

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The first regular meeting of November, 2015 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. Rev. Van A. Bankston of the Church of the Good Shepherd & St. John the Evangelist, Milford offered the opening prayer.

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

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

Commissioner Osterberg read a Press Release: Call to Action: Pennsylvania Budget Impasse Threatens Basic Infrastructure of Pike County Human Service Programs. Commissioner Caridi said that the Area Agency on Aging is one of many of our County's agencies that is very dependent upon state funds and gambling funds. The County has continued to provide all services as of this date even though we are behind in state reimbursements of approximately \$450,000 just in the Area Agency on Aging, not taking into account other agencies such as Probation, Children & Youth, etc. The Commissioners are taking the money from the General Fund, and when that is exhausted from the Operating Reserve, and the negative impact is that the County must develop a budget for 2016 that has to be balanced. The County is running deficits as far as reimbursements on different programs and now the Commissioners have to project what the expenses will be for the future, not knowing if and when the County will be reimbursed. Commissioner Caridi said it is a daunting challenge, but so far the County has not cut any necessary benefits or personnel and hope that this is resolved in the very near future. Commissioner Caridi introduced Jeff Hartzell of Carbon/Monroe/Pike Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities, who spoke about the effect of the budget impasse. He stated that providers are incurring debt, which will be eventually reimbursed, but will not be reimbursed for their interest costs. The risk is that some of the providers will have to stop providing services in the next month. Young children are the most vulnerable with the early intervention services. Robin LoDolce, Area Agency on Aging Director, also commented that all services are still available, senior centers are open, staff is being paid, but the County is paying the bill. The federal waiver money is still coming in but that is less than one quarter of the budget. The majority is the lottery and state funds. There are 30 people waiting for services that are not being accepted at this time due to these budget constraints. There is more need at this time, and less ability to serve.

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the November 4, 2015 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the October 21, 2015 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve the October 21, 22, 26 and 29, 2015 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of \$152,034.12, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **ACT 44 FUND (Kimbles Bridge)**, in the amount of \$56,387.13. Since damages to the bridge were attributed to PPL and excessive weight trucks for the construction of their major power lines, the County did receive a check from PPL in the amount of \$50,000 to help offset the cost of repairs.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **CAPITAL RESERVE (Kimbles Bridge)**, in the amount of \$150,598.74.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to approve payment from **PC EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INS. FUND**, in the amount of \$67,291.01.

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

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, 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

November 2, 2015, with benefits after 90 days: **MICHAEL COOK, PARRIS PRICE, MICHAEL SPENSIERI AND MICHAEL TRAINOR.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **BRIAN GALLAGHER**, to fill a full time Maintenance position at the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week effective November 2, 2015, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **ARTHUR HUGHSON**, to fill a full time Maintenance position at the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week effective November 3, 2015, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position. nch.com.au

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has hired, with Prison Board approval, **MELISSA CHIARELLO**, as a full time Administrative Secretary for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week effective November 5, 2015, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has promoted, with Prison Board approval, **JOSIAH MARTIN**, to the rank of Sergeant, effective November 2, 2015. This is a replacement position.

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

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

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

A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to adopt Resolution No. 15-27, Accepting the Multi-Municipal Groundwater Level Monitoring Project under the SRCP Program. This is for the partnership between the County and the USGS to continue the groundwater quality and quantity testing for 79 wells throughout Pike County through 2018. This is an ongoing effort to protect the groundwater in the event that there is gas drilling and that there may be pollution from that. There would be a baseline study for proof that there was no pre-existing pollution if the County had to go to Court.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Osterberg and seconded by Commissioner Wagner, to execute the Provider Agreement between Little Acorns Daycare and Learning Center and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Robin LoDolce, Area Agency on Aging, explained that the Department of Aging provide and Apprise Program to help senior citizens make decisions about their insurance such as Medicaid, Medicare and assistance with any questions they may have. The program is in transition and the County has agreed to contract with Diakon. She introduced Karen Wood, Diakon representative and Alicia Bonadonna, new Apprise Coordinator for Area Agency on Aging. Ms. Wood said that Diakon does group counseling and individual counseling to help seniors make informed decisions about all their insurance alternatives. Anyone who is on a Medicare Part D plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan has the opportunity to change plans at this time and the Apprise program assists in comparing programs for seniors. The next open enrollment event is at the Lackawaxen Township Building on Friday, November 6th and at the Milford Senior Center/Pike County Library on November 23.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.