

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The second regular meeting of September, 2022 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 Waldron; Chief Clerk Gromalski; and Solicitor Farley.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today’s agenda – None

Commissioner Osterberg announced that the Election Director would be announcing the 2022 Pike County Voter Hall of Fame Inductees and 2022 Pike County Poll Workers at this time.

Nadeen Manzoni, Director of Board of Elections, announced that in order to get inducted to the Voter Hall of Fame a Voter needs to have 50 or more consecutive elections, never missing a single election. The Voter Hall of Fame hasn’t had an inductee in Pike County since 1996. Part of the reason for that is we went to a computerized voter registration database in 1998. We can track back all of your voter history until 1998, but after that we have to go back through every single voter record to look at handwritten cards that office staff updated back in the day before technology was introduced. The last few years the County has gone green, and we are scanning all of our records now digitally. As we’re doing that, anybody that had a voter registration card that they voted in 1972 or before, those records were set aside, and Char (Scheuermann) investigated all of those and we have 46 people being inducted. Some are here today and I will go through the list of names: Dennis Brink, Marjorie Janusewski, Gary Orben, Keith Raser, William Reser, Charles Sebring, Thaddeus Parsell, George Fluhr, Frank Vandermark, Randy Wells, Kenneth Adams, Patricia Flansburg, Lois Fleming, Jo Ann Parsell, Linda Peifer, George Reaggs, Jr, Charles Steuhl, Shirley Tschudy, Jane Karpiak, Jacqueline Padgett, Barbara Riesle, Stephen Padgett, Thomas Hogan, Roseann Vanwhy, Nancy Vocci, Anita Godby, Raymond Wagner, Kathleen Gregory, John Karpiak, John Kolvenbach, Jr., Joyce Quinn, Lorraine Gregory, Emil Moglia, Loretta Buchanan, Ronald Gregory, Barbara Barnes, Janet Clark, Beatrice Schields, Catherine Steele, William Clark, Shirley Coutts, Phyllis Basham, Alice Ehrhardt, James Quinn, Marjorie Worzel and Centa Quinn. Elections Director Manzoni continued that the applications will be submitted to the State, and they will be immortalized in the State database as having been entered into the Pennsylvania Voter Hall of Fame. It is quite an accomplishment.

Director Manzoni announced that we have one more group of people that are very near and dear to my heart. I’ve been working in Elections since 2007 and these people I have been working with my entire time in the Elections Office. They are the faces that you see when you show up to your polling place to vote. Director of Elections Manzoni then read aloud the 2022 Pike County Poll Workers, all with a decade or more of service - Delaware Township: Pat Collins, Joyce Lewis, Ida Walker and Cindy Luna; Dingman Township: Sandra Lefort, Sarah Donahue and Ann Montgomery; Greene Township: Sandy Smith; Lackawaxen Township: Amy Konescni and Kathleen Keller; Lehman Township: Paulette Wright and Bob Snee; Matamoras Borough: Shirley Tschudy and Carol Haas; Milford Borough: Ron Gregory; Milford Township: Lorelei Davis, Ken Rosanelli and Mary Murray; Palmyra Township: Pat Smedman and Irene Ross; and Porter Township: Dawn Russel. Director Manzoni continued that running Elections is a difficult thing. These volunteers are at the polls at 6:00 AM and they don’t get home until sometimes after midnight. They have been with us through a pandemic, through introducing a whole new method of voting in the County and they make me look good. Thank you – we are grateful and blessed to have such dedicated members.

Motion to recess the Commissioners’ Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting. A Retirement Board Meeting was held. Motion to adjourn the Retirement Board Meeting and reconvene the Commissioners’ Meeting.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 21, 2022, Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the September 7, 2022, Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 14, 2022, Commissioners’ Conference Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUNDS (County Bills)**, in the amount of **\$700,693.67**, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **ACT 13 Administration**, in the amount of **\$2,190.00**, subject to further review.

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

At this time Commissioner Osterberg announced that paving on Owego Turnpike will begin mid-October.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE FUND**, in the amount of **\$87.40**, subject to further review.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the exonerations as presented by Cynthia Gehris, Tax Claim Bureau Director, for 94 properties and their taxes, sold out of the County Repository between April and August 2022.

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

PERSONNEL

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to permit the additional assignment of Internet Crimes Against Children Coordinator for the District Attorney's Office to **MOLLY CARSON**, in addition to maintaining her current position, effective September 25, 2022.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to promote **CHRISTINE IRWIN** to Casework Manager for Children and Youth Services for a 37.5-hour work week effective October 3, 2022.

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

Motion to recess the Commissioners' Meeting and to hold a Salary Board Meeting.

SALARY BOARD

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 7 and 14, 2022, Salary Board minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to increase the salary of **MOLLY CARSON** to \$31.94 per hour due to her additional assignment of Internet Crimes Against Children Coordinator for the District Attorney's Office, effective September 25, 2022s.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to set the annual salary of **CHRISTINE IRWIN** at \$56,056 due to her promotion to Casework Manager for Children and Youth Services for a 37.5-hour work week effective October 3, 2022.

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

Motion to adjourn the Salary Board Meeting and to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open bids for the Pike County Courthouse Exterior Repairs Project.

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

Solicitor Farley said we only have one bid from Grimm Construction, base bid \$515,284 and with an A1 Additional Bid of \$20,000, plus additional bids for UC1 of \$3,920, another \$9,224 for UC2, \$24,668 for UC3, UC4 is \$3,920, UC5 \$4,876, UC6 is \$18,018, UC7 is an additional \$5,475, UC8 is \$10,318, UC9 is \$25,200, UC10 is \$2,060, for a total bid if you include all those items, \$651,163. The bid bonds were provided as well. I would ask if the award of bid be tabled to be reviewed by the Engineer.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the award of bid for the Pike County Courthouse Exterior Repairs Project until the October 5, 2022, Commissioners' Meeting, upon further review by the County Engineer.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open bids for the Tri-Annual Groceries and Frozen Food Bids.

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

Solicitor Farley said these bids are all over the chart, they're not all bidding on the same products, they interchange, select different products and what happens is this will be tabled again until it is reviewed by the Kitchen and the individuals representing the Prison. It will probably take a month or so. Solicitor Farley announced the first one opened is Driscoll Foods \$396,060.19; Bernard Foods \$13,784.08; Mavila Foods \$237,331.76; and Sysco Foods \$212,498.02.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the award of bid for the Tri-Annual Groceries and Frozen Food Bids until the October 5, 2022, Commissioners' Meeting, upon further review by the Correctional Facility.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award the Fruit Flavored Beverage bid to Bernard Food Industries in the amount of \$9,512.64.

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

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to adopt Resolution No. 22-30, a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Pike County, Pennsylvania, Supporting the Second Amendment.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg and Schmalzle voted 'aye'. Commissioner Waldron voted 'nay'. Motion carried.

Commissioner Schmalzle read Resolution No. 22-30 aloud.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 22-31, Pike County Board of Commissioners Notice of Intent to Participate and approving a Grant Application for a Grant Under the PA DCED Monroe Local Share Account.

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

Commissioner Waldron read Resolution No. 22-31 aloud.

Commissioner Osterberg said just to be clear what this is about, the Bennett Avenue Project which the one building in the front is having the roof replaced, this is going to be where the Transportation Department is going to be housed. The back of the property the plan is to put in a Countywide Recycling Program. We need to get some grants to be able to do this. The other important component of this is what this is going to mean to the community. It means getting some of the hazardous waste out of our woods and all that in the County and it, just as important, provides employment opportunities geared toward people with disabilities. I've been working with Human Resource Center, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and we are going to develop this into a program to make sure that those individuals in our community have an ample place to work. We have a program in the County already, a number of people with disabilities do cleaning in the buildings, some work in our offices, but that's a part of our population that is underserved. This is more than just having a Recycling Program, it's more than just a Transportation Department, it's about giving employment and opportunities to people with disabilities. Just so we are clear with what we are doing there, we have yet to go to the Borough (Milford), we have to get some zoning.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 22-32, Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan County Adoption Resolution.

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

Commissioner Schmalzle read Resolution No. 22-32 aloud.

Commissioner Osterberg introduced Brian Snyder, representative from Pike County Planning Department, the Department that put together the Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Change Order in the amount of \$3,800 for the Pike County Courthouse Landscaping Project payable to Arnold Landscaping Corp.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise bids for the Bennett Avenue Building 1 Roof Replacement Project.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Third Amendment to the Voting System Agreement by and between Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Elections Office.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Independent Contractor Agreement for Truancy Services between East Stroudsburg School District and the County of Pike, on behalf of Children and Youth Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the following Human Services Payment Vouchers on behalf of the Office of Human Services: State Food Purchase Program in the amount of \$2,534.46; PHARE in the amount of \$3,104.93; Homeless Assistance Program in the amount of \$1,550.00; Emergency Rental Assistance Program in the amount of \$32,422.98; Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2.0 in the amount of \$99,572.17; and American Recovery Act in the amount of \$344,721.20.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Sub-Grant Agreement State Food Purchase Program Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program 2022-2023 between Pike County Food Pantry and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Sub-Grant Agreement State Food Purchase Program Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program 2022-2023 between Holy Trinity Food Pantry and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Sub-Grant Agreement State Food Purchase Program Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program 2022-2023 between Bushkill Food Pantry and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Sub-Grant Agreement State Food Purchase Program Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program 2022-2023 between Blooming Grove Food Pantry and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the 2020 CV CDBG Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$3,712.50 payable to Kids Play Today, LLC on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the 2017 CDBG Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$1,200.00 payable to Ray Evans for Housing Rehab., on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute Pike County Rental Assistance Contract #54, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute Pike County Rental Assistance Contract #55, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

