

### **Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

The first regular meeting of October, 2023 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 before we can approve the Agenda we have to make an Amendment on here to include an item under New Business, it will be (item) number 15; Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the ALOA Security Professional Associates Inc. Agreement, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to amend today's Commissioners' Meeting Agenda to include an additional item under New Business.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the October 4, 2023, Agenda, as amended.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 20, 2023, Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. (Commissioner Osterberg abstained due to his absence.)

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 27, 2023, 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 **\$1,041,723.36**, subject to further review.

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

#### **PERSONNEL**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Lowe advising that he has hired the following individuals as full-time Correctional Officers, for the Correctional Facility, for a 40-hour work week, effective October 10, 2023, with benefits after 90 days: **KIMBERLY CURULLI, BROOKE GUNDERMAN, AND JUAN RODRIGUEZ.**

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Lowe advising that he has hired **JOHN PHRANER** as full-time Administration Clerk for the Correctional Facility, for a 40-hour work week, effective October 10, 2023, with benefits after 90-days.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to create the position of temporary part-time Accounts Clerk for the Correctional Facility, for less than 1,000 hours per year.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Lowe advising that he has hired **KATHLEEN CRONIN** as temporary part-time Accounts Clerk for the Correctional Facility, for less than 1,000 hours per year, retroactive to September 20, 2023.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to promote **JAMIE WAGENHOFFER** to Assistant District Attorney III in the District Attorney's Office, effective October 23, 2023.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to create the position of Justice Opioid Resource Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office for a 37.5- hour work week.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **AMANDA WALKER** as part-time Dispatcher for the 911 Center, for less than 1,000 hours per year, effective October 7, 2023.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to transfer **DAWN SCHREPPPEL** from the Correctional Facility to Dispatcher Trainee for the 911 Center, for a 40-hour work week, effective October 16, 2023.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to create a part-time Legal Secretary

position in the Office of Children & Youth Services, for less than 1,000 per year with no benefits.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **NICHOLAS MCINTYRE** as Special Counsel for Children & Youth Services, retroactive to October 2, 2023, with benefits after 90 days.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to appoint **JASON OHLIGER** as Special Counsel for Children & Youth Services.

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

*Motion to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Salary Board Meeting. A Salary Board Meeting was held.*

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award bids for the purchase of Groceries and Frozen Foods for the period of November 1, 2023, to February 28, 2024, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, to Mivila in the amount of \$183,507.39; Sysco in the amount of \$41,521,87, and Bernard in the amount of \$15,194.20.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award bids for the 2023-24 Winter Maintenance of County Roads to Lattimore Construction.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open bids for the George Street Parking Project.

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

Solicitor Farley announced there are two bids and opened them. The first one is from High Point Electrical, total lump sum bid amount \$73,040.00; and the other is Tony's Concrete Construction, total lump sum bid without the contingencies \$356,250.00, with the contingencies \$368,250.00, that's for the concrete. I will ask that the award be tabled to be reviewed by the engineer. Commissioner Osterberg asked if that includes the paving? Solicitor Farley answered I guess, sidewalks, concrete, yes.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked Commissioner Osterberg what's the George Street Parking Lot Project? Commissioner Osterberg answered right on the corner here of West George Street and Broad Street. Chief Clerk Gromalski added actually it's behind it. Reporter Ehrler asked you're paving it? Commissioner Osterberg answered yes.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the awarding of bid for the George Street Parking Project until October 18, 2023.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 23-37 Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2023.

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

Commissioner Waldron read Resolution No. 23-37 aloud.

Commissioner Osterberg said there are representatives here today from VIP (Victims' Intervention Program), thank you for all you do. This is an important topic, unfortunately, that we have to face as do many communities as we have here in Pike County, and we appreciate all you do to take care of the needs of those individuals.

Chelsea Falotico of VIP said thank you, and you guys see us here all the time. Sadly, we're still here, our moms are here, our grandmothers are here and, I fear that we will continue to be here until you are long away from us, but every year when we come, we always bring something educational for the community and you. I thought we would change it up a little bit and talk about what you guys you do and the importance of your work. Every year we talk about how important our work is, and what we do, but I want you to understand the impact that you have by reading these Proclamations. We know that Proclamations don't change the law. You're not writing anything into law today, but what they do is help us spread awareness about certain topics that are important to us and our community. They give us the opportunity to educate you and the public on these topics and it's your opportunity to show support for the public that you serve. More importantly, Proclamations, by reading and signing a Proclamation, you're setting a very clear message to survivors who are affected by these issues that you care. Whether it be domestic violence, trafficking, rape, hate crimes or any other form of violence by reading and acknowledging Proclamations that come across your desk, you are telling the people who live in your community that you care about them – you unconditionally care about them. You care about their happiness and their safety and their quality of life. You are there to stand up against violence, hatred and bullies and you're telling people, your people who voted you into office, that you care about them unconditionally. You're telling people who have visually gone unseen, unheard, and unrecognized that you in fact do see them, you hear them, and you recognize what they're going through and the unfairness of it. Whether they think, act, vote or love like you, you believe that they deserve respect and safety, because they do, we are all humans. Can you imagine the message you'd be sending if you didn't sign these Proclamations? Thank you for caring about our community and the people that we serve and our agency as a whole. Thank you for acknowledging these survivors, we hope you continue to do this for us and for all other

agencies that come seeking your help and support.

The Commissioners thanked Chelsea Falotico and Commissioner Schmalzle added to keep up the good and hard work. Commissioner Waldron added that they will never get tired of you coming here, it would be great if there was a day where you didn't have to, but I also think it's important for you to point out all the communities being affected by this. The other thing we've come to realize is the increase of attitude of hate against certain communities has poisoned the area because it makes it almost okay to do hate crimes and possibly worse. Obviously, you focus on intimate relationships being also a danger and that's unfortunate, but particularly for the community to be aware of the fact that it's not okay to hate. We're all in the same boat together and the more we work together, the more we can accomplish, but if we're at odds and just don't like you because who you are with or what you do, then that's really destructive in our community and we don't want that to happen.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked where you're (VIP) located? Chelsea Falotico replied we have an office in Pike County and Honesdale, Wayne County.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 23-38 Mental Illness Awareness Week, October 1-7, 2023.

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

Commissioner Schmalzle read Resolution No. 23-38 aloud.

Commissioner Osterberg said this is important, another reason to bring awareness to this is because as I was at the walk (Suicide Prevention Walk) a couple of weeks ago when they made the statement that suicide is preventable and we need to work as a community to make sure if we have friends and neighbors that are suffering through this, that there is help out there. There shouldn't be a stigma, they're suffering from mental illness. It's a major crisis in our Nation. We don't have enough services. We ask that all the time of our State officials and our Federal officials to bring more. They're getting better at it with the 9-8-8 number now for crisis intervention and for all of those things. Before that it was very difficult for people to reach out and get the assistance that they needed. It's important that we, as a community, always make sure that individuals in our community are being helped.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adopt Resolution No. 23-39 Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October 2023.

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

Commissioner Osterberg read Resolution No. 23-39 aloud.

Commissioner Osterberg said we've been notified to put this on the Agenda. Cancer is a scary thing in the world. Having been a cancer survivor myself, there's nothing scarier in the world when the doctor tells you that you have cancer. Again, a lot of the cancers out there, as long as we go to the doctor and make sure we're treated when we don't feel right, are somewhat preventable, I'm not saying all of them, but some of them such as breast cancer. If they're caught early it can make a difference in some of these lives. In my case, it happened to be bladder cancer and it was detected early on, but it was also life-changing for me, and it still is to this day. It's important that we make sure to tell our friends and neighbors that they're being treated correctly and they're going to the doctor and being aware of how their health is. This can affect your life and within one day your life is turned upside down for the rest of your life.

**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: Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2.0 in the amount of \$37,277.43; PHARE in the amount of \$1,342.58; Human Services Development Fund in the amount of \$4,000.00; Homeless Assistance Program in the amount of \$2,000.00; and State Food Purchase Program in the amount of \$513.28.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the Affordable Housing Fund Payment Voucher in the amount of \$2,923.00, payable to Delaware Run Associates, 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 Pike County Home Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$6,000.00, payable to Frank DeEsch, 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 the Contract Amendment for Extension Request letter, 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 the Grant-In-Aid Award Notification/Invoice for 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$130,804.00, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Title IV-D Legal Services Agreement between Sarah Wilson, Esq. and Jennifer Onofry, Esq., on behalf of the Pike County Domestic Relations Section.

**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 Vector Security Fire Alarm Inspection three (3) year agreement, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

**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 Department of Corrections Mutual Aid Agreement, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

**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 PREA Auditor Consultant Services Agreement, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the fiscal year 2023 second quarter payment from the Pike County Emergency Medical Services Matching Grant fund to Matamoras Borough in the amount of \$6,050.00.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the fiscal year 2023 third quarter payment from the Pike County Emergency Medical Services Grant fund to Lackawaxen Township in the amount of \$82,712.53; Milford Township in the amount of \$15,000.00; and Dingman Township in the amount of \$88,005.60.

**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 ALOA Security Professional Associates Inc. Agreement, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

Commissioner Osterberg said just back to item 14, those are continued funds for the County Commissioners to fund the local ambulance services as you can see this continues year after year and that is what's allowing most of all of our Townships to provide adequate ambulance services to every resident in this County. Just so you know that's what actually (Items) 13 and 14 were that. There was different quarter of payments, but you can see monthly every Municipality in this County is funded through County tax dollars to help the ambulances run in this County as efficient as they're running right now as opposed to what they were doing three years ago when they were out of money. I think it's important that the residents understand – that's where some of your tax dollars are going. I think it's really well spent money to make sure that there's an ambulance ready no matter where you are in this County.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- PennState Extension Calendar of Events
- Aging Master Plan Listening Session, October 11, 2023, at 11:30 AM at Eastern Pike Senior Center in Matamoras- Lana Romeo – Lana Romeo of Pike County Area Agency on Aging was introduced. Lana Romeo said she is here to talk about the Master Plan. The purpose of the listening session is to have a conversation on a wide range of topics. These are important and interesting issues that face older people and people with disability every day. Your experience will help guide the Pennsylvania Department of Aging as it works toward developing a new Master Plan for older adults. The words Master Plan sounds like a really big deal. All it means is that there will be a public document that anyone can read that will help guide the Department of Aging along with other State agencies over the next ten years. The plan will help set priorities for new programs and improve existing programs. It may also be used to frame discussions with legislators about funding. Your participation in this process is critical so we can truly understand what older adults in Pennsylvania want and need. The situation is we all have a voice and it's extremely important that we use it. To sit next to a person and say, 'the State should do more'. If you're not going to open your mouth about it, how's the State supposed to know what you need. This is for caregivers as well, our seniors, your parents – come to this meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Voice your opinion – it's extremely important. The whole State of Pennsylvania is working on this Area of Aging, they're even doing senior center groups and having meetings about it. The State really wants to know what we want to help make a senior's life better. Thank you.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked where is that going to be? Lana said she has flyers (Matamoras Fire House) on October 11, 2023. We advise you to make a reservation because it's a free lunch! It starts at 11:30AM. Commissioner Osterberg said it is important that caregivers go and even if you think you don't need this discussion now, I can tell you that in a short amount of years, you will need this or somebody in your life will, or your parents will, and you will be that caregiver or you'll be a caregiver to a sibling. These things can occur overnight and to be a part of this is really important. You can at least hear if you don't have any suggestions of what should be done, you can hear what is being proposed and it may make you aware of what you may need in the future – it can happen overnight.

- Greater Pike Community Foundation and Human Services Office Presentation- Victims of Domestic Violence Grant – Director of Human Services, Robb Ruiz introduced himself and said he is here with Jess (Zufall) from the Greater Pike Community Foundation and we have been working together to create a program for permanent housing that's a spin off that came from Safe Haven that was an agency here in the community that decided to no longer be in existence, but gave all of their donations of money to Greater Pike Community Foundation to grow. With that came the caveat of a couple different things. Jess came to me, and we talked about what we could do together to create a program. What we (Pike County Human Services) do best is rental assistance and housing and I have a great team. We created a program to assist individuals of survivors of domestic violence to create some permanent housing. Our goal is to create a housing program and solution for survivors of domestic violence by offering assistance, rental assistance, security deposit, first month's rent and utilities. All of our information can be found on our website –[www.pikeforward.com](http://www.pikeforward.com). Our application is right online as well. Individuals can go online, fill out the application and make an appointment with our office and we can walk them through it. If you have any questions, please let me know, we are going live today.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked about more detail as to housing, where is the housing, how are people getting into the housing? Give us more granularity. Robb Ruiz answered the housing is a rental program. We don't find the housing unless they need housing location services. We can assist and try to point them in the right direction, that's another part of my office. The assistance is the rental assistance – first month security deposit, that is an opportunity for individuals to get out of the situation they might be in or create or start a brand-new life. However, they decide on what they want to do. We're just creating an opportunity for a specific population that needs assistance - another funding bucket, another tool in our toolbox, another opportunity.

Reporter Prest Ehrler asked Safe Haven offered 24/7 place for people to come, are you going to evolve into something like that, can you see that happening? Robb Ruiz replied that's not our department, that's not our issue. Commissioner Osterberg added that VIP came into place after Safe Haven went out. I don't think they have what Safe Haven had over on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. That hasn't been in existence for a long time. After they moved to over here, they closed that. Commissioner Waldron said I think it's a great program. Obviously, one of the things that came up in the reading of the Proclamation is being economically disadvantaged, I've got to get out of this situation, but how am I going to make that work? The idea that you can front money to get them into a location until they can get more established is really good. Robb Ruiz said that is one of the things we see all the time in our office, this exact issue. We're just having some money to address it. Another point I want to make is that there is absolutely no administration money coming out of this program with our office. We partnership with the Greater Pike Foundation, my office and the Commissioners' approval and support on this. We're not taking any administration money, we're just here to help the community and do the best that we can. Jessica Zufall added that from the Foundation's perspective, when I came on and learned about Safe Haven's Legacy Fund that was in place and money just sitting there, I reached out to Stephanie (Everson) and I presented at one of her meetings and opened it up that anybody working with this and looking for funds to reach out and people did. Human Services, VIP and Family Promise are all recipients of the micro grants. We put in place a way to collect data and information so that I can, in turn, write more grants to get more funding for what they're doing. That's the goal. Commissioner Waldron added that making lawyers that deal with domestic relations matters aware of this, sometimes somebody contacts them and says I need help, but I don't really have money. That makes it hard to say 'I'm just going to solve your problem for you'. If they knew there was a resource there, obviously VIP can pass that word on, but I think it might be helpful. It's easy for us to get that out, and I think we should.

## **PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ADJOURNMENT**

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023, AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**