Wednesday, November 1, 2017
The first regular meeting of November 2017 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. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Neal Wintemute of Centerpoint Community Church, Milford.

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 approve the November 1, 2017 Agenda.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the October 18, 2017 Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve the October 26, 2017 Commissioners’ Conference Minutes.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve payment from GENERAL FUND (County Bills), in the amount of $74,138.13, 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 PC EMPLOYEES’ HEALTH INSURANCE FUND in the amount of $315,962.32.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to approve exonerations as presented by Cynthia Gehris, Tax Claim Bureau Director, for 154 properties sold out of the County Repository and a separate property in Porter Township.
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 the Courts advising that they have hired JENNA MOYER SMITH as a full time Law Clerk for the Courts, for a 37 ½ hour work week, effective November 6, 2017, 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 acknowledge receipt of a letter from the Courts advising that they have hired LINDA LARSON as a full time Legal Secretary for Magisterial District Judge Menditto’s Office, for a 40 hour work week, effective October 30, 2017, 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 acknowledge receipt of a letter from Sheriff Phil Bueki advising that he has hired MICHAEL REPECKI SR. as a full time Deputy Sheriff, for a 40 hour work week, effective November 6, 2017, 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 hire JAMES LINDNER as a part time Van Driver for the Transportation Office, for less than 1000 hours per year, effective November 1, 2017, with no benefits. 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 Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, 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 2018 Subaru Outback for the Conservation Office.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

Solicitor Farley opened the only bid received which was from Minooka Motor Sales in the amount of $24,374.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to award the bid received for the 2018 Subaru Outback for the Conservation Office to Minooka Motor Sales for the amount of $24,374, subject to review by the Solicitor and the Conservation District.
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. 17-19, NET Cancer Awareness Day, November 10, 2017, which was read by Commissioner Guccini.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

Commissioner Osterberg stated that Lori DeVoe was scheduled to accept the above proclamation but was unable to attend. He also commented that many individuals in our community suffer from cancer and are diagnosed with it daily. The best thing to do at times is to keep them all in our thoughts and prayers because it is probably the most strenuous struggle any of us would go through in our lives when the doctor tells you that you have cancer. Remember the individuals in the community and support all these, whether it is NET cancer, bladder cancer, lung cancer, whatever it is because there are way too many people suffering. There is hope out there for many of them if they get to the right facilities and the right doctors.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Caridi, to authorize the Chairman to execute Change Order No. GC22 between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike, for an additional $13,694.07, for additional walls and framing on first and second floors, relating to the Courthouse Addition project.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

Commissioner Osterberg explained that after reviewing the project, the Probation Office requested additional walls built for privacy and sound between Probation and Domestic Relations.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to authorize the Chairman to execute Change Order No. GC23 between Mar-Paul and the County of Pike, for an additional $2,488.78, for additional ½” plywood at Weapon Storage Room, relating to the Courthouse Addition project.
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 No. JE06 between Joyce Electrical Inc. and the County of Pike, for an additional $286.74, for the installation of a 120v 20a Duplex GFCI receptacle on the exterior of the west wall, relating to the Courthouse Addition project.
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 No. JE07 between Joyce Electrical Inc. and the County of Pike, for an additional $2,788.85, for the installation of a raceway for the antenna wiring and coax cable, relating to the Courthouse Addition project.
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 No. JE08 between Joyce Electrical Inc. and the County of Pike, for an additional $6,194.20, for the installation of a cable TV conduit and a feed and splitter to two additional locations, relating to the Courthouse Addition project.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the Child Accounting and Profile System Application Service Provider Agreement and the HIPAA Business Associate Agreement Addendum between Avanco International and the County of Pike, 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 the Senior Rental Assistance Voucher for November 2017 to Delaware Run in the amount of $812, on behalf of the Human Development Office.
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 the Contract Documents for the CDBG Matamoras Firehouse Residing Project between Zitone Construction and the County of Pike.
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 the Greeneville Tower Generator Service Maintenance Contract between Peak Power Systems and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Communications Office.
VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Caridi and Guccini voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

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asserting very well as a temporary fix. There is still some active ALS in the County, it is just not centralized and regional, Palmyra and Lackawaxen had retained the services of Commonwealth ALS, so they were still good. There are some that are lacking BLS services and some that are lacking both services. Where the weaknesses are, where the strengths are, because there are some municipalities in the County that have very much service and some that have less service. Mr. Knapp said that state law says that an ambulance cannot turn down a call. While ambulance service may be strong in one area and weak in another, the strong area needs to service the weak areas, which then causes a weakness there because they are picking up the other. We need to make sure that this is looked at so that the weak areas are filled in. The Commissioners have approved this donated conservation easement project through this preservation program, so for $25,000 there are 50 acres of protected lands adjacent to the Park Service lands. This is increasing habitat, water quality protection and scenic views along the Silver Lake Road corridor. There is no public access, all rights are retained by the landowner who continues to pay taxes. Funding comes out of the bond issue that was created 11 years ago.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to execute the SRCP Grant Agreement between Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the County of Pike, for the Tri-Angle Farms Easement, in the amount of $25,000, as recommended by the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board.

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

Michael Mrozinski, Community Planner, stated that in the wake of the loss of Advanced Life Support in Pike County the Commissioners and Pike County COG have an initiative to try to bring the municipalities together to discuss what the next steps are going to be for Advanced Life Support and to support Basic Life Support across the County. There was a meeting at the Training Center on October 23 with invitations to all municipal officials and the Commissioners to discuss long term solutions to make sure that the County is adequately covered. The outcome was to see what kind of assistance could be gotten from the state and the possibility of different departments working together, municipalities working together or the County working as whole. They are not sure what the best options are at this point, but the state does have programs through the Center for Local Government Services to provide technical assistance to the County and municipalities. The County is currently seeking to work with the Center for Local Government Services, but an agreement needs to be signed to have them assist the County. A letter of intent will be sent to all the municipalities to get them to sign onto this as well. Commissioner Osterberg said that the letters went out via email on Friday and hard copies mailed out on Monday. He shared that he has spoken to some of the municipalities and asked for their support. The townships are not committed to anything. They will be doing a study to understand what it is that the County is lacking and how to move forward. We all have come to expect that ALS services are there for our needs when we have a severe medical emergency and right now it may be a little concerning. We do have the BLS and certainly appreciate all of the volunteers and what they are doing, but we all need to support them and we feel that a study like this will help best support them as they volunteer. Volunteerism in this state is down, not just in Pike County, but throughout the state when it comes to emergency services, and after October 1st with Regional pulling out, this was time for the County to step forward and tell the townships that we will help them. This is not a County requirement. Providing emergency services is a municipal/township decision and it is there role to do it, but at the same time with many small municipalities in this County, they do not have the staff or ability to do this on their own, so it’s best that all 13 townships, the County, the Emergency Management Agency and the Planning Office come together to gather the information so the state can steer us, with County input, as to the best course for the County moving forward when it comes to emergency services. This will be also something they will be looking into in the future with fire services also. We all need it and we need to figure out how we are going to best implement it. A question was asked regarding who has the ALS service now. Commissioner Osterberg stated that that would be a better question for Tim Knapp to answer. During the meeting that took place regarding the ALS, Bernie Swartwood, Communications Director, gave a State of the County as it stands right now with emergency services and explaining where the weaknesses are, where the strengths are, because there are some municipalities in the County that have very much service for both. There are some that are lacking BLS services and some that are lacking both services. Tim Knapp explained that when Regional pulled out there were still sections of the County that were not signed on to regional, Palmyra and Lackawaxen had retained the services of Commonwealth ALS, so they were still good. Delaware has a part time 40 hour week ALS so they have been covering all the other sections of it. Any of the other ALS needs in the County had either been rerecruited on 84 going to Scranton or to Middletown. That seems to be working very well as a temporary fix. There is still some active ALS in the County, it is just not centralized and readily available and easy as it was before. Commissioner Osterberg said that we have to understand that when these other regions are serviced effectively, there is pressure put on them when there are other regions of the county that have less service. Mr. Knapp said that state law says that an ambulance cannot turn down a call. While ambulance service may be strong in one area and weak in another, the strong area needs to service the weak areas, which then causes a weakness there because they are picking up the other. We need to make sure that this is looked at so that everyone has the same effective services and everyone feels protected. This is about all of us who live in the County, also everyone that visits the county. There are a lot of calls for Route 84 which is a major interstate, so when that happens, that causes a burden on the others in other parts of the County. So this is what this study is about and hopefully we can get this going soon and come to some educated decisions on how to proceed forward. Mr. Knapp said this is a state wide issue. He was in Lancaster County this weekend, and they ran out of ambulances.
Commissioner Caridi asked if there was any feedback from Northeast EMS. Tim said no, most of the feedback comes from Eastern EMS Council. At the time when Regional pulled out they were going to make some calls, but no feedback yet. Commissioner Guccini added that there is a perfect storm with an aging population, decrease in volunteerism, and in terms of the ALS side of things, companies who cannot make a living on just insurance money. The Commissioners have been approached by various entities, including some from Wayne County who have been included as part of this process to see if the Commissioners can assist in some way. This is an obligation legally of the municipalities but can the Commissioners help in some way to try to be proactive and figure out things for the future, because this is a problem that is just going to get worse.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Ray Patterson and Charles Spire of the Tri-State Marine Corp League thanked the volunteers who have helped with the Pike County Toys for Kids Program. Their website is [www.toysforkidstristate.com](http://www.toysforkidstristate.com). If you are in need of toys please register at that site. They will be collecting and expect a good reception from the community. Commissioner Caridi added that the reason it is Toys for Kids and not Toys for Tots is because this detachment has expanded the available to additional people. Toys for Tots donates to children up to the age of 12. The detachment collects money as well as toys to donate to children up to the age of 18. Teenagers do not need toys as much as they may need clothes. There is a cooperative working agreement with Kmart and Wal-Mart to get discounted gift cards that they give to the vetted families so they can buy those children the much needed clothes. The program was expanded, therefore, the name was changed. Commissioner Caridi continued that Erica Nemeth vets the families and works with different agencies and churches in Pike County. Donations are made to hospitals, churches, etc. Toy distribution is held in December to registered families. Toys and money are accepted. Money is used only for clothing.

Tim Knapp, Emergency Management Agency Director, announced that Pike County Training Center selected as Pike County’s Centralized Coordinating Entity for the Naloxone Training for emergency responders. The County recently applied for and approved for a grant from the Pennsylvania Crime & Delinquency for 144 doses of naloxone. The Pike County Training Center will be the central distribution point for naloxone for Pike County. Distribution will be tracked by the Training Center. Each dose has at least 18 months of service life. Mr. Knapp stated that these kits are not for the general public, but for the trained emergency responders in the County. They will be in ambulances and some licensed QRS vehicles. PA State Police have their own. The Sheriff’s Office, Eastern Regional, Shohola, Milford Borough Police, the District Attorney’s Office may also carry them. The school districts will be contacted to make sure they have their own supply. Commissioner Osterberg relayed information from the Coroner who stated that this year so far there have been 8 overdose deaths in Pike County, and 15 last year. He believes that this should not be difficult to getting the naloxone. You should not have to go to a pharmacist and announce that you need naloxone so that every neighbor that is standing in that store hears that you may have a problem in your family. Maybe you have a senior citizen that is on opioids that you want to protect in case he does overdose. They make it too difficult. Commissioner Guccini heard and so did Commissioner Osterberg that it is just a crutch. So when your son or daughter is laying on the floor dying and we are standing there with naloxone, you should call it a crutch. The last time he checked, we were not able to put dead people into recovery. They make it just too difficult to get this. There are stories out there that people are having narcan parties. The Pennsylvania State Police and the Department of Health in an article point blankly say there is no evidence ever that there has been a narcan party. A narcan party is where heroin addicts buy narcan, all get in a room, do their heroin, and one is like a designated driver who will sit there and if somebody overdoses he will administer narcan. Narcan costs about $150. The last thing a heroin addict is thinking about is going to the drugstore to spend $150 on narcan. He is too busy thinking about getting his next high from heroin. To make these comments and make people think that this product somehow is evil and we are using it for the wrong reasons is not logical. These are Neanderthals making these comments. Commissioner Osterberg continued that we have state officials repeating these stories, and if they would just talk to the Pennsylvania State Police they would see there is no truth to it. He is glad that they are able to get this for the regional police departments and the EMS because it is expensive, but at the same time, no one should have to go into Rite Aid and announce across the counter that they need narcan. They should be able to walk up and take it off the shelf just like they would a bottle of aspirin because it has absolutely no effect on any of us. If any of us use narcan right now it would do nothing. You can’t overdose on it. It may give you a headache, but it doesn’t kill you. You can’t overdose on it. He urges anyone in contact with state representatives or anyone in Washington to tell them to wake up because there were 15 deaths in Pike County last year and 8 already this year. He is not even sure that is the full total because as he has previously reported it is very difficult for Pike County to gather these numbers accurately because we have no hospital. People are being transported out of state or out of county and if they pass away in other counties, the reporting is not necessarily given back to the local coroner or the Department of Health. It is reported to have occurred in that state or county. He is not looking to drive the number up, he is just saying the numbers may be skewed. He does know the numbers of 15 and 8 are true because the coroner has this as his evidence. He was on these cases. When asked for names of those who called it a crutch, Commissioner Osterberg said he would give out the article for the press to read. Commissioner Guccini said that 144 doses for first responders in the entire county is pretty abysmal. There was a formula used to determine how much each county would get, and part of that formula is based upon statistics of overdoses, etc. which has been mentioned tend to be skewed here because we don’t have a hospital. The County is actually working with some other entities to try to figure out if we can do things across state lines to try to get better statistics. Commissioner Osterberg added that the Pennsylvania State Police have their own. The Sheriff’s Office, Eastern Regional, Shohola, Milford Borough Police, the District Attorney’s Office may also carry them. The school districts will be contacted to make sure they have their own supply. Commissioner Osterberg relayed information from the Coroner who stated that this year so far there have been 8 overdose deaths in Pike County, and 15 last year. He believes that this should not be difficult to getting the naloxone. You should not have to go to a pharmacist and announce that you need naloxone so that every neighbor that is standing in that store hears that you may have a problem in your family. Maybe you have a senior citizen that is on opioids that you want to protect in case he does overdose. They make it too difficult. 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involved in the opioid addiction either through concern for the public or through personal interaction with family members. Commissioner Osterberg urged everyone to attend. This is similar to the program at Wallenpaupack with Daryl Strawberry. If it saves one child then the job has been done, and he believes that these type of programs have an effect, and we as a community need to support them and support the schools and organizations like Hope4Pike. These are the moms and dads of children who are the very ones that at times need narcan. When you meet with these parents, if you’re the one who is going to sit in front of them and say we are only going to give your child the narcan three times and the next time they’re going to die. He said he wants one of the audience or someone in Harrisburg and tell them that. They say this out in public but they wouldn’t say it in front of parents, so they should be ashamed of themselves.

