

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes January 28, 2016

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 28, 2016, 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 Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach was out of the office but called in to participate. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 21, 2016 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 27.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$136,318.00, 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$91,543.00, 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$13,239.00 and 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$24,209.00 per listing dated January 26, 2016.
 - 28.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated January 28, 2016 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Lauren Applegate Marks to Part-time Temporary Guardian Ad Litem – Court Administration, effective 2/3/2016. Rate of \$25.22/hour. Temporary position will provide coverage during an employee's extended leave of absence and will be eliminated upon employee's return from leave or separation from County employment. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 2. Authorize the promotion of William Keim from PC012070 Probation Officer III to PC010134 Assistant Chief – Administrative Support – Juvenile Probation,

effective 2/10/2016. Rate of \$73,656/annually. Salary range Minimum \$52,197; Midpoint \$69,596; Maximum \$86,995. Replacement for Kim Epler who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12020.

- 29.16 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving execution of the *Declaration of Disaster Emergency* for the County of Berks, Pennsylvania issued January 23, 2016 resulting from Winter Storm Jonas