

### **Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

The second regular meeting of September, 2023 of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Schmalzle 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.

Commissioner Osterberg asked if everyone would stand for a moment. We have the Marine Corp League here. Last week, unfortunately, we had the loss of (former Commissioner) Richard Caridi. He was a dear friend of mine; we were close friends. In 2011, I became really good friends with Rich when we first ran for office. He was a leader in our community, and he also taught me a lot about how to do this job and I am forever grateful to him for that. It was a sad day when I got that call. I was in Texas visiting my grandchildren, I was not hiding, but I got that call down there about Rich’s passing and it was a very emotional time for me at that moment. Rich lived a great life in this community. He served well in the Marine Corp League, he served in the Marines, but he also served our community. He was on the school board in Wallenpaupack, he served as a supervisor in Blooming Grove, and he served a great fifteen years here as a Pike County Commissioner and showed true leadership to this County every day that he came into this office. I just want everybody to bow their heads and remember Rich and remember his wife, Bunny, and his children. They are in our hearts today and in mine and will continue to always be in our thoughts and prayers as we move forward in our lives.

A moment of silence was held.

Commissioner Osterberg announced that we have the Marine Corp League here to do a presentation in remembrance of Rich and I’m handing it over to Gary.

Gary Brinks said he met Rich years ago, about 25 or 26 years ago. I knew who he was, and we were at some function here in Milford and he and (former Commissioner) Karl Wagner came walking over to me and Rich asked me where I got this hat. My grandchildren call me Pop-Pop, I have this hat that my daughter bought me and it read ‘World’s Greatest Pop Pop’ and he said I’ve got to get one and I said you got to go to Key West. Karl looked at him and said you got to go to the Key’s, any excuse to go to Key West is a good excuse. Then he saw I had a small EGA on my cap, a Marine Corp emblem. He said he was a Marine too. He introduced himself, obviously I knew who he was, and we became instant friends and before I knew it, I was in the detachment and he was our Chaplain at the time and he did a fantastic job for us. Every function we had he was involved, working our golf tournament and I’m very proud to call him a friend. There is no doubt in my mind, God’s going to embrace him in his loving arms in Heaven. Eternal peace until he meets with his loved ones again. We’d like to honor him with a soft rendition of Taps.

Bugler played Taps.

Gary Brinks continued, one last thing, I talked to Rich two days before his surgery and Rich, being Rich, he knew I had some serious health issues over the last two months, he told me I’m praying for your full recovery. Always thinking about the other guy – thank you.

Commissioner Osterberg agreed, Rich was always thinking about the other guy. We all miss him, and I know we all miss him in this office when he decided to retire, but that was his time. I know from that point on he enjoyed his grandchildren and his family and he travelled and I’m glad he had that time to be able to celebrate his life with his children. Thank you all and remember Rich and remember his family. Thank you, gentlemen, and thank you for your service.

***Public Comments/Questions concerning today’s agenda – NONE***

***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.***

Commissioner Osterberg announced before we do this next one we have one addition on here and that is to add to the end of the Agenda a motion to amend the Agenda to include an item under NEW BUSINESS, Resolution 23-36 National Recovery Month, September, 2023.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to amend the Agenda to include an item under NEW BUSINESS, Resolution 23-36 National Recovery Month, September 2023, Agenda.

**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, Agenda.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the September 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 September 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 **\$1,225,540.04**.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from the **EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND** in the amount of **\$159,634.05**.

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

### **PERSONNEL**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to promote **RENEE GIFFORD** to Second Deputy in the Recorder of Deeds office, effective September 25, 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 bid for the Re-Bid Bennett Ave Building 1 Interior Renovations Project (GC) to Charles W. Grimm Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,068,328.00. No Electrical Contract Bids were received for the project.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award bid for Bennett Ave Building 1 Interior Renovations Project Mechanical Contract to MYCO Mechanical in the amount of \$483,000.00.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award bid for Bennett Ave Building 1 Interior Renovations Project Plumbing Contract to LH Reed & Sons in the amount of \$141,584.00.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to re-advertise bids for Bennett Ave Building 1 Interior Renovations Project Electrical Contract.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to open 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.

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

Solicitor Farley announced we have three bids received. The first one is from Bernard Foods – so everyone knows, the bids are going to be completely different because each vendor selects certain items they wish to bid on and none of them bid on everything. Some may bid on a few and some may bid on most of them.

Bernard Foods - total bid is \$15,194.20 with the bid bond. The next one is from Mavila Foods – total bid \$223,720.69. The last bid is from Sysco – total bid \$175,102.89.

Solicitor Farley asked that a motion be made to table the awarding of bids until they are reviewed by the Prison Board Administrator.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the awarding of bid 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 the Commissioners' meeting of October 4, 2023.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award bid for the purchase of Fortified Flavored Beverage Bases for the period of October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, to Bernard Food Industries for the total bid amount of \$9,377.28.

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

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

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

Solicitor Farley announced that one bid, as always, each and every year from Lattimore Construction, no one else ever bids on this project. Lattimore Construction – the bid is \$577.50 per application for plowing; \$183.75 for sanding only; and \$288.75 for salting only.

Commissioner Osterberg said I know it's only the one bid, but we should table it, review it from last year's bid and see where we're at. Solicitor Farley said just so you know there's two of them, I apologize – one is for Bennett Avenue, the other two Brookstone for Stone Quarry Road and that's \$1,022.75 per application plowing and sanding; \$433.65 for sanding only; and then Old Owego, which also they do, would be \$531.30 per application plowing and sanding; and \$295.68 per application for sanding only. Commissioner Osterberg said we just want to look it over. He's bid on it for the last twelve years and I'm sure it's the same, so I'll need a motion.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to table the awarding of bid for 2023-24 Winter Maintenance of County Roads to the Commissioners' meeting of October 4, 2023.

**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 Federal Financial Report for the Kintz Creek Dam project.

**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. 23-35, a Resolution of the Pike County Commissioners Delegating Authority to the Executive Director of Human Services to Sign the Agreements for Residential Housing Inspection Services for the Whole Home Repair Program and Other Related Housing Rehabilitation Programs.

**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: Human Services Development Fund in the amount of \$19,857.06; Whole Home Repair in the amount of \$2,437.50; and State Food Purchase Program in the amount of \$824.04.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the Affordable Housing Payment Voucher in the amount of \$1,343.75, payable to Hailstone Economic, 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 2021 CDBG Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$11,031.25, payable to Hailstone Economic, 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 execute the Contract for Professional Services between Forensic Counseling Associates, LLC, 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 authorize the Chairman to execute the 2023-2024 Transportation Plan between Delaware Valley School District and Pike County Children and Youth Agency.

**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 Purchase of Service Agreement between the County of Chester 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 authorize the Chairman to execute the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) extension request letter for the funding for the Forest Hall Event Center Improvement 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 Pike County Fentanyl Awareness Campaign Agreement.

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

Commissioner Osterberg announced that that Agreement is coming out of and being paid for with the funds that were allocated to the County through the lawsuits against the opioid manufacturers. The County was one of the first counties to file lawsuits against them and then we were combined into some larger lawsuits, first with the State and then Nationally. This is the funding where that's coming from. We're beginning to spend those dollars with different programs. In a few minutes we're going to have the Resolution about awareness month, and we have Shannon (Wisniewski) to speak to it and we'll speak a little bit more about it.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve Resolution No. 23-36, National Recovery Month, September 2023.

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

Commissioner Waldron read aloud Resolution No. 23-36.

Commissioner Waldron added that forty-three years ago, some people in my community, including my family, convinced me that I needed to get treatment because I was an alcoholic and drug addict. Fortunately, I was able to lead a healthy lifestyle and it was the best thing that ever happened to me in my whole life, that's for sure. Not only because I was able to have a meaningful life and, fortunately, I was lucky to have not gotten married yet and hadn't put my problems on anybody other than my parents and my brothers and sisters. My brother is a doctor, and he was the one that convinced me and with the help of some attorneys in our community who had resources to make sure you got to the treatment place whether you had money or not, I was able to get the help I needed and recover. Since then, I've been helping other people and I've been on the Lawyer's Concerned for Lawyers Board for twenty-eight years and just stepped down as their secretary. I'm fine with

sharing this because it is a meaningful thing in my life and is important and Shannon (Wisniewski) can speak to it more because she is the professional. It's important that people understand that it's okay. I'll never forget, I got sober slightly after Betty Ford went into rehab. They ended up naming a rehab after her and that one instance where the public realized that someone like her had a problem and could deal with it, really helped with the idea of getting people help. Thank you.

Commissioner Osterberg introduced Shannon Wisniewski, the Supervisor for Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol, Pike's outpatient office.

Shannon Wisniewski said that we service all three Counties for folks that either don't have insurance or under insured, making sure everybody has access to getting treatment in all levels of care. Regardless of if they need detox, rehab, or outpatient services. We also do case management services in all three Counties to make sure we're addressing those non-treatment needs. We know that folks addressing these issues are living with these issues every day and are going to have multiple issues throughout their lives such as housing and employment and we help with those services as well. Part of our outreach services is no door is the wrong door. People deal with substance abuse, mental health, and suicide crisis issues. Any door you walk into in Pike County you should be able to access whatever services you need. I sit on a number of different committees -Northeast Suicide Prevention Initiative and Mental Health, we address Children and Youth issues as well as our legal issues. Folks are coming into contact in a number of different ways in our County. We want folks to have access to services and look at what services they need and not be worried about the stigma that comes with that. A lot of outreaches we've done in the community has been through community events. This past weekend we had our Suicide Prevention Walk at Wallenpaupack High School, and I was at Harvest Fest in Delaware Township to make sure we reached out to the community there. The awareness campaign that the Commissioners were just signing is from the opioid dollars that were part of the lawsuit. We've been there at Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol for three and a half years and people still say they don't know where to get services. The awareness pieces with the fentanyl is for folks in the community and a lot of what we're focusing in on is reaching out to our elder population because people without insurance and things like that are purchasing prescriptions off the street. They are not buying what they think they're buying. We want to make sure we're doing that outreach there as well as with the other two Counties, Monroe and Carbon. We're looking at our adolescent population, our school population and being able to tell kids what the issues are and what is going to be in the substances, it's not the safe substances that we dealt with twenty years ago. A lot of the things we're seeing are laced with things, laced with fentanyl and, of course, that's leading to more suicide risks, more emergency responders calling out for 911 calls and access to Narcan through our office as well.

Commissioner Osterberg added it is important that we share all this information with the community. I'm sure everybody is aware in the news just a few days ago in New York City with the day care, they were pressing fentanyl into pills, and they ended up having a young one year old pass away from this. These are the tragic stories that are going on in our community and that's why we are focused on putting together awareness programs and making sure people understand that they're suffering from some addiction, they're suffering from mental health. Being at the Suicide Prevention Walk the other day, that's a somber moment to be there with family members who have suffered through this. I'm sure everybody in this room can relate to someone in their life or friends or family, who have suffered through these types of horrors in their life. We need to make sure that people know that services are out there. We've got to make sure that the stigma is not there. That if they need help, they need to reach out. I put a number of hand-outs here for Veterans or whoever it's for. In the Veterans' population in this community, they are extremely affected by suicide. I believe Pike County and Monroe and this area have some of the highest suicide rates among Veterans. We need to figure out why that is occurring and whatever we need to do in this office and through Carbon Monroe Pike and MHDS out of Stroudsburg, we need to do all we can. These are statistics we should not be allowing. As they said at the Walk, suicide is preventable and we as a community need to work toward how we can help that happen. How we can make it preventable, how we can reach out to those families who feel that there is just total despair in their lives that we're here to help them. Shannon's office works diligently on the opioid side of this. These are scary times out there with these fake pills. That program that she speaks about, we just signed the contract, that's an educational component. That's going to be on billboards that's going to be worked in the schools. Identifying the whole thing with the fentanyl is an issue that's going on with fake pills. Back to that story in New York, that's what they were doing. They were pressing pills and pushing them off as maybe some other type of prescription. We think this is something that can only affect people that are addicted to these products but think about the cost of prescription drugs out there. If someone is out on the street trying to sell things that they are saying are Oxycodone for medicinal use, because some people do need those prescriptions and they're buying them for \$10 opposed to the pharmacy where maybe they're \$20. The next thing you know, we have senior citizens dying from fentanyl overdoses. This is just going on throughout our Country, Pike County is not immune from this nor is the Northeast of Pennsylvania. It is here and all you have to do is speak to the District Attorney and hear his stories about what's going on in all of our communities around here.

Commissioner Osterberg asked Shannon (Wisniewski) about the pinwheels outside and asked how many were out there? Shannon replied one hundred and twenty-two. Commissioner Osterberg said that is one hundred and twenty-two overdoses in Pike County since 2014. We know that there are more, just that some of them are not reported in Pike County. This has to do with the fact that we don't have a medical provider in our County. If someone is transported to Pike County because of an overdose and they pass away in some other jurisdiction whether it's Monroe, Carbon, Wayne or Sussex County, New Jersey or Orange County, they are not reported to us. I'm not saying we want to know these numbers, but don't think 122 is just a number, the number is higher than that.

Reporter Chris Jones asked fatal overdoses? Commissioner Osterberg answered these are fatal overdoses, yes. Shannon Wisniewski added that part of that number is we know that our ambulances, responders and things like that if they're responding to an overdose and we get those numbers from the 9-1-1 Center too, but when we're looking at those fatalities, it's people that have actually died in the County. When they are transported to a hospital in another county, those numbers are counted in those counties, not here. Part of why those numbers matter and part of why we're collecting that data is because things like the opioid use disorder dollars and the lawsuit dollars look at the County and say their overdose trend is still higher than the State average but it's not some of those other counties where the money is obviously much higher and we will continue to advocate and fight for what the substance abuse issues look like in Pike County. Those pressed pills look

exactly like what you would buy at the pharmacy. It's very hard to tell what a real pill versus a pressed pill is unless you're looking at it under a microscope and trained in pharmaceutical practices. We continue to outreach and make sure the kids are aware. We will be at Warrior Fest on the 30<sup>th</sup>, we'll be at VIP's event on the 30<sup>th</sup>, they have their Glow Run, but being able to get a reach out to folks in some non-traditional ways seems to have worked best in Pike County. Folks aren't aware of where to receive services, aren't aware of the dangers and, unfortunately, we've seen fentanyl in marijuana in Pike County. We've seen people that are buying Adderall off the street that end up looking like methamphetamine. We have to make sure that everyone is aware of what the stigma looks like, what the dangers are and how to get those services. I see you guys put up different things like Crisis Intervention Services, the new Suicide Prevention number is the 988 number, we brought additional magnets for that; even our outreach with fetal alcohol month and things like that. Making sure that people are aware of the dangers of what you're putting in your body and the effects it can have on your health and lifestyle.

Commissioner Osterberg added that he wants to commend Tony (Commissioner Waldron) for doing this. Having somebody stand up here, which is really us celebrating his sobriety and he found a way out of addiction, because that sends a signal to people in this community that you can find sobriety and you can be successful. These are the things that people are fearful of coming out, because I'm sure you (Tony) felt stigmatized too at that time of admitting this. That's what we're here to do. We need to make sure everybody knows that we cannot hold judgment. This should be a judgment-free zone, no judging and words matter. When people are out there making certain comments about why we shouldn't be using Narcan, that just adds to the stigma of this – words do matter. These individuals are in a crisis mode, and I just wanted to end on that. Shannon Wisniewski added that we continue to do the Narcan distributions, continue to work to make sure that our first responders, our schools and other health care providers, probation departments, children and youth department and folks from the County that are out in the community have access to Narcan, have access to drug disposals that we pass out. I hope to God, you never need it, but if you're in the position where you need it, I'd rather you have it and then call 9-1-1 and make sure we're getting somebody immediate response. The danger with fentanyl is there – the quicker we're able to administer the Narcan, the quicker we're able to call 9-1-1, the better off the person is going to be. Thank you for your continued support.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked what is going on up in Wayne County, they're looking to build a facility for recovering, multi-prong recovery center? Shannon Wisniewski answered a Crisis Center? Reporter Ehrler said they've run into a brick wall so to speak, funding-wise, they were expecting to spend something like \$8M and the bid came in for \$17M, just for the first phase of this thing. One of the issues it seems that is going on around here and I've seen this personally, parents don't know how to get their kids into some type of a recovery program in this area. They're being shipped off to places like Pittsburgh or even out of State – what's going on here at the grassroots level? Where does a parent need to go first and then how do they avoid having their kid shipped off six hours away or something like that? What's going on here in Pike and Wayne? Shannon Wisniewski answered in Pike and Wayne Counties as well as in Monroe and Carbon, we see each of our schools in the prevention program at the schools. We have prevention specialists that go into each of the schools starting from elementary through high school, go out speak to the kids who identify as high risk through the SAT programs, through their guidance counselors, the parents can reach out to the school. We've seen this continued increase in adolescents with additional mental health issues and addiction issues where we are actually identifying kids as young as fourteen that need drug and alcohol treatment services. The earlier we can get them into treatment, the less likely we are to have to send them out to rehabs and detoxes and places like that. We do have a number of adolescents that are in our outpatient programs here in the County, they come to our office, we assess them and then we'll work with the parents as well as the adolescent or teen to be able to get them the treatments and services they need. We offer that right here in the County. Wayne County is the same way, the Wayne County Drug and Alcohol office does the prevention for Wallenpaupack schools, and they also work for the outpatient programs. The other options we have as we contract with PATH, which has a day treatment program so the kids can go there during the day, get treatment and then come back to their home lives in the evenings. There's bus transportation for that, the schools participate in that, and they make sure the kids continue to get their education while they're there. Very rarely do we see this kind of day program where we're sending adolescents further out, specifically for addiction issues sometimes when it's coupled with those additional mental health issues though is where we're seeing the longer wait times and being able to access services where they're being sent further out in the County.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked so what should a parent do first if they know their kid has a problem, the very first initiative, who should they pick up the phone and call? Shannon Wisniewski answered reach out to the schools as well as their guidance counselors or they can contact our office directly. The hotline is 24/7 so even it's at night and there sitting there with their teen and this is what's coming up when they've come home from school, they can still access the hotline numbers to get in touch with one of us. No door is a wrong door, if they call us and it's primary mental health, we'll make sure that we'll hand off to mental health services. Whatever door they need to access, we'll make sure they get to the right places.

A meeting attendee, Linda Touissant, asked if young adults and adults could go the same route because a lot of them are drop-outs and I'm dealing with this with a relative in New York. Anybody can call this hotline number? Shannon Wisniewski responded yes, and we'll connect them. If it's not our County and not our State, if they reach out to the hotline number, we'll pull up and find out exactly where they need to go in the County and State they live in. We're able to use ATLAS which is a search service that we contract with and that we've been able to make sure that we're able to make sure that we're able to look at different States or we'll use the SAMHSA website to be able to identify which County and State there in and where their services are.

Reporter Chris Jones asked if this Awareness Campaign is getting any Federal funds? Commissioner Osterberg answered this is the lawsuit funds, the opioid lawsuit. We were awarded funds from that.

Reporter Chris Jones asked how much? Commissioner Osterberg answered over the course of seventeen years right now, this is the initial block of money that will be spread out, right now we have \$250K, we will get another \$143K at the end of this month and then it will be spread out over the next seventeen years. That's the first tranche of money, the next amount of money will be coming from Walmart, CVS, Rite Aid and all of the pharmacies that were also named in this lawsuit and they're going to be paying up. This is where the funding is coming from. We have other programs that we're putting together, this is the first because the requirement is we need to show or spend most of the money within eighteen months.

We have to be careful because they put that kind of time frame crunch on it that we just don't waste it. We want to make sure we are effective with the money. This is the first campaign that we are doing. We have meetings once a month with the District Attorney, with Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol and the Sheriff's Department on what other programs we can do in the County to identify people with addictions and offer treatment. We have a medical assistance treatment program in the Correctional Facility that can be funded out of this so we can make sure that people the services that they need in there.

Reporter Chris Jones asked how are you spending on this? Commissioner Osterberg answered \$50K, this is a \$50K contract and now we're going to work with the schools and everybody of what that contract will look like. It'll be some billboards and educational material and we're going to work through that with this company who has already contracted with Monroe County and Carbon County and I believe Northampton County.

