

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

The first regular meeting of August, 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.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the August 4, 2021 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the July 21, 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 July 22 and 30, 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 **\$172,445,37**, 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 13 ACCOUNT (MHE-Winona Falls Bridge)**, in the amount of **\$18,593.78**.

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, **HOUSSAM JONES AND NAPOLEAN FARFAN** as full-time Correctional Officers for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective July 29, 2021, with benefits after 90 days.

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, **BRYCE GIFFORD** as a full-time Correctional Officer for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective August 16, 2021, with benefits after 90 days.

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 bids received for fortified flavored beverage bases for the Correctional Facility.

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

Solicitor Thomas Farley opened the following bids: Bernard Food Industries, broken down per month, per flavor:

Grape-\$912.96; Orange-\$2,738.88; Fruit Punch-\$912.96; Lemon-\$2,738.88; and Iced-Tea-\$872.64 – all per month. Solicitor Farley said although it's the only one, I would still ask that it be reviewed before we approved.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the bid award for fortified flavored beverage bases for the Correctional Facility until the August 18, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 21-23, National Health Center Week, August 8-14, 2021.

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

After Commissioner Schmalzle read aloud Resolution No. 21-23, Commissioner Osterberg thanked Wayne Memorial Hospital and said how much we are grateful in Pike County for all the services that you provide for the residents. As we've announced many times, we're one of the few places without a hospital nor an urgent care. What Wayne Memorial Hospital did during this time, working with our emergency services – thank you for what you've done for us – the residents are very grateful.

Wayne Memorial Executive Director Fred Jackson said I think the last year has been an opportunity to respond positively to the pandemic. It showed what we can do working together. We continue to grow our services here in the County and to look for opportunities to expand. We appreciate the support we got in that regard.

Commissioner Schmalzle added that if anything good has become of such an awful pandemic and terrible time in our history, it's the relationship. It has grown stronger and, as you know, you are on our speed dial for every problem that comes up (medically related). The answer we get back from you is always 'we can do it' and 'we will do it'. It's always positive and a "can-do" attitude. I think that has been very rewarding for all the residents of Pike County and beyond. We thank you for your presence in our County.

Commissioner Guccini said he is the newest member on the Board. It's been about 2 years, but it seems like 6 months, because right after I was appointed, we had COVID and every meeting was by ZOOM. I didn't even really think of this until I was sitting here, but our meeting before last, the Dental Director (Brian Brown, DMD) told this story of a young guy who came in with terrible, terrible teeth and could never afford to get them fixed. Now, because of how these sliding fee schedules work at these health centers, he was able to get them fixed. It changed his life. He was so happy about that and so grateful for everything and those are stories you don't hear here. People like that, who really are struggling to get the care they need, that's the kind of service that this health center provides. Thank you!

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for bids for the Pike County Courthouse Sally Port Parking Pad and Sidewalks Project.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for bids for 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 authorize the Chairman to execute the Lease Agreement between Pitney Bowes 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 Memorandum of Agreement between Northampton Community College's Center for College and Career Readiness 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.

Commissioner Guccini commented that this is to allow the Correctional Facility to continue to provide GED Services at the Correctional Facility – just another program among many that they provide.

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 August 2021 for \$2,102, 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 approve the Small Business Forgivable Loan Program payment to Have a Hoot for \$54,247.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Non-Exclusive Agreement between Western Kentucky University Research Foundation Inc. 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 Amendment 3 to the Memorandum of Understanding between the PA Department of Aging and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging to extend the SHARE Program to 2024.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Back to School Event – Backpack and School Supplies Giveaway – 10AM, August 5, 2021, Ann St. Park – Commissioner Osterberg said this is taking place on behalf of Children & Youth Organizations, which is a free backpack and school supply giveaway at the Ann Street Park in Milford. The sponsors are State Representative Mike Peifer, the Pike County Commissioners, the Methodist Church, the Milford Ecumenical Food Pantry, TriVersity, Justice Works, Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission, Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health, Victims' Intervention Program, SAM, Inc., Delaware Valley School District, East Stroudsburg School District and the Wallenpaupack School District. We are welcoming parents to come and get backpacks and other information about Children and Youth Services and all the things we do here in the County to help and strengthen families.
- Overdose Awareness Day is August 31, 2021 – Commissioner Osterberg said this is something that's been affecting this County, even during COVID. Shannon from Pike Drug & Alcohol will be here at the next meeting to discuss this program. Awareness Day is going to be August 31st and during that time they're going to be putting pinwheels, as they've done other years, on the front lawns of all the courthouses and the County property. Commissioner Guccini added that at our most recent Reentry Coalition meeting, which was last week, Shannon had given a number of overdose deaths in Pike County – I thought she said 100 since 2014. That's, as most people know, an underreported number, because that only shows up for people who we know are County residents, because of the hospital situation. I keep track of this, but I was astounded by that number. This is still going on and people need to know that. Commissioner Osterberg said just a week ago he had a friend overdose and pass away, but not in this County. Suffering from this disease is a horrible thing that's going on in our community and we have to just keep on bring awareness to it and giving help where you can give help. We can't save them all, but we certainly have to give an effort here to save as many as we can and let the public know what's going on here. Greg Heller, the attorney who is representing Pike County in the lawsuit, you've seen it on the news, the issue is now how the money is going to be doled out to the local county drug and alcohol providers. That could take a little while to do, but he's working hard to do that for us, through the State, because in the beginning we agreed to sign on with Mr. Heller and his law firm, nobody else was really doing this except for counties. The States were not involved in it. Since that time, the States jumped in and that has probably benefitted the whole thing. What's happened now is that you ended up with lots of entities in there filing the same suits, which were joined together in Ohio. We're hoping now that the money gets distributed directly into the county coffers – into our drug and alcohol programs. If it's held up in Harrisburg, it's just going to be a little sloppier. We know what we need, as you hear these numbers, you know that rural America and rural Pennsylvania has been the hardest hit with this epidemic and this crisis (drug overdoses). Greg will be calling us soon, we just talked to him on Friday. Shannon will be here next month to talk more about what the program is.
- Commissioner Meeting/Conference changes effective September 1, 2021 – Commissioner Osterberg said there will be a Press Release going out. These changes are occurring because of Senate Bill 554 of 2021, which amends the Sunshine Act. What will happen here is Pike County Commissioners' meetings will be set for the first and third Wednesday of the month, at 11:00 AM as opposed to 9:00 AM. This is a big change in Pike County, we've been having the meeting at 9:00 AM. The Pike County Commissioners' Conferences will be set for the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of the month at 11:00 AM. The Pike County Retirement Board meetings will be set for the third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM and, as needed, any regularly scheduled meeting and/or conference. Pike County Salary Board Meetings as needed and Pike County Election Board Meetings as needed. Meeting conferences will continued to be held at the Pike County Administration Building at 506 Broad Street, Milford. This will be advertised and it won't start until the first meeting of September.

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

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, AUGUST 18, 2021, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.