

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes January 10, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, January 10, 2019, at 10:00 A. 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Barnhardt participated by telephone. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

Commissioner Leinbach opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 3, 2019 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held Tuesday, January 8, 2019, to discuss contract negotiations.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott to approve the Agenda with a request for discussion. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, and Commissioner Chair Leinbach granted request for discussion.

Commissioner Scott noted on the Contract Agenda it appears the department and vendor in numbers 1 and 2 are reversed. Commissioner Leinbach asked for corrections be made to the Contract Agenda.

Regarding the selection of a vendor for voting machines, Commissioner Scott feels this decision is coming rather quickly, but realizes that due to a recent legal settlement, we are being rushed by the State. Commissioner Scott also understands the County would like to have the new voting system in place before the Presidential Election to give the public a chance to become familiar, but believes there is still adequate time to reconsider selection of other vendors. Commissioner Scott mentioned Montgomery County chose Dominion Voting Systems, and after doing some research, stated Dominion is offering a system package around \$3.1 million, versus \$4.5 million for the ES&S system.

Commissioner Scott believes all options should be considered, and is not prepared to support Item 11.2019 B and would like to be recorded in opposition.

Commissioner Barnhardt countered Berks County is not being rushed into this decision; we have had this in the Capital Plan for the past four to five years, and have been looking at different voting systems for over a year. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned the County has held several demonstrations with all three vendors, and had two days of open inspections for poll workers and the public. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the feedback was overwhelming from the people who attended the inspections, they preferred the ES&S System. Commissioner Barnhardt stated he will be supporting this item.

Commissioner Leinbach stated the Stein decision had an enormous impact on counties. Commissioner Leinbach commented that because the Wolf Administration mandated last year that by the 2020 election all counties must have new voter certifiable machines in place, and sometime before February 2020, the State will decertify all voter systems. Commissioner Leinbach believes it would be extremely foolish to install a new voting system during a presidential election, and having tested both systems himself, supports the ES&S System.

Commissioner Scott commented that Items No. 13.2019 D and 14.2019 E were discussed at a Budget Meeting and he stated then he didn't think it necessary for the County to guarantee either projects because he doesn't believe either entities need the money, and he understands the Sheet Metal Union project is discriminatory as it will not allow non-union shops. Commissioner Scott will be voting no on both items.

Commissioner Leinbach stated for the same reasons, he will also be voting no on Items D & E. Regarding Item No. 12.2019 C, Commissioner Leinbach mentioned the Colebrookdale Railroad is a County project and managed by the Redevelopment Authority.

Commissioner Barnhardt is supportive of D & E, noting this action basically approves the Redevelopment Authority's administration of the grants. Commissioner Barnhardt will be supporting the entire Agenda. Ken Pick stated as a backup, he will go to the two municipalities to see what they will do.

Commissioner Leinbach stated there is a motion and a second on record with Commissioner Scott in opposition to Item No. 11.2019 B, and Commissioner Leinbach and Commissioner Scott are opposing Items No. 13.2019 D and 14.2019 E, and Commissioner Barnhardt is supporting the entire Agenda as presented. Therefore, with those understandings all voted unanimously to approve the motion, and the motion carried.

- 04.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$11,500 and 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$42,873 per listing dated January 7, 2019.
- 05.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Robert Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer, to execute a Letter of Credit in the amount of \$65,000, and all required documents issued by Tompkins Vist Bank in favor of PMA Insurance Group for the annual worker compensation reserve requirement for the period January 14, 2019 through January 14, 2020.
- 06.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated January 10, 2019 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Robert Perez to PC013156 Enterprise Support Technician – Information Systems, effective 1/23/2019. Rate of \$47,150/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,292; Midpoint \$59,057; Maximum \$73,821. Replacement for Malcom Townes who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.
 2. Authorize the appointment of Victor Myers to Assistant Public Defender II – Public Defender effective 1/30/2019. Rate of \$53,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$48,222; \$64,297; \$80,371. Replacement for Kristine Cahill who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
 3. Authorize the promotion of Brian Harting from PC012978 Probation Officer IV to PC010131 Assistant Chief – Adult Probation effective 1/9/2019. Rate of \$79,320/annually. Salary range Minimum \$52,810; Midpoint \$70,413; Maximum \$88,016. Replacement for Stephen Lamp who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12010.
- 07.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #18-13-GR a contract for Berks County Residential Center “Annex” Switchgear Replacement as identified herein:

Wescott Electric Company
P.O. Box 278
Glen Riddle, PA 19037

Total Base Bid Amount: \$160,000.00
Add Alternate Component #1: \$64,000.00
Add Alternate Component #2: \$24,000.00
Add Alternate Component #3: \$51,000.00
Deduct Alternate Component #4: (\$12,000.00)
Total Bid Not to Exceed Amount: \$287,000.00

- 08.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a no cost Project Modification Request for the VOCA (“Victims of Crime Act”) Grant Application No. 29239 that was previously authorized by Resolution No. 276.17. This modification adds the employee’s name to the Grant.
- 09.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Norman Wilikofsky, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Municipal Authority for a five (5) year term expiring January 2, 2024.
- 10.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of James Gilmartin, Hamburg, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Municipal Authority for a five (5) year term expiring January 2, 2024.
- 11.2019 Adopt a resolution approving the Berks County Board of Election’s recommendation to purchase voting machines and related equipment from ES&S, Omaha, Nebraska; and further authorizes execution of any and all documents necessary, pending legal review and the ability to purchase such items through COSTARS.
- 12.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Agreement between the County of Berks (“County”) and the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks (“Authority”) whereby the County authorizes the Authority to assist the Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust (“CRPT”) with funding and other assistance for the Boyertown Welcome Center (“Project”) as a result of a Grant the Authority applied for and was awarded in the amount of \$1,500,000 for the Project. Ken Pick, Executive Director of the Berks County Redevelopment Authority, reported the Authority
- 13.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Agreement between the County of Berks (“County”) and the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks (“Authority”) whereby the County authorizes the Authority to assist Vesper at Berks, LLC (“Vesper”) with funding and other assistance for the West Run Business Park (“Project”) as a result

of a Grant the Authority applied for and was awarded in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Project.

- 14.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Agreement between the County of Berks ("County") and the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks ("Authority") whereby the County authorizes the Authority to assist the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 19 ("Local 19") with funding and other assistance for the Local 19 Training Center ("Project") as a result of a Grant the Authority applied for and was awarded in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Project.
 - 15.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of John Shook, Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Local Emergency Planning Committee effective January 10, 2019.
 - 16.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Charles M. Zechman, III, Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Local Emergency Planning Committee effective January 10, 2019.
 - 17.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of David R. Levensgood, 176 Kulp Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Local Emergency Planning Committee effective January 10, 2019.
 - 18.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a letter of support to FirstEnergy Foundation for the Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust's ("Railroad") grant application for funding from the First Energy Foundation to sponsor the Railroad educational trains.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated January 8, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 8 contracts, noting one contract was added at the last minute and concerns asbestos work that is beginning this afternoon at the Youth Recreation Fields.
 3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated January 8, 2019 for week ending January 9, 2019 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.

2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Robert Patrizio reported there will be LERTA discussion followed by a discussion on a Muhlenberg Township TIF; a presentation by Bethany Children's Home, and a financial analysis by the Budget Department of the cost of running the County Youth Recreational Fields.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he attended the press conference last Friday at City Hall conducted by Police staff and the Mayor, and will be meeting with the Deputy Police Chief next week to see if any opportunities exist for cooperation between the City and County to help in the City's crime-reduction strategy plan.

Commissioner Scott

No further comments.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach noted he will be participating in a meeting with Kelly Andrisano, Executive Director of PACHA, and local representatives of UFCW and SEIU to work on a statewide strategy on IGT and Medicaid reimbursement. The goal is to go to the other 16 counties that have nursing homes and encourage them to join the efforts to lobby the state.

Commissioner Leinbach reported yesterday he and Mary took their annual trip to the Farm Show in Harrisburg and took 3 local students, two from Hamburg High School and one from Tulpehocken High School.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Mike Morrill, West Reading, thanked the Board for continuing to reach out to unions in an effort to save Berks Heim.

Mr. Morrill agreed with Commissioner Barnhardt on his position regarding the Sheet Metal Workers union, informing Commissioner Scott the union is simply following the Taft Hartley law.

Mr. Morrill agreed with Commissioner Scott on the voting machines. There shouldn't be a rush and we need to do more research.

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, asked when bids will be opened for the Berks Heim and at which public meeting will they be presented. County Solicitor Christine Sadler responded we are not at that point in the process.

Commissioner Leinbach stated Stevens & Lee is scheduling tours of the Berks Heim with prospective bidders and when that is complete, the bid package will be put together.

Claudia Strause, Berkshire Heights, asked when Commissioner Leinbach's meeting be with Kelly Andrisano will be, and had questions on the IGT and the allocation to the County.

Commissioner Leinbach responded it is not a public meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk