

Wednesday, December, 20, 2023

The second regular meeting of December, 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 and Waldron; Chief Clerk Gromalski; Solicitor Farley and via telephone Commissioner Schmalzle.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda – NONE

Commissioner Osterberg announced, before we go any further, I want to recognize Mr. Waldron, this is his last meeting as County Commissioner. I just want to recognize him for his dedication to the County and we appreciate all the hard work he has done, and the residents of the County should also. He's been a very outstanding County Commissioner and we're going to miss him. Elections occur and this is where we are now. I just wanted to say thank you Tony. Thank you for your service and we recognize that. Commissioner Schmalzle also thanked Tony and said he appreciated all his hard work; it's been a pleasure working with you. Commissioner Waldron responded likewise and thank you.

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 December 20, 2023, Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the December 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the December 13, 2023, 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 the **GENERAL FUNDS (County Bills)** in the amount of **\$350,364.46**.

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

PERSONNEL

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to hire **STEPHANY BORGES** as a temporary Intern in the Office of Children & Youth Services, for less than 1,000 hours per year, retroactive to December 18, 2023.

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 Fresh Bread and Baked Goods for the period of January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2024, on behalf of the Correctional Facility to Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc. in the total annual bid amount of \$111,482.00.

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 Proposal for Special Inspection Materials Testing Services from Tectonic Engineering & Surveying Consultants, for the Bennett Ave Building 1 Renovations Project.

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

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the revised 2024 Holiday Schedule.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Contract Addendum between Service Access & Management, Inc. and Pike County, 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 authorize the Chairman to execute the A&B Door Sales & Service, Inc. Quote in the amount of \$5,604.00.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the Human Services Payment Vouchers, on behalf of the Office of Human Services: Emergency Rental Assistance 2.0 in the amount of \$10,924.71; Human

Services Development Fund in the amount of \$4,480.00; State Food Purchase Program in the amount of \$5,708.18; PHARE in the amount of \$138,797.00; and Whole Home Repair in the amount of \$16,119.66.

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

Commissioner Osterberg said I am going to ask for a Motion to approve 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, which have to do with Payment Vouchers from the Office of Human Services for different entities.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve those five (5) items outlined as 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as follows: Pike County Home Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$1,200.00, payable to Frank DeEsch, on behalf of the Offices of Human Services; the Pike County Home Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$1,200.00, payable to ProSolutions LLC., on behalf of the Office of Human Services; the Pike County Home Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$46.80, payable to GateHouse Media, on behalf of the Office of Human Services; the Affordable Housing Payment Voucher in the amount of \$310.64, payable to GateHouse Media, on behalf of the Office of Human Services; and the Affordable Housing Payment Voucher in the amount of \$58.75, payable to Recorder of Deeds, 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 2018 CDBG Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$15,808.75, payable to ProSolutions 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 execute the fiscal year 2023 fourth quarter payments from the Pike County Emergency Medical Services grant funds to Milford Borough in the amount of \$10,000.00; Milford Township in the amount of \$13,794.20; and Westfall Township in the amount of 106,970.70.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

- PennState Extension Calendar of Events
- Kinder Morgan Community Investment Contribution – Commissioner Osterberg announced we did this in the last number of meetings, and this has to do with the Emergency Service Training Program that is held on behalf of the EMS Services in the County. Kinder Morgan, the pipeline corporation that comes through the County, every year has donated \$10K toward that fund. Ten thousand dollars in that fund trains fourteen EMT's. As I explained at other meetings, this is a scholarship program that the County put together. We've put some heart money in there and what we do is if you are registered with a local ambulance service in Pike County, there is a full scholarship to pay for your training as an EMT in the County, held in Blooming Grove. This money, this \$10K, goes into that fund and this \$10K trains fourteen EMT's. The program has been extremely successful. I believe that we've done so far 70 to 80 trainings on this that has helped our EMS Services. You saw in the last motion, #11, that's the funding that the County is putting into EMS Services in the County as a match to the municipalities so that we can have ample ambulance services and has proven extremely successful. This is just another component of that, and we will continue to make sure that we're all safe in this County. It's companies like Kinder Morgan, they're here, they have a pipeline going through, but they recognize the importance of making sure we have safe and efficient EMS services.
- Chamber of the Northern Poconos Leadership Group – Commissioner Osterberg introduced Debbie Gillette from Chamber of the Northern Poconos Leadership Group. Debbie Gillette said the Chamber has hosted an adult leadership training program since 2001. We are the combination of the former Pike County Leadership and Wayne County Leadership into the now Leadership of Northern Poconos. Today's session, the group is all here today, they represent fourteen different businesses and organizations throughout Wayne and Pike Counties. They are all future leaders within our communities. Today's session is an overview of Pike County, the history of Pike County and how local and county government work. One of the things our leadership groups have to do is a community project. They decided at their second session in October that the importance of the youth of our community is key to future development and leaders within the areas that we work in. They have been working with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Lackawanna County, which also covers several other counties, and they met with their leadership team about a month ago. They will be developing a charter for Wayne and Pike Counties that will be under the umbrella of the Lackawanna, Monroe, Wyoming and Susquehanna are in that as well, but it's something the National Big Brothers/Big Sisters program was looking at. They wanted something in Wayne and Pike Counties, but these guys came up with the idea before the national program had a chance to implement it. They are going to become the council and the board for Wayne and Pike Counties and they will be looking for fundraising opportunities and children and adults to get involved. Adults become the Big Brother/Big Sister to troubled youth or underprivileged youth within the communities. You'll be hearing a lot more in the next few months in Wayne and Pike Counties about this program and it's all stemming from our current leadership group. We thank the Commissioners for having us today and we got a good look at how our county government works here. Commissioner Osterberg is going to join us for lunch later on and give us a good history lesson of Pike County too. We thank you for having us today. Commissioner Osterberg thanked Debbie and said we appreciate what you are doing in our community.
- Fentanyl Awareness Campaign Kick-Off – Commissioner Osterberg said Tony (Commissioner Waldron) is going to take charge of this, we also have some other speakers here to talk about this. This is a joint campaign between Carbon, Monroe and Pike Counties. We belong to the Joinder Board and we also belong to the group that deals with our drug awareness in our county and Carbon, Monroe, Pike is that group. We've taken some of the funds that we were awarded from the opioid lawsuits and we need to use that in different formats to address awareness and recovery. One of the things we're doing now is public awareness and this is what the Fentanyl Awareness Campaign is about. All three counties, between today and tomorrow, will be announcing the same format. This will be a billboard advertising campaign in the schools and in the community bringing awareness to this. We can be sure that people are educated in this fight. Commissioner Osterberg said Commissioner Waldron will take it over.

Commissioner Waldron thanked Commissioner Osterberg and said we've been discussing this with our partners and Commissioners in both Carbon and Monroe County. We've also employed an agency to help us get the word out. Certainly, everybody has heard about fentanyl and the dangers of fentanyl, but the fact that it presents a lethal problem in many ways was something we felt everybody needed to hear. I admit that I didn't even know as much about it as I do now. The fact that just a few grains of sand, the equivalent of that, can kill someone, is a serious concern. It's particularly a concern because of the way it's been showing up in the community. It's being laced in recreational drugs to the extent you want to call them recreational drugs, everything from other opioids, cocaine and methamphetamine and even marijuana. These are things that people, oftentimes, aren't aware that it's even part of what they might be using, thinking that they know what they're doing and the next thing you know, they can die. It's also showing up in pressed pills and those pills are being distributed in various ways. We think of this as potentially a problem simply for teenagers, people in school or young adults, that is certainly part of the focus for this campaign, but it's also a problem for people who are dependent on certain kinds of medications that's expensive, maybe they aren't covered, and they might be tempted to buy it on the street. They hear this pill which I would normally take is okay, well it may or may not be okay because oftentimes the fentanyl has been pressed into the pill as well. It's an insidious problem. We can't necessarily stop it, there are a lot of different elements to it, but what we can do, and we are going to do is make an awareness campaign. Some people will say that only happens in the cities, or somewhere else, no it's happening in Pike County. Shannon (Wisniewski) will certainly talk about it, she heads up our Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol as our DA (Raymond Tonkin) will also address it. From the point of view of caring about people surviving, we need to get the word out to be careful about what people are using, even a prescription pill we've heard of. For example, seniors may say I can't afford that pill and can buy it from so and so down the street. Maybe the person that is selling them might not be aware of the fact that it's laced with fentanyl. That's why you have to be really very careful, even if you're dabbling in recreational drugs, but also if you're buying prescription drugs through somewhere other than a pharmacy. That's a potential concern, even the mail opportunities. This campaign is designed to deal with that. We don't have a lot of billboards in Pike County but the electronic billboards that we do have are going to be utilized for this part of the campaign. It's also going to be showing up on FaceBook ads and other ways of implementing is it's going to be on electronic messaging in the schools, in Delaware Valley, Wallenpaupack and East Stroudsburg. There's going to be opportunities to get the word out in different ways.

Commissioner Waldron continued, sadly, we're fortunate to have money to pay for this, but it doesn't necessarily have to cost our taxpayers, because our County was diligent enough to sue settlement monies from the opioid crisis lawsuits that followed, primarily with the manufacturers of the opioids, but there's even the distributors and the major pharmacies. They have agreed to pay money because they were being sued and that money is being spread out throughout the United States and Pike County was fortunate enough to get several hundred thousand dollars to utilize that money. It is earmarked for specific purposes like this one. The other thing I would say is please understand how lethal this can be. I've shared with many people here that I am a recovering drug addict and alcohol, with 43 years of sobriety. I'm very proud of that, but as I've said even at meetings, if I took a drink or took a pill all those years ago, I didn't think there was any chance that I could die, there was, because I could have gotten behind the wheel, but nonetheless, in these situations somebody could be at a party and be talked into trying something once and they can die. This is really a much more urgent crisis than even the drug problem itself. Of course, the idea that people use drugs and why that's happening and how that flows into our country is another issue, we can't deal with that. What we can do is make people aware of fentanyl problems. We have a campaign and we're going to share some slides. Commissioner Osterberg asked Shannon Wisniewski of Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol to say a few words. Shannon Wisniewski said when we're looking at the fentanyl awareness campaign, we looked at a couple of different avenues as to how to get this across in Pike County. Carbon-Monroe-Pike has had an outpatient here for about four years now and a lot of the times we're still looked at as Catholic Social Services because they were our outpatient provider here for many, many years. You know maybe the phone number to call, and you know who to reach out to, this is more to make sure that the localized community sees what it is that we're working with and what are the dangers when we're looking at fentanyl. Shannon Wisniewski continued with a slide show presentation.

Shannon Wisniewski said we think it doesn't happen here, it does. Since 2020, according to the overdose free PA site, we've had fifty-one fatalities in Pike County. When we look at those deaths and what the composition of fentanyl it's over 92%. It's here, we know it's here. We're aware that this is what's going on, what do we do with it and making sure that families are aware. A lot of the time you will see us out at local events, and you'll see me handing out Narcan. You may think that you don't need Narcan, I'd rather you have it and never be in a position that you need it, then be in a position where you need it and you don't have it. Shannon Wisniewski continued with slide show presentation.

Shannon Wisniewski said we'll obviously be sharing the awareness campaign, and you should be able to do that through your social media as well. Sign up for the newsletter and being able to sign up to get Narcan and being able to sign up to get the disposal wraps. You can come into our office any day of the week and pick up this up. It's not something you have to wait for us to be out in the community. If you stop by, we're going to give it to you.

Shannon Wisniewski continued with slide show presentation.

Shannon Wisniewski concluded that this is only one of the ways we are trying to make sure we are utilizing the opioid settlement funds to make sure we are spreading awareness and making sure that we're giving people access to treatment they may need.

District Attorney Raymond Tonkin announced that this is a very important program to bring this awareness. I know people here are aware that fentanyl does kill people. They're not really aware of the ways that fentanyl can kill individuals. Commissioner Waldron has said a lot with basically what is people seeking substances, using substances and fentanyl being in them; but one aspect that's very important to myself, with my work especially with Dickson House, is the children that end up with issues of drugs being left around the home by caregivers. There was just a recent compilation done by TribLIVE out in Pittsburgh. They came to the conclusion, over a period of years, that drug deaths in children outnumber gun violence deaths, as they call them, two to one. Caregivers really need to be aware that other pills, other than fentanyl, can pose very risks to children. While they may have a certain prescription for something, not fentanyl, usually fentanyl is a patch used in an operating room or something, but they need to know that any exposure can kill a child. There was recently national attention given to a daycare in the Bronx where

there was drug dealing activity going on and several children (became ill or died), just with touching fentanyl. The idea with fentanyl was first devised by the pharmaceutical companies was in patch form so that it could be placed on an individual and go through the pores of their skin for long term pain relief. Those molecules can go through an individual's skin and become inside the body without being orally ingested. It really can pose very serious dangers to children. This is a great start toward that aspect of things. On the law enforcement side of it, we have seen tests come back if drug agents have purchased things such as cocaine or methamphetamine that has come back with fentanyl in it. That poses a great risk to somebody. They believe they're purchasing cocaine for use or methamphetamine for use and there's fentanyl mixed in. Fentanyl itself could be deadly, but even if it's not in of itself a fatal dose, those two drugs either cocaine or methamphetamine and fentanyl really send your body in two complete different directions. It can have very serious effects that way.

