

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

The first regular meeting of September, 2021 of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Osterberg at 11:00 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.

Commissioner Osterberg announced that some presentations would be made after Item 5 of the Agenda (rather than at the end). Also, corrections were going to be made the Agenda. One of them is under #4 under County Bills. The County Bills should be \$161,645.51. That is due to the fact that EDA (Economic Development Authority) was listed on 2 different bill runs. The other thing is under Salary Board, there are no minutes from the 22nd of August. Then, on #11 there should not be a line “on behalf of the Communications Center”.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today’s agenda – none.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 1, 2021 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the August 18, 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 August 23 and 26, 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 **\$161,645.51**, 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 payment from the **LIQUID FUELS (Westfall Township-Welcome Center)**, in the amount of **\$1,400.00**.

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

Commissioner Osterberg announced at this time that the Penn State Extension Presentation will take place. This was done at a Statewide meeting that I attended and I think it’s an important that we should be talking about.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Cyber Bullying Presentation – Angela Smith, Penn State Extension – PowerPoint Presentation

Commissioner Osterberg announced the next presentation will be Pocono Mountain Visitors’ Bureau.

- Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau Presentation – Chris Barrett, Brian Bossuyt and Marlyn Kissner – Via ZOOM – Brian Bossuyt – PowerPoint Presentation

Marlyn Kissner went over membership numbers and said currently we have 443 active members. Our Pike numbers are 58. We are working with a lot of those on training so that any members that we have and any new members that we are bringing on board know every aspect of their membership and how to leverage that to help their marketing. We are doing a lot of one-on-one visits and a lot of property visits. We want to make sure we are taking care of all of our members throughout our region. Our Milford Visitor’s Center is well over 4K for the year. In August we had over 1K. We are supporting the Pike Chamber and we’re doing administrative work for them. We are going to be partnering with Milford Presents for Fall and Winter events (October 23rd). We are also working and supporting a Milford Walking Map. We have a great person, Michelle McPherson, she is full time and doing a great job with tourists, visitors and a lot of the businesses and the Chamber members as well.

Commissioner Osterberg thanked the Pocono Mountain Visitors’ Bureau for their continued support of the County and for all that they do. He then asked if anyone had any questions.

Reporter Chris Jones asked what is ADR? Brian Bossuyt answered that’s Average Daily Rate. Hotel rooms have different rates that change, based upon availability.

Reporter Chris Jones asked if PMVB’s revenue come from the hotel tax or does government throw something into it? Brian Bossuyt answered that about 99.9% comes from the hotel tax. We have a very small amount that is generated from membership, I think it is \$170K of the \$12M budget. We don’t increase membership rates because so much comes from the hotel tax.

Commissioner Schmalzle also thanked PVMB and Chris and Brian for all they have done. Whenever we call the Visitor's Bureau for anything the answer is always yes and how can we help and what can we do. Thank you for reinventing yourself and hiring a local Pike/Wayne person in Jim Hamill. His outreach to us and his responsiveness has been exceptional.

- PennState Extension Calendar of Events – September 15-30, 2021 – Spotted Lanternfly information distributed

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, the following individuals as full time Correctional Officers for the Correctional Facility, for a 40 hour work week effective September 2, 2021, with benefits after 90 days: **JOSEPH COSOLARO AND ROBERT DEFREESE.**

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Craig Lowe advising that he has promoted, with Prison Board approval, **GEORGE KUMBURIS**, from Sergeant to Lieutenant for the Correctional Facility, effective August 29, 2021. 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 increase the pay of **AMANDA WALKER**, Dispatcher at the Communications Center, to \$21.26, per hour, due to the satisfactory completion of training, effective August 31, 2021.

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 re-advertise bids for the Pike County Courthouse Sally Port Parking Pad and Sidewalks Project as there were no bids.

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

No bids were received.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to re-advertise bids for the Pike County Courthouse Sally Port Parking Pad and Sidewalks Project as there were no bids.

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. 21-31, 20th Anniversary of September 11, 2001.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried
Resolution 21-31 read aloud by Commissioner Schmalzle

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 21-30, Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month, September 2021.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Guccini voted 'aye'. Motion carried.
Resolution 21-30 read aloud by Commissioner Guccini

Commissioner Osterberg said earlier in the meeting we had Angie (Smith) speak about this and how bullying and all of this affects people's lives. When you read this, these numbers to me are staggering when you think about this as being the second leading cause of death for people 10-34. That's something that we realize – words matter. What we say to each other really does matter in our lives, particularly young people. I know there's a Suicide Prevention Walk and Larissa Kimmel will be speaking about that. It's so important that we all recognize what's going on in our community and what's going on in our Country when it comes to this. Words matter and we need to make sure that we treat each other with kindness.

