

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

The second regular meeting of October of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Caridi at 9:00 a.m. at the Pike County Administration Building, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

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

NOT PRESENT: Commissioner Wagner.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

Presentation of \$50,000 to Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Caridi explained that this money comes from recording deeds. This year's recipient is Ian Knox, a Pike County employee, who is handicapped. Mike Donlon, representative of Habitat for Humanity, said that this house was designed by Jim Lariviere and is completely handicapped accessible with a garage, which is never an option. A garage is considered a luxury, but not in this case. Ian has been assisting with the building doing tiling, electrical work, plumbing, painting, etc. The home dedication is scheduled for October 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

A RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the October 15, 2014 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the October 1, 2014 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve the October 1, 8 and 9, 2014 Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$237,631.22, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **LIQUID FUELS FUND (Westfall Township lane marking)**, in the amount of \$35.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND (Appropriation)**, in the amount of \$50,000.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$20,854.07.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Sheriff Phil Bueki advising that he has hired **MICHAEL CAMPBELL** as a full time Deputy Sheriff for the Sheriff's Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective October 20, 2014, with benefits after 90 days. This is to fill a Deputy Sheriff position changed from part time to full time.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to hire **FANNY TORRES** as a full time Caseworker I for Children & Youth Services, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective October 20, 2014, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to promote **ELLEN SHATT** from Fiscal Officer I to Fiscal Officer II for Children & Youth Services, effective October 20, 2014, per Civil Service requirements.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to promote **ANGELA FUCCI** from Caseworker I to Caseworker II for Children & Youth Services, effective October 20, 2014, per Civil Service requirements.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to hire **LEE VIOLA** as a part time Training Assistant at the Training Center, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective October 16, 2014, with no benefits. This is to fill a newly created position.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Salary Board Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Caridi and Osterberg voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to award the bid for groceries and frozen foods for the Correctional Facility as follows: Benjamin Foods - \$49,553.16; Karetas Foods - \$37,530.60; Mivila Foods - \$24,483.00; Keyco Distributors - \$18,032.69; Sysco Central, PA - \$14,899.08; Bernard Foods - \$11,793.32 and Maines Food - \$1,186.01.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to appoint the following to the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District: Michele Ulmer, as an "At-Large" representative, to fill the unexpired term of Fred Schoenagel ending December 31, 2017; and Carson Helfrich, as a "Pike County At-Large" representative, to fill the unexpired term of Coulby Dunn ending December 31, 2015. Commissioner Caridi stated that in deference to Commissioner Wagner, who the Commissioners have not discussed this with, Commissioner Caridi would like to table the appointments. Motion not carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to table the appointments to the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Lien, on behalf of the Human Development Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute Senior Rental Assistance Contracts #12 and #19A, on behalf of the Human Development Office..

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Commissioner Osterberg presented an analysis of the Act 13 Impact Fees that have been paid to Pike County.

Commissioner Osterberg said that it is important to understand the impact fees that are being paid for the natural gas that is being produced in Pennsylvania. He explained that there is some discussion about changing the fees to some sort of a tax, but if that happens, Pike County will lose out on receiving the funds that it has been receiving for the last three years. This is substantial money for the County, and there are no wells in Pike County. If it changes to a tax then it all goes to Harrisburg and then the County will have to figure out how to get it back. As of now it comes directly to the County. Commissioner Osterberg handed out an information sheet that showed that just in the last four years since 2011, Pike County has received \$571,000 from impact fees. That is a huge amount of money for small county considering that Pike County does not have any wells. He is sure that this is true for other counties that don't have wells. The ones that do have wells are getting even more. If this changes in Harrisburg, that money does not come here any longer or the County has to fight for it. He believes that this is a very important topic and needs to be paid attention to.

Commissioner Caridi commented that after having served on the Wallenpaupack School Board since 1980 to 1998, they are still in a battle for education funds because there is such a disparity. Years ago when Governor Casey was in office there was a hold harmless, which means that regardless of growth in the district of students or a reduction in the district, every district received the same amount of money. Wallenpaupack, Delaware Valley, East Stroudsburg have suffered because there has been a growth of students. During that time period the student population was doubled and possibly tripled and received no extra funding per student. Whereas, the major metropolitan areas in Pennsylvania lost students but received the same funding. Commissioner Caridi compares that to the impact fees. When small counties have to go to Harrisburg and fight for equity as part of the funding that Harrisburg collects, Pike County is at a disadvantage. The County simply does not have the population nor the representation that the larger cities have. The County does not have the votes as in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Allentown, etc. This is an impact fee because if the gas companies have an impact on the local communities, townships and counties, they are rewarded with money to help offset those negative impacts. If it is a tax, it goes to Harrisburg. We do not have any wells in Pike County, but still realizing, as part of this bill's allocations, money for transportation, conservation and administration. The only other part that the Commissioners rallied for is that although the County may not have, the County does have transmission lines that significantly impact Pike County. The County has to support the personnel to get the compliance from the gas companies as they clear cut and put their gas lines through the County. That is the one fault with the impact fees for the bill because the County does not recognize any extra funding, however, with the impact fee the way it is set up now, for this little County to get \$571,000 in three years, that is a major amount of money to Pike County.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.