

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes January 23, 2014

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 23, 2014, 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 Kevin S. Barnhardt and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

Commissioner Leinbach opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Commissioner Leinbach reported there was an Executive Session held Tuesday, January 21, 2014 to discuss personnel issues.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 16, 2014 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, who all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below with the exception of item 22.14 which was withdrawn due to the candidate declining the position:
 - 21.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$237,701.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$37,971.00 per listing dated January 17, 2014.
 - 22.14 This item was withdrawn by Human Resource Director Arnel Wetzel. Mr. Wetzel reported the candidate declined the position.
 - 23.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the following documents regarding the use of the Camp Joy Lodge by the Council on Chemical Abuse:
 1. Right of Way Grant between the County of Berks and UGI Utilities, Inc. for installation of a pipeline and equipment for transmission and distribution of natural gas.
 2. Easement Agreement between the County of Berks and the Council on Chemical Abuse for a temporary construction/right of way easement over and across County

property for the installation and maintenance of a natural gas line.

- 24.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, 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 2013.
 - 25.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Norman Wilikofsky, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Municipal Authority for a five (5) year term expiring January 5, 2019.
 - 26.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Clyde A.B. Myers, Bernville, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2016, replacing Robert Ziegenfuse, whose term expired.
 - 27.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Clean and Green Valuation Application for 502 Angora Road, Lower Alsace Township, Berks County, acquired by the County of Berks December 30, 2013.
 - 28.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Alan S. Miller, County Solicitor, to execute the Application for the Exemption of Real Estate for 502 Angora Road, Lower Alsace Township, Berks County, acquired by the County of Berks December 30, 2013.
2. Motion authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated January 21, 2014. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 2 contracts and referenced the departments.
 3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated January 21, 2014 for week ending January 22, 2014 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. Carl E. Geffken reported that an E-Filing Project Communications meeting was held this morning and it is getting to the point where the group will need the cooperation of the attorneys that have been willing to assist. Mr. Geffken commented it looks like the Project will be a success and will move forward. Mr. Geffken explained E-Filing will truly automate filing in the Prothonotary's Office, which is now a very labor intensive process. Berks County Prothonotary Marianne Sutton commented that the E-Filing project will allow filers to electronically send their filings to the Prothonotary from remote locations, adding the format will be a faster mode in processing documents, will save manual labor, which in the end will save taxpayer dollars. Mrs. Sutton commented there will be fees involved in the implementation and upkeep of the system.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported there will be a fiscal update on Aging.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt provided an update on the anticipated closure of the Buttonwood Street Bridge in July. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there is a working group comprised of members of the Chamber, the City, the County, the Reading Eagle, West Reading Borough, Wyomissing Borough and BARTA to plan and execute detours for the 2 year period of time the Bridge will be closed to traffic. Commissioner Barnhardt commented the group came up with a website name, *readingbridge.net*, it just has to be built. Commissioner Barnhardt commented the website will also help keep everyone advised and provide updates on the construction. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the group will try and encourage employers in the City and Boroughs to continue to consider alternate times for people to start work and other work options during this extended period of time. Commissioner Barnhardt commented the goal is to have nobody say "no one planned for the Bridge closures" as we are planning ahead.

Commissioner Scott commented on an email the Board received from Facilities regarding the savings on natural gas fees. Commissioner Scott commented that thanks to the retention of the County's consulting firm that manages the purchase process of fuel, the County saved \$200,000.00 in natural gas costs last year.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there will be a press conference Monday, January 27, 2014 at the Capitol Media Center in Harrisburg held by Representative Bryan Cutler supporting legislation that would stop the current practice of state and local governments and school districts from automatically deducting union dues from paychecks.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk