

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

The second regular meeting of April 2018 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, Caridi and Guccini; Chief Clerk Orben; Solicitor Farley.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today’s agenda.

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

Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

A RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to reconvene the Commissioners’ Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the April 18, 2018 Agenda.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the April 4, 2018 Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the April 4 and 10, 2018 Commissioners’ Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’ except for Commissioner Caridi who abstained from the March 15, 2018 minutes due to his absence. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$328,820.76** subject to further review.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **ACT 44 (Mink Pond Bridge)** in the amount of **\$756.00**.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from **ACT 89 (Mott Street Bridge)** in the amount of **\$2,368.20**.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Sheriff Kerry Welsh advising that he has hired **SCOTT ZABRISKIE**, as a full time Deputy Sheriff for his office, for a 40 hour work week, effective April 23, 2018, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

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

Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD.

Motion: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to reconvene the Commissioners’ Meeting.

Vote: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to open bids received for the Pike County Correctional Facility Cooler and Generator Enclosure Electrical Systems Project.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

No bids were received.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to readvertise the Pike County Correctional Facility Cooler and Generator Enclosure Electrical Systems Project.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to adopt Resolution No. 18-09, Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation, which was read by Commissioner Guccini.

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

District Attorney Raymond Tonkin stressed the importance to bring awareness during the month of April to the issue of child abuse. It is not something anyone wants to talk about but it needs to be talked about. The most important thing to realize is that offenders believe they may get caught then they are unlikely to offend. Along with Pike County Children & Youth Services and Safe Haven, the District Attorney's Office is dedicated to serving victims of child abuse in a number of ways. DA Tonkin introduced Senior Deputy District Attorney Sarah Wilson who is the leader of the child abuse unit in the DA's office both as a prosecutor and working with a County Detective assigned to child abuse cases and the main representative on the Multidisciplinary Investigative Team. Sarah Loeb was also introduced as the new Special Victim Advocate and Mary Beth Sayles who is the long time Victim Witness Coordinator. Ms. Sayles has worked with many families and children who have been victims of abuse from the trial process to helping them understand the legal system which can be very confusing. The women have worked very hard at the Children's Advocacy Center. Molly Carson, Forensic Interviewer, is responsible for interviewing children one time in a safe and friendly environment so the child does not have to go through the trauma of repeating the story over and over again.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement between the Law Office of Thomas Earl Mincer, LLC and the County of Pike, for legal services to act as Conflict Counsel for the Public Defender's Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Agreement for Subcontracted Services between Neal Grim and the County of Pike, for temporary bookkeeping services on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Community Development Block Grant Program Contract between the Department of Community and Economic Development and the County of Pike, for \$244,775.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Statement of Work/Agreement between CDI/BTM and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Adult Probation Office for offender case management.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the 2nd Quarter FY 17-18 Act 148 Certification Statement on behalf of Children & Youth Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute Change Order TM04R between Troy Mechanical and the County of Pike, for an additional \$2,177.18 for a new electric unit heater for the Judge's parking area, relating to the Courthouse Addition Project.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Kingsley Greis introduced herself as Community Relations Representative of Pyramid Healthcare. Pyramid Healthcare is a drug and alcohol treatment provider primarily throughout Pennsylvania offering a full continuum of care providing detox, residential treatment, halfway houses and outpatient services promoting long term recovery. Ms. Greis is a liaison between those served in the community and Pyramid Healthcare listening to the needs and concerns of the community. She can assist with the admissions process, funding streams, what to expect, etc. Shannon Wisniewski, Program Director of the Hawley Outpatient Office of Pyramid Healthcare, gave an overview on some of the events such as the Community Wellness Series. Amanda Verrastro, Regional Director for Outpatient Services for Pyramid Healthcare, who works with the local communities when a new outpatient office is opened to meet the needs of the community. The outpatient offices offer evening and daytime hours and people can come as they need. They are a resource for family members or individuals who are seeking treatment directly by navigating them through the process. Tamra McGee, Assistant Marketing Director for Pyramid Healthcare, who oversees the Eastern region, however, she can provide connection within the internal corporation as well as externally within the community. She provides linkage and provides individuals with the understanding of how to access treatment either within their network or a provider network, identify the needs of the community, advocate for individuals and provide resources and community events. They did distribute informational pamphlets. The Hawley Office is in the George Irish Welcome Center across from the Lake Wallenpaupack Welcome Center.

Krista Gromalski, Education and Outreach Coordinator of the Conservation District, presented the topic of storm water management and the Best Management Practices Tour. Storm water is rainfall or snowmelt that typically which would be absorbed into the ground allowing streams and creeks to flow normally and keep our water clean. When we change the land's surface with things such as roads, pavements, roofs, parking lots, etc. that don't absorb storm water properly, it needs to be accounted for. Accounting for the additional storm water that comes from those surfaces, techniques and practices known as best management practices can be used, such as swells, rain gardens, infiltration galleries. The Conservation District is having a free field tour on May 15 from 10 am to 3 pm for the general public starting at the Training Center and going by bus to several different locations within the County to lead people through some good examples of how to take proactive steps to manage storm water. Both of these tours are funded by the Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Grant. Registration is being taken by the Conservation District Office limited to 25 people. Also on May 9th an identical tour for elected and municipal officials, builders, contractors, people in the industry and legislatures who may be interested in learning about how the Conservation District works to promote clean water and storm water management.

Cindy DeFebo, Workforce Development Director, gave an update on the Job Fair which was held yesterday. She thanked the volunteers of St. John Neuman Church, St. Vincent DePaul Church who helped at the Job Fair, and Dingman and Lackawaxen Firehouses provided tables who assisted with the Job Fair. They received 64 comment cards, 11 people reported that they received 1 or more job offers, 3 job seekers were asked to call for an interview, 7 job seekers scheduled interviews that day, 17 job seekers were asked to follow up with the employer and 5 referrals to another employer. If an employer did not have what they were looking for, the employer referred them to another employer. There were 70 employers present and 400 job seekers. 19 job seekers had very positive comments and thought there were great opportunities offered to them, 2 negative comments that said there were not enough clerical, accounting and administrative opportunities. Those were clearly the people that did not look through the books that were handed out listing employers and opportunities offered. The books are available through the County and Economic Development websites and more copies available in the WDA office. The Job Fair is growing each year with more employers and job seekers. They received a great compliment from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation from Lackawanna County who were very impressed with the Job Fair. Commissioner Osterberg stated that the Commissioners are continually looking to provide employment for the people of OVR. Just a few days ago the County hired another individual to fill a position in the County, calling it matching responsibilities with abilities. More of that will be done with the new Courthouse addition with cleaning services. The Commissioners urge other employers to look in that direction when looking for employees. Oftentimes, there are training dollars available to help them learn their new job and job coaching services available and on the job training.

Robin LoDolce, Area Agency on Aging, announced that this is National Volunteer Week. The Aging Office and Senior Centers and programs are reliant on volunteers. Volunteer Recognition Lunch will be held on May 4th. The Aging Office is partnering with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Serving Seniors. Attending the meeting were Kathy Mitchell representing RSVP overseeing the Berk/Wayne/Pike County region, Dawn Houghtaling, new RSVP Coordinator for Wayne and Pike Counties and Bernadette Jones, Ombudsman from Serving Seniors. Bernadette Jones stated that Serving Seniors is a non-profit organization from Lackawanna County who have held the Ombudsman program for over 20 years. They have contracted with the Area Agency on Aging to cover Pike County. Currently there are three active volunteers. Ms. Jones will be meeting with residents in Belle Reve who would be trained as Pennsylvania Expert Powered Residents to advocate within the facilities. She will be partnering with RSVP to get some more volunteers to cover more facilities in Pike County. Kathleen Mitchell, Director of RSVP, said that this program is new in Pike and Wayne Counties. It is the largest organization for volunteers over the age of 55. They hope to create enriching opportunities for volunteers to utilize their skills while helping to meet the needs of the community. They are focusing on assisting seniors stay in their homes and live independently.

Penn State Extension –April 18-May 3, 2018 Events was distributed.

Jill Gamboni announced the Reality Tour Programs at the Milford Bible Church will be held on May 3 and May 31st. Representative Mike Peifer is holding a concealed carry event on April 25th from 6 to 8 pm at the Training Center.

Wayne Witkowski asked if there is any dialog planned with PennDot about the worsening conditions of the roads. Commissioner Osterberg said that there was an email generated by PennDot to begin working on the roads called "Pothole Blitz Month". Road work has been delayed due to the weather.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.