

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes January 22, 2015

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 22, 2015, at 10:00 A.M. in the Boardroom on the 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 Kevin S. Barnhardt was absent. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson. Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken was attending a Children & Youth Conference in State College, Pennsylvania.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 15, 2015 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott to approve the Agenda as published, and as amended by the addition of Resolution No. 34-15 which was brought to the Boards' attention this morning by Tami Hildebrand, Executive Director of the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 26.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,645,633.00, 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$27,028.00, 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$66,197.00 and 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$216,172.00 per listing dated January 16, 2015. Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio commented that the 2015 Budget Transfer amount is incorrect and should be \$69,197.00. Mr. Patrizio commented that of the 2014 Budget Transfer amount, approximately \$1,362,000.00 relates to the realigning of Office of Aging accounts and the rest is for realignment of Berks County Children & Youth accounts, and is basically moving the dollars where they belong.
 - 27.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the annual Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Application for FFY 2015 (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015) in the amount of \$99,905.20, and any and all other required documents necessary to the application process. This

grant application includes funding for the Director of Emergency Services and a Planner Manager.

- 28.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to execute Change Order No. 03 to the Agreement with Spotts Brothers, Inc. for the Services Annex Envelope Rehabilitation & Re-roofing Project in the amount of \$12,954.40. This Change Order is to furnish labor and materials required to execute an additional six hundred twenty-six (626) square feet of brick repointing deemed necessary during the masonry repairs to the exterior façade of the facility. There are zero (0) additional schedule days associated with this Change Order. This Change Order has been reviewed and endorsed by the Architect.
- 29.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification to the U.S. Department of the Treasury stating there was no seizure of funds or assets in fiscal year 2014 by the Berks County Sheriff's Department.
- 30.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Joint Application for Pennsylvania Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, and the PASPGP-4 Cumulative Impacts Project Screening Form to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the Antietam Lake Park project.
- 31.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Application for Reimbursement for a County Recycling Coordinator to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management, for reimbursement of 50% of the salary, benefits and expenses paid to the Berks County Recycling Coordinator for calendar year 2014.
- 32.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Gwen Didden, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Housing Authority to fill the unexpired term of Mark Pinkasavage who resigned. This term will expire on December 31, 2015.
- 33.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Victoria Kintzer, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, to serve as the Chair of the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a one (1) year term expiring December 31, 2015.

- 34.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Certification of County Funds for 2015 Program Year to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for agricultural conservation easement purchases in 2015 in the amount of \$1,077,194.00. The County allocation is \$1,000,196.00 and the interest collected from 2014 County Clean and Green is \$76,998.00 totaling \$1,077,194.00.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated January 20, 2015 for week ending January 22, 2015 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.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Board will receive presentations by 2 investment management firms; National Penn Investment, the current investment firm, and Public Financial Management (PFM). Commissioner Leinbach commented Commissioner Scott was one of the main drivers behind this presentation and who discovered that under the County Code there is a clause that gives the County some additional options in investing county funds. Commissioner Leinbach added that no decision will be made today but the Board will have a good idea what direction the County wants to go.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Scott commented he is looking forward to the Budget Meeting this afternoon because in the end the County cannot possibly lose by engaging in this process. Commissioner Scott commented on a recent federal issue that could directly or indirectly affect the welfare of the people of Berks County. Commissioner Scott reported the County pays about \$3.1 million to Reading Area Community College (RACC) every year, and according to Bob Patrizio, about \$700,000.00 in the capital funds is budgeted for renovation to one of the buildings. Commissioner Scott stated one of the benefits to RACC and other institutions of higher education, is the importance of education and training to the quality of the work force, which in turn is important to the vitality of the local economy. Commissioner Scott tied this in to the State of the Union address where it seems the President and the Administration are taking a new position regarding savings for higher education, by repealing tax incentives going forward for 529 Savings Plans and Coverdell Savings Plans. Commissioner Scott stated this seems to be another shift away from personal responsibility and more reliance on the government, and feels it will

discourage people in the middle class from saving, something that used to be encouraged. Commissioner Scott suggested the public contact their federal representative to express their concern. Commissioner Scott also commented on a news report he listened to this morning on economic front from an expert who spoke of the impact of technology on inflation and deflation.

Commissioner Leinbach reported that the Farm Show held last week was another great event, and thanked Mike Firestine, a farmer in western Berks County, a lending officer at Fulton Bank and Chairman of the Farm Show. Commissioner Leinbach commented that 3 high school students from Kutztown, Conrad Weiser and Boyertown accompanied himself and Mary Buerer to the Farm Show. Commissioner Leinbach reported the group went to the Public Officials Luncheon, met with representatives from Penn State, but the highlights was the free food. Commissioner Leinbach commented on a report that NACo recently released called "The Excise Tax on High-Cost Health Insurance and Your County", which is something Berks County participated in. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned Arnie Wetzel was highlighted in the article, who along with Bob Patrizio, provided data and information. Commissioner Leinbach reported that every county that participated study is showing a significant impact with this excise tax. Commissioner Leinbach provided a few excerpts from the report and offered to provide the report to anyone interested. Commissioner Leinbach commented that on January 10, 2015 a number of public officials and the community attended a rally held at Reading City Park hosted by Michael Kurtz, a detective in the District Attorney's Office, who went on social media urging everyone to stand up in support of local law enforcement. Commissioner Leinbach added that Tina Shank of Tina's Day Spa and Denny Lorah started an effort called Support Our Blues, which places blue ribbons throughout the County around trees, light posts, mailboxes, etc. showing support for law enforcement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk