

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

The first regular meeting of March 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 (via Zoom), Schmalzle and Guccini; Chief Clerk Orben; and Solicitor Farley.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg to recess the Commissioners' meeting to have a Covid-19 Vaccine Update.

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

Commissioner Guccini announced that Meaghan Abbott from the Department of Health and Senator Lisa Baker are on the line. Commissioner Guccini then read a statement concerning updates as it relates to seniors. The Pennsylvania Department of Aging recently released new guidance to support local Area Agencies on Aging in assisting older adults with Covid-19 Vaccine information and to help with scheduling vaccine appointments. This assistance is supported by the PA Link to Aging and Disability Resources known in Pennsylvania simply as PA Link. Older adults can now be placed on a list and would be called by a PA Link Representative once a vaccine appointment becomes available. The time that it takes to receive an appointment varies due to vaccine supply and the process may take several days or weeks. In Pike County, senior citizens without internet access can call the Area Agency on Aging at (570) 775-5550 for more information or to get on the list with PA Link.

Commissioner Osterberg added that the Commissioners' Office and many other County departments have been receiving questions from local residents about how and when they can register to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. My fellow Commissioners and I have been in frequent, ongoing communication with the Pennsylvania Department of Health on this topic. We have reached out to elected officials at the state and federal levels and we have requested that more detailed information be made available from the Office of Governor Wolf. We will bring today's agenda with an update from the Pennsylvania Department of Health on Covid-19 vaccine distribution and Senator Baker will share her perspective. Before we continue, we want to recognize the efforts of the Pike County Office of Emergency Management, whose staff have worked diligently to help distribute the vaccine through multiple clinics in Pike County in partnership with the Department of Health, Wayne Memorial Health System, Pike County Health Center, Lords Valley Village Pharmacy and other community organizations. Our Emergency Management Office has worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, and the result is that thousands of people have received vaccinations in Pike County. Thank you to Bernie Swartwood, Tim Knapp, Jordan Wisniewski, Kyle Rohner and all of the staff involved. We know that there are other local distribution points such as pharmacies and private practices and there is much more work to do. People have questions about the process and timeline. With us this morning to help answer those questions is Meaghan Abbott, Director for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Meaghan, thank you for your time this morning, we'll now open it up to your comments.

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE – Meaghan Abbott, Director for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Pennsylvania Department of Health – Meaghan Abbott said it would be announced today that as of last night we have an additional 2,577 cases. That is continuing. It's slightly up this week. It appears to be a plateau, which is truly an excellent time. That really is showing that all of our positive public health efforts like mask wearing and now the vaccine are really making a difference. Further, our hospitalizations across the Commonwealth are also down 45 today with a total of 1,670 people hospitalized. Those are great improvements that we've seen over the past couple of weeks. The vaccine is the hottest topic here in the department. You can find all of our data on our website on our dashboard. Our total vaccines administered is over 2.5M and since yesterday we're up in total vaccines administered to 69,887. I know Senator Baker, the Department, the Commissioners, are hearing from constituents about struggles to get vaccinated but people are getting vaccinated. Herd immunity is really important and we are getting there. We're getting more vaccines, we're getting more of it into people's arms and we're feeling, very cautiously, optimistic. I am hearing at the Department and I saw over the weekend that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine did receive its emergency use authorization. That will begin to be distributed across the country. That's a single dose vaccine which is an absolute game changer. A single dose vaccine is absolutely a game changer to get more people vaccinated quicker. Director Abbott then asked if the Commissioners had any questions. Commissioner Osterberg asked when we can expect to have some regularly scheduled clinics either through the Department of Health or Wayne Memorial Hospital? We've had some good ones in Pike County and we know there's a limited amount, but there needs to be some type of regularly scheduled events so that the public knows. It's very confusing to most people and that would be one of my questions, I'm sure Ron (Schmalzle) and Steve (Guccini) have many others there. This is also what we are getting calls about. Director Abbott agreed and said they would also like to see more opportunities to get vaccinated. We know that the quantity that we are receiving is a limiting factor. I know in Pike County there are provider gaps and maybe that is something that we can work on together to find more providers that are able to vaccinate in the communities. That is something we can look at – how to improve access. This is a really good example how Covid has created many problems but has also really highlighted even more and how important health care access is for people at all times, not just during Covid. Commissioner Osterberg said one of the best partners we've had through this whole thing is actually Wayne Memorial Hospital. They have done a fabulous job and I'll let Ron and Steve speak to it.

Commissioner Schmalzle said he is on the Board of Trustees at Wayne Memorial Hospital and Health Care Systems. I think one of the confusing things for us and all of the residents of Pike County is that there doesn't seem to be a central place to go to get information. For example, this weekend we may or may not have a clinic, we don't even know that yet. We had some mass vaccination clinics directly through the Department of Health where the vaccine is delivered to Wayne and then it's conducted by the Department of Health. We have some vaccine clinics that are done by Wayne Memorial Health Care Systems and then we have a lot of private providers providing either clinics for just the availability of vaccine and then there are the pharmacies. I think that the confusing part for the constituents are who do they call? Where do they get the information? As of today, if they are looking for a vaccine this coming week, there is no place in Pike County that they can call to get a vaccine. They are going out of County to get the vaccine. I just wonder why it isn't a more organized one-path through for people to find information somewhat similar to what other areas are doing. Here, I know people are signing up for the vaccine on multiple sites just hopeful for the opportunity to get vaccinated. I think last week or the week

before we heard through the Department of Health that the distribution was going to be less or not through private practice and more through other means, but that isn't the case. Can you give all of us a little better understanding of why there is all of these same avenues to get to the same place instead of a more streamlined way to get there? Director Abbot replied there are a couple of things to address. First is the idea of a "central registry". That is something when we talk about that I like to define what we mean by "central registry". When you talk to different people they have different understandings of what that is and how it might be utilized. We're interested to take all of these ideas under consideration, but also being respectful of our provider network and how they operate and how they need to operationalize things. I'd be curious to hear from Wayne Memorial if they would prefer a centralized registration system or if they prefer to use their own registration. A lot of times health care facilities utilize their system to track and put things into their own system. There are a lot of things to look at when looking into a centralized registry and we don't want to add another barrier. We don't want to send someone to a central registry that would then take longer to get through the administrative stuff to get someone scheduled. We know that people seek vaccines in different ways. Their comfortable going to different places. Some people are comfortable going to a hospital or large health care system. Other prefer to go to their retail pharmacy. It depends on where you're going and what you're comfortable with in order to get vaccinated.

Director Abbott then addressed something else and that was that they discovered we had more requests for vaccine than we did supply. This issue with the 2nd dose of Moderna and we really are taking steps to improve that to make sure that people are able to get their second doses of the vaccine. In order to do that, we've improved our provider communication. We started doing daily provider polls with all of our vaccine providers to hear about updates, answer questions and that is something we are working on. We're also recommending that providers utilize the small window recommended by the CDC for folks to get their 2nd dose. There's been understandable anxiety around 2nd dose appointments being cancelled. I think they are not necessarily being cancelled, but are being moved in order to fill that full 42 days window and allow us to have more time to allow supply to catch up with demand. In order to fulfil that 2nd dose request, we have given less vaccine to some providers in order to fill 2nd dose needs and then as we move forward with more supply moving in to ramp up our provider network again. The 42 days is what is recommended by the CDC, but there is no clinch it is still acceptable to get your 2nd dose after that 42 day window.

Commissioner Schmalzle said he is less clear now than I was before I asked the question. That's kind of how we feel. Just to break it down for a little more clarity, we believe that Wayne Memorial Health Care System has the ability, the staff and wherewithal, to distribute that same vaccine. However, if you look at this week alone, what they're receiving in vaccine is far less than single practitioners that don't have the ability to do it. That, to me, just doesn't make any sense. I think we know where the vaccines are going – small, little offices that may not even be doctors getting more vaccine than the system that really represents the ability to get vaccine out to our people. I guess that is the real concerning thing – that's where we are confused. We know that there is more demand than vaccine – that's an obvious thing. We just think that we have a really good way of getting vaccine out, however they are not getting the vaccine. Senator Baker thanked Ron for focusing on Wayne Memorial. I have heard from Fred Jackson and others at Wayne Memorial and what you need for Pike County and it has been a huge challenge for them without their own health care facility, they rely on Wayne Memorial and it seems that they're being penalized for not having a health facility in the County and Wayne Memorial is not being treated as their health care facility. I think your hearing a high degree of frustration. Wayne Memorial is not receiving the level of doses that they should be. We believe it is very disproportionate. I have been advocating from the beginning for that health system to be given greater access because it reaches into a 2 county area and has been trying to fill this gap. They've been a great partner helping folks in Pike County, but what you're hearing from all of us is a high degree of frustration, not only from the health system, but from our constituents. People are frustrated and they're signing up in multiple locations and willing to travel 2 and 3 hours if they read somewhere that there are extra doses. That is not what we need to have. We want to have a systematic approach and the way we believe this can be accomplished is utilizing an health care delivery network that is highly respected and has the capacity and the capability of doing it. Yet, we feel very hand-strung that they are not receiving what we need to help facilitate this for our constituents. As I said on a call with Acting Secretary Beem, a lot of these individuals don't have access to the internet. I am delighted to hear we are partnering with the Area Agency on Aging, but there are family members sitting on their computer for days at a time trying to help their parents. This is high degree of frustration and we believe we have the capability through the infrastructure of Wayne Memorial, we just need more access and for them to be treated as the primary access point. I don't know if I'm misspeaking Commissioners, but I think we want to see a mass vaccination/clinic again. I know the Governor is planning to announce later this morning that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is going to be potentially devoted to educators to help address and get children back into school. We still have a gap with our over 65 population and I think we want to find a pathway and a plan and that's why we're all frustrated. Commissioner Osterberg added that they are not looking to change anything with Wayne Hospital, we are looking to use all of their resources that they have. They have a great registry system. It all works, but people in Pike County are being sent all over the place. These are things that we are getting. A doctor is not going to take on patients that don't belong to him. They are just getting extremely frustrated. Our phones are ringing off the hooks and these are really concerned senior citizens that are petrified and afraid of what's going on here and they are being left to figure this out on their own. We are here to try and help them and if we could steer them all to Wayne Hospital knowing that they have ample amount of vaccine coming in, it would just make our lives easier and the residents' lives easier than trying to go to all these other places. We're a rural county, I hear what you're saying about other resources and other counties that are larger, maybe they need all those pharmacies over there. We have a great partner here and it's Wayne Memorial Hospital. I think after this meeting maybe we need to have a meeting with Wayne Hospital and yourself and figure out how we can get this in the right direction and open up vaccination centers in the County whether it's at the Delaware Valley High School, the Pike County Training Center or the Ding-Del Elementary School. They have all provided services and have proven to be great locations and people are thrilled when they go there because they are run very effectively and efficiently. That is our frustration here and you can help us. Director Abbott agreed and said she would be pleased to meet and said she would touch base with the Commissioners and with Senator Baker. We can meet to discuss some solutions and try work on some things. Commissioner Guccini said he will try to bring this down to the lowest common denominator. The process of getting the vaccines to the federal government, getting them to the state and distributing those, what I don't understand and what I think the rest of us don't understand is how the Department of Health determines who gets what? I don't know how that system works and I think what you're hearing is that it's not a cookie cutter thing. The process that you set up may work good in other counties; here, and I have some involvement with Wayne Memorial as well, but in addition to that in the

southern end of the county we have Lehigh Valley and St. Luke's. Whatever all those other networks are, it would really be more helpful if they could be more centralized to the hospitals that have the ability to get this stuff out. Director Abbot said maybe she can talk a little bit about overall allocation. We do look at Covid cases, Covid deaths and number of people over 65. We look at that as far as county-wide allocation. Within a county we look at different providers to see what their capacity is, to determine the vaccine that we're able to give them, how much and what type. We are working with providers to determine what type of product can go where. You have raised a really good point and will bring it back to the team about Wayne Memorial being in Wayne County and not in Pike County and how that overlaps and how your communities really work together. I think that is something that we should certainly discuss here and I have a meeting and follow up and try and work toward some solutions or help you understand why things are the way they are. Senator Baker added that she would just ask if there is a way for us to prioritize a county. Pike County is one of only a hand full in the state that does not have its' own hospital. I think when you talk about barriers to access, what we are saying is this shouldn't be a barrier because we have a capable, willing partner who has just not been given the right resources to address the need and the unmet need here in this county. Our request would be to prioritize that as a high interest and to look at the over 65 population – it is significant and I would encourage the department strongly and look forward to partnering with you however we can do it, to open it up and to create more clinics. The calls are coming to us and to our offices and trying to help people navigate, they just don't know where to go. Wayne Memorial doesn't know what to tell people. They don't have access to that and so what you're seeing is this could be a pilot for how you take a community, use an existing resource that's a willing partner, and giving us an opportunity to demonstrate that this can work. I don't know if I'm speaking out of turn, but I really believe that we can demonstrate that you can effectively do this and use that infrastructure. We just need to be prioritized. We're far from Harrisburg. Many people don't realize the number of people that are here, family members who work here. As a result of Covid, our numbers in population are much higher and I think what you're hearing is a real need and we think we can fix it, but we need the department to commit to helping us fix it. Commissioner Schmalzle added that he thinks the Department of Health's intentions are very good. I just don't think that they understood our county like we understand the county. Here's a good example: vaccine is going to these small places, including grocery stores that have a pharmacy. They're coming out and saying we can only give out 2 an hour because we don't have the staff to do it. It's the same with private practitioners. The vaccine is sitting there. Where Wayne gets the vaccine and distributes it, there is vaccine in many, many places in Pike County, but they do not have the ability to get it out and they continue to get more vaccine in their inventory without the ability to get it out. I believe Wayne this week is doing a clinic for 500 people in Wayne County and that's what they're getting for both counties. I know of private practitioners that are getting 1,200, 1K or whatever. They don't have the ability to give it out – that's what we're trying to say. The intentions are really good, but the actuality and the realistic understanding of Pike County is what's holding this up right now if that makes sense. Director Abbot responded said it does and they are all excellent advocates for the community in making us understand how this works. We're are pleased to follow up with a meeting and we'll try to get something on the books at the end of this week, early next week. Commissioner Osterberg said next week is a long time from now – it's almost getting comical. The residents are looking at us and asking "what are you guys doing over there"? We're the front lines of this, the sooner the better we figure this out with Wayne Memorial Hospital and get this going to where their getting an ample amount of vaccine to satisfy both Wayne County residents, we're not looking to harm anybody here, but we're looking to get enough so there's allocations for Pike County residents on some type of regular basis. This going every other week on mass vaccination centers and leaving Price Chopper to decide whether their going to give 10 vaccines today is just not fitting the bill. Senator Baker said she wants to thank the leadership of the Commissioners and their EMA Director. They've been pushing very hard and we want to be a resource and a partner. Director Abbot said she will get something scheduled. Commissioner Schmalzle said they have Chris Jones from the Pike County Dispatch and said he would like to make a comment.

Chris Jones of the Pike County Dispatch asked if the State Department of Health have any DOH run mass vaccine sites that people can travel to? I'm a resident of New York State and I live just a few miles from here, in a rural area. When I first went on-line, they were sending me hundreds of miles, but last week I got an appointment in New York City. It took an hour and a half drive, 3 or 4 hour round trip, but this is run by the state, the National Guard was there ushering everybody around. There were hundreds of stations where you could get vaccine. It was super efficient. Does Pennsylvania have anything like that? Director Abbot said they held 2 state run vaccination sites and one of them was in Pike County. Chris Jones said that that was a drive-thru, this was a mass center where you can have hundreds of people going and being processed in a matter of 15 or 20 minutes with literally hundreds of staff there. I'm surprised that the Commonwealth doesn't have that. Director Abbot thanked all at that time and said she would get something together.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to reconvene the Commissioners' meeting.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the March 3, 2021 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the February 17, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the February 17, 19 and 25, 2021 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$1,000,011.99**, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve payment from **ACT 13 ACCOUNT (Lattimore-plowing/sanding)**, in the amount of **\$11,436.00**.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve payment from **PIKE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of **\$481,345.29**.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve exoneration as presented by Cynthia Gehris, Tax Claim Bureau Director, for a property located in Dingman Township due to the Disabled Veteran Exemption.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **CAMDEN CHAMBERLAIN** as a Correctional Officer for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week effective March 12, 2021, with benefits after 90 days.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, 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 Osterberg, 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 Osterberg, to open bids received for the Pike County Training Center Burn Building Lining Replacement Project.

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

Solicitor Farley announced they only received one bid from Harty Construction Inc., from Syracuse, NY, in the amount of \$146,003 and alternate ad is \$8,596 for the watchman power mirror system.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to table bid for the Pike County Training Center Burn Building Lining Replacement Project until March 17, 2021 after review by the engineer.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to open bids received for the Pike County Jail Complex Well #3 Drilling and Development Project.

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

Solicitor Farley announced they only received one bid from Minichi, Inc., total base bid \$291K.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to table bid for the Pike County Jail Complex Well #3 Drilling and Development Project until March 17, 2021 after review by the engineer.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to open bids received for the Winona Falls Road over Saw Creek Bridge Parapet Deflection Joint Repairs Project.

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

Solicitor Farley announced there are 3 bids on this one: Pioneer, base bid \$43,800 with additions would be \$55,450; Sparwick Contracting, Inc., \$119,130 with additions to a total of \$172,130; and Fabcor, Inc., base bid \$57,401 with additions would be \$74,401.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg to to table bids for the Winona Falls Road over Saw Creek Bridge Parapet Deflection Joint Repairs Project until March 17, 2021 after review by the engineer.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement for Engineering Services between McGoey, Hauser & Edsall Consulting Engineers and the County of Pike, for the replacement of Creek Road Bridge over Little Bushkill Creek in Lehman Township.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, t to execute PCCD Project Modification Request for the Victim Witness Program Project, on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, 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.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Certificate for State & Local Governmental Entity Tax Exemption for the purchase of diesel fuel and/or gasoline from Mirabito Holdings, Inc., 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 Osterberg, to execute the 2020 HAVA Certification of County Maintenance of Effort on behalf of the Election Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute Senior Rental Assistance Contract #50, 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 Osterberg, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Affordable Housing Fund Payment Voucher payable to Delaware Run for Senior Rental Subsidy for March 2021 in the amount of \$2,834, 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 Osterberg, to execute the Purchase of Service Agreement between City Mission-Living Stones (Aspire Youth Center) and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Pike County Trail Feasibility Study Flyer – Commissioner Steve Guccini – Commissioner Guccini announced that they have authorized a Trail Feasibility Study. We've had 2 meetings already of all the people involved and a survey has gone up on-line, 10 questions, we're trying to put it out there in all the things we can. It is on the county website and other locations. It will only take a few minutes to fill out, just to give the committee looking at this an idea of how people feel about it, what they would use the trail for and those kinds of things. We would ask that you get the word out there to get the survey out so we can have that information. Director Krista Gromalski added that the survey is about if the trail were built from the Borough of Hawley to the Village of Lackawaxen along the tow path and Lackawaxen River. That's the area it covers and there will be questions about recreation in that vicinity. Commissioner Guccini said it's a continuation of the trail that right now starts in Honesdale and goes to Hawley and that study is done and they actually have begun work on some of the park including some boat launches. The idea is that that trail would continue from Hawley to Lackawaxen and also connect with some other trails. If you haven't been there, it is one of the most beautiful sections of Pike County. Reporter Chris Jones asked how long it would be? Commissioner Guccini answered he thinks about 14 miles.

PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Commissioner Schmalzle said the last thing they have is a question submitted by email about the topic of negative social media and he said on behalf of the Commissioners' Office that they do not condone any form of harassment or hate speech. Anyone with concerns regarding a particular social media network should report it to the network's safety and support center.

Reporter Chris Jones asked about "New Business #3", is that a new program with Northampton Community College for prisoners? Commissioner Schmalzle answered it is a renewal. Commissioner Guccini said it is to update them to give GED courses at the prison.

Reporter Chris Jones asked how about the Victim Witness Program? Commissioner Guccini answered that is a program funded primarily by the state. (New Business #2).

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, 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, MARCH 17, 2021, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.