Larissa Kimmel thanked the Commissioners and County leaders here in Pike County for recognizing September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. We are so grateful to live and be part of a wonderful community where there's many partnerships. That Proclamation had many startling statistics. I want to share with all of you that in 2020, we lost 11 lives in Pike County to suicide. Eleven lives, and of those 11 lives, 10 were due to a result of a firearm. We have decided to make many efforts across many different populations to try to prevent suicide. One of those was to receive a small grant that we could get gun locks and we can educate individuals about how locking up a gun when not in use can really help prevent suicide. I have a lot

of information and I'll leave it here with the Commissioners. We have information, trigger guns locks and cable gun locks and we're trying to get these out in the community at fairs, at health events, wherever there is a need or want and have a desire to get out to hunting clubs or VFW's or shooting ranges or any other area where we could share this information. We also know that our middle aged, white males, are individuals nationally, state and locally they're dying more often by suicide. Every life that is lost is so devastating for communities.

We do have lots of efforts to also prevent suicide for children. Young people, we see in the statistics, suicide is the second leading cause of death in 10-34 year old people next to car accidents. That is really difficult to swallow quite honestly. Carbon Monroe Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services have partnered with many organizations in the community to continue the work to prevent suicide because we know that our work will never be done until we no longer collect statistics – until there are no statistics to collect on suicide prevention. There are a few things happening in the community. Wayne/Pike Suicide Prevention and Remembrance Walk is Saturday, September 25th at Wallenpaupack High School and that begins at 11:00 AM. Registration is at 10:00 AM. I will leave the flyer here for everyone.

We are also doing a screening of a movie called "My Ascension". It's about a 16 year old female who is very popular, cheerleader, scholar and was really struggling emotionally. You couldn't see it from the outside, but on the inside she was really hurting so she attempted suicide by shooting herself. She lived, amazingly, was paralyzed and was in a wheelchair. She goes out and tells her story about why she wishes that she had not done that. The second that the shot went off she knew that she really wasn't doing something that she truly wanted to do. She just wanted to end the emotional pain that she had. She now speaks to others to provide hope and resources. We're having a screening of that film with a panel discussion on September 30th, 6:30 PM at the Pike County Training Center (flyers distributed). There is a QR Code on the flyer where you can take your cell phone and scan it, it takes you right to the registration. It's one click and you're ready to go. We encourage all age groups to attend. If we do have young people who are attending, we do encourage a care-giver, parent, trusted adult with them, because the content is very emotional and it does tell the story of two other youth who lost their lives to suicide.

Lastly, we know that there are many things we can do to prevent suicide. In addition to the wonderful professionals that we have and our crisis services and the National Suicide Prevention Crisis Line, we can also learn how to relieve stress and to find calm and resolve and to be able to talk more about how we feel and what we're thinking and why we're feeling that way. We are partnering with Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug & Alcohol Commission during their Recovery event, which is at Akenac Park on Saturday, September 18th from 10AM-1PM. We're going to have a make and take care table so people can come and learn different ways to destress. Many of us know that when we exercise, eat right, when we sleep and when we have hobbies and passions, when we have connections within the community, our mental health is better. We're going to have things like therapy putty, a homemade play-dough that is scented with essential oils that can just help you bring a little bit of destressing to your everyday life. We'll have an affirmation station where individuals can talk a little about positive things about themselves and share positive words with others. There will be many other things. We have information for that and a QR Code. With that being said, I have lots of hand-outs that I'll leave with the Commissioners. I also want to highlight that we did work with the North East Suicide Prevention Initiative of Wayne and Pike County. We developed a small card; they're called Be a Life Saver and they have the contact information for immediate crisis services and mental health services. We have another card to tell people that their story is not over yet. We don't want people to give up. We have different pins – we want others to know that people are there for them and they're not alone and they are cared about and we don't want to see anyone die by suicide. These cards have suicide warning signs on them as well. If anybody has any questions that you like to ask, I would be happy to answer.

Director of Communications Krista Gromalski said they will have a press release with many of the resources that were shared in an article and we'll send that out right after this meeting.

Jen Fuentes added that she and Larissa did a PSA for WBRE on Monday that should go live tomorrow on their PA Live site. We are really excited about that and just being able to spread the word for suicide prevention. Many of the events that Larissa shared, we are also doing in our other counties as well. All of this information and all of the make and takes and the recovery events will be happening in all 3 of our counties. We are happy to share this information across our joiner.

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 21-28, resolution authorizing an application by Pike County, PA to the Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 21-29, resolution submitting a Request for Modification of Community Development Block Grant Funding for FFY 2020 to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Kenneth Coutts, as a representative for Palmyra Township, to the road Task Force to fill an unexpired term ending 12/31/23.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint Janice Holleny to the Children & Youth Advisory Board for a term ending 12/31/2021.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise for bids for the 2021-22 winter snowplowing and ice control for the following roads as one bid: Brooks Road, Old Owego Turnpike from Raymondskill Rd. to Route 6, Stone Quarry Road by Eureka and Tower Road.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Master Agreement and Addendum A-Court Scheduling Agreement between Teleosoft and the County of Pike, relating to the network infrastructure upgrades and the online Court Calendaring System.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Financial Statement of Funds Expended under Grant-in-Aid for Juvenile Probation Services for FY 2020/21, the Letter of Compensation, and the Juvenile Probation Services Grant Agreement, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the PCCD Grant Application for the Child Advocacy Centers-Birth Certificate Funds for \$47,0000 on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Guccini and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the contract between Smart Choice Communications and the County of Pike for electronic faxing.

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 Renewal Lease Agreement between Atlantic Tomorrow's Office and the County of Pike, for copiers and fax machines.

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 Affordable Housing Payment Voucher payable to Family Promise for the salary adjustment for Pike/Family Promise employee in the amount of \$2,469.60.

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

- Penn State Extension Calendar of Events – September 15-30, 2021.

Commissioner Osterberg announced that he received something from the Area Agency on Aging Office regarding the hurricane. The remnants of Hurricane Ida are hitting Pike County today potentially causing localized flooding and power outages. It is important to be prepared, our Area Agency on Aging reminds people to check on older adults and their families or neighborhoods to ensure that they are equipped with proper materials such as medications, water, groceries, flashlights, batteries and that they're cell phones are charged. You can check Emergency Management Agency's Facebook for weather updates and download the Citizens' Emergency Protection Guide on the County website at: www.pikepa.org. We want everyone to stay safe.

Commissioner Guccini added that, on a personal note, on Item #5-the appointment of Kenneth Coutts to take the position of Tom Simons, a long, long-time Palmyra Township Supervisor. Tom Simons was a teacher at Wallenpaupack and a 45 year Supervisor of Palmyra Township where I grew up and still live. He really went a long way in serving his community – I just want to point that out to everybody.

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

Reporter Chris Jones asked what are Birth Certificate Funds? Commissioner Guccini answered that he called Ray Tonkin and that is just where the money comes from. Apparently, the money for this grant comes from fees for birth certificates.

Reporter Chris Jones asked how about the hourly rate for the CO's - \$24, is that a raise? Commissioner Osterberg said we did – we're doing that retroactively and it'll be passed next week. It happened a little fast, but it's going to be retro. We have serious staffing issues at the Correctional Facility. We have a contingency of hiring up to 89 and we have 42. No one is applying. Unfortunately, we've been back and forth about what we can do to incentivize people to apply there, and we haven't been successful. This is the next step. We are trying to make ourselves more competitive with State and Federal agencies as best as we can. We can't be completely competitive with them because they offer some retirement options and pensions that we, as a County, we're not legally allowed to do the pension programs that they do in State and Federal at that level. We certainly have to do something when it comes to the wages. Chris Jones asked for the numbers on the staffing again. Commissioner Osterberg replied we're supposed to have 89 CO's, we have 42. There is a tremendous amount of overtime and it puts a lot of stress on the staff that's there. A correctional facility has to have a certain staff in there for legal reasons and, if there isn't enough staff and somebody calls out and

you're the CO that is on that shift right now, you can't go home. Commissioner Guccini added the number of inmates are down, but it's not sort of a one on one thing, where we can just hire that many less CO's. The way that people are classified and the units they're on, there may have to be CO's to oversee a unit that only has a few people in it, but that's a State regulation. It's not just a direct reduction of numbers.

Reporter Chris Jones asked what was the rate, \$22 last time around? Commissioner Osterberg answered it was actually \$17 and change. The Warden up there is doing an incredible job without our Correctional Facility, but he can't do it if he doesn't have the personnel. This isn't just about the CO's, this is about all the staffing in the Correctional Facility. When you work at the Correctional Facility, it's not like you can go out for lunch. You're in there until your shift is over. You don't leave at noon and go have lunch at Burger King or McDonalds. You are in there and that's hard to get people to apply to those jobs. Even kitchen staff, people running the food resources and the clerical staff – they don't leave during the day. We needed to go across the board because he's having trouble with all those positions. We highlight CO's because of the drastic numbers, but when it comes to individuals for maintenance – the same thing. It's not someplace I would want to work.

Reporter Chris Jones said you mentioned that the State and Federal prisons – they have the pensions, but they also have a fairly early retirement age too, which is an incentive. Commissioner Osterberg answered it is, but it comes at a cost to do that. We're recognizing all of it, but our Warden has done stellar work up there and trying to identify ways that he can get people to come in – recruitment and also retention. We have many cases where they take the job, they get the training and then they're off to State and Federal agencies because they have the training. Commissioner Schmalzle said we don't have applicants and we just keep losing people. I will say that there's more information to come out on this as it becomes fully approved, but there was an expansive study with neighboring counties with similar facilities, even going across the border to Otisville (NY) and places like that. This isn't an extraordinary amount for a person to be paid in that profession. We need to be at or a little better than others so we can compete for the limited number of people that will apply for these positions. Reporter Chris Jones asked if you did a little research? Commissioner Schmalzle answered a lot of research. Commissioner Osterberg said the Warden did, it was all the Warden doing this. He knows the industry so he reached out and did comparisons on all of it. We have already heard that by doing this that some people who have left employment there are now thinking about coming back. Member of the community, Vito Dibiasi announced he is representing Friends of the Milford Aquifer Springs a group he started on Facebook to protect the Milford Springs. We have 104 members now and I want to read our petition that is online right now. The Milford Aquifer/Milford Springs should be protected using every tool available to municipal and Pike County government authorities. That would be you guys. They are entrusted in making sure your PA Constitutional right to pure water is carried out. If you fail to do so, the health and safety of the entire community and those downstream are affected. What we are talking about is we have 2,400 people that get water and pay for water from the Milford Aquifer and Milford Water Authority and it's kind of split, half and half – Milford Borough/Milford Township. We're talking downstream 15M people get their drinking water from the Delaware. What we do on that Aquifer is not just consequential for the Town of Milford and the people that live in Milford Township, it's also important for the people downstream. As I pitched the argument to the Delaware River Keeper and the Catskill Mountain Keeper and the Sierra Club, my argument was you can win the large battles of stopping fracking in the Delaware River Basin, but if you keep losing at the municipal level, then you can lose the Delaware by 1K cups. You can lose it just as well by these individual streams that feed the Delaware. It's just as important that at the municipal level and the county level that we are taking care of this Aquifer, not just for us, but for downstream.

I come to you because the Milford Water Authority stepped up to the plate at the last Milford Township Planning Commission Meeting on August 24th and they asked for things that they always wanted, but were denied from Milford Township. We had a meeting with them the day before and they told us the whole backstory of how they approached Milford Township, what they originally asked for, what they were rejected and then now what they are asking for. We're asking you now to step up to the plate. You are the executive governing body – you administer all of the County programs like the Pike County Conservation District and the County Planning Commission. You are best at policy making. We are here to petition you today to use that power and not just passively. We're asking you aggressively. For example, I'm looking for you guys to do some kind of letter or policy statement to Milford Township to say the Ordinance that is written right now by Shepstone needs changes just like the Milford Water Authority says it does. We're going one step beyond the Milford Water Authority. We want a Stand-Alone Ordinance because right now it's attached to a Wellhead Ordinance and it's very confusing and, actually, they pay more homage to the wellheads that are down here near EconoPak then they do to the Milford Springs and the Milford Aquifer. The Shepstone Ordinance has rings of radiuses of protection zones. They have a 400 feet and 1K feet radius, but they don't have any of that for the Milford Springs and the Milford Aquifer. When Milford Water Authority went to the table, they asked for a Stand-Alone Ordinance because they knew it was very confusing to attach it to a Wellhead Ordinance. They said it was an afterthought that they put in the Milford Aquifer. We're asking for a Stand-Alone Ordinance because you make policies and you make directives to the Pike County Conservation District and you can initiate policy statements. You have the authority, you are County Commissioners. Maybe you're not used to telling municipalities, but I do think you do have power. We want that Ordinance to recognize Zone 2 of the Milford Aquifer. The Milford Water Authority is asking for that, but the Friends of Milford Aquifer are asking for just a little bit more. Not just recognition, but we want that Zone 2 to have more zoning restrictions than the watershed. The watershed is one thing, that's a confined aquifer, where the Milford Aquifer is an unconfined aquifer. That means anything that goes through there goes immediately to the Springs. Development in the watershed can have wider things, but development in the Milford Aquifer cannot have anything really. We're asking for the lowest possible, which would be single dwelling houses. That was the position of the Milford Water Authority January 15, 2018. They put out a

statement to Dingman Township that they wanted the 84 acres of the wood property in Dingman Township to stay in the lower zone, not to be put into an RC Zone, which they did. The letter says “please do not approve this in the higher zone because zoning is our number one defense and if you put it in the higher zone, then we are fulfilling our mission as the Milford Water Authority”. Then the Milford Water Authority had a change of leadership and now they believe that they can put commercial development up on the Aquifer because Doug Manion just stated it in the last meeting. We, Friends of the Milford Aquifer, say you cannot – you need to keep in the lowest zone possible. We’re asking for direction from the Commissioners to buoy our argument that commercial development is inappropriate for the Aquifer.

If you read the Ordinance that Shepstone has written and this is also the same position as the Milford Water Authority, there are some in the chart for conditional uses, permitted uses. There are some ridiculous things and the Milford Water Authority called them silly. We’re calling them dangerous. There is something in there where you can permit a hazardous waste pipeline with liquid oil and liquid gasoline and hazardous liquid in a pipeline on the premise of the Aquifer and on the premise of the Springs. If you read the chart, that’s what it says. Commissioner Osterberg asked isn’t there one already, isn’t Columbia Gas Line running right across that? Mr. Dibiasi answered on the Aquifer, but not on the Springs. In that Ordinance you could have that pipeline on the premise of the Springs – that’s how it’s written. You’re right, the Tennessee Pipeline is on the upper part of the 44 acres right near the interchange. Commissioner Osterberg said so is the Columbia (pipeline), two of them. Mr. Dibiasi said that’s one thing, but that’s gas. Commissioner Osterberg replied it’s gas right now, but pipelines it’s my understanding can pump anything you want through them. Mr. Dibiasi continued it would be worse if it was liquid oil or gasoline or hazardous waste, the way it’s stated in that zone. Also, in that chart it says manufacturing activities. It can happen right on the property of the Springs, cause there’s no zone. They have it within the watershed and that anything in that watershed, manufacturing, and the Springs are in the watershed. That means manufacturing activities on the Springs. The reason why they have it there is because you have EconoPak near the well heads. This is where you’re getting confusion. The well heads is one thing, an Aquifer or the Springs are totally different. That’s why we think there should be a Stand-Alone Ordinance. Commissioner Osterberg asked if these Springs are where the Reservoir is? Mr. Dibiasi answered yes. Commissioner Osterberg asked isn’t that a residential zone anyway there, that’s where Pine Acres is? Solicitor Farley said they may be part of it. Solicitor Farley continued the same issues Mr. Dibiasi is raising has been addressed at the last Planning meeting. It’s going to be addressed probably tonight, there’s a Planning Workshop and Planning will finally make recommendations to the Supervisors. Commissioner Osterberg then said the Springs are right by the reservoir, the watershed is up there on the 44 acres – so they’re really 2 different areas that we’re talking about. Mr. Dibiasi said actually, no, the watershed is beyond the 44 acres – the 44 acres is the Aquifer. Commissioner Osterberg replied but the Springs are on Owego Turnpike. Mr. Dibiasi agreed and said that’s residential. All I’m saying is, I’m just reading the Ordinance and that’s what it says. It doesn’t distinguish between that.

Mr. Dibiasi continued our goal and the goal that we talked about Matt, is that we’re going beyond and asking you guys for help. We’re looking to take this land off the market and put it into Conservation Easement. We’re trying to find funding. A William Collins, who did the Milford Borough Comprehensive Plan, gave us an idea of how to do that. He gave us direction that we have to get together before April of next year. The advice that he gave was that to get the money from the Federal government to protect these Springs, you need to get as many municipalities together asking for this. Again, you can just have Milford Borough asking for it. It would be better if you had Milford Borough, Dingman Township and Milford Township together as a unit asking for this funding. You’re more likely to get it that way. That’s the aspirational goal. We’re building that coalition, step by step, so that goal can be completed. We want to be like Middletown (New York) and they were able to get State grants of \$3M for 148 acres and they got that from a State grant in New York. Why can’t we do the same thing in Pennsylvania? We can look for State grants, but we also can look to the Federal government for this type of money. The reason why it’s important to do this is we already have examples of what happens when you don’t do this in New Windsor, New York and Newburgh, New York. New Windsor is suing their County Commissioners for mismanagement of the Aquifer because the wells got contaminated from run off with whatever chemicals and they can’t get those chemicals out. It’s a very expensive process to do that. What are they doing? They have to buy water from the New York Watershed and it’s very expensive. It’s a costly mistake. Newburgh (New York) had toxic run off around their Reservoir because they didn’t protect the area around their Reservoir. Now, their Reservoir is off-line and they’re paying expensive replacement money. Do we want to be them, or do we want to be Middletown (New York), that takes an investment in this Aquifer? It’s an economic argument too because you may get a short bang for your buck if you put something there, but in the long-term it could flip on you. Whatever you put there could contaminate your Springs and you’re in a hole trying to pay for replacement water. That land, that 44 acres is probably the closest to the Springs, 2800 feet away and it’s the most sensitive. That’s what the geologist was trying to tell Dingman Township back in 2006. That is so sensitive that any chemicals either floating on the blacktop and the running off and now that water is hot and now that water has tainted chemicals in it. It goes right into the Aquifer and you can’t get it out. It’s a very expensive process. That is why I came to you today. I’m looking for some kind of action or statement or policy initiative that is more aggressive on this issue because, as you all know, there’s a warehouse explosion happening across the United States. People were thinking about putting 2 warehouses up there – 250K square feet, until they were told there’s an Aquifer there. Finally, they backed down. We don’t want to fall into that illusion that that’s the right thing to do, because doing any kind of aggressive industry or commercial development there is a fool’s errand. You’re not going to get what you think you’re going to get. In fact, it can blow up in your face majorly. That’s what we’re saying – have vision and have insight that this needs to be not only in the interest of the town for their water, but for the interest of the 15M people downstream. It’s also in your own economic interest too. I know Matt you’ve been in on this problem for a long, long, time, you helped me to

do presentations to Milford Borough twice I think, and then I went to the Commissioners in 2004-2006 and I gave them 2 presentations. This information has been out there forever, but certain people like Milford Township – they never wrote a Source Water Protection Plan. All of sudden, maybe tonight, they will. They wrote that Ordinance not knowing anything about the Source Water Protection Plan, not understanding the concepts that we do know, because we worked on this problem for years. Hopefully, tonight, when they go to that meeting, they address the problems that the Milford Water Authority wants them to do and incorporate it into the Ordinance. We're asking you for more. We're asking for a Stand-Alone Ordinance. We want more protections in the Aquifer zone and we think that's in the best interest of the County and we think that's in the best interest of people downstream. Thank you, I appreciate it.

Commissioner Osterberg said in the case of Dingman Township, I have a little history of this, they have worked with the Milford Water Authority and they're all in agreement with what has been done. You may not be in agreement that's a different story, but as far as the Dingman Township Supervisors and the Milford Water Authority they are in agreement with the protections that were put on the 88 acres, on the Dingman side of the property. Mr. Dibiasi agreed and said they have a Source Water Protection Plan. Commissioner Osterberg continued they work together without intervention of the County Commissioners and now Milford Township is working with the water company. My understanding is in the beginning of the Dingman Township discussions, there were some things that were maybe in their original faults, meaning the Dingman Township Supervisors, that the water company did not agree with. Over time, cause this Ordinance has not been passed yet, those concerns were addressed and they were included in it. Again, you may not agree with them, but they're scientists and also Milford Water Company's engineers, there are 2 engineers that sit on that Board, all of them are in concurrence and agreement that they feel there's enough safeguards in place to protect their water. That's their main goal. They have no other role in this except to protect the water for the 2K customers. I think in the same vein here, we need to allow this process. As a municipal leader, the last person I wanted at my meeting telling me what to do was the 3 guys sitting at this table. We're the municipal leaders and you need to allow us to do our job and allow them to their job, along with their Planning Commission, along with their Solicitor and to work through all of these issues that you have. I'm sure they're listening to you, they're hearing you and, again, they may be hearing you and not agreeing, but that's a whole other story. I think that we, as County Commissioners, need to just let this process go. It's their role to do this, it's not our role at this point. As far as buying the property, that would take Dingman Township and Milford Township to come and say, you Mr. County Commissioner we want this property to be taken off the tax rolls. I'm going to be honest with you, I'm the last person who is going to sit here and say let's go up there and buy 88 and 44 – 122 acres of commercial property off the tax rolls. Unless those entities agree that that property should be taken off, not only our tax rolls, off their tax rolls (the municipalities'). Do you have anything to add Tom (Farley)? I don't want to put you in the middle of this because I know you represent Milford Township Planning – it's a meeting right? Solicitor Farley agreed and said it's a meeting and we're a Commonwealth and it goes from the Townships through the process. The water company and Planning Commission have been working very hard to get it, are there some disputes? Yeah. Are they going to work it out? Yeah. Commissioner Osterberg said they did and that's what I know happened. Solicitor Farley added it was from Planning, it's just a recommendation and whatever the Supervisors decide, they don't decide if the final one should be passed. Commissioner Osterberg agreed absolutely right – you don't have the 3 Supervisors in the Milford Township involved in this, as of yet. Maybe knowing what's going on, but the process is dealing with the Planning Commission at this moment right now and I think in fairness and respect to them, we need to just let them continue to go through the process. That process in Dingman Township that just ended, that didn't start last year, that started years ago and they've just come to conclusion and come up with an Ordinance where it's in now RC as opposed to what it was before. Mr. Dibiasi said, which we disagree with. Commissioner Osterberg answered understood. I understand that, but it's not like it occurred in 1 year. It occurred over a number of years that people were maybe not going to the meetings, but Dingman Township was having their Planning Commission meetings and Supervisor meetings and discussing it. That's the same thing here, this is all new – I can't imagine that tonight this is going to come to a conclusion. I just know how processes in municipalities and boroughs work, this is long-term discussions. It's a Workshop, there's going to be a lot of questions asked and they're going to have to wait for the answers to come back. The next meeting they'll be a ton more questions asked. Mr. Dibiasi said Matt, I just want a response. You're right, Dingman Township did take an aggressive role in producing that Ordinance in 2006 and then upgrading it in 2018. That's a different story than Milford Township because what the Milford Water Authority thought they were doing is that they were going to go over to Milford Township and say let's copy and paste the Dingman Township Ordinance over here in Milford Township because it was already done. They knew it was a good Ordinance and they thought they were just going to copy and paste and that's not what happened. That's just one point. The other point is the Milford Water Authority at one point, in 2018, stood up and said that zoning is our number one defense. Now, since then you, I think, through the Conservation District, Michele Long sent me an email saying we think that Ordinance addresses all of your concerns. That's an Ordinance only defense, we're saying it should be an Ordinance defense and a zoning defense – the two coupled together, not one or the other. Zoning is important – that's a number one defense according to the 2018 Milford Water Authority, which is what we agree with and also the Ordinance. You're still taking an Ordinance only approach and the Friends of Milford Aquifer and the old Milford Water Authority from 2018 would say no. We want Ordinance defense and we want a zoning defense. That's my response. When the Milford Water Authority went to Milford township and found out it was not going to be a copy and paste, it was going to be this whole other process of attaching it to a Well Head Ordinance, we're saying that process got derailed and that it needs to go back on the tracks. We're hoping that tonight the Milford Water Authority will make that go back on the rails. Commissioner Osterberg said you can request it. Mr. Dibiasi said there's another discrepancy because they're an authority and they have power and a voice too. They can ask using all

of the authority that they have, just like you can use your authority to make a statement and a policy statement. You may not choose to do that, but you have the authority to do it okay? That's my response – Milford Water Authority is an authority. They get their power from the municipal powers that. In fact, if they're not getting any direction from Milford Township, Milford Borough, they can take on all the powers of the municipality and act in their own interest. The Milford Water Authority has authority and can lean on that authority and so can you and that's all I'm asking for. The petition has 155 signatures so far asking for municipalities and you to use all the tools available – not just some of them. Not just let the process play out. We want you to do and use all your tools and be aggressive because if you don't, and let's say something passes that is inferior, then that will come back on you. If the water gets tainted a couple of years down the line, in fact it only took 3 years for New Windsor, they put in a new water system and within 3 years their wells were contaminated. It can happen that fast – 3 years. Then who do you sue? They're suing their Commissioners for mismanagement in New Windsor. Do you want to be in that position, to be sued? Who are they going to sue when their water gets tainted? Are they going to sue you? The municipality? They are also suing the State of New York – the DEP. All those agencies need to step up to the plate, because if they don't follow the rules and something happens to those Springs, they can get sued and will be sued. Commissioner Osterberg said his feeling is that Dingman Township and Milford Water Company have stepped up to the plate and they are satisfied with what they have done. Mr. Dibiasi disagreed and said, no not yet. They showed up on Tuesday saying no, we want more. Commissioner Osterberg replied sorry, I must've misspoke, Dingman Township and Milford Water Company, both of them are satisfied with what they have done. The change of leadership in the Water Company, I'm not sure if it's as drastic as you make it out to be, there's a couple of new members, but some of them have been on there (the Board) 10 or 15 years. I think, again, we can sit here all day long and go over this, what I'm saying and I'll let the other 2 speak (Commissioners), this needs to play out in the Township. I'm not going to write something that tells Milford Township what to do or what not to do at this moment. We're going to let them work this out, just like Dingman Township and the Water Company did. I think that needs to happen here. You may not like what they're discussing. That is perfectly your right to do that, but out of respect to those 3 Supervisors and those 5 Planning Commission members and the 7 members on the Milford Water Company, they need to sit there tonight, next week, next year and work this out and we see where it goes. Those are the experts, those guys are dedicated to this. I know every single one of them personally. None of them have any ulterior motives here except to make sure the water that I drink personally is protected every day. I hear you and I know your passionate about it, but that's my position on it. I don't know if we are being liable for being sued in this whole thing anyway. You're mixing New York State government with Pennsylvania and I think there's a difference.

Commissioner Guccini addressed Mr. Dibiasi and said you're obviously passionate, you know more about this issue than I do. Matt knows more about it than I do because he lives here, I don't live here. I live in the County, but I don't live here (Milford Borough). If you ask me about the algae blooms up in Lake Wallenpaupack, I'm guessing I know more than you do. That's where I live, but forgetting about that for a minute, even if you and I sat down and agree on the substance, the idea that we would attempt to, at this stage, infringe on what a municipality is doing is not the way things work. I wouldn't do that with any issue. There's been all these debates about the masks, and should we have a state-wide thing, should school districts do it, but even that is not the same as this. There is a structure in Pennsylvania that says municipalities make these decisions. The County's only role in this kind of stuff is we have our County Planning Commission, but even that is an advisory group; they make recommendations on one way or another. It's just not appropriate, in my opinion, legally or governmentally for us to do that because that's the role of the municipality.

Commissioner Schmalzle said he feels similar to Steve and I have to do some homework on this and gain some knowledge in order to comment.

Mr. Dibiasi said to Commissioner Osterberg when you say you have to respect the people doing this. What if the people doing this have never ready the Water Source Protection Plan, have never heard of it? You have Shepstone putting his bias in that and he is an industry advocate and putting too much industry into this. Then you have to question the wisdom of those planners that you say to respect, because some of that respect is not deserved. Right there he wrote some of that Ordinance, Mr. Farley, and he didn't even know that the Source Water Protection Plan existed or any of the concepts – he didn't go to the meetings with the Milford Water Authority. They almost passed that Ordinance on Tuesday night if the Milford Water Authority didn't show up, which they did, but if they didn't it would've passed. They were getting ready because he (Mr. Farley) gave a 20 minute intro on why this was so well done and well constructed and they crossed all their T's and dotted their I's and they did due diligence, they were in total agreement with the Milford Water Authority when that's not the case at all. That almost passed. I am telling you that some of this process that you said has to "play out" needs to be closely examined and that your role with the Pike County Conservation District is one way in which you can play a role. That's all I'm asking. Commissioner Osterberg said the process did work out because Milford Water Company showed up. Mr. Dibiasi agreed. Commissioner Osterberg said the Supervisors answered to the voters of Milford Township.

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, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021, AT 11:00 A.M., AT THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.