

AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024, 11:30 A.M.
PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

- 1. Call to Order.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.
RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING
Motion to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS CONCERNING TODAY'S AGENDA

- 1. Approve January 17, 2024 Agenda.
 - 2. Approve January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting Minutes.
 - 3. Approve January 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
 - 4. Approve January 10, 2024 Conference Minutes.
 - 5. Approve payment from **GENERAL FUNDS (County Bills)** \$498,305.59
 - 6. Approve payment from **PIKE COUNTY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND** \$85,338.05
 - 7. Approve payment from **LIQUID FUELS** \$12,792.67
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OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Motion to open bids for the Tri-Annual Grocery and Frozen Foods for the period of March 1, 2024 – June 3, 2024.
- 2. Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the Letter of Transmittal for the Bennett Ave Interior Renovations Payment Application #1 from LH Reed.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Motion to approve the following Human Services Payment Vouchers on behalf of the Office of Human Services: Whole Home Repair in the amount of \$14,667.00; State Food Purchase Program in the amount of \$1,881.94; and Human Services Development Fund in the amount of \$4,000.00.
- 2. Motion to approve the 2021 CDBG Program Payment Voucher payable to Hailstone Economic LLC., in the amount of \$3,214.63, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.
- 3. Motion to approve the Pike County Home Program Payment Voucher payable to GateHouse Media Pennsylvania Holdings, Inc., in the amount of \$46.80, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.
- 4. Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the Certification of County Funds in the amount of \$12,939.00 for 2024 Program Year on behalf of the Agricultural Land Preservation Program Board.
- 5. Motion to execute the Lease Agreement between Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Conservation District.
- 6. Motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the Contract for Services between PennCares Support Service and Pennsylvania Link of Monroe/Pike/Wayne Counties, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.
- 7. Motion to execute the fiscal year 2023 fourth quarter payments from the Pike County Emergency Medical Services grant funds to Blooming Grove Township in the amount of \$133,521.76; Palmyra Township in the amount of \$80,000.00; and Delaware Township in the amount of \$53,750.00.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- PennState Extension Calendar of Events

PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

PIKE COUNTY RETIREMENT BOARD AGENDA
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 11:00 a.m.
Pike County Administration Building

- 1. Call to order.
- 2. Approve the January 17, 2024 Agenda.
- 3. Approve the December 20, 2023 Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

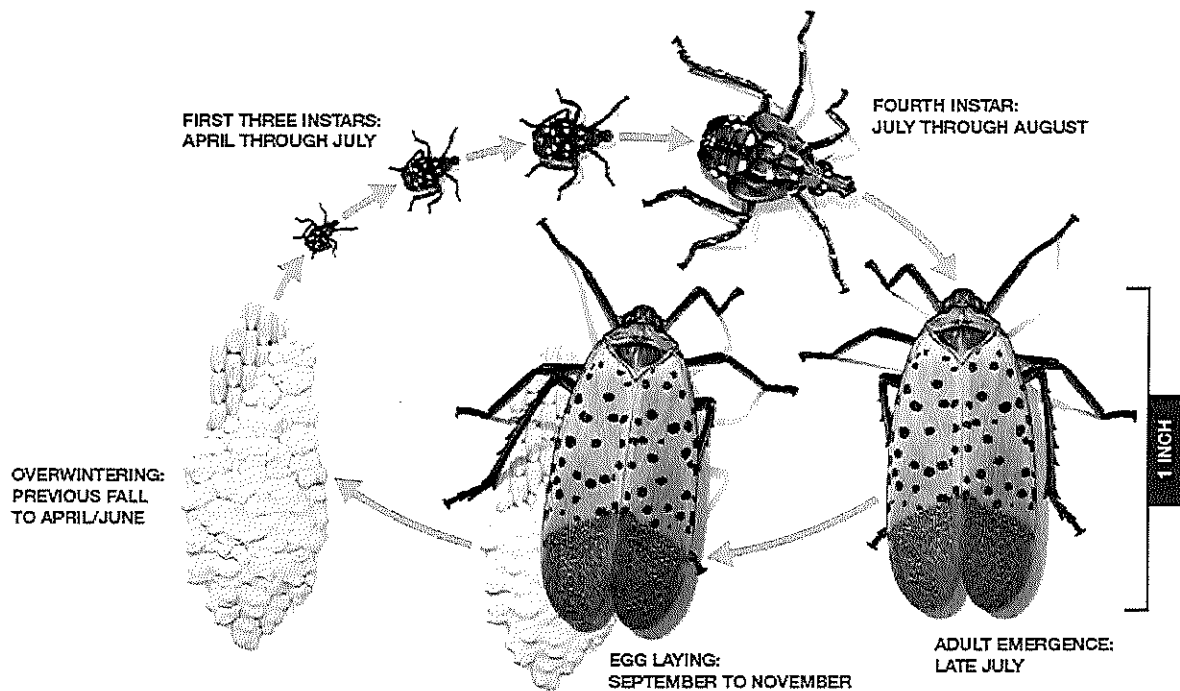
- 1. Motion to approve refunds of contributions to employees no longer with the County:
 - a. Alan Cooper 12/31/2023 DA Office – vested 06/24/1999
 - b. Denise Fitzpatrick 01/01/2024 Prothonotary
 - c. R. Anthony Waldron 01/01/2024 Commissioners
 - d. Ramon Sein 01/01/2024 PCCF – vested 04/13/2010
 - e. Maureen Babcock 01/02/2024 Prothonotary
 - f. Phyllis Jordan 01/02/2024 Courts

ADJOURNMENT

Penn State Extension Upcoming Events

January 17th, 2024

Community Development:



Spotted lanternfly life cycle. Illustration © Emily S. Damstra.

Spotted Lanternfly

Pike County is in the quarantine area. If you have spotted this insect, please call our hotline at 1-888-422-3359 or visit our website to immediately report a sighting. Please contact your local Penn State Extension office with questions on spotted lanternfly management.

Newly hatched nymphs are small (~1/8 inch) and can be hard to find, often being mistaken for small ticks or spiders. With each molt to the next instar, the nymphs roughly double in size. The first three instars are black with white spots.

To learn more about the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) and what action you can take to stop the spread of this invasive insect, visit our website, <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>.

Remember, every adult stomped out can prevent 30-50 eggs being laid!

4-H/Youth:

Adults – We NEED you!! Pike County 4-H is in desperate need of adult volunteers to lead youth groups! Share what you are passionate about with kids who are interested in learning a new skill or hobby. As a Group Leader, you get the opportunity to determine how much time you spend and what activity you do, while 4-H will help with supplies and support. Consider volunteering your time to make a difference in a child's life.

4-H is open to youth ages 5-18, unless otherwise noted.

Contact Penn State Extension in Pike County for more information on the 4-H program by calling (570) 832-2800 or send an email to the 4-H coordinator, Angela Smith, at axs1397@psu.edu.

Please like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PikeCountyPa4H/>.

Budgeting:

Boosting Financial Wellness

Via Zoom – Thursday, January 18th, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET)

Financial clutter (for example, having miscellaneous receipts everywhere, decades-old financial documents, unnecessary credit cards, or outdated insurance policies) is not always visible but can negatively impact your financial health. *Boosting Financial Wellness: Financial Clutter* will teach you to recognize your financial mess, simplify your record-keeping, and reduce financial stress. Practicing good financial literacy skills can help you to reduce your financial clutter and achieve an ideal financial plan. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register by January 17, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/boosting-financial-wellness-financial-clutter>.

Via Zoom – Thursday, January 25th, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET)

The ability to manage money and nutrition equips you with the skills to approach a healthy lifestyle. There are many ways to eat smart while also saving money. *Boosting Financial Wellness Series: Money and Nutrition* will show how understanding the concepts of budgeting money for food choices can help you achieve your financial and nutritional goals. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register by January 24, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/boosting-financial-wellness-money-and-nutrition>.

Via Zoom – Thursday, February 1st, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET)

Money is a personal and emotional topic that can significantly impact relationships, whether positive or negative. Having someone (whether family, a friend, a partner, or a business partner) by your side to help maintain financial stability is comforting, though sometimes conversations about money lead to turmoil. During *Boosting Financial Wellness Series: Money and Relationships*, learn how to have open and honest conversations about money to avoid the strain finances can have on relationships. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register by January 31, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/boosting-financial-wellness-money-and-relationships>.

Energy:

Unlocking the Power of Hydrogen

Via Zoom – Thursday, January 18th, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET).

During *Unlocking the Power of Hydrogen for Energy, Industry, and Agriculture*, learn the basics of hydrogen, including the "hydrogen rainbow" the role of hydrogen in clean energy, the role of hydrogen in industry and agriculture, and some exciting insights on the future of hydrogen development! It's an exciting time to discuss hydrogen! There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register by January 17th, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/unlocking-the-power-of-hydrogen-for-energy-industry-and-agriculture>.

Family:

Kinship Family Forum

On Demand Webinars

Visit our website extension.psu.edu and search 'Kinship Family Forum.' You will find very informative pre-recorded classes on Kinship care – a term used for individuals that are not the biological parents of the children they are raising for whatever reason.

Penn State Extension collaborates with the *Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State* to offer Thrive resources.

There is no registration fee for each pre-recorded webinar.

Thrive: Sprout

Via Zoom – Mondays, February 5th, 2024 – March 4th, 2024 (6:30 PM – 7:30 PM ET).

Everyday moments with 3–5-year-olds are full of adventure, fun, growth, and challenges. This developmental period comes with many parenting joys and demands. Sprout, a universal parenting program, is designed to support parents as they foster their preschool child's development and resiliency. Join us and peek into the daily routines of families to see how they manage everyday moments. You will learn parenting strategies that help make everyday moments run a little more smoothly. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register by January 29th, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/thrive-sprout>.

Food Safety:

ServSafe

ServSafe Food Safety Program is for individuals who are serving as managers or are in a supervisory role requiring certification. Upon successful completion, participants will receive the ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certificate. Training meets the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture requirements for the Food Employee Certification Act. There is a **\$165.00 fee** to take the course and you must pre-register. For more information or to determine the closest class location and dates, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/servsafe>.

Gardening:

Master Gardeners

Home Garden News has the latest news and information on classes, workshops, publications, videos, and online and in-person events.

Sign up to receive news, upcoming event details, gardening information, and the monthly e-newsletter at <https://extension.psu.edu/trees-lawns-and-landscaping/home-gardening>. By entering your email, you consent to receive communications from Penn State Extension – view the [privacy policy](#).

Second Saturday Gardening Series

On-Demand Webinars

Visit our website, extension.psu.edu, and search 'Second Saturday Gardening Series.' You will find very informative pre-recorded classes on composting, enjoying holiday plants, nature in autumn, winter sowing, pollinators, house plant propagation, seed starting, pruning, etc.

There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for each pre-recorded webinar.

** Planting for Pollinators in Sun and Shade

Available until 03/14/24

Know your Natives Series

Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 (7:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET).

Join the Penn State Master Gardeners of Westmoreland County for an informative webinar, *Know Your Natives: Secrets to Seed Sowing and Germination*, where we uncover the unique germination requirements of native plants which have evolved in our temperate climate. Learn why germination conditions matter and how to mimic these in your garden. A wide variety of native plants will be reviewed while discussing conditions such as cold moist stratification and scarification. If you would like to know how to grow your own native plants, this information is crucial. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/know-your-natives-secrets-to-seed-sowing-and-germination>.

On-Demand Webinars

Visit our website, extension.psu.edu, and search 'Know your Natives.' Expand garden enthusiasts' knowledge and appreciation of these versatile and valuable plants. The Master Gardeners will cover native plants' many benefits to our home gardens and landscapes. Speakers will focus on pollinator-friendly native plants in this fall series. However, the plants can be used in all native plantings in the garden and landscape. Enjoy classes on Native Seeds, Under Appreciated Plants, Shrubs and more.

** Container Gardens

Available until 04/28/24

- There is a **\$10.00 fee** to access this pre-recorded webinar.

Herbs All Year

Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET)

Join us for the Master Gardener Herbs All Year series! Participants of this specific workshop will explore *Garden Planning, Hearty Soups, and Skincare*. Don't miss this unique opportunity to be a "fly on the wall" and elevate your herb knowledge with the best seat in the house! There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/herbs-all-year-garden-planning-hearty-soups-and-skin-care>.

Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 24th, 2024 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET)

Participants of this specific workshop will explore *Easter Eggs, After Garden Care, and House Cleaning*. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/herbs-all-year-easter-eggs-after-garden-care-and-house-cleaning>.

Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET)

Participants of this specific workshop will explore *Garden Butters, Mustards, and Drying Herbs*, as well as elevate their herb knowledge. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/herbs-all-year-butters-mustards-and-drying-herbs>.

Via Zoom – Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET)

Participants of this specific workshop will explore *Cooking Ingredients, Pet Aids, and Edible Flowers*. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/herbs-all-year-cooking-ingredients-pet-aids-and-edible-flowers>.

Via Zoom – Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET)

Participants of this specific workshop will explore *Potpourri, Pressed Flowers, and Skin Care*. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/herbs-all-year-potpourri-pressed-flowers-and-skin-care>.

Winter Wonderings: Working with Hedges, Screens, and Slopes

Via Zoom – Monday, January 22nd, 2024 (6:30 PM – 8:00 PM ET)

As garden enthusiasts, we find ourselves captivated by the allure of unique and eye-catching plants essential to our gardens. Join Bill Hendricks, President of Klyn Nurseries, to explore ways to rethink these difficult-to-manage areas. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/winter-wonderings-working-with-hedges-screens-and-slopes>.

Via Zoom – Monday, January 29th, 2024 (6:30 PM – 8:00 PM ET)

While flowers provide a source of color, seasonal interest, and a vital source of nourishment for pollinators that visit the garden, Professor of Horticulture and Environmental Sciences Paul Zammit believes that plants offer so much more. Paul will emphasize how great gardens could have year-round interest and appeal without relying strictly on flowers. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/winter-wonderings-fantastic-foliage-and-garden-ornaments>.

Via Zoom – Monday, February 5th, 2024 (6:30 PM – 8:00 PM ET)

Join author Heather Andrews to learn about "Fueling Stations for Spring Pollinators". Embrace the beauty and bounty of nature's wonders by transforming your garden into a haven for early emerging pollinators, setting the stage for a flourishing spring harvest. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/winter-wonderings-fueling-stations-for-spring-pollinators>.

Home Gardening Series

Via Zoom – Saturday, January 27th, 2024 (9:30 AM – 11:00 AM ET)

Join Penn State Master Gardener Kevin Kelly for *Home Gardening Series: The Four-Season Garden – A Photographic Tour*, a virtual tour of his suburban garden through each of the seasons. You will see how his passion for gardening and photography has resulted in a garden with year-round interest and excitement. He will share what he has learned along the way. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by January 26, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/home-gardening-series-the-four-season-garden-a-photographic-tour>.

Via Zoom – Saturday, February 17th, 2024 (9:30 AM – 11:00 AM ET)

Join Penn State Master Gardener Kevin Kelly for *Home Gardening Series: Secrets to Using Groundcovers and Filler Plants*, an in-depth presentation about Matrix Layer plants that tie the garden together. He will talk about his favorite plants and how he has used them in his ecologically friendly garden. Learn these principles and stop using wood mulch and fertilizer. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by February 16, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/home-gardening-series-the-four-season-garden-a-photographic-tour>.

Gardening by the Foot: Small Space, Big Yield

Via Zoom – Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 (6:30 PM – 7:30 PM ET)

Join the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners for *Gardening by the Square Foot: Small Space, Big Yield*. The presentation will focus on an intensive gardening method that allows gardeners to get the most yield out of a small amount of space. Learn to garden with less space, less work, fewer seeds, and less water while producing a bigger harvest! There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/winter-wonderings-working-with-hedges-screens-and-slopes>.

Good Gardening Saturdays

Via Zoom – Saturday, February 10th, 2024 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

The Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Delaware County invite you to Good Gardening Saturdays. This month, learn how to maximize your garden's value to pollinators by planting native Keystone Plants. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by February 9, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/good-gardening-saturdays-native-keystone-plants>.

Health:

Suicide Prevention Training

Via Zoom – Monday, January 22nd, 2023 (1:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET)

Developed by the QPR Institute, this 2-hour training is designed for all people concerned about helping others with mental health and substance use challenges, regardless of their background. QPR is an emergency mental health intervention for persons considering suicide. Participants will learn skills to identify and interrupt a crisis and direct someone to proper care. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register by January 21, 2023. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/qpr-gatekeeper-suicide-prevention-training>.

Mental Health First Aid

Via Zoom – Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 (12:45 AM – 4:00 PM ET)

and Wednesday, January 24th, 2024 (8:45 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

Mental Health First Aid for Adults Working with Youth is designed to teach adults who regularly interact with young people how to provide initial support to youth experiencing mental health or addiction challenges and assist them in finding the help and care they need. As certified instructors, Penn State Extension educators teach the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course. A certificate will be available online after completion of the course. There is a **\$35.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by January 30, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/mental-health-first-aid-adults-working-with-youth>.

Via Zoom – Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 (12:45 AM – 4:00 PM ET)

and Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 (8:45 AM – 12:00 PM ET)

Increase your comfort level in offering initial support to an adult experiencing a mental health challenge or substance misuse problem and connect them with appropriate resources. As certified instructors, Penn State Extension educators teach the National Council for Mental Wellbeing's *Mental Health First Aid* course. This course consists of two hours of self-paced online learning and a six-hour virtual class. The course includes activities and opportunities to practice support strategies. A certificate will be available online after completion of the course. There is a **\$35.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by January 25, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/adult-mental-health-first-aid>.

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body

Via Zoom – Monday, January 29th, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET).

The health of the brain and the body are connected, and now, science provides insights into how to make lifestyle choices that may help you keep your brain and body healthy as you age. Participants will learn about current research on healthy aging and brain health, reasons for taking care of yourself as you age, and practical strategies to age well. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/healthy-living-for-your-brain-and-body>.

Land:

Frontiers in Forest Health

Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 18th, 2024 (8:00 AM – 9:00 AM ET)

During *Frontiers in Forest Health: Beech Leaf Disease*, participants will learn all about beech leaf disease: how to identify it, what causes it, and the threat that it poses to the forests. Also, learn about the newest research and potential management response to beech leaf disease. There is no registration fee for the course, but you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/frontiers-in-forest-health-beech-leaf-disease>.

Certification credits may be available!

How Foresters Can Become Certified TSPs

Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 (9:00 AM – 10:00 AM ET)

In this webinar, foresters and other natural resources professionals will learn about USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Technical Service Provider (TSP) Program. TSPs may include individuals, private businesses, American Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and public agencies. Certified TSPs provide conservation planning assistance to private landowners on behalf of NRCS. They are certified by NRCS to develop planning and practice design documents such as Forest Management Plans. These plans aid private forest landowners in assessing the current condition of their lands and scheduling conservation practices that meet NRCS standards and specifications.

The webinar will delve into the application process and the qualifications necessary to become a certified TSP. Additionally, participants will gain insights into NRCS private lands financial assistance programs supported by the TSP program.

There is no registration fee for the course, but you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/how-foresters-can-become-certified-technical-service-providers>.

Water:

Water Cooler Talk

Via Zoom – Monday, January 29th, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET).

Water Cooler Talk: Green Infrastructure and Salty Stormwater will discuss the impacts of this salty water on the vegetation, soils, and water quality performance of green stormwater infrastructure, and some ways to try to reduce these impacts. De-icing salts are widely applied to hard roads, sidewalks, and parking lots in winter. Salty runoff can then be washed into receiving rain gardens, bioswales, or other stormwater management features. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/water-cooler-talk-green-infrastructure-and-salty-stormwater>.

Water Testing (Drinking & Lake/Pond)

Penn State offers drinking water, as well as lake/pond water, testing kits through the Penn State University Lab. Call the Extension office at 570-832-2800 to arrange to pick-up test kits and information. Test results take one to three weeks or more depending on the test. For more information on Water Quality, visit <http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/water>, or call us at (570) 832-2800.

Water Webinar Series

Visit our website, extension.psu.edu, and search 'Water Webinar Series.' The Water Webinar Series is hosted by the Penn State Extension Water Resources team. Learn about a variety of private water topics such as common health and aesthetic impacts on drinking water supplies, preventing bacteria contamination, well construction, and septic systems. Each event will include an interactive Q&A session with the presenters! There is no registration fee for this event, but you must pre-register.

Wildlife:

Pennsylvania's Effort to Reintroduce American Marten

Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 (8:00 AM – 9:00 AM ET)

Join us for an engaging and informative webinar about the American marten (*Martes americana*), a native Mustelidae—the weasel family—that was extirpated from Pennsylvania. Thomas Keller, Furbearer Biologist at the Pennsylvania Game Commission, will discuss the details of the marten's biology, ecology, and its historical significance in the state. Participants will also learn about the efforts to reintroduce the marten, the hurdles encountered, and the crucial role they can play in reintroducing this fascinating native mustelid. There is no registration fee for the course, but you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/pennsylvanias-effort-to-reintroduce-american-marten>.

RETIREMENT BOARD
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Waldron, Chief Clerk Gromalski, and Treasurer Gilpin.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to convene the Retirement Board Meeting.

VOTE: All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the December 20, 2023 Agenda.

VOTE: All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the November 11, 2023 Minutes.

VOTE: All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

Under **NEW BUSINESS**, the following presentations were made:

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve refunds of contributions to employees no longer with the County:

a. Bryce Harrigan	11/11/23	PCCF
b. Gary Biscardi	11/19/23	PCCF
c. Damari Griffiths	11/22/23	PCCF
d. Christina Soto	12/08/23	C&Y
e. Eleftheria Buccello	12/12/23	Tax Claim
f. Magalie Diodonet	12/13/23	PCCF

VOTE: All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the following deferred retirements (to age 60):

a. Sarah Wilson	10/06/23	C&Y
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VOTE: All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the following retirement:

a. Marilyn DeVries	12/01/23	Assessment - vested 03/29/85
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VOTE: All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the following invoices for repayment:

a. Korn Ferry	\$5,410.00	4th Quarter Actuarial Services
b. Biondo Investment Advisors	\$46,586.05	4th Quarter Fee Billing
c. Broadridge Matrix Trust Co	\$12,471.84	4th Quarter Asset/Transaction Fees

VOTE: All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adjourn the Pike County Retirement Board Meeting.

VOTE: All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

Retirement Board Meeting adjourned.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

A Reorganization Meeting 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 Caceres, Chief Clerk Gromalski and Solicitor Farley.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve the January 2, 2024, Agenda.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Caceres, voted "aye". Motion carried.

Questions and comments concerning today's agenda were entertained by the public-none.

REORGANIZATION

Commissioner Osterberg called for a motion and second for the following items as listed:

1. Motion to appoint Commissioner Matthew M. Osterberg as Chairperson and Commissioner Ronald R. Schmalzle as Vice-Chairperson of the Pike County Board of Commissioners for four years.
2. Motion to set and advertise the Commissioners' Meetings for the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 11:00 a.m.
3. Motion to set and advertise the Commissioners' Conferences for the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of the month at 11:00 AM.
4. Motion to set and advertise the Retirement Board Meetings for the third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM and as needed, at any regularly scheduled meetings and/or conferences.
5. Motion to set and advertise the Salary Board Meetings, as needed, at any regularly scheduled meetings and/or conferences.
6. Motion to set and advertise the Election Board Meetings, as needed, at any regularly scheduled meetings and/or conferences.
7. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-01, appointing The Pike County Dispatch, Tri-County Independent, The Pocono Record, The Times Herald Record, The Pike County Courier, and The Law Journal (per statute) as Official Publications of Pike County for the Year 2024.
8. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-02, setting forth depositories of County funds for the year 2024; namely, Honesdale National Bank, Dime Bank, NBT Bank, Wells Fargo, Wayne Bank and PNC Bank.
9. Motion to execute the contract between Thomas Farley, Esquire, and the County of Pike, for services as Pike County Solicitor for a 1-year term.
10. Motion to execute the contract between Stacey Beecher, Esquire, and the County of Pike, for services as Pike County Assistant Solicitor for a 1-year term.
11. Motion to appoint Jason Ohliger, Esquire, as Pike County Assistant Solicitor for a 1-year term.
12. Motion to execute the contract between Eric L. Hamill, Esquire, and the County of Pike, for services as Conflicts Counsel for the Public Defender's Office, for a 1-year term.
13. Motion to recognize the appointment of the following Row Officers' Solicitors, on an as needed basis, for a 1-year term: R. Anthony Waldron, Esquire – Coroner, Prothonotary, Treasurer; Ron Bugaj, Esquire – Auditors, Sheriff; and Christopher Kimler, Esquire – Recorder of Deeds.
14. Motion to appoint Michael Lamoreaux of MHE Engineering, as Engineer for the County of Pike for a 1-year term at the proposed rates.
15. Motion to appoint Michael Lamoreaux of MHE Engineering, as Dam Inspector for the County of Pike for a 1-year term at the proposed rates.
16. Motion to appoint Commissioner Osterberg to the following boards for a 4-year term: Economic Development Authority, Northeast Pennsylvania Rural Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO), Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA), Penn State Cooperative Extension; Opioid Task Force, Roak Task Force, Tick Borne Diseases Task Force, and Scenic Rural Character Preservation

Board.

17. Motion to appoint Commissioner Schmalzle to the following boards for a 4-year term: Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District, Local Emergency Planning Commission, Planning Commission, Pocono Counties Workforce Investment Board, and representative to the Pocono Mountain Visitor Bureau.

18. Motion to appoint Commissioner Schmalzle to the Pike County Conservation District Board for a 1-year term ending December 31, 2024.

19. Motion to appoint Commissioner Caceres to the following boards for a 4-year term: Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board, Area Agency on Aging Transportation Advisory Committee, Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Development Services Advisory Board, Children & Youth Advisory Board, Council of Governments Board, and Reentry Coalition.

Any Commissioner can attend any Board Meeting in case of the appointed Commissioners' absence, as a voting member of that Board.

20. Motion to appoint Glenn Stryas as Chairperson of the Pike County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a 1-year term ending December 31, 2024.

21. Motion to reappoint the following individuals to the Pike County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026: Cordell Bowman, Laura Guccini-Engle, Mary Little, Rita Tepperman and Barbara Shevlin.

22. Motion to reappoint the following individuals to the Pike County Board of Assessment Appeals for a 1-year term: James Gelatt as Chairman, Fred Suljic as Vice Chair, and Frank Tarquinio as Secretary.

23. Motion to reappoint Jeannemarie Passaro to the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health and Development Services Advisory Board for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026.

24. Motion to appoint Jayson Pope to the Pike County Children & Youth Advisory Board for a 2-year term ending December 31, 2025.

25. Motion to reappoint John Milliken as Public Director to the Pike County Conservation District Board for a 4-year term ending December 31, 2027.

26. Motion to reappoint the following individuals to the Economic Development Authority for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026: Gerry Najarian, Tim Gartner and Charles Gillinder.

27. Motion to reappoint the following individuals to the Hotel Tax Grant Program Board for a 2-year term ending December 31, 2025: Bridget Gelderman as Chair, Justin Genzlinger, Rory O-Fee, Ladora Phillips and Gary Wilson.

28. Motion to appoint the following individuals to the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District Board for a 4-year term ending December 31, 2027: Karl Eisenhauer, Carson Helfrich, Rachael Marques, James Martin and James Shook.

29. Motion to reappoint the following individuals to the Pike County Road Task Force for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026: Kenneth Coutts-Palmyra Township; Kyle Kellstrom, Alternate-Palmyra Township; and Richard Bailo-Delaware Township.

30. Motion to appoint the following individual to the Pike County Road Task Force for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026: Daniel Bellino, Alternate-Delaware Township.

31. Motion to reappoint the following individuals to the Pike County Road Task Force, for a 1-year term ending December 31, 2024: Russ York-Porter Township; and Bill Powell, Alternate-Porter Township.

32. Motion to reappoint William Clauss to the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026.

33. Motion to appoint R. Anthony Waldron to the Scenic Rural Character Preservation Board for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2026.

34. Motion to change the title of Brian Snyder from Planner/GIS Technician to Planner/Assistant Mapping Director, in the Planning & Mapping Department, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

35. Motion to change the title of Shannon DeVuyst from Communications Director/Administrative

Assistant to Communications Director/Administrative Manager, in the Commissioner's Office, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

36. Motion to eliminate the position of Discovery Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office.
37. Motion to change the position of Victim Advocate to Victim Advocate/File Discovery Coordinator in the District Attorney's Office.
38. Motion to change the title of Rayonna Story from Victim Advocate to Victim Advocate/File Discovery Coordinator, in the District Attorney's Office, for a 40-hour work week, retroactive to January 1, 2024.
39. Motion to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Lowe advising that he has hired Kathleen Cronin as temporary part-time Accounts Clerk from the Correctional Facility, for a six-month period retroactive to January 1, 2024, for less than 1,000 hours per year.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve items 1 through 39 as presented by Commissioner Osterberg.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Caceres, 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 Commissioners' Reorganization Meeting.

PRESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Meeting attendee, Kevin Houlihan of Dingman Township, said he had two comments regarding the Reorganization Meeting. In early December we had a Commissioners' meeting in which several groups of individuals talked about concerns with respect to their protective rights categories. I'd like to applaud the Commissioners in this Reorganization, appointing Commissioner Caceres to the Reentry Coalition. I think Pike County has to be applauded when it comes to corrections and the Correctional Facility, we call it recidivism which is the amount of people going back into prisons. The National average is about 43% - 44% according to the Department of Justice statistics. Pike County, the last two to three years, is 19%. That's something to really be proud of for a County this size and the demographic of a County of this type. Meeting attendee, Kevin Houlihan continued the second item is with respect to item #35, Shannon Devuyt. When we talk about hate and negativity, a lot of that is derived from information. You have misinformation, wrong or inaccurate communication for influencing purposes, disinformation which is a little bit more serious and negative because it influences people to think your way and, of course, mal-information where you take things out of context. By elevating the title and position within communications, that's another great sign of the forward thinking of our Commissioners. Thank you to the three of you.

Commissioner Osterberg commented about the Correctional Facility. While we take credit for that, we really give that to the staff at the Correctional Facility. Our Warden is recognized in the State as being one of the top Wardens. When you go to a Commissioners convention, you tell them you're from Pike and if you're talking to people about corrections, they know Craig Lowe's (Warden of PCCF) name and he does a really good job up there. He is very concerned about the individuals that are, unfortunately, incarcerated. He is looking to make sure that they do not come back. When they do come back, he's saddened by that. What he feels is that he hasn't done his job, that's what his job is. His job is to make sure that these individuals get on with a productive life. Thanks for recognizing us, but the Reentry Coalition in this County is an active organization, Christa (Commissioner Caceres) will be on that. It got a little slowed down like other things did during COVID, but it's back up and running again. There are countless volunteers at our correctional facility. Before COVID we would have a luncheon up there, a barbeque to recognize the volunteers, there would be two hundred fifty people there, from all over. Some people as far away as Northampton County, PA. Thanks for recognizing that.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked if the Commissioners got the numbers of how much it will cost for Narcan in every medicine cabinet of Pike County? Commissioner Osterberg answered we did not.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo said she is grateful that we started off giving recognition to those who are doing great jobs and I believe that being active is also preventative and it's about time we touched on how we get some of these issues solved, when inmates come back because he (the Warden) felt like he wasn't able to prevent that. There's a study of four hundred six 17 year olds, in State foster care, between July 2001 and June 2003 where 45% of those were reported of using and trying illicit drugs within the past six months. That's a study done in these youth of two, three, years. Within the past six months they were still able to get their hands on or tried illicit drugs. I remember when I first came here and speaking to you guys about preventative measures. What preventative measures are being placed out there? I think when we were speaking on putting Narcan in every family's medicine cabinet, it wasn't ignorant of me to question the intention or emotion or even ask for a number because the thing is, a dude mentioned the transparency

and how these things are affecting taxpayers? Even though it was said that it was done through a grant, we should know what the numbers are and then for the preventative and active part. What are we doing or putting our money into that may be affecting or causing children or people to become a statistic. We're putting Narcan in medicine cabinets, but we should also be checking what we are putting our money into as far as the Children and Youth system. There was a question of transparency and even honesty when it came to receiving emails on this handle that were being done with the agency. Now, we're having proposals for programs to give out medicine that would be lifesaving for those who are overdosing from drugs but are we making sure that we're being preventative from the things that we're also paying into that may be adding to those statistics? Like the youth that may be ripped away from their families for no good reason, especially against the Constitution and being thrown into a system where they're now left to experience and see whatever this world has to give them. Blowing some whistles on whether we're not only funding the problem, but then covering that as a great secret putting money toward the saving and saying well we're proposing a solution, but we also created the problem. I feel like we should really be checking our hearts and whether our actions are really helping or hindering our County and the pockets of the taxpayers. Commissioner Caceres thanked Ms. Vigo for making her statements and said she greatly appreciates her coming here to voice her concerns. As far as the annual cost, the number was not obtained, but when we get around to making that calculation, it will be publicized. Commissioner Caceres continued that she wants to speak to her concerns with respect to individuals and juveniles in foster care or in the custody and care of the foster department, experiencing or partaking in drugs. As unfortunate as it is, my fourteen-year-old son is here, it's a very cold world out there and unfortunately some children fall victim, just like some adults fall victim, to using and trying drugs. Unfortunately, they get hooked. Our job here is to make sure that the foster care system is adequately financed so that they can properly function. Whether or not a child is rightfully or wrongfully taken from a family, is not within our purview. I can tell you we're very concerned and that's part of our job and that's why we run, to serve the community and serve the County, to make sure we're doing the best we can and these agencies are properly funded. With respect to your question about the Narcan, are we doing the right thing with that, it's almost to your point about being reactive or proactive, right? Reactive versus being proactive. You mentioned the correctional facility and the Warden being concerned when people return, and you felt as though they weren't being as proactive. With respect to the Narcan, when someone unfortunately has an overdose episode in or near their home, would we want some help to be present or would we not? Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo said yeah, sure and I'm not speaking against that, as I said last meeting, I understand. I think I'm just hinting toward the Commissioners that already received emails of mishandling happening within their agency and I don't believe in coincidences but we'll say this program was proposed and I did see it as a beautiful opportunity to request a consideration and overlooking of what the funds have been going out to fund the crime that has been done against me, to be looked at. I requested that my children do not become a statistic and so may need something to look over. I'm not giving any details, just like that man who got emotional last time. I'm removing emotions, I'm speaking only on the logics. I'm speaking to the people who sign the checks because the people who are doing the acts aren't stopping it, so in effect to speak to the ones who are paying for those acts. I can just say that was a door for me to say can we keep those five children from becoming the statistics that you guys are paying to prevent and to keep and if he can answer back the email. Commissioner Osterberg answered, let me just say, we've said that before that we get those emails. We forward those emails to the agency's Directors, sometimes to NERO, sometimes to our Solicitors. The emails that we're getting mention names and children and all this and I don't think, as I've said at the last meeting, that I should be commenting on this because I don't know all the facts. Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo said but you didn't email back. Commissioner Osterberg answered even just sending back, just because you send me an email do I honestly know who you are? That's not my role, to try to investigate who is sending me emails when it comes to sensitive information. These children, your children, all these children have just as many rights as the parents do, that's why when those emails come to us, we don't ignore them, but we certainly don't respond to them. There's two phone calls on my phone right now from individuals calling about this. I forward those to the right agencies to find out more about the story and there's a lot more to the story. I'm not saying yours is any different, but you have to understand, we need to be sensitive of what we do with that information. These are children that we are talking about. Again, I don't know who those people are who are calling my phone. Just because they say who they are, doesn't mean I know who they are or that their being truthful and honest to us. I appreciate what you're saying we will get the numbers on the Narcan for you, that's a legitimate concern of how much we're spending on that.

Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo said NERO, I looked up this NERO and wasn't able to come up with anything. Not even my church family was able to find this, could you give me a specific address?

Commissioner Osterberg answered we will, it's the Northeast Regional Office that oversees our Children and Youth. When these complaints come in, we send them to them (NERO). We send them upstairs, we send them to our Solicitor and we send them to NERO. In many cases, sometimes what happens is people send complaints to NERO and they filter in the other direction. Now, hopefully, I think they are, they are vetting what those complaints are, that the people who are giving the information are actually the ones who should be speaking to these children. When this comes to us, the Courts are really the ones who dictate these decisions. You're right, we write the checks, but in front of those two Judges over there is when the decisions are made. There's no place for us to be getting involved in that. These are real sensitive issues. Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked for verification purposes, are you now stating that you have been receiving complaints called in or emails about mishandling within CYS agency? Commissioner Osterberg

answered I've been here for twelve years and I can tell you that I have received complaints about CYS, about Transportation and about many different things, and I forward them, I do not ignore them. I know Commissioner Schmalzle doesn't either and the other Commissioners before us didn't either. We have a responsibility of how we handle those, particularly to CYS.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked do you know the problem process to register a complaint? I've been going through all the processes, and I've not received any response, not even from the DA, but I will keep going as a mother. Commissioner Caceres asked outside of the County, are you aware of the proper protocol? Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo answered I would utilize the County first because I'm the preventative type, why make it a big thing when we can situate it and settle that?

Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo said what brought me here was actually the meeting on December 6th where it was asked about whether you had been receiving emails because you said no and I was like oh, that's like basically asking me to come. I'm grateful that we finally got to the truth and answer, which was posed on December 6th which was if you think if there was any word coming to you guys about mishandling in that agency and this was a clear answer. There have been, it's just you guys are handling the information.

ADJOURNMENT

THE FIRST COMMISSIONERS' MEETING OF THE YEAR WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REORGANIZATION MEETING.

THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 506 BROAD STREET, MILFORD, PA 18337.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

The first regular meeting of January 2024 of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Osterberg immediately following the Reorganization Meeting held at 11:00 a.m. at the Pike County Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Caceres; Chief Clerk Gromalski; and Solicitor Farley.

Commissioner Osterberg said this is the Agenda for the regular Commissioners' meeting. We combine them because normally we would've had a meeting tomorrow. We advertised it so we are able to hold this meeting right after the Reorganization Meeting to save everybody some time and energy.

Motion to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold an Election Board Meeting. An Election Board Meeting was held. Motion to adjourn the Election Board Meeting and reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda-

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, on September 26, 1789...

Solicitor Farley interrupted and said no! First tell me what relates to the Agenda that you're asking to comment on. What question do you have on any of the motions? Commissioner Osterberg added we are going to have a press and public comment. Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, said perfect.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve the January 2, 2024 Agenda.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the December 20, 2023 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg and Schmalzle voted 'aye'. Commissioner Caceres abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Osterberg, to approve the December 27, 2023 Commissioners' Conference Minutes.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg and Schmalzle voted 'aye'. Commissioner Caceres abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve payment from **GENERAL FUNDS (County Bills)** in the amount of **\$299,990.11**.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve payment from **BRIDGE REPAIR ACCOUNT** in the amount of **\$1,665.00**.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve payment from **PIKE COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE FUND** in the amount of **\$3,329.46**.

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

PERSONNEL

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to change the part-time Administrative Clerk position in the CASA of Pike County Program to a full-time position for a 37.5-hour work week, retroactive to January 1, 2024.

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

Reporter Preston Ehrler asked if there is going to be two people in CASA now? Chief Clerk Gromalski answered there have been two.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to change the status of **SUSAN SCHOR** from part-time Administrative Clerk to full-time Administrative Clerk for the CASA of Pike County Program for a 37.5-hour work week, retroactive to January 1, 2024, with benefits after 90 days.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to hire **TINYA ENGLES** as Clerk Typist 1 in the Area Agency on Aging for a 35-hour work week, effective January 8, 2024, pending drug test results, with benefits after 90 days. This is a replacement position.

VOTE: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Caceres 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.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to execute the Agreement of Lease between Matamoras Fire Department and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to execute the Agreement of Lease between Lackawaxen Township Volunteer Fire Department and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to execute the Agreement for Janitorial Services between Peter Carella and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Grease Tank Pumping, Transportation and Disposal Agreement between Koberlein, Inc. dba Koberlein Environmental Services and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

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

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to execute the fiscal year 2023 fourth quarter payments from the Pike County Emergency Medical Services grant funds to Lackawaxen Township in the amount of \$82,712.53 and Lehman Township in the amount of \$89,190.00.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

- PennState Extension Calendar of Events

PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ADJOURNMENT

Reporter Max Augugliaro of the Pocono Record asked Commissioner Caceres if she thinks there is a transitional period from activist to politician and, if so, how do you plan to make the transition?

Commissioner Caceres answered I don't consider myself an activist per se, more like a community servant. Certainly, there will be a small transition and a learning curve between what I've done in my other roles versus this one. I respect this office and I look forward to working with these two gentlemen and I would just say the first year is going to be a lot of listening and not a lot of talking.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, felt she should not be suppressed earlier. I don't think you understood the specific thing I was touching on in the Agenda. It was about pay right? What we're going to be paid, what we're signing off on and my point is it's the framework what we make our decisions on as far as representation in pay right? I just probably didn't know how to start it and may have scared you guys a little bit. Commissioner Osterberg said you didn't scare us, we just want to keep order in the meeting.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, continued the First Amendment which is Congress should make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. I would ask if you believe that anything done against that is a crime? It's against the Constitution, but if we do something against that, is that a crime? Commissioner Osterberg answered if you do anything that violates the First Amendment? If we do anything against the Constitution, is that a crime? Commissioner Osterberg answered that's for the Court's to decide, not for us, I guess I will agree with that. You have to put some more facts in there.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked about the Fourteenth Amendment, that all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including formerly enslaved people and provided all citizens with equal protection under the laws. Is that true? Commissioner Osterberg clarified the people have equal protection under the law? Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked even children, right? Commissioner Osterberg answered yes. Meeting attendee Kristina Vigo, added that is why people are marching for the unborn. When it came down to sending transcripts to you, why do you believe that to be too sensitive to make sure that children are receiving these protections. Commissioner Osterberg answered these are legal proceedings. Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, said my question is with the trial. Solicitor Farley interrupted and informed meeting attendee Kristina Vigo that she is going too far. This is not a forum for you to discuss your children.

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, continued that we do agree that anything done against the Constitution is a crime though? Commissioner Caceres answered certainly a violation of the Constitution, not necessarily a crime. Commissioner Osterberg added that's for the Court to decide. Ms. Vigo continued so what we're paying off, we know that we cannot support anything that goes against it; in the aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, we can acknowledge that the paying of anything that might be supporting going against the Constitution is against the Constitution as well? Commissioner Caceres answered that's extremely broad, I know where you're going. Ms. Vigo said it's out on the table now. Commissioner Caceres responded the question is on the table, but it is very broad and I'm not sure that we can actually apply the question to what I know you're referring to, which is your assertion that this agency is criminal. Ms. Vigo said we'll keep that off the table, but actually that last comment, I'm grateful you picked it up. It's not a question, it's for consideration for those who have the pen in their hand. Commissioner Caceres said but you also recognize that the agency itself has to be funded whether there's one, two or twenty people who maybe running afoul of this just by your allegation that doesn't change the fact that we have a job to do and so does that agency. It's got to be properly funded. How people may or may not do their job within that agency, there's a protocol you can follow. I asked you if you were aware of the entire chain to make sure that if you're not satisfied on the local level, where you can go outside of this County and to make sure you are properly preserving your rights as well. I know for a fact that if you do not properly follow that protocol, they can dismiss your allegation no matter how founded it may be. If you need that information, I'm sure that's something that in response to an email we may receive from you is what is the proper protocol. I'm pretty sure and I'll defer to our Solicitor, we're prohibited from going beyond that. Solicitor Farley said you're right and she'll give you the phone number for NERO. Ms. Vigo said thank you, all men are created

equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it. I hope you will consider our rights and liberties and where we start and where we end. We all will be accountable to that one creator.

Meeting attendee, Kevin Holian, said when we talk about the First Amendment, hate can be broken down into four different thoughts, cyber bullying, hate speech, microaggression and hate crimes. From a district attorney standpoint and from a crime standpoint, if a criminal harms a person or property, for example drawn on the side of a truck a swastika or if I reach over and smack you in the head because of race or ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. When it comes to hate speech, cyber bullying and microaggression, those are gray areas. It is very rare where a district attorney will pursue an indictment on those types of interactions. When looking at the Constitution of the United States, realize how and why it was written. We express ourselves through love, kindness or hate. A lot of people know how to work around it. We have to be very careful how we discuss it, how we approach it and how we position our elected officials in kind to respond to that. It's very thin ice. We're very fortunate to have a Constitution.

Meeting attendee, John Hellman, said he wants to welcome new Commissioner Christa Caceres. Meeting attendee, John Hellman said he was forwarded a letter that was also forwarded to the Commissioners from Kerry Williams, who identified herself as the president of the Pike County Chapter of Moms for Liberty. Ms. Williams said that I publicly denounced Moms for Liberty for being anti-number of groups I believe are being unfairly victimized within our society. In that letter she asks me to retract and apologize so I would like to publicly say that I'm very sorry that Moms for Liberty lost almost every single school board election that they endorsed candidates for in Pennsylvania and Iowa and a few other states. I apologize that slavery did happen; it was a brutal, disgusting part of our history. As long as you continue to make the lives of trans kids and LGBTQ folks a living hell, I will continue to call you a hate group.

MEETING ADJOURNED - THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

Commissioners' Conference Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2024

PRESENT: Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Caceres; Chief Clerk Gromalski; and Treasurer Gilpin.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to call the conference to order at 11:00 A.M.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

Public Comments/Questions concerning today's agenda- NONE.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve the Agenda.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve payment from the following:
GENERAL FUND (County Bills) \$685,523.50

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve payment from the following:
BRIDGE REPAIR ACCOUNT \$26,024.11

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve payment from the following:
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE FUND \$706.18

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

*Motion to recess the Commissioners' Conference to hold a Salary Board Meeting.
A SALARY BOARD MEETING WAS HELD
Motion to reconvene the Commissioner's Conference.*

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to authorize the Chairman to execute Change Order No. 1 for Owego Speed Limit Signs Project.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Letter of Transmittal for Rutledge Excavating, Inc. payment application #1 for the Springbrook Road Over Rattlesnake Creek Bridge Replacement Project.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Letter of Transmittal for Grimm Payment application #1 and Datom payment #1 - #3 for the Bennett Ave Building 1 Interior Renovations Project.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to execute the Dickson House Subgrant Award Letter, on behalf of the Dickson House Children's Advocacy Center.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0 Test Usage Agreement between the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Department.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to authorize the Chairman to execute the First Amendment to the Local Agency Grant Agreement for Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Agriculture and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to approve the following Human Services Payment Vouchers on behalf of the Office of Human Services: Human Services Development Fund in the amount of \$1,000.00; PHARE in the amount of \$4,075.33; and State Food Purchase Program in the amount of \$11,001.69.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

MOTION: by Commissioner Schmalzle and seconded by Commissioner Caceres, to reappoint **VIVIAN BRUNO** to the Pike County Children and Youth Advisory Board for a 2-year term ending December 31, 2025.

VOTE: All members voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ADJOURNMENT- NONE

Commissioners' Conference was adjourned.

**THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**