

Budget/Operations Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 3:10 P.M. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Chair Christian Y. Leinbach called the meeting to order with Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio, Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson and Chuck Brantman, Deputy Director of Information System. Michael Vind, S&Lutions, also attended for item 2.

The following items were listed for discussion:

1. Website Translation Services – Ron Seaman distributed a proposal from The Hispanic Approach to provide website translation services for the County's website. The proposal calls for translation of 100 pages at \$75 per page. Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Leinbach support accepting the proposal. Commissioner Leinbach commented while he supports moving forward, he wants IS to track and provide how often translation of a webpage is used. Commissioner Scott does not support the proposal at this time. He would like to see more data on the usage. The Proposal will be listed next week for award and execution.
2. Debt Refinancing – Mike Vind, S&Lutions, presented a proposal to refinance the 2014 and 2012 A Bonds. After discussion the Board agreed to move forward with refinance. An Ordinance will be enacted next week.
3. Veterans' Affairs Lease Agreement – Commissioner Barnhardt reported we are in the 7th year of our ten year lease with BARTA. Bob Williams, Director of APO would like to start a day reporting program. BARTA has store front space that might work well for this type of program. Commissioner Barnhardt inquired of BARTA if they would be willing to lease the Vet Affairs and retail space to the county at a lower rate per square foot in exchange for a new ten year lease. Commissioner Barnhardt noted we are currently paying \$10.74 a square foot. Commissioner Barnhardt reported BARTA will lease both the current space and additional office space for \$7.00 a square foot over a ten year period. Commissioner Barnhardt noted the Bob Williams said he could use supervision fee funds to pay for any fit-out costs. He asked if the Board was interested in Bob Williams pursuing looking for a grant to pay for additional staff and to see if he has sublease opportunities to lower the incremental rent cost to the county. Commissioner Leinbach and Commissioner Scott were interested, with Commissioner Scott asking to tighten up the lease to include water damage. The Board was unanimous to have Bob proceed with pursuing funding opportunities to pay for the incremental rent. .

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk