

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

The second regular meeting of July 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, Schmalzle and Guccini; Chief Clerk Orben; Solicitor Farley.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.

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

A RETIREMENT 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.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the July 21, 2021 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the July 7, 2021 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 July 13 and 15, 2021 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 the **GENERAL FUND (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$375,614.57**, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve exonerations as presented by Cynthia Gehris, Tax Claim Bureau Director, for 15 properties sold at the 2021 Judicial Sale on May 5, 2021.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award proposals received for the Area Agency on Aging for services for the contract period 2021-2023 to the following: Nutrition-Ryan's Deli; Personal Care Services-Above the Rest, Care Givers of America, Traditional Home Care, LLC and Destiny Empowerment; Personal Emergency Response Systems-ADT Health, Connect America, Stephen's Pharmacy/Northeast Med-Equip.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award the bid for Geotechnical Engineering Design Services for the Springbrook Road Bridge Over Rattlesnake Creek Replacement Project to Tectonic for \$15,850.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 21-21, In Support of the Bipartisan U.S. Senate and House Bills Protecting the Current Designation of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs).

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 21-22, Bidder Registration Fee for Upset and Judicial Sales.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to reappoint Robert Ruiz to the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission for a three year term ending July 31, 2024.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to reappoint Mary Little to the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission for a three year term ending June 30, 2024.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Frank Tarquinio to the Pike County Planning Commission, representing Milford Borough, to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2021.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Barbara Shevlin to the vacant position on the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a three year term ending December 31, 2023.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Gary Wilson to the Hotel Tax Board to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2021.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the PCCD Subgrant Award Notification for the Pike Criminal Addiction Response Effort (PikeCARE) Grant for \$89,982 on behalf of the Probation Office.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Elder Justice Day – August 18, 2021- Director of Pike County Area Agency on Aging, Robin Skibber, joined the meeting remotely and also had Robin Soares and Tracy Simon from the Pike County Area Agency on Aging on the phone conference. She invited everybody to the Elder Abuse Awareness Day August 18th at 10 AM in Airport Park, Matamoras, PA. Commissioner Osterberg added that we know this is an important day that we do every year. We are hearing many stories about fraud and everything else that's going on in our community and nationwide and, it's unfortunate that there are people out there taking advantage of our senior citizens. We, as a community, need to do everything we can to get the word out there so that they understand that there's people out there that cannot be trusted. They have to trust their family members first and, in many cases, before they start putting money out to individuals on the telephone. Director of Communications/Public Relations, Krista Gromalski, said we will be sending out a press release about Elder Justice Days, Shannon (DeVuyst) worked with Robin (Skibber) and that should go out this afternoon.
- Penn State Extension Calendar of Events – August 1-15, 2021 – Commissioner Osterberg said to note "Mental Health First Aid Working With The Youth". I think it is important that we promote as much as we can the unfortunate circumstances that some of our youth get into when you realize that suicide is a major issue that faces our youth. I just think that the press and us here can do more and we need to continue to do more to make sure that we get that word out there that there's help in our community to help those individuals that are suffering through that with mental health.

Questions and comments were opened to the Public and the Press.

Reporter Chris Jones asked how come we're doing a bidder registration? Commissioner Osterberg answered the State put this into place – the bill just passed in July and we just feel that it's way to generate revenue to operate that office next door (Tax Claim) that deals with that. Many counties are doing this and we felt this was an opportunity to generate some funds for the county coffers. Chris Jones asked if the fee is \$25? Commissioner Osterberg replied yes, \$25.

Solicitor Farley added that with the registration, you can't be bidding if you yourself owe taxes in other townships in the County so it helps us to keep control of the bidders so they're valid bidders. Commissioner Osterberg asked how that was done before? Solicitor Farley said they were using something similar to that form, the \$25 covers some of the cost.

Reporter Chris Jones asked about number 1 (Resolution No. 21-21), I read the resolution - can you just say something about why that's important to do that? Commissioner Osterberg said that, a number of years ago, we joined the MPO the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which has to do with PennDOT and the funding that comes into the county through federal funding. Probably 6 or 7 years ago we were part of an RPO (Rural Planning Organization), all of those counties listed in there plus Wayne; because of the change of population, I believe it talks about East Stroudsburg, it has to do with that entity in the whole complex. This gets really complicated, but back then we determined we had a choice, back when Karl (Wagner) was still here, with all the positives with an MPO, that more money could be generated into a Metropolitan Planning Organization than an RPO – we could either become our own RPO, which then we would have to do all the administrative work to get funding for projects within our county. We had hearings, we had discussions in Monroe County and some up in Scranton. NEPA is the one that administers that for us. If we decided to go into an RPO, NEPA would not be our administrator, we would be our own. In the case of Wayne, they decided to do their own and I think they're fine. We decided to stay where we were because there is a larger pool of money put into all of those counties and I think it is proven, when we talked to our State Reps, that's true. This Resolution and I talked to them at NEPA about this, has to do with the change of populations for a region from 50K to 100K, which then can have detriment on the amount of funding that we get within here. NEPA is requesting that we leave this at the current 50K population and that has to do something to do with a formula put together that has to do with East Stroudsburg in Monroe County. Carbon belongs to this, Schuylkill County and Pike County all are in this. The bottom line is – we want to leave it the way it is because the funding stream has been beneficial to Pike County. Reporter Chris Jones asked who put these Bills up in the Senate, other people from other States? Commissioner Osterberg answered yes, this is National. Commissioner Guccini added these are Federal designations. Commissioner Osterberg then added Mike Mrozinski (Pike County Planning Director), but the other person is Jeff Box out of NEPA, who is our Representative for the MPO.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, 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, AUGUST 4, 2021, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.