Jill Gamboni reminded everyone that the next Reality Tour is November 16th.

Penn State Extension –November 2-16, 2017 events were distributed.

Pike County’s 2017 CDBG Program – Please note that at the previous CDBG public hearing it was stated that the Commissioners would take action on said program on November 8, 2017, however, this action will take place at the regular meeting on November 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: by Commissioner Caridi and seconded by Commissioner Guccini, to amend the date for the Commissioners to take action on the Pike County 2017 CDBG Program from November 8 to November 15, 2017.

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

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

David Hulse of the River Reporter said he noticed change orders at every meeting for the Courthouse Addition project and wondered how much they have impacted the cost estimate versus the actual cost. Commissioner Osterberg explained that there are contingencies put into the contract when first awarded. Some of the change orders had to do with fill and dirt and that is built into the contract and we are working towards the amount that they built into it, so if they needed to bring more fill in it was already included in the contract. For example, if there was 50 yards of fill and we only used 20, then we were using 20 of the 50 that was already bid out. If we go over the 50 yards, they it would cost extra. He also explained with regard to the ones on this agenda, that when you are building a $10 million structure of this magnitude, there are going to be things when you go through them and you start to look at the finished product, you may have missed or you may need to add something to make it a little more secure or a better product when it is done. That’s what many of these are. Like the walls with Probation and Domestic Relations, they didn’t know that until the Chief Probation Office did a tour and said we need to do this. This is the time to do it. Let’s not wait until its finished. Commissioner Caridi said you just can’t foresee certain things and that is why there is a contingency amount built into the project. So in answer of the question, Commissioner Osterberg said we are not over the bonding amount. Mr. Hulse asked what the expected completion date is, to which Commissioner Osterberg answered April/May, with June 2018 stated in the contract, so we are a little ahead of schedule. The other thing is the whole movement of everyone from one building to the other. That will be a job in itself, purchasing furniture, moving computers, just all the logistics. The Courthouse moving from John Street will take some coordination with cases. That will be a big job. Commissioner Caridi added that he has been involved in a number of construction projects from the school at Wallenpaupack, the Correctional Facility, the Training Center, and this project has been moving considerably very well. There is a weekly meeting with personnel and the Clerk of Works, the engineer, etc. and they are updated constantly via email and there are always things that are not anticipated but he feels that this project has been moving along very well without major interruptions.

Wayne Witkowski of the Dispatch asked about the buildings that are currently being used as far as if they are rented. Commissioner Osterberg said that the County owns the John Street building and the Administration Building. Probation is moving from the Administration Building. There may be some change in the future with outlying offices such as the Planning Office but that is another step. The District Attorney’s Office and Children & Youth do need additional space, but it is anticipated that there will be some vacant offices and then the decision will be made as to who will move into those locations, and along with John Street and the Magisterial Judge in the Borough, a Central Court, etc. There are a number of possibilities that are being reviewed, but nothing written in stone. First step is to get the Courthouse done and move everyone in there and in the meantime have the discussions of what is going to happen with this other space. The only place that the County does not own is where the Planning Office is located now in Shohola. The rest of the buildings are owned by the County. Commissioner Osterberg said he didn’t know if there would be any savings unless they move Planning here and stop paying the rent, and Workforce is up there also. That is another whole step in the process.

Wayne Witkowski also asked about the status of Route 209 Bridge Project. Commissioner Osterberg did not have anything to report and directed him to speak to PennDot. He did say they are moving forward with the Mott Street Bridge Project. It will be going out to bid shortly.

David Hulse asked about the Certification Statement for FY 2016/17 County Human Services Non-block Grant Report and if the state is actually paying anything on this right now. Commissioner Guccini said that this particular document is a certification of expenditures, income, etc.

ADJOURNMENT: THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017, AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.