

**AGENDA**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 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 an Election Board Meeting.**  
***ELECTION BOARD MEETING***  
**Motion to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS CONCERNING TODAY'S AGENDA**

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1. Approve January 2, 2024 Agenda.
  2. Approve December 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes.
  3. Approve December 27, 2023 Conference Minutes.
  4. Approve payment from **GENERAL FUNDS (County Bills)** ..... \$299,990.11
  5. Approve payment from **BRIDGE REPAIR ACCOUNT** ..... \$1,665.00
  6. Approve payment from **PIKE COUNTY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND** ..... \$3,329.46
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**PERSONNEL**

1. Motion 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.
2. Motion 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.
3. Motion 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.

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

**SALARY BOARD**

1. Motion to convene Salary Board.
2. Motion to approve the December 20 and 27, 2023 Salary Board Minutes.
3. Motion to increase the hourly rate of **SUSAN SCHOR** to \$17.00 per hour as 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.
4. Motion to set the hourly rate of **TINYA ENGLES** at \$14.50 per hour 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.

***Motion to reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.***

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion to execute the Agreement of Lease between Matamoras Fire Department and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.
2. Motion 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.
3. Motion to execute the Agreement for Janitorial Services between Peter Carella and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging.
4. Motion 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.
5. Motion 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.

**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, JANUARY 17, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**



# Pike County Board of Elections

## Meeting Agenda

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**DATE:** January 2, 2024

**TIME:** 11:30 am Commissioner’s Meeting Room

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approve minutes from September 11, 2023 BOE Meeting

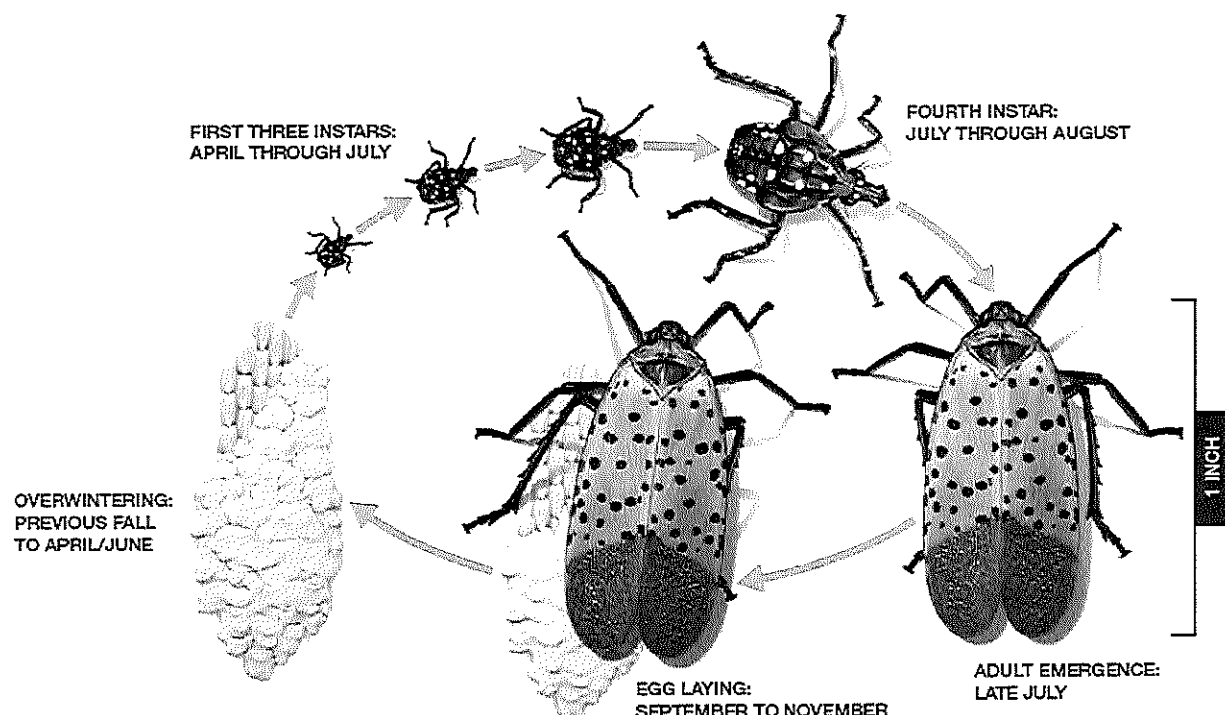
Approve minutes from February 1, 2023 BOE Meeting. *(Last meeting conducted by previous BOE)*

Reorganization, appoint Chair, Vice-Chair to 2024 Board of Elections.

# Penn State Extension Upcoming Events

## January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](mailto:axs1397@psu.edu).

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

## Budgeting:

### Boosting Financial Wellness

**Via Zoom – Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/boosting-financial-wellness-financial-clutter>.

**Via Zoom – Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/boosting-financial-wellness-money-and-nutrition>.

**Via Zoom – Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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<sup>st</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/boosting-financial-wellness-money-and-relationships>.

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## Energy:

### Unlocking the Power of Hydrogen

**Via Zoom – Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/unlocking-the-power-of-hydrogen-for-energy-industry-and-agriculture>.

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## Family:

### Kinship Family Forum

**Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET).**

During the *Kinship Family Forum: Great Children's Literacy*, Sharon K. Savage will discuss the importance of reading. Books (and YOU) are excellent teachers. They are an excellent resource on caregiving, socio-emotional support, resilience, and living situations. Children's books can help families explore difficult situations, provide different perspectives, and serve as conversation starters. We will discuss ideas and activities designed around books to help children. There is no registration fee for the event, but you must pre-register by January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/kinship-family-forum-great-childrens-literacy>.

### **On Demand Webinars**

Visit our website [extension.psu.edu](https://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.

## 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>.

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## 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.

### Come Grow With Us!

**Via Zoom – Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (8:50 AM – 12:30 PM ET)**

In *Come Grow With Us! Gardening with Perennials* you will learn about the world of perennials, how to care for them, design with them, and the challenges they may pose. We will be discussing the 2024 Trends for Gardening by Noelle Akin, Perennials 101 by Dr. Laura Deeter, and Climate Changes & PA Growers by Jane Ellen Nickell. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, but you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/come-grow-with-us-gardening-with-perennials>.

### Second Saturday Gardening Series

**Via Zoom – Saturday, January 13, 2023 (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM ET).**

Join the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Montour and Northumberland County for *Protecting our Pollinators*, an informative discussion that spans the seasons, aimed at understanding the vital role of bumble bees and cultivating bumble bee-friendly environments. Discover what actions you can take in each season to support bumble bee populations and create nurturing habitats for these essential pollinators. 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/second-saturday-gardening-series-protecting-our-pollinators>.

### On-Demand Webinars

Visit our website, [extension.psu.edu](https://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 fee** for each pre-recorded webinar.

\*\* Planting for Pollinators in Sun and Shade

Available until 03/14/24

### Good Gardening Saturdays

**Via Zoom – Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)**

The Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Delaware County invite you to our monthly lecture series: Good Gardening Saturdays. This month, *Good Gardening Saturdays: The Majestic Peony* will give you the opportunity to learn about peonies - a garden's haute couture. Learn about peony types, flower features, and care that will boost your peony garden's beauty. There is a **\$10.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/good-gardening-saturdays-the-majestic-peony>.



## Know your Natives Series

**Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 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](https://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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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>.

## Winter Wonderings: Working with Hedges, Screens, and Slopes

**Via Zoom – Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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, introduce a variety of plants that can be utilized, and provide tips for maintenance as one seeks to improve their landscape. 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>.

## Home Gardening Series

**Via Zoom – Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>th</sup>, 2023. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/home-gardening-series-the-four-season-garden-a-photographic-tour>.

## Health:

### The Volumetrics Weigh of Life

**Via Zoom – Thursdays January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (5:00 PM – 6:30 PM ET)**

*The Volumetrics Weigh of Life: Weight Management Plan* teaches fundamental weight management principles on eating the "Volumetrics" way and emphasizes sustainable eating patterns for lifelong weight management. Each of the six classes provides calorie density lessons, food demonstrations, examples of Volumetrics food choices, and interactive learning opportunities through group discussions. There is a **\$40.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/the-volumetrics-weigh-of-life-weight-management-plan-pilot>.

### LIFTed (8-Week Program)

**Via Zoom – Mon. & Wed. January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – March 6, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET)**

*LIFTed* is an 8-week virtual live group-based at-home strength training program for adults 40+. Participation in *LIFTed* may result in improvements in functional fitness or the ability to perform activities of daily living with ease. Participants are encouraged to work towards achieving their own personal goals in a group setting.

*LIFTed* sessions are held twice a week virtually via Zoom for one hour over eight weeks and include an active warm-up, eight to twelve core strength training exercises, and a cool down. The program also includes basic nutrition information emphasizing increasing fruit and vegetable intake.

*Some insurances may reimburse participants with 80% or better attendance. Please contact your insurance provider for more information.*

There is a **\$60.00 registration fee** for the program, and you must pre-register by January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/lifted-8-week>.

### Mental Health First Aid

**Via Zoom – Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (12:45 AM – 4:00 PM ET)  
and Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 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. There is a **\$35.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/adult-mental-health-first-aid>.

**A certificate will be available online after completion of the course.**

**Via Zoom – Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 (12:45 AM – 4:00 PM ET)  
and Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 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. There is a **\$35.00 registration fee** for the event, and you must pre-register by January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/mental-health-first-aid-adults-working-with-youth>.

**A certificate will be available online after completion of the course.**

### Suicide Prevention Training

**Via Zoom – Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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<sup>st</sup>, 2023. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/qpr-gatekeeper-suicide-prevention-training>.

## Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body

**Via Zoom – Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 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>.

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## Land:

### Arborist Short Course Series

**Via Zoom – Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET)**

Today there is an increased awareness by homeowners and municipalities for the need of trained and knowledgeable tree care workers. The green industry has responded to this demand for trained professionals by creating certification programs, such as the Arborist Short Course.

Designed to increase working tree knowledge and professional arborist skills, successful completion of the ten-day Arborist Short Course Series will prepare participants interested in taking the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists Examination. Please note this course does not include the exam.

There is a **\$250.00 registration fee** for the course, and you must pre-register by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/arborist-short-course-series>.

**Certification credits may be available!**

### Tree Tenders® Training Series

**Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET)**

*The Tree Tenders® Training Series* program empowers concerned residents to make dramatic strides towards restoring and caring for the tree canopy in their communities. Join thousands of other concerned citizens like yourself. Become a Tree Tender and help increase tree canopy cover in your community. There is a **\$40.00 registration fee** for the course, and you must pre-register by January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/arborist-short-course-series>.

**Certification credits may be available!**

### Woods in Your Backyard Series

**Via Zoom – Wednesdays January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM ET)**

Many landowners have small woodlots less than 10 acres in size. *Woods in Your Backyard Series* is designed specifically, but not exclusively, for smaller landscapes. Join us to learn how landowners can positively influence the environment by implementing simple stewardship practices. Each participant will receive a copy of 'The Woods in Your Backyard manual', a self-directed book that will explain the process of developing and implementing projects to enhance their land's natural resources. There is a **\$50.00 registration fee** for the course, and you must pre-register by January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/woods-in-your-backyard-series>.

### Frontiers in Forest Health

**Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 18, 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 31, 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>.

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## Water:

### 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](https://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.

### Private Water Supply Education

**Via Zoom – Monday, January 8, 2024 (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET)**

Do you live in one of the more than one million homes and farms in Pennsylvania that get their drinking water from a private well or spring? Do you know what is in your drinking water and how to keep it safe for you and your family? Would you like to have your water tested for free? The *Private Water Supply Education and Water Testing* event is designed for people who manage a private drinking water supply. We'll cover how to test and protect your well or spring and when water treatment might make sense. We will also discuss well and spring system inspection and maintenance, so you know how to protect your family, your property, and the groundwater we share. This event is for residents of Pennsylvania who use a private water supply (well, spring, cistern) in their primary residence. There is no registration fee for the course, but you must pre-register. For more information or to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/private-water-supply-education-and-water-testing>.

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## Wildlife:

### Pennsylvania's Effort to Reintroduce American Marten

**Via Zoom – Wednesday, January 17, 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>.

**ELECTION BOARD MEETING**

**September 11, 2023, 3:00 pm.**

**Commissioners Meeting Room**

**PRESENT:** Interim Board of Elections Chris Strong; Bridget Gelderman; Chief Clerk Krista Gromalski; Election Director Nadeen Manzoni

**MOTION:** by Chris Strong, to convene the Election Board meeting.

**VOTE:** All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Chris Strong and seconded by Bridget Gelderman, to approve the August 9, 2023 BOE Meeting Minutes.

**VOTE:** All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Chris Strong and seconded by Bridget Gelderman, to approve moving the voters of Matamoras Boro Hall to the new polling location of Matamoras Fire Department for the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election.