Reporter Preston Ehrler said he had a question for District Attorney Ray Tonkin. Reporter Ehrler said you've had several drug busts here in Pike County over the span of the last year or so, have any of those busts included any fentanyl related drugs, pressed pills, anything like that, that did have fentanyl in them? District Attorney Tonkin answered no.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked District Attorney Ray Tonkin have you had any arrests or seized any contraband that did have fentanyl here in Pike County? District Attorney Tonkin answered yes. I will say there was at least one death attributable to pills. One of the issues we run into cases is in the Tri-State area, that was a case of the pills, we believe, were purchased in another State, and then the person used them here and then passed way from them.

A meeting attendee asked if they are so dangerous why are they still available? I don't understand because they are so dangerous, you're selling marijuana. Commissioner Osterberg asked who is selling marijuana? Meeting attendee replied Pike County. District Attorney Ray Tonkin answered let us know, whoever they are is selling illegally, it's against the law – selling marijuana is illegal in the State of Pennsylvania. The meeting attendee clarified I'm talking about medical marijuana. Shannon Wisniewski of Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug & Alcohol answered when you're looking at medicinal marijuana, which is sold and regulated differently. The meeting attendee said I've seen everything, I'm seventy-seven years old and I've already seen it all, I don't care what you call it, medicine or what, it's still marijuana.

Commissioner Osterberg thanked Shannon Wisniewski and District Attorney Ray Tonkin and said he knows there are people fighting the fight when it comes to addiction and helping to make sure that we educate the public on all of this. Fentanyl is a dangerous drug, but these overdose deaths in our County has been going on for a very long time and we need to work together to address it however best we can.

Meeting attendee Christina asked where are you located, I might have missed where people can go in and get Narcan? Shannon Wisniewski said our office in Pike County is located at 10 Buist Road in Building 2. I'll make sure I leave cards with our hotline number and things like that. A lot of the times if there's community events, we'll bring it out. If there's people that can't get to our office, I'll come out and meet someone within the community. We do Narcan distribution to our local firehouses, emergency services and ambulance departments because we're the central organization for distributing Narcan within the County. A lot of the time, if it's in the schools, or things like that, we'll make sure to meet someone in the community if they can't get to us.

Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo asked would you say that maybe providing this Narcan or getting this grant to be applied to such, to the public in a sense almost is supporting their use of drugs by providing them with an easy and reachable, basically taking away the consequences of drug use? Not saying that they deserve the consequences, but don't you think it would almost be encouraging them to continue their use, knowing that this Narcan is so easily accessible and provided by the State? Shannon Wisniewski answered there's been a lot of research in regard to the providing of Narcan, whether or not that's giving a way to someone who's using, the problem is that opioid use affects the brain. We know that people aren't always thinking that clearly as if I use then Narcan is going to save my life. That thought process isn't always what's going through their brains. A lot of the times the Narcan distribution to the public is to the family and to loved ones of someone who's using because obviously the person using the opioids isn't going to be able to Narcan themselves if they overdose. It's the family members and friends being able to then turn around and help this person. A lot of the times when we distribute Narcan within the community, I put a sticker with our hotline number on it so that way the family members can call with that person when it happens. A lot of the times what we see in the treatment aspect is that overdose that they get saved from, is that first step to saying okay, I have a problem and I need help with this. A lot of people don't wake up everyday and say, hey let's do this to the point where I can't breathe. That's not the thought process that goes through when somebody is using; it's not a hey this is okay, it's how do we save your life until you're ready to do this yourself. We see this a lot like last year they approved the fentanyl test strips – to say you're going to be using, let's be sure that you're doing it in the most harm reduction way that you can. We're not saying that it's okay, we want you to get help, but let's make sure you are alive to do that.

Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo said I appreciate those terms. I do appreciate your compassion to the community and to the public, I just wonder do you feel that this mission would be less effective if you kept it toward distributing to emergency personnel and of those who may be going out to those calls rather than maybe providing crutches for family members and those who are addicted to such. Shannon Wisniewski answered I don't view it as a crutch to family members. They're not making those decisions. They're not making that decision to continue to use. When we're looking at how to make sure everybody is safe, we've come a very long way in Pike County for emergency services to get there as quickly as possible. There are a lot of places in our community where it is still taking ten minutes for somebody to get there.

Commissioner Waldron added the emergency responders are already equipped with it so they can go there, but quite honestly if there is somebody in that scenario that Shannon explained, you might save them having to go out to that house because the person is given that opportunity. Just because somebody is a drug addict doesn't mean that they can't have a meaningful recovery, I'm an example of that. You have to give them that chance. Is it possible that somebody can abuse that? Possibly, but as Shannon said, people don't say I'm going to overdose every time I use drugs. Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo said I can reiterate, I respect and appreciate the compassion toward our community, the dialogue and for others to know what you're doing and why you're doing it that way.

Shannon Wisniewski said that a lot of what we address is stigma because we see this so often. That misconception that is well this is just a crutch, this is how we're aiding people in their continued drug use. This is what we're doing

within this community. We're sitting here, with our District Attorney, with the Commissioners, with members of our Probation Department, to say yes, we know that these things are happening, and no it's not okay, but how do we get these people the help that they need? A lot of the work that we do with our Probation Department and District Attorney is to make sure that we're getting in touch with these people as early as we can to make sure they get the help that they need as early in the process.

Meeting attendee, Bill Messinetti, said he is very compelled to respond to this lady's questioning. As someone who, I lost my son to fentanyl poisoning. The level of ignorance that's out there, don't take offense to this personally, but there's a level above ignorance out there that's infuriating. I am trying to stay calm right now. Addiction is a disease, okay? My son didn't wake up in the morning and say, hey this is a great idea, I want to find out who has drugs, where I'm going get it, where am I going to get the money, and have all these obstacles in their way, before he even starts his day. My son said to me, dad I want nothing more than to be normal and to have a normal life. I don't want to be addicted. If these people that are out there who are addicted or not, if they accidentally get a fentanyl overdose, to say it's not fair to have the family member save their lives, when your son is lying on that ground and dying, you will save your son. There's nobody in this room that would not save their own son. For people to say that this help shouldn't be available, that this life-saver shouldn't be available, is really ignorant to say and you should do your research and do what my son told me to do. One day, when he was in Pike County Jail for possession of drugs, I said to him how could you, you just came out of rehab, how could you go back to taking drugs today? He said dad learn about addiction, and he hung up on me. I could have been angry and said he's just a drug addict, but I learned about addiction and I advise everyone in this room to learn about addiction. Commissioner Osterberg added we need to remove the stigma. Everyone needs to be saved in one form or another, it's a great program.

Meeting attendee, Tammy O'Brien, asked if there is tracking of who you give it to, anonymously? Shannon Wisniewski answered we have people sign off just that we reviewed the protocol. On the front of the Narcan when you open them up there's instructions for how to administer. One of the things that covers the Good Samaritan Act is calling 9-1-1. That's the only thing. We don't keep track, we don't keep a list of names of who we've given them to. We do say if you use it, you need to call us to get more, that's fine. We don't have any problem with that. We don't keep track if you've come in for three or four doses, but we do make sure that when we're distributing we're going through the steps of how to administer Narcan, that we're going through making sure you call 9-1-1, placing someone in the rescue position and to make sure the time our first responders get there that they are able to continue to help. Commissioner Osterberg added Narcan needs to be easily accessible to the public. When it first came out, the only place that you could get it was in drug stores. Speaking of stigma when it comes to that, which one of us wants to walk into a drugstore and ask the druggist for the Narcan so that everybody in the neighborhood can think that something is going on in our family when maybe there's nothing. I've seen parents who are on these types of opioids, I was very concerned that my dad, who at ninety years of age, would overdose on these. It was pre-Narcan, but that's what can happen. When you ask if we keep track of who has it, I don't think we want to keep track of who has it. If you want it, you go get it because you never know when you'll need it. Again, that's removing the stigma from this. People are suffering through this as you heard Bill (Messinetti) say, this is a calamity that's going on in our community, all over the Nation. We, as a community, need to work together to make sure that we save those individuals so that they can end up going into recovery and end up having a new life out of addiction. Addiction is a disease. All of us in this room probably know someone or have been affected by this closely. It's a horrific feeling to know that you have a loved one who passes away from addiction. If you could just figure out how to help them more, they could still be here. I don't really think we should care who has it. If you want it, come and get it. Shannon Wisniewski said one of things we do is we go out to the senior fairs. A lot of our folks are prescribed opiates, that need opiates to make sure they're maintaining their lifestyle. We make sure they're getting access to this; God forbid if they forgot that they took their dose. It can be an accidental thing; it doesn't always have to be a purposeful I'm trying to get high thing. A lot of the times that is where we are doing our drug disposal, I'll bring the disposal thing out to our drug fairs, out to our different aging events so people can get rid of additional medications that they don't need in their home. Even when we do our trunk or treats and things like that, I say to parents you don't know – these aren't the same drugs that were on the streets twenty and thirty years ago. You don't know what's in them. I hope you never need the Narcan, but I'd rather you have it as part of your medicine cabinet, than not.

Meeting attendee, Lauren Piccotti, asked when it comes to shelf-life or something like that, how long can you keep something like that in your home? Shannon Wisniewski answered most of them are two years. They actually looked at extending the shelf-life of Narcan to three years. A lot of them you will see now are coming out with that three-year life on them. If you do have an old one and you're not sure, you can go on-line and check the distributor as to whether or not that Narcan is one that is extended. Right now, on the top of them it has the expiration date. Meeting attendee, Lauren Piccotti, asked the education on all of it is huge because we were talking about the daycare. A child comes in and you don't know what their home life is or what they along the way got into, or someone has it in their purse, you don't know. The education around how to manage that, like you said in a rescue position, and knowing all of that, I wouldn't know. To get that education and to have that around and know these things is crucial for going forward and saving lives. You don't need the training for it, you just need to know very simple, basic steps.

Shannon Wisniewski said many years ago it was the injections. A lot of people were afraid of the injection portions, these are nasal sprays. They're a one dose nasal spray, you don't have to worry about if it's not an overdose, that you're going to hurt somebody by giving them Narcan. If they're passed out for another reason and they're not responding to pain stimuli, they're not responding, they have the blue in their lips, it could be something else, but administering Narcan isn't going to cause any additional damage.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked aside from learning past the stigma, the emotional aspect, is there an estimation of how much it will cost the County to keep our community or keep our families stocked with Narcan in their medicine cabinet? Shannon Wisniewski answered the Narcan that is distributed out of State and Federal funding, it's not coming out of County funding. It's though a grant through the State and Federal governments to make sure that we are distributing that. Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked if there's an estimation on that number? Shannon Wisniewski said she would have to look at what the distribution is because we're the center for Monroe (County) and for Pike (County), I'd have to look at exactly how many we are distributing in Pike. I will say,

typically, when I go out to an event, there are twelve in a case and we bring two to three cases depending on the event.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked how much one of those cases cost? Shannon Wisniewski answered I'd have to look at the number, what they're charging now. We can put in that request, and it will be sent to us from the State.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, said if anybody really cares about that, they'll come directly to you, but thank you. A meeting attendee said to keep people safe all you have to do is close the borders, that's where all the drugs come from. Commissioners Osterberg interrupted and said we're not being funny about it and I'm not going to be smart about it, you're at the wrong meeting. There's not much I can do about that. All I can do is protect the people of Pike County. You may have a point with that, but you'll have to take that up with the Federal legislators.

The meeting attendee then asked why Pike County raised taxes? Commissioner Osterberg answered we raised them 2.5 mils. The meeting attendee asked why? Commissioner Osterberg answered because we ran out of money. The meeting attendee said well if you ran out of money why are illegal immigrants getting \$2,500.00 for food and \$5,000.00 to get a car? Commissioner Osterberg answered they're not getting that from Pike County. The meeting attendee answered they're getting it from the government. You people are supposed to be Americans, I don't know where your heads are at – thank you, have a good day.

Commissioner Osterberg thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING FOR JANUARY 2024 MEETINGS:

THE REORGANIZATION MEETIGN OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY JANUARY 2, 2024 AT 11:30 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE REORGANIZATION MEETING.