

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

The first regular meeting of August 2019 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 Shirley Geffrand of Faith Tabernacle of Port Jervis offered the opening prayer.

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 7, 2019 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the July 17, 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 July 23, 25 and August 1, 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 \$369,189.75, 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 **CORONER MODERNIZATION ACCOUNT (Supplies)**, in the amount of \$2,476.76.

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 August 5, 2019, with benefits after 90 days: **CODY TALLMAN and DANIEL SKAGGS**.

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, **DAWN SCHREPPPEL** as a full time Administrative Clerk for the Correctional Facility for a 40 hour work week effective July 29, 2019, with benefits after 90 days. 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 hire **KYLE VERRILL** as a Caseworker 2 for Children & Youth Services, for a 40 hour work week effective July 29, 2019, with benefits after 90 days. 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 promote **CHRISTINE IRWIN** to a Caseworker 2 for Children & Youth Services, for a 40 hour work week effective August 5, 2019. 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 change a Caseworker 1 position to a Caseworker 2 position for Children & Youth Services, and to promote **BETH BAYLISS** to the Caseworker 2 position, for a 40 hour work week effective August 5, 2019. 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 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 reject all bids received for the Pike County Courthouse Sally Port Project and to advertise for re-bid this Fall with construction on the Spring of 2020.

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

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

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

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid which was from Bernard Food Industries in the amount of \$8,176.32.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table bid received for the purchase of fortified flavored beverage bases for the Correctional Facility until August 21, 2019.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for the John Street Roof Replacement Project.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for the purchase of 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 advertise for the 2019-20 winter snowplowing and ice control for the following roads as one bid: Brooks Road, Old Owego Turnpike from Raymondskill Rd. to Route 6, Stone Quarry Road by Eureka and Tower Road.

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 Pioneer Construction Co. and the County of Pike, for additional costs relating to the Pike County Campus Paving Project in the amount of \$24,975.03.

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 Zitone Construction and the County of Pike, for an additional \$493 for an electrical outlet and two communication stub ups and boxes relating to alterations to the existing building at 102 John Street.

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. 2 between Zitone Construction and the County of Pike, for an additional \$708 for brackets and steel tube supports for counters at bullet resistant windows relating to alterations to the existing building at 102 John Street.

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 Planned Maintenance Agreement between Cummins Sales and Service and the County of Pike, for two generators at the Training 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 Senior Rental Assistance Voucher for Delaware Run for August 2019 in the amount of \$2,083.

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 Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement between the PA Associations of Area Agencies on Aging 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 Child Accounting and Profile System Application Service Provider Agreement and the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement Addendum between Avanco International and the County of Pike, 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 2019-20 Purchase of Service Agreements between the following Providers and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services: Catholic Social Services, Child & Family Focus, Concern Professional Services and Judith Munoz.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ESU's Tick Research Lab to receive \$500,000 from 2019-20 State Budget – Commissioner Osterberg said for the 2nd year in a row, State Representative Rosemary Brown was able to get for the budget, \$500,000.00 for ESU for continued research on this crisis that is effecting many in our County and in the Commonwealth as well. This money goes a long way and, in Pike County, we have been at the forefront of this from day one. We started the Task Force about 5 or 6 years ago and from that time we have had people like Representative Brown step up and explain to the State that there is a need in Pike County as it is in the entire Commonwealth. We have seen the creation of the Tick Borne Disease Wellness Center through Wayne Memorial Hospital and that was in collaboration with the Task Force here in Pike County along with the Wayne County Task Force. This is the first in the State and might even be one of the first in the Nation to do this. Hospitals are recognizing the need for Lyme literate doctors and for people to be heard and seen in the community because they are suffering from these illnesses. When it comes to the money that has been allocated to East Stroudsburg for research labs, they have put out an important tick information guide. There are some in the Commissioners' Office. It has an envelope in there that you can put a tick in there and mail it to East Stroudsburg, at no charge, and they will determine from the tick if it has any pathogens. That way, when you go to the doctor, they will understand that you were bit by a tick and this

is what the tick has. We really need to thank Representative Brown, Representative Mike Peifer and Senator Lisa Baker for supporting these types of initiatives because we need the votes to do it. We need to recognize that they are at the forefront of this for us, the community and the Commonwealth. Commissioner Schmalzle added that when he was at CCAP last week, 3 separate people told him that they went to Lords Valley, Pike County, PA to this new “center” that has been opened up. One of the people was from Pittsburgh, PA. The TBD Wellness Center has been getting calls from all across the country and people are flying in just to go to Wellness Center, I believe it is the first of its’ kind. They are very busy, proactive and doing a really nice job with that right here in Pike County. Although we don’t want to be known as the tick County, we do want to be known as the leaders in trying to prevent diseases that come from ticks. Commissioner Osterberg continued that there will be more information coming out soon. East Stroudsburg has done a Surveillance Survey and that will be completed in the next few months. There will be a program making people understand how they can be proactive along their properties, because there are different non-lethal chemicals you can use to keep the ticks away from your property so you can be safe. This is working being done by people who come and sit once a month on the Task Force-they are dedicated to it and understand there is a need for it.

PRESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Reporter Chris Jones asked what happened with the Sally Port Project? Commissioner Osterberg answered that the engineer felt that the bids were too high and it is probably best if we put it back out to bid.

Reporter Chris Jones asked about the “union rate of \$16.50”, have they always had a union for correctional officers? What is the name of the union? Commissioner Osterberg answered yes. American Federal of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Reporter Chris Jones asked about 102 East John Street, is that where the District Justices are going? Commissioner Osterberg answered correct, along with the Public Defender’s Office and Central Booking. Chris Jones: What are they going to do with those buildings then? Commissioner Osterberg: District Judge Fischer’s current office will become the new CAC (Children’s Advocacy Center) building after it is renovated. As for the Public Defender’s building, we have not come to a full conclusion of what is going in there. The building next door to that (the Auditor’s building) has to be renovated as well. There will be renovations done to these buildings. Chris Jones: The Children’s Advocacy Center was in in Safe Haven? Commissioner Osterberg replied yes, it is upstairs now in the District Attorney’s area. The renovations are continuing upstairs. The roof is getting done here in the Administration Building and there are renovations being done upstairs in Children and Youth. That is being done in-house, new carpet, painting and expanding the offices back to where Probation and Domestic Relations were before they moved into the new Annex.

Reporter Chris Jones asked about the negative comments at the Milford Borough Meeting about progress on the Mott Street Bridge. Commissioner Osterberg said he spoke to the engineer about that and they said that the completion date is still the same. The engineer’s concern from day one has been that, as they uncover the bridge, they were going to find more deterioration and they have (the bridge is from 1902). It’s tough to work on something that age and there is a lot of rust.

Kevin Holian, an attendee of the meeting, announced that the recent mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton is an indication of the greatest threat of American communities today – spiritual decay. In his opinion, Pike County, as compared to a lot of other Counties across the country, has consistently addressed the spiritual and soul of its’ constituents. This is exemplified by the Tick Borne Diseases Task Force with Mikki Weiss and Dr. Ollar and others. As a member of the public, we should get it on record that this County has taken the mindset of our first President, George Washington. President George Washington refused to take command of the Continental Army until he got one type of position in the Army. That position was the Chaplain. The Commissioners’ meetings have always had members of Legislature here at the meetings and have always communicated items that actually reflected the need to improve, sustain and maintain the spirit and soul of Pike County. I truly want to applaud and commend the initial comment by Commissioner Osterberg and the additional comments by the 3 Commissioners-thank you all.

Another attendee of the meeting stated that she had been in contact with one of the Correctional Officers that was recently hired and they are complaining a lot about the hours that they have to work (they have been hit with a lot of overtime). They believe that it is a broken system for many years. The younger, new hires get hit with a lot of overtime and the seniors, the officers that have been there longer, are taking days off together (for example, 5 senior officers taking off together). Shouldn’t there be someone designated just for scheduling? Maybe hiring someone specifically just for scheduling? Commissioner Osterberg said the Commissioners would look into that and they know they have a turnover, we have open positions at the Corrections Facility and this is a Commonwealth-wide issue. In an Upstate New York Correctional Facility, they are 45 Correctional Officers short. You can imagine what this does to staffing and overtime. We are fully aware of the overtime. I do know that, unfortunately, with positions like that, when your shift is over and the next person doesn’t show up, it’s in their contract-they can’t just leave in a Correctional Facility. They are trying to hire new people. We will share your concerns with our Wardens. Our Wardens are continually working for that not to happen. We understand – people want to go home to their families. We are trying.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.