

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

The first regular meeting of December 2020 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; and Solicitor Farley.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the December 2, 2020 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the November 18, 2020 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 November 18, 24 and 30, 2020 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 **\$195,089.86**, subject to further review.

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, **VINCENT PANZELLA and VINCENT FELLOWS** as full-time Correctional Officers for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week, effective December 2, 2020, 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 transfer **LINDA DEMERGIS** from a Clerk in the Prothonotary's Office to the newly created Secretary position in the Public Defender's Office for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective December 7, 2020 at her current rate of pay.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **PETER LUZIER** as a part-time Training Assistant at the Training Center, for less than 1000 hours effective December 2, 2020, with no benefits. 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 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 the purchase of fresh bread and baked goods for the Correctional Facility.

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

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid received which was from Bimbo Bakeries in the amount of \$78,175 and there is a bid bond in the amount of 10%

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table bid from Bimbo Bakeries until December 16th.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to present the 2021 Pike County Budget for public inspection to be adopted on December 29, 2020 at 9 a.m.

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

Commissioner Osterberg said it is important to speak a little about the budget. There is no tax increase, the millage remains the same which is 21.24 mills. Through the hard work of our Finance Department, the Treasurer and the Commissioners' Office, we were able to restructure our debt. This has been a difficult year when it comes to finances in, not just the County, but any municipality. Their hard work and working on the budget for the last month or two, come up with a plan that does not put any more burden on the taxpayer by just restructuring our debt, to move it around a little bit so that we can use some of the money that we were paying for debt service, into our General Fund to carry us through 2021. Then moving forward, we can see how 2022 goes. Hopefully, this pandemic would have subsided by then and things will get back to somewhat normal.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 20-37, Resolution Authorizing Tax Anticipation Note.

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

Commissioner Osterberg said this is also tied together with the budget. Due to some shortfalls in income during 2020, we needed to get a Tax Anticipation Note to help offset the expenses as we move forward in 2021. The rate is .79% which is an incredible rate to borrow money at. It's a \$3M note and it's payable back in 2021. This is something to carry us through until tax dollars start to come in. Treasurer Gilpin added "if we need it". Commissioner Osterberg continued tax dollars come in beginning in February/March. Again, this was a move to help offset revenue losses that we encumbered in 2020.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Electronic Monitoring Service Agreement between BI Incorporated and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Probation Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Statement of Work and Agreement between CDI/BTM and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Probation Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Title XIX Medicaid Grant Agreement Amendment between the PA Department of Aging, PA Department of Human Services 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 Osterberg, to execute the Contract for Professional Services between Woodland Design Associates, Inc. and the County of Pike for the Trail Feasibility Study, on behalf of the Planning 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 the Senior Housing Subsidy for December 2020 for \$2,441, on behalf of the Human Services Office.

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

MISCELLANEOUS: None.

PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

A meeting attendee from the public, Ally Phillips, said her mother, Pat Phillips, was a resident here for many, many years. I am concerned about Pike County and I am concerned about Milford. I did some due diligence and was thinking about relocating here and purchasing a property for \$400,000. What occurred in the Facebook forums, that I know you have no jurisdiction over, and what was said to me and about me made me cry. My mother was a pillar of this community. I grew up at 702 6th Street. My father served on the Borough Council. I wanted to relocate back here to bring both of my businesses. I am a therapist. I am a licenses Clinical Social Work specializing in treatment of trauma and children and adolescent issues. I have worked in Washington, DC. I have worked as a coach and I speak truth to power respectfully and with kindness. What is going on here is sad. I know it's indicative in some ways about what's going on in different parts of the country, but you are the people who I am asking to figure out how to bring this back to the community. I love Milford. I come here at least once a year. I bought all of my Christmas presents from small businesses in Milford this year. I spent money that I would not have spent other places because she loves Milford. I don't know a lot about the politics, I know some things, but I can tell you it is a shame when someone like me comes to a meeting here and has to cry in order for people to pay attention. I think you probably knew my mom Mr. Schmalzle. I think you probably knew my mom Mr. Osterberg and I think you would say that I'm a good person. Mr. Osterberg agreed. Ms. Phillips continued that she has worked in the protection of children my whole life. I was called a douche nugget and a mothef!@#er. I was told that I was crazy and off my medication. This is the community we live in. I will not be moving my family back here because I want better for my children. I am giving a letter to Milford Dispatch to thank all of the people here who did show me kindness. I have been here for a month and I have patronized many of your local businesses. People have been kind to me and say hello to me. There's lots of really good things left, but I want you to know about what my experiences have been. Commissioner Osterberg said he was sorry that he had that experience. I will tell you this, I don't go on Facebook because that is not a good example about what goes on in our community. That is the dregs, people making comments because they've become "keyboard warriors". My suggestion to you is – stay off there. I don't want to get into a debate about it. Ms. Phillips said she wants to make one suggestion. I think it would be really great if you had a Facebook site that was in some – where I come from, there are positive Facebook sites and negative ones. They can be powerful tools in the community for communication. All I am saying is that, if those are the Facebook sites and we know based on lots of data, Facebook is a major tool for communication, if you have people to lead people who are in those Facebook forums or "keyboard warriors". I don't say things on-line that I would not say in front of a camera or to people's faces. I am kind and I believe in the goodness of our government and elected officials. I also believe it takes someone like me, being vulnerable enough, to tell you my experience because you are the people who will make a difference. I am not and I know that you are a good man Mr. Osterberg. I have known you since probably before you moved to town. I am grateful for your service. I know it is not an easy job, but I will tell you it is not an easy job being someone who wanted to move back here and was ripped to shreds. I have had to be walked out of courtrooms because I have testified to protect children and this is what the community responded to me with. Don't laugh, this is not about me being contentious. I love Milford and I'm bringing you this because I care.

ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.