hour unit cost
Personal Care Available Rate	\$26 an hour unit cost
Home Support/General Care Mgmt.	
(Initial Assessment)	\$250 hour
Generic Care Mgmt.	\$150 hour

ADT Health –

Solicitor Farley opened what he thought was a Bid Statement, but there were not any numbers/amounts included in same. He then said Director of Area Agency on Aging Robin Skibber would have to look at it. She responded that they have a contract with them through June. Solicitor Farley said he did not want to keep holding up the meeting.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the bid award for the Area Agency on Aging for services for the contract period 2021-2021 until July 21, 2021.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for bids for fortified flavored beverage bases for the Correctional Facility.

**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 Change Order No. 1 between Harty Construction and the County of Pike, for a credit of \$6,720.50 for unused contract contingency items for the Training Center Burn Building Lining Replacement Project.

**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 Work Order for \$3,500 between Sparnon Wetland Services and the County of Pike for the wetland study of Creek Road over Little Bushkill Creek.

**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 Agreement to Provide Professional Consulting Services for a Cost Allocation Plan, between Maximus and the County of Pike.

**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 Monitoring Activity Progress Report (MAPR) for the 2020 CDBG-CV program, on behalf of the Human Services Office.

**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 payable to Delaware Run for Senior Housing Subsidy for July 2021 for \$1,652, on behalf of the Human Services Office.

**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 payable to Troy Estus Contracting Services for payment #1 for an Act 137 Housing Rehabilitation Project for \$5,700, on behalf of the Human Services Office.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Agreement for Subcontracted Services between Serving Seniors and the County of Pike, 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 Act 148 Certification Statement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY 2020-21, 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 Purchase of Service Agreements between the following providers and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services: Access Services, Affinity Forensic Services, Alternative Living Solutions, Bethany Children's Home, Bucks County, Child & Family Focus, City Mission-Living Stone, Clear Vision Residential Services, Community Solutions, Cornell Abraxas Group, LLC, Diversified Treatment Alternative Centers, Edison Court, Family Care for Children & Youth, George Junior Republic, Guidelight, KL Davis Polygraph, LLC, Manos House, Merakey Pennsylvania, National Mentor Healthcare, Inc., New Way Youth Services, Pathways Adolescent City, PA Treatment and Healing, Pentz Run, Perseus House and Torrance Cove Prep.

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

Area Agency on Aging Director Robin Skibber said she is happy to have some bidders for direct care. We are continually working with a shortage in that industry and we have numerous families waiting for services because the agencies can't find aides. We're hoping by instituting some incentives and tiered rates that we'll be able to get some families served. There's been an ongoing shortage.

Commissioner Osterberg said Director of Communications/Public Relations Krista Gromalski would like to introduce a new employee we have working in the Commissioners' Office. She is going to help us with our website design and some other items that Krista works on daily with press releases and public relations. Shannon DeVuyst was introduced and welcomed. She announced she is going to be the Content Marketing Intern in the Commissioners' Office this summer and added she recently graduated from the University of Vermont where she studied Business Administration, working with a concentration in Marketing. Shannon thanked the Commissioners for having her.

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Penn State Extension – Calendar of Events – July 1-15, 2021 – Commissioner Osterberg pointed out to the press that the 4-H Organization is looking for adult leaders. He said it is a really well run organization with Angie Smith. He asked the community that if they could help us out with that, it's a really great program throughout the whole County. If you can volunteer, I know Angie would love to see you – give her a call and help her out there and help the children in our community.

### ***Questions and comments were opened to the Public and the Press:***

A member of the audience asked if there is going to be an EMS Meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>? Commissioner Osterberg responded yes, there is. The EMS Meeting will be at the Training Center and the County Commissioners will be presenting our program that we've announced in the last couple of meetings at Blooming Grove, which entails the matching of EMS dollars from the Townships up to a maximum of 2 mils and we are working out the program and the criteria for the Townships. This is an initiative by the Commissioners' Office to improve and get our EMS services up and running. With all the things going on in the last number of years with low volunteerism, we're trying to help the Townships. This responsibility should not just be laid on the shoulders of our Township officials, it's too large a lift. Maybe thirty or forty years ago, when there were a lot of volunteers, it was something that the Townships could handle, but right now it's not. The County needs to partner with them, not to say that the County is going to be taking over EMS services, we're not. It's still going to be their responsibility; we just feel that we can help them fund it. Unfortunately, the one way to fix this and a lot of things is money. We need to figure out how we can do that with some County funds along with Township tax dollars. We will be having that meeting and having invited all the Township officials to come to the Training Center where we will also have ZOOM for people who are still not comfortable coming to open meetings. We look forward to presenting it to them. July 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM at the 911 Center in Blooming Grove.

Commissioner Guccini asked Director of Area Agency on Aging Director Skibber about an email that she sent regarding some movement which seems to be bipartisan movement to maybe not have a giant conglomerate do assessments for seniors. Am I stating that correct, as opposed to the local AAA offices? Director Skibber answered, yes right. There is a Statewide enrollment broker who has the task of getting people through the system of Medicaid and the physical, clinical requirement end and coordinate with the assessment which is done at the AAA's to get this person long term care support and services funded by Pennsylvania Medicaid. Currently now the managed care organizations are doing those service, but to get those people connected, the enrollment broker is a Statewide entity. With the new contract that's out, the assessment piece was going to be put into that and the AAA's were not going to be a part of it, but as far as the legislators, both the Senate and House side, have bipartisan support to ask the Governor and the Office of Long Term Living to cease the current contract process and consider renegotiating and/or working with the AAA's. Commissioner Guccini said it might sound a little bit complicated, but having gone through this personally, and I know other people have as well, the idea of trying to get these benefits for family members and working with somebody at a call center as opposed to local agencies, is just kind of a nightmare. My understanding is that it's a conflict of interest that the Agency shouldn't be making these determinations and then providing services at the same time. In certain locations, maybe an outside broker works in Philadelphia County better, but they don't work here. One size doesn't fit all. I'm just throwing this out there that if, for any members of the public, it's important to contact our legislators to say we really need to keep this provision in the local AAA offices.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adjourn the Commissioners' Meeting.

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

**ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**