Reporter Chris Jones asked is that company's name on here? Commissioner Osterberg said it's called Kudu. Commissioner Waldron added that they're down in Lehigh Valley area.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked if we are going to see some type of recovery facility here in Pike County like they're trying to build in Wayne County? Commissioner Osterberg answered we could – I'll let you (Shannon Wisniewski) answer that. Shannon Wisniewski replied part of that facility is including Pike. Part of those resources that were awarded were with Monroe, Pike and Wayne Counties to be able to access those services. When they're looking at that crisis intervention and ER-style piece that they're trying to create there which is going to be the walk-in crisis center that's part of MH/DS's effort to make sure there's more access in all three of the Counties. Commissioner Osterberg added we do have a treatment facility right now and Shannon Wisniewski said the drug and alcohol treatment facility, there's a rehab, a detox and the outpatient facility is there.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked where is that? Commissioner Osterberg answered Malibu (Wellness Ranch). Commissioner Waldron added Malibu is technically in Westfall Township, but it's right on the border of Milford Township and Westfall Township if you go all the way up Seventh Street to the end. They recently opened a detox in Dingman Township.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked, from what I understand, Malibu doesn't take insurance. Shannon Wisniewski answered they do, and they also contract through us.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked, I really want to be clear on this, somebody who is a Pike County resident, who has an issue, can go to Malibu and what happens? Shannon Wisniewski answered they would contact us or contact their admissions first and then we would determine whether or not they need that level of care and then we would make the appropriate referrals and set up a bed date.

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked who pays? Shannon Wisniewski answered if they don't have insurance and they are a Pike County resident, they need the income validations that we give that's part of the Single County Authority funding. Commissioner Osterberg added that when they initially opened they were not, this is a process like everything else that goes on. They needed to get licensed in the State, they needed to get certified and now they are. Commissioner Waldron also added they're kind of full, but they're opened about four years and there was a slower transition there because of COVID, so it complicated it. Shannon Wisniewski continued that the next closed rehab that we access as well is right off of Route 209, right over the Pike County border into Monroe County. It's technically in Stroudsburg, but it's Marshall's Creek, right there off of Route 209. There are some within an hour of the County, they just CCBH which is our State insurance program actually just contracted with another provider out in Carbondale. Within an hour and a half, we have a number of different rehabs we can access.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- PennState Extension Calendar of Events
- Rachel Moyer, AED Advocacy and Placement- Greg Moyer Defibrillator Fund –

Commissioner Osterberg announced as you can see, we have all of these AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) and I'll let Rachel speak to this. This is something we had to make sure that we renewed some of them in our County facilities that we now will be sure that we have one in every single building that the County owns. Rachel Moyer said this is so exciting to be here because the times I've been here before was always a process, building awareness, but the fact that Pike County has really stepped up to the plate and we have used a lot of resources to get you more AEDs. I met with the Governor because we're doing a Bill that's only taken twenty-three years since the loss of my son in school. He was playing basketball, he was fifteen years old, and he was the coolest thing since sliced bread, he was only in tenth grade. Even though it's Monroe County, East Stroudsburg North, he was playing for Notre Dame in East Stroudsburg, they came up here and when the school was brand new and there weren't any identifications on the building, and I think about this when I go everywhere. When 9-1-1 was called it took them forty-two minutes to get there because there was no AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in the school to help him and he was a healthy kid. He had no signs, no symptoms, no fainting or being uncomfortable and we were very excited and saw him play the first half and thought he did really well and when he walked off the court, probably two minutes later and one of the kids came out and said Mr. and Mrs. Moyer 'Greg needs you', I thought he put somebody in a locker and couldn't open the locker now, or he put him in the garbage can, these things he had done in the past. When I walked to that room, I saw my fifteen-year-old on the ground. I was a teacher for fifteen years and taught in Port Jervis (New York) and there's my son. I grab his head and said 'Greg, you're not breathing, why aren't you breathing?'. He opened his eyes for a split second and that was it, I did not know how to do CPR and there was a doctor and three nurses there and in the year 2000 no one wanted to touch anybody because they were afraid that they were going to get sued.

Rachel Moyer continued looking back, we have come such a long way. Everywhere I go the first thing I say is where are the AEDs? You shouldn't have to spend ten minutes looking for an AED. It should be on the map for the building and in the schools. Rachel Moyer then gave the Commissioners some papers that had to do with the Bill yesterday, it has to do with all of your friends, neighbors, your community. If you don't have an AED in your community, you should get one. Getting

AEDs are not that expensive. The hardest thing I face other than the Commissioners are the school boards. They all say 'no, they're too expensive'. I say pick up the phone, how much did your phone cost? What do you pay a month? Krista (Chief Clerk Gromalski) has been dealing with me for years and Krista wanted these AEDs and there was 265K on back order and I kept on calling every single day. I think I whine a lot and that's how we got them now, because I still have people call. I wanted to make sure you got them, and we were able to save you enough money that you got additional AEDs. We're not in this to make any money, we're in this to make sure AEDs are located. Whenever I get on a plane I ask them where are the AEDs and they'll ask me 'why do you think you're gonna need one?' and I'll say no, but if you do, I know how to use them. There always at the back of the plane and I think put them in the middle of the plane, it takes too long. Every minute a person is down 10% less of a chance of saving them. Even when someone is down, call for help, get somebody to start CPR and hope that they use it until the AED comes.

The American Heart Association says there's about 10% of people that are saved with CPR alone. Think about that – we have 90% of the people that need an AED to revive them. If you have a widescreen tv, you have a nice vehicle, think about that and say I don't need that special stereo system, I can buy an AED and always have it in my vehicle, they don't like below 32 degrees or above 105 degrees so we're pretty good here. Sometimes our Winters can be cold, but it's just your support over these years that have made me so grateful. My husband is County Commissioner in Monroe County. He said make sure you tell the Commissioners that I helped put these together – it takes a long time! Every one of these AEDs is so easy to use. You have to have about fourth grade education and the important thing is you do dial 9-1-1 and put them on speaker phone and you identify the issue, you can't do more damage than death when person who collapses in sudden cardiac arrest, which is 365K people a year, and 23K of them are below the age of eighteen. It's not rare, especially when it happens in your life. We made a commitment the night that Greg died when the nurses told us, neither one of us knew what an AED was in 2000 and they said there should've been an AED. We were looking at them like, what is that? When they explained, we made a vow that we were not going to put a headstone on our son's grave until we had an AED in each school in this country. Now, Monroe, Pike, I can get here in about a half hour, we've been successful, but there are other parts of the State and country. We've been involved in getting lower prices for about 19K AEDs throughout the country, we've donated one to at least every State and we've also trained about 30K people in CPR and AED. An employee was just telling me about the class that she had, this is going to be here and you're going to want to know how to use it. It's not going to shock you and it's not going to shock someone that doesn't need a shock, that's the power of how smart they are. I'm going to tell Krista (Chief Clerk Gromalski) when these go out if they would put the date that they went to wherever this is going to be distributed. The battery is good for four years and you put it in the back. A demonstration was given by Rachel Moyer. Rachel Moyer continued and said as far as the cost of the AED, in 2001 a Bill was passed in Pennsylvania, really the country, because it brought the cost of \$3,400.00 down to \$1,776.00. Since then, they've gone up, they've gone down, they've made cheaper models, but I think this is the best because it checks itself every day. You're not going to pick this up and all of a sudden when you open it, oh the battery is dead, this beep drives you nuts. The biggest fear I have is that Gregory will be forgotten and when it happens like this, when they go to all the other places in Pike County, I know the #23 is going to be remembered and hopefully it will save more lives in this County – thank you all! I love you guys!

Reporter Chris Jones asked where are these (AEDs) going? Commissioner Osterberg responded that Krista (Chief Clerk Gromalski) has a list of all the offices that we identified. Chief Clerk Gromalski added they are going in every County facility and in some departments specifically. I believe there are eighteen of them and some replacement parts, but there'll be multiple ones in every County facility. It is funded by a grant from the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. Commissioner Osterberg continued we were able to identify the funds for this but regardless of how we identified the funds, these are much needed in the County and we knew that we needed to renew some of them and have some replacement parts, for the cost of saving a life, I think the check is for \$28K, it's not even a matter of what the money is, it's more important that one of these is available for any office in this County. We will be doing training again. I know we did it the last time we got these. I am making a note that what we need to do, and we will talk to Timmy (Pike County EMA Director Knapp) at Emergency Services and open this up to the community also. This was we can show them how easy it is to use this piece of equipment, but at the same time, as Rachel was saying, they will think it will be important to go out and purchase one. Wherever they work, or wherever they live, one of these needs to be in every single community building but having it in your car is really a life-saving idea. You never know when you'll come across this situation. Rachel Moyer added that these go on-line, try to buy these, you all saved \$800 on each one of the units. If you go on-line, they're about \$2,500-\$2,600.

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

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023 AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**