**VOTE:** All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Chris Strong and seconded by Bridget Gelderman to approve posting Notices for Matamoras change in polling location to county website and 5 locations in the Boro of Matamoras as well as stationing someone outside the Boro Hall Polling Location the morning of Election Day.

**VOTE:** All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

**PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

**No Comments**

**MOTION:** by Chris Strong and seconded by Bridget Gelderman, to adjourn the Election Board Meeting.

**VOTE:** All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

## **ELECTION BOARD MEETING**

**February 1, 2023, 11:00 a.m.**

**Commissioners Meeting Room**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Matthew Osterberg, Ronald Schmalzle, and Tony Waldron; Chief Clerk Krista Gromalski; Election Director Nadeen Manzoni, Solicitor; Tom Farley

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to convene the Election Board meeting.

**VOTE:** All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the December 28, 2022 Election Board meeting minutes.

**VOTE:** All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve contracting Phoenix Graphics to mail and print ballots for 2023. The vendor is a change from the original mail house vendor, Runbeck Elections, who informed Director, Nadeen Manzoni, they were unable to accommodate new clients for the 2023 election year.

**VOTE:** All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board of Elections members recommended appointments to replace them for the 2023 election cycle while they seek re-election for the office of County Commissioner as follows:

Matthew M. Osterberg recommends George R. Lutfy

Ronald R. Schmalzle recommends Christopher Strong

R. Anthony Waldron recommends Bridget Gelderman

BOE Solicitor Thomas Farley will submit the recommendations to the Court of Common Pleas for approval.

The current Board of Elections have stepped down from their duties as of this meeting, February 1, 2023.

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

Reporter, Chris Jones, asked about what using the mail house meant. Director, Nadeen Manzoni explained the mail house vendor, Phoenix Graphics will print and put together ballot packages to send to voters who apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot. Act 77 greatly increased the volume of mail-in and absentee requests the elections office processes, especially during Presidential and Mid-Term Elections. To help alleviate some of the workload the process of mailing out ballots will be turned over to Phoenix Graphics. They will be responsible to print ballots, envelopes and instructions sheets and put together the ballot packages which includes; a ballot, secrecy envelope, return envelope, instructions and the outside envelope.

The elections office will provide a list of verified, eligible voters whose applications were processed and approved by election office personnel. This list contains no personal identification and is similar to the absentee/mail-in voter lists made available to the public.

The mail house provides dates and postal service tracking information to the elections office when our ballots hit the mail stream. Using USPS technology we are now able to track a voters ballot as it moves through the postal service facilities in real time.

The elections office is still responsible for processing, verifying and approving absentee/mail-in applications. The elections continues to be responsible for handling the return, processing and recording of returned ballots. The only thing that will change with the mail house is who prints the ballot materials, stuffs the envelopes and mails them out. All other processes remain the same and the responsibility of the county election office.

Meeting attendee, State Representative Tarah Probst, asked about the county putting out more Drop Boxes throughout the county. Commissioner Osterberg said the Board decided against using more Drop Boxes due to the fact they could not be adequately monitored and municipal offices did not have extended hours. Also stating the issue of staffing to collect the ballots from

Drop Boxes and secure chain of custody required for multiple Drop Boxes. We will continue to make available the Drop Box in the lobby of the administration building that is monitored by a Sheriff Deputy.

Reporter, Chris Jones questioned how an interim Board of Elections was chosen. Solicitor Farley explained that each commissioner chose someone to appoint. The request is sent over to the Court of Common Pleas and the Judge usually appoints whoever the commissioners request. Commissioner Osterberg said they, (the commissioners), are not even allowed in the building on Election Day so there is no perception of favoritism.

Meeting attendee, Matthew Contrares asked about the timing of when a new Board of Elections would be in place. Commissioner Osterberg responded, before the petitions are circulated. This is the last Board of Elections Meeting with us serving as the Board.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adjourn the Election Board Meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned.

**Wednesday, December, 20, 2023**

The second regular meeting of December, 2023, of the Pike County Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Osterberg at 11:00 a.m. at the Pike County Administration Building, followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Osterberg and Waldron; Chief Clerk Gromalski; Solicitor Farley and via telephone Commissioner Schmalzle.

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

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

*Motion to recess the Commissioners' Meeting to hold a Retirement Board Meeting.*

*A RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING was held.*

*Motion to adjourn the RETIREMENT BOARD MEETING and reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.*

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

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

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

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the December 13, 2023, Conference Minutes.

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

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

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

#### **PERSONNEL**

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

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

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

*A SALARY BOARD MEETING was held.*

*Motion to adjourn the SALARY BORD MEETING and reconvene the Commissioners' Meeting.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to award bids for Fresh Bread and Baked Goods for the period of January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2024, on behalf of the Correctional Facility to Bimbo Bakeries USA, Inc. in the total annual bid amount of \$111,482.00.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Proposal for Special Inspection Materials Testing Services from Tectonic Engineering & Surveying Consultants, for the Bennett Ave Building 1 Renovations Project.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Contract Addendum between Service Access & Management, Inc. and Pike County, on behalf of Children and Youth Services.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the A&B Door Sales & Service, Inc. Quote in the amount of \$5,604.00.

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

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



Services Development Fund in the amount of \$4,480.00; State Food Purchase Program in the amount of \$5,708.18; PHARE in the amount of \$138,797.00; and Whole Home Repair in the amount of \$16,119.66.  
**VOTE:** Commissioners Osterberg, Schmalzle and Waldron voted 'aye'. Motion carried.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve those five (5) items outlined as 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as follows: Pike County Home Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$1,200.00, payable to Frank DeEsch, on behalf of the Offices of Human Services; the Pike County Home Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$1,200.00, payable to ProSolutions LLC., on behalf of the Office of Human Services; the Pike County Home Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$46.80, payable to GateHouse Media, on behalf of the Office of Human Services; the Affordable Housing Payment Voucher in the amount of \$310.64, payable to GateHouse Media, on behalf of the Office of Human Services; and the Affordable Housing Payment Voucher in the amount of \$58.75, payable to Recorder of Deeds, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the 2018 CDBG Program Payment Voucher in the amount of \$15,808.75, payable to ProSolutions LLC, on behalf of the Office of Human Services.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the fiscal year 2023 fourth quarter payments from the Pike County Emergency Medical Services grant funds to Milford Borough in the amount of \$10,000.00; Milford Township in the amount of \$13,794.20; and Westfall Township in the amount of 106,970.70.

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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

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

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

Commissioner Waldron continued, sadly, we're fortunate to have money to pay for this, but it doesn't necessarily have to cost our taxpayers, because our County was diligent enough to sue settlement monies from the opioid crisis lawsuits that followed, primarily with the manufacturers of the opioids, but there's even the distributors and the major pharmacies. They have agreed to pay money because they were being sued and that money is being spread out throughout the United States and Pike County was fortunate enough to get several hundred thousand dollars to utilize that money. It is earmarked for specific purposes like this one. The other thing I would say is please understand how lethal this can be. I've shared with many people here that I am a recovering drug addict and alcohol, with 43 years of sobriety. I'm very proud of that, but as I've said even at meetings, if I took a drink or took a pill all those years ago, I didn't think there was any chance that I could die, there was, because I could have gotten behind the wheel, but nonetheless, in these situations somebody could be at a party and be talked into trying something once and they can die. This is really a much more urgent crisis than even the drug problem itself. Of course, the idea that people use drugs and why that's happening and how that flows into our country is another issue, we can't deal with that. What we can do is make people aware of fentanyl problems. We have a campaign and we're going to share some slides. Commissioner Osterberg asked Shannon Wisniewski of Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol to say a few words. Shannon Wisniewski said when we're looking at the fentanyl awareness campaign, we looked at a couple of different avenues as to how to get this across in Pike County. Carbon-Monroe-Pike has had an outpatient here for about four years now and a lot of the times we're still looked at as Catholic Social Services because they were our outpatient provider here for many, many years. You know maybe the phone number to call, and you know who to reach out to, this is more to make sure that the localized community sees what it is that we're working with and what are the dangers when we're looking at fentanyl. Shannon Wisniewski continued with a slide show presentation. Shannon Wisniewski said we think it doesn't happen here, it does. Since 2020, according to the overdose free PA site, we've had fifty-one fatalities in Pike County. When we look at those deaths and what the composition of fentanyl it's over 92%. It's here, we know it's here. We're aware that this is what's going on, what do we do with it and making sure that families are aware. A lot of the time you will see us out at local events, and you'll see me handing out Narcan. You may think that you don't need Narcan, I'd rather you have it and never be in a position that you need it, then be in a position where you need it and you don't have it. Shannon Wisniewski continued with slide show presentation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, asked how much one of those cases cost? Shannon Wisniewski answered I'd have to look at the number, what they're charging now. We can put in that request, and it will be sent to us from the State. Meeting attendee, Kristina Vigo, said if anybody really cares about that, they'll come directly to you, but thank you. A meeting attendee said to keep people safe all you have to do is close the borders, that's where all the drugs come from. Commissioners Osterberg interrupted and said we're not being funny about it and I'm not going to be smart about it, you're at the wrong meeting. There's not much I can do about that. All I can do is protect the people of Pike County. You may have a point with that, but you'll have to take that up with the Federal legislators.

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING FOR JANUARY 2024 MEETINGS:**

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

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



Commissioners' Conference Minutes  
Wednesday, December 27, 2023

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

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

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from the following:  
**GENERAL FUND (County Bills)** ..... \$649,993.96

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from the following:  
**ACT 89** ..... \$3,484.38

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve payment from the following:  
**BRIDGE REPAIR ACCOUNT** ..... \$17,538.02

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

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Lowe advising that he had hired, with Prison Board approval, the following individuals as full-time Correctional Officers for the Correctional Facility, for a 40-hour work week, effective January 3, 2024, with benefits after 90-days:

**JONATHAN BRANTLEY, RODNEY CALDON, ANDREW INGEMI AND ALDO RAMIREZ.**

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Lowe advising that he had hired, with Prison Board approval, **SOMER KUNDLA** as full-time Treatment Counselor for the Correctional Facility, for a 40-hour work week, effective January 3, 2024, with benefits after 90 days.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Warden Lowe advising that he had hired, with Prison Board approval, **STEVEN BROWN** as full-time Maintenance Staff Member for the Correctional Facility, for a 40-hour work week, effective January 3, 2024, with benefits after 90 days.

**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.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to advertise bids for the Central Control System Upgrade of the Pike Couty Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Jaton-Tank Lining and Inspections of water heaters- Proposal No. 23P19793, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the Agreement for Professional Services between Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board, for October - December 2023 services.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to execute the 12-month agreement for Professional Services between Carbon-Monroe-Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc. and the County of Pike, on behalf of the Correctional Facility, as recommended by the Prison Board.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Master Agreement between Express Scripts, Inc., and the County of Pike.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Budget Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program RDA-300 Sources of Funds Form.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Budget Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program RDA-300 Sources of Funds Form.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Worker Protection and Investment Certification Form.  
**VOTE:** All members voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Statement of Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Compliance Acknowledgement.  
**VOTE:** All members voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to approve the May Brother’s Landscaping Corporation Estimate for repair of bluestone sidewalks.  
**VOTE:** All members voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Stop Loss Proposal for Pike County.  
**VOTE:** All members voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Business Associate Agreement between RxTalents, LLC, and the County of Pike.  
**VOTE:** All members voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the Proposal from ABS Solutions, LLC on behalf of the IT Department.  
**VOTE:** All members voted ‘aye’. Motion carried.

**PRESS & PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ADJOURNMENT- NONE**

Commissioners’ Conference was adjourned.

**THE NEXT REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 AT 11:30 A.M. IN THE PIKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**

**SALARY BOARD**  
**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 Salary Board.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to approve the December 6 and 13, 2023 Salary Board Minutes.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to set the hourly rate of **STEPHANY BORGES** at \$10.35 per hour as a temporary Intern in the Office of Children & Youth Services, for less than 1,000.00 hours per year, retroactive to December 18, 2023.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adjourn the Salary Board.

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

Salary Board Meeting Adjourned.

**SALARY BOARD  
December 27, 2023**

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to convene Salary Board.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to set the hourly rate of the following individuals at \$25.46 per hour, as full-time Correctional Officers for the Correctional Facility for a 40-hour work week, effective January 3, 2024, with benefits after 90 days: **JONATHAN BRANTLEY, RODNEY CALDON, ANDREW INGEMI AND ALDO RAMIREZ.**

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to set the hourly rate of **SOMER KUNDLA** at \$19.25 per hour, as full-time Treatment Counselor for the Correctional Facility, for a 40-hour work week, effective January 3, 2024, with benefits after 90 days.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to set the hourly rate of **STEVEN BROWN** at \$21.00 per hour, as full-time Maintenance Staff Member for the Correctional Facility, for a 40-hour work week, effective January 3, 2024, with benefits after 90 days.

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

**MOTION:** by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Commissioner Schmalzle, to adjourn the Salary Board.

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

Salary Board Meeting Adjourned.