- PennState Extension October Calendar of Events
- 2022 Pike County Voter Hall of Fame Inductees and 2022 Pike County Poll Workers – A Decade of Service
- TextMyGov Demonstration [Text to (570) 409-5770] – Nadeen Manzoni, Board of Elections Director – An interactive demonstration was done with meeting attendees using their cell phones. Director Manzoni continued that however we can help assist our voters get the information that they need and rather than go to a website type chat system, our older citizens may have trouble navigating through a website and finding the correct website to go to and then navigating through all the options and drop downs with what they need. With TextMyGov, the widget is going to be on our homepage on the Pike County website as well as on the Elections page. We did a soft roll out on this last week and did a press release, and it was in the newspapers, we’re going to be heavily promoting this ahead of the election because we are expecting it to be a high-volume turnout which will prompt a lot of callers to call the office and the office will be very busy. We want to make sure the voters get the information that they need 24/7 at their fingertips. Does anyone have any questions? Reporter Chris Jones asked if it could be downloaded. Director Manzoni said it is not a download. It’s just like when you are texting a friend, just type in the number and then your question, hit send and you’ll get a response. Flyers were distributed on TextMyGov.
- GAIT Workshop – Martha Dubensky – Commissioner Osterberg said this is a workshop that we have been working with the Veterans’ Administration Office and GAIT to bring better exposure to the great work they do for treating people with PTSD, as we all know is a serious issue that faces our veterans. It’s also an issue that faces our EMT’s and our Emergency Management people, even 911 Operators. We’ve put together a group and we’ve met and we’re going to have this event on October 15th. Martha Dubensky was introduced, and she continued that many of you know GAIT as a horseback riding center. It’s more than that, we incorporate the horses in every program that we have. The programs that we have expanded. We can do some mental health work, we can do some support with teenagers going through some real social issues, especially now with the pandemic and all that. We are a lot more than just a riding center. We do a lot of work on the ground. This event coming up is really important. GAIT has been there for the

community all along and it is going on 28 years that we exist. It's a lot of organizations coming together. Commissioners, thank you so much. If you have any questions, I'm here.

Commissioner Osterberg concluded that GAIT is a very impressive organization and, if you haven't had a chance to go up there, you should come on up October 15th and see what they're doing up there. It is extremely important for our new Veterans' Coordinator, Jesiah Schrader, who is going to organize people to be able to go up there and get the therapy that they need. Martha is an expert at this and so is all her staff. Please make sure you can get up there and enjoy that day.

PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Osterberg announced that, before we start, there are a number of people in the audience that want to talk about a number of different topics. Please stand up at the podium, tell us your name and we'll start with the press.

Reporter Chris Jones asked about the expenditure for \$700,693.67? Commissioner Osterberg answered General Bills. At the last couple of meetings, it's been higher or lower. That's how the bills are processed downstairs (Finance Department). I think there are times when at meetings that number could have been \$1M. It depends on what we're paying.

Reporter Chris Jones asked about Resolution 22-30, (Second Amendment) is this boilerplate? Commissioner Osterberg said it is one that we put together that we felt comfortable doing this and showing the residents that we are a County who feel that their rights under the Second Amendment are being attacked. That this is one that we could support. Some of the other ones that were put out there, to be honest with you, we couldn't because it was asking us to take on legislative duties and we don't have any legislative duties as you fully know. This was one that we felt comfortable with. We took time to make sure that this was drafted correctly, and we felt like this was the right wording in here.

Reporter Chris Jones said there's legal research here, I'm particularly fascinated with "US Supreme Court US v. Miller, etc. – who digs that up? Where did this come from? Commissioner Osterberg answered some of this was given to us and some of it was researched by our Solicitor to make sure that we are doing things within in our powers to do and agree with. Solicitor Farley added that it ties into the recent cases from the Supreme Court. It was suggested from a certain group, and I've been in two townships and the Commissioners' made changes to their suggestions.

Reporter Chris Jones asked what's the group? Commissioner Osterberg said he believes there is a group in this County called the Second Amendment Group and they're feeling that they're rights are being threatened.

Reporter Chris Jones asked would Commissioner Waldron like to expatiate on his nay vote? Commissioner Waldron answered my reason for voting nay is that I am certainly not opposed to the Second Amendment, I think that the Constitution and the Amendments speak for themselves. I did not see the need to single out an Amendment to be recommended. On the other hand, I appreciate that the Commissioners who did vote to approve it, they did not accept the language that was so restrictive that it only applied to one Amendment. If you read it through, it also says that they are supporting all of the Amendments of the Constitution. There are rights under the Bill of Rights and additional Amendments give the right to vote to women, to people of color to lots of other representations. To single out one, didn't seem appropriate. I'm certainly supportive of the Second Amendment, but I am not supportive of the idea of having to pass a special Resolution for that purpose.

A meeting attendee, Sean Strub, said they have two questions. One, did the Commissioner who voted for this believe this was important or necessary, are they not concerned that it could hurt, or add to the polarization of the community and why didn't they give opportunity for public discussion before they voted on it? Commissioner Osterberg said he believes that supporting the Second Amendment isn't any different that someone come in here and felt that their rights were being violated under the First Amendment or the Third Amendment. Public discussion about this? I'm not sure that is a requirement. It's why we're elected to make these decisions. Some people are going to agree with our decisions and some people are not. I don't think it's a polarization because if you read this, we're saying we support the Second Amendment, but we also support every other Amendment in the Constitution also. It's just that there are people in our community that feel like this Amendment needed to be recognized.

A meeting attendee, Meg Rosenfeld, said her question is specific. Of course, having any such rights violations which is something that everyone should be taking seriously, my question is specifically what instances were concerning and how does this Resolution actively address those concerns? Commissioner Osterberg answered he was not sure there were any concerns at this moment, but I think what it's saying is that we support the Second Amendment as it's written right now. We're also saying that we're not going to support anything that's considered to be unconstitutional restrictions. That's not for us to determine, that's for the (U.S.) Supreme Court and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The meeting attendee said I must have misunderstood. I thought that you said there were concerns about Second Amendment rights being violated and I was curious as to what those violations to rights were that needed to be addressed by the Commissioners? Commissioner Osterberg responded I think they feel like their rights are being attacked. I don't think anything is being taken away yet, but I believe they feel that

their being attacked. They're here and I will let them speak if they want to speak to how they feel. We're here to support their concerns. Commissioner Schmalzle added this is not something we took lightly, and we've been in discussion about this over a long period of time. I think most of you know that I am a four-generation person here and I do this to reaffirm the responsibilities that I have as part of this office, but also as a respect for the generations that have come before me and have lived in harmony in this wonderful community. My parents, grandparents and great grandparents and on, this has always been a county that I saw as very supportive, and an important part of their life was support of the Second Amendment. I don't think there are instances that I'm aware of, but what I'm saying is I am reaffirming my responsibilities, as a Commissioner, by taking that oath and we felt it was important that that message be loud and clear that we will protect it as we will any other Amendment.

A meeting attendee, Courier Reporter, asked to what extent is the County willing to go in a situation like this? I saw on-line where an ATF agent elected to go to an individual's home and demand to see all his weapons and take, basically, an inventory of it. Local police came and forced the ATF agent on the ground and forced him to identify himself and wouldn't allow him to violate that individual's right to keep and be armed. My question is what is the County's position on something like this: if an ATF agent comes to somebody's home, should they call the Sheriff's Department? State Police? Local Police Departments? if they feel their rights are being violated? Commissioner Osterberg said I think there are a lot of components to that. Solicitor Farley added there is a lot of issues their sir, the County doesn't deal with many of those issues you just addressed. We are just a legislative body dealing with the County issues, all of those would be police issues, it is not a County issue. The meeting attendee continued that I was present when Shohola passed a similar bill and they had stated if government agencies of any kind came and were going to violate anybody's rights they were not going to assist in any way. Solicitor Farley responded, with all due respect to the Second Amendment group, they had provided to me as Solicitor for the County, Delaware Township and Lackawaxen Township, something similar to that and respectfully I said at this point I can't support that particular language as you'd written it and they were kind enough to listen to me and they made the changes and, in fact, as Solicitor I do not object to the Resolution that was presented to me later. I think they addressed those concerns in the Resolutions that I, as an attorney, could say I agree with to those two Townships and the County. None of that language is in this Resolution sir, none of that is in that Resolution as presented and as approved. Okay? To me it still doesn't explain to me what the County's position would be in a situation like that. Solicitor Farley responded none – we have no position, we don't deal with the State Police, we have no authority to them. Commissioner Waldron added we have no supervision over police at all. The meeting attendee said he understands that.

Meeting attendee Sean Strub said he has not heard any elected official in Pike County who opposes the Second Amendment, what I'm concerned about is, Ron you spoke about generations living in harmony, is this Resolution contributing to harmony in our County? Commissioner Schmalzle responded I hope the harmony is that they elected a person that's going to stand up to the amendments that are existing. I would hope that that creates harmony, yes.

Dingman Township Supervisor, Theo Balu, thanked the Commissioners for standing up for the Second Amendment groups and everyone in the County basically who feel some of their rights may be, in the future, trampled on or stricken away. It is a very important subject, it can be polarizing, but what the Commissioners have done here is basically reaffirmed that they're here to support and defend our Constitution and the State's Constitution. The sentiment to the people, the residents of this County, is that these elected officials are here to support them and the Constitution. Thank you very much.

Meeting attendee, Matthew Contreras, Milford Township, said congratulations to all the Election people who received awards and voted for 70 years. I am the Judge of Elections for Milford Township and I think that is a community service that doesn't get enough recognition, not just in our community, but all over the Country. It is a dedication and the people that work in the office are wonderful people and we have a great Election Director (Nadeen Manzoni), and we should all give her a round of applause – she's really great. On the Second Amendment Resolution, I think I agree with Commissioner Waldron, the Second Amendment is the Second Amendment, it shall not be infringed is pretty clear. I also think the Commissioners have a right to chime in on it and any number of topics they like to chime in on, they have. They made a statement for January 6th, they made statements for public health and passed ordinances for a number of different things. To Mr. Farley's point, in terms of the legal obligation of the County, the fact of the matter is we addressed this too with the Governor's "Stay At Home Order" correct? That if the Sheriff was contacted to enforce the Stay-At-Home Order, that was up to the local authorities, the Municipalities and the State Police, not the Sheriff's Department and that would be the County. I think they really don't have a say in that, but they can support any number of things as they have. I have probably five or six different ordinances and articles, including that Pike County Commissioner Statement on January 6th. They're allowed to chime in. Also, part of the Commissioners' job is with the State Representatives, ask for funding, ask for different things – they are allowed to do this. I wasn't able to attend last month's meeting, but I take objection with Mr. Farley's assertion with what the Election Code says with regard to what the process is and what we're able and what we're not able to do as Judges and Inspectors at the local precincts at the polling places. The Election Code does not say that we can't touch the ballots obviously and the ballots are not secured. They are not locked up until we, as Inspectors and Judges of Election, have locked them up. Then we bring them to the County. The language saying that we are unable to do a hand count at the polling place is unclear really. It doesn't say we cannot and doesn't say we can. There's actually a court case now brewing that may decide that. We'll see how that plays out. We'll agree to disagree and that'll be that. Nadeen (Manzoni) is a fantastic Director,

but she is an unelected official. The elected officials at the polling places are the Judges of Elections and the Inspectors. She is not an elected official and we do have some local say at what happens at the polling place in the Code. Solicitor Farley said we're going to disagree with that. Mr. Contreras replied okay, that's fine. Solicitor Farley said you're elected to be for that particular polling place, to make sure that everyone is entitled to vote and that there's no disruption. Mr. Contreras agreed. Solicitor Farley continued the Election Board supported by the three Commissioners except the year they are running, determines the policy and procedures for this County and Nadeen (Manzoni) works for us and represents all the policies. Mr. Contreras agreed. Solicitor Farley continued, you as the Judge of Election is supposed to support those policies. Mr. Contreras agreed. Solicitor Farley continued; our policies are based on the Statutes that presently exist. We make darn sure that everyone gets a chance to vote and, particularly, we have provisional ballots that you as Judge of Elections make sure, that if there's a dispute, they get one, so they get their vote. You can never not get their vote back and decide later, on Friday or that night, if their vote counts. The only part you and I disagree on, the court may decide that, but the principles and policies we have you need to abide by as Judge of Election. Mr. Contreras agreed and continued, with that in mind, from the Election Code, the oath states that 'I do swear and affirm that I will as Judge duly attend the ensuing Election or Primary during the continuance thereof, and in cooperation with the Inspectors, faithfully carry on the same; that I will not give my consent to the admission of any person to vote, except such as I firmly believe to be registered and entitled to vote as such Election or Primary, according to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth, and that I will use my best endeavors to prevent any fraud, deceit, or abuse in carrying on the same, and that I will make a true and perfect return of the said Election or Primary, and will at all times impartially and faithfully perform my duty respecting the same, to the best of my judgment and ability; and that I am not directly or indirectly interested in any bet or wager on the result of this Election or Primary'. Mr. Panzer last month said that part of the contention for people is the machines and as a Judge or Inspector, I can't be sure that the machine necessarily is doing what the machine is supposed to do. Solicitor Farley said it is not your decision. Mr. Contreras said I'm not saying it's my decision, it's not my decision. The oath is asking me to make sure that the return of the voter is correct right? I cannot 100% say that it's correct if I'm unsure of what the machine is doing. We can disagree and let the court decide. Solicitor Farley said no – so the public knows, that's not your role sir. You do not make the final decision, you are just working for all the residents to make sure that everyone who has a right to vote or believes they have a right to vote, so they get a provisional, is put in and counted. Then, it's the Board of Elections' job as determined by the State to use those scanners to vote at your polling place and all the other ones and then to be done here and reaffirmed on Friday. No offense, but your opinion on whether or not you trust those machines is not relevant to your role as Judge of Elections. Therefore, your role as Judge of Elections is just to make sure everyone gets to vote. Mr. Contreras said I heard you; you're repeating yourself. Solicitor Farley said I don't want the people to think you have authority that you don't. Mr. Contreras said what I'm telling people is that it is currently being litigated what that authority is, we'll see what it is. Mr. Contreras continued, my second point is this, the Commissioners agreed to an additional Canvassing last month of more than one precinct. Election Director Manzoni said it was open to discussion. Mr. Contreras continued we had a discussion about it, what we'd ask for is that we put it on the agenda for next month, not necessarily for this election, for future elections. Director Manzoni replied that would be at an Election Board meeting, which are all open to the public. Mr. Contreras said, finally, Pike County Commissioners made a statement/ordinance concerning the Second Amendment, we'd also like to see a statement or an ordinance/resolution, whatever you want to call it, concerning election integrity and I have a draft here. Mr. Contreras read aloud the draft of his proposed resolution. Mr. Contreras continued, as the Election Board has been told many times, the problem in Pike County has been the voter registration requirements and we think you should continue to ask our representatives to change those requirements. Commissioner Waldron said he'd like to address that. Quite frankly, I will oppose any such proposal, however, you should be aware of the fact that just last month or two months ago was my first opportunity to go to a convention of all the County Commissioners. It was the 136th Convention of that organization and, in fact, I came to realize that at least for those people who have been around longer than me, it is the first time that there was ever a contentious vote, and the vote was put forward to recommend to the legislature that Act 77 be repealed. That was shot down by all the County Commissioners that were there by a two to one vote. Mr. Contreras said I'm not talking about all those Commissioners; I'm talking to you three. Commissioner Waldron replied, quite frankly, I think it's safe for me to say that Pike County voted against it, for good reason. Commissioner Osterberg added I think what we have is a fair and equitable election. The machines work. Mr. Contreras asked you believe mail in voting is a wonderful thing? Commissioner Osterberg answered I do. Mr. Contreras replied I'm glad I have you on the record for that. Meeting attendee, Kim Reno, Judge of Elections for the Borough, said she just wants to let the Commissioners know she agrees with them. It is a fair election. Every year we've done it. Pike County, no problem at all. The way it's run we have no problems.

The Courier Reporter said I'm reporting for a newspaper, I want to make sure that my position that I'm going to be stating is correct. In Shohola, all they said they were going to do was if the ATF came to any of the law enforcement agencies and said we'd like you to come along with us because we're going to go to so and so's home, they said no we will not support that, if you're going to go, you've got to go on your own – we're not going to become a part of it. I'm not expecting any of you guys to wrestle with ATF agents or anything like that, or if somebody calls you call the Sheriff and send them over there, but they just said they would not assist. Is that the position of this Resolution? Commissioner Osterberg asked who is it in Shohola that is not going to assist? I'm confused. Do they have a police department? He continued what they did was the Township Supervisors had stated that the reason why they brought this Amendment up was because they were going to decide what they were going to do in a situation like that. Solicitor Farley replied, I will say it again, it was specifically taken out, those

paragraphs that you're emphasizing. This Resolution does not state those issues period. It just supports the Second Amendment.

Meeting attendee, Bob Roche, founding father of Pike County Second Amendment Sanctuary, said thank you to the Commissioners for passing this Resolution and joining the nine townships throughout Pike County to have also adopted this Resolution. People that have signed our petitions, just some of them, would also like to thank you for standing up for their rights and for the people that are against it, the majority of the people have spoken. The voters, the public, and the township Supervisors. Once again, I would like to thank the Commissioners for standing up for the Second Amendment and showing that this issue is something that is constantly under attack, and we are now united within the County to stand up. On this 21st day of September, we have officially become the 21st County in Pennsylvania to be a Second Amendment County.

Meeting attendee, Patty Combs said Bob Roche and herself are the founding members of the Second Amendment Sanctuary. Thank you so much for reaffirming your oath and standing up for all of our rights and standing for the Second Amendment. I don't think this is a polarizing issue, I think it's very important that we come together and stand together and uphold our Constitution and uphold our rights. Thank you.

Meeting attendee, Richard Panzer, asked if there were a problem with the voting machines tabulating ballots, in person ballots, how would you know whether the machines were working properly or not? That's my question. Commissioner Osterberg responded said on Friday the Canvass of the Vote is a check and balance between the machines and the ballots. Elections Director Manzoni explained that prior to deploying our voting systems, we do logistic and accuracy testing where we bring multiple ballots through every single system that we deploy on Election Day and then we print out the reports, do a mock election and print out the reports and compare it to the results we think we have from the expected results of pre-marked ballots that we use during testing. We know that they are tabulating directly when we send them out. During the Canvass of the Vote, we go over the results that were printed from the election and also hand count a precinct that equals 2% of the total voter turnout and we also participate in a statewide risk limiting audit with every other County in the State. Mr. Panzer asked if they could observe the hand count? Director Manzoni said the Canvass of the Vote is open yes. The Canvass this time around is going to start at 9AM on Monday, November 14th because Friday is Veterans' Day and the County closed. It's open to the public, you're welcome to come and watch the process. Solicitor Farley added every candidate can also come, the whole purpose is to be open and transparent, so everyone sees the count. Mr. Panzer asked if Dominion machines have a modem which allows internet access? Director Manzoni said it does not. Some States do allow internet connectivity when uploading and downloading the database, Pennsylvania does not. It's not like Dominion has a big warehouse where they ship out a one size fits all machine, the systems are built and designed per State certification and prior to us being able to purchase them, our Department of State checks to make sure that all the software, hardware and everything is compliant with our State laws. Mr. Panzer said it is his understanding that Dominion voting system is allegedly proprietary about their software, and they have resisted independent experts to examine their machines. If you could help me, find out who in Pennsylvania is actually examining these machines. My understanding is that the same people who sell those machines and run the machines, is there any computer expert here in Pike County who examines these machines? Director Manzoni answered as far as opening it? A forensic audit of the machines? That's been done, Fulton County did it. They had an independent party, and I don't remember the case, but it was right after 2020. You're actually compromising the security by turning your voting system over to a third party for a forensic audit. Mr. Panzer said we're in a catch-22. Director Manzoni said the Department of State certifies systems and make sure the systems are compliant with State laws. They certify five different vendors, and every County across the Commonwealth has their choice of which voting system they can use. Mr. Panzer asked if you can help me to know who is verifying these machines? Director Manzoni answered the Department of State certifies the machines. When they get here, we don't open them up to make sure that they have inside them what they're supposed to. We just know that they have been tabulating for us correctly. They're audited, they're tested prior to every election and there is zero evidence that they have built in algorithm or anything else out there. Mr. Panzer states the Department of State is not a human being, so when you say Department of State verifies something I think what you're saying is they hire somebody. Director Manzoni answered no, Zane and Alex at the Department of State, their technology department, those are the people that we deal with, I know their names and I've met them. They are the department within the Department of State, the I.T. Department within the Department of State that goes over the machines and certifies them after being federally certified by the EAC. Mr. Panzer said those two individuals personally examine the machines? Director Manzoni answered yes. They examine each machine before each election, or they do it when the machines are being recommended to be purchased? Director Manzoni answered once we recommend it for purchase. Mr. Panzer said so they do it one time before it's recommended for purchase, but you're not saying they verify the machines? Director Manzoni said they don't go from County to County and check to make sure that every piece of equipment is exactly what it's supposed to be that they certified. Mr. Panzer said he is arguing that we're putting a lot of trust to independent vendors and only they can look at the machines after it's verified by the Department of State before it's recommended to be purchased by all the Counties. There's a lack of accountability. As I stated at the meeting two weeks ago, there was a problem with a Dominion machine in DeKalb County, Georgia and the only reason they found out is that the machine reported there were no votes for this candidate in her precinct and she knew that she and her husband voted for her. She knew there must be at least two votes for herself and when they checked these infallible machines, it found that there were 2,800 votes that suddenly they discovered for her than recorded by these infallible machines. Director Manzoni said we build our elections out of a database within our election management software, and we enter in all of the candidates on all of the offices to be voted for in that particular election. Once that election is sealed, no more changes can be made. Last minute changes in DeKalb, Georgia because of the redistricting process there after the Census, were made and it was user error on the County Elections Office that failed to update the database

which caused the results to not report correctly. It wasn't the machine, it was themselves, it was user error. I hope that everybody would keep in mind we have implemented in our State an entirely new method of voting during a high-profile election (the 2020 election) amid a global pandemic. Anytime we're introducing something new, it's a learning curve for everybody.

Reporter Chris Jones stated many speakers at today's meeting identified themselves as members of an organization, does Dr. Panzer wish to identify himself as member of an organization? Mr. Panzer answered I am a citizen of Milford.

A meeting attendee said what is problematic to him and a lot of people who have questions about election integrity and just the process itself, the condescension, the watch looking by the Solicitor and stuff like that. The public has every right to ask questions; about the machines, about election integrity; about their First and Second Amendment rights and the condescension from the four of you – it's really disgusting. Nadeen, when asked a question, no condescension whatsoever – she's always there with an answer ready to give us information. To the Solicitor, at any time, the Board of Elections is allowed to put a referendum for the County whether the County would like, because that's in the Election Code also, to go back to paper balloting and get rid of the machines entirely.

Commissioner Osterberg said we've never been just paper ballots. Prior to this machine, we had a touch machine. When you touched the machine, where'd your vote go? The meeting attendee answered it spit out a printer.

Commissioner Osterberg said no, it did not. This is the part where the information given out is not correct. The paper ballots were added in this County in 2019. The meeting attendee said what we're calling for is hand counted paper ballots. Commissioner Osterberg asked only (paper ballots)? The meeting attendee answered only.

Commissioner Osterberg asked and how do we count them? The meeting attendee said every country in Europe seems to do it. Commissioner Osterberg answered there are 350M people in this country. The meeting attendee said I'm only saying the 58K people in Pike County. Since you like to be a bastion of this and that for everything else, the Second Amendment and January 6th Committees, why don't you be the first County in Pennsylvania and institute paper ballots because you have the authority to do it. It's your authority put it in as a referendum item and let the people of Pike County decide. You won't do that because you want to rule the little fiefdom.

Meeting attendee, Nicholas Mazza, Chairman Board of Supervisors for Blooming Grove Township, said he wants to commend and recognize Brian Snyder for his outstanding service to the townships. He is a big asset for Blooming Grove on working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan – thank you.

Meeting attendee, John Plummer, employee at the Pike County Correctional Facility, Food Production Supervisor, said he is responsible for training and supervising inmates who work in the PCCF preparing food for other inmates and facility staff. I've been asked to address the County Commissioners. We have been dealing with several issues for the last four years, which according to the SOP falls outside the Grievance Procedure. Attempts to address these issues with our superiors at the facility has led nowhere. Since October of 2018 we have been understaffed and since COVID started, it's gotten worse. Currently two supervisors are doing the work of three supervisors on each of the AM and PM shifts. At least four days per week there's only one supervisor on duty. This leads to reduce safety – to inmates and employees alike. We also have 50% fewer inmate workers and mean supervisors are doing pretty much the work that was previously done by inmates. We're unable to watch the inmates while doing this work because our backs are turned and we are regularly and repeatedly told from our Warden and the workers to lock doors to get supplies and equipment, lock up knives and dangerous tools and there are no supervisors on the floor during those moments. One supervisor working per shift reduces availability for sick time. This would leave no one on duty or requires someone to work overtime. Overtime is heavily restricted. This leads to exhaustion and burnout. We are unable to hire personnel. Some of this can be post-pandemic attitude, some can be attributed to poor advertising, much of this is due to the inequity of compensation within the facility. The starting wage for officers is significantly higher than kitchen workers. They're annual increases are even more significant. Officers who start on the same day that I started four years ago are making \$1.85 more than I did in that time. They are now making \$18.00 more per hour. Addressing these concerns with the Warden over the past few years the response has been we are not part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and we should start our union. In an attempt to do so, I've been informed by AFSCME (American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees) that as County employees we should have been offered membership from day one, instead we've always been told that this union is only for officers. We would like to know that we can count on you concerning some of these issues. Commissioner Osterberg said that is news to me, we have been working diligently at the Correctional Facility to see the wages are increased, not just for the CO's. We understand that the CO's were very understaffed when we made those changes. I hear you, I'm sure the other two also. We respect everything that goes on in the facility, whether it's the kitchen, CO's or clerical staff. I thought we addressed this, and we will address it. We understand how hard it is to employ at that facility, that's why we did what we did with the CO's. We were down at one point 30 CO's which is dangerously low. As far as advertising, I believe we do advertise. If you think we can do a better job, I'm here to tell you we'll do a better job and talk to the Warden. This is also a Prison Board discussion not just the three County Commissioners. We will take this under consideration.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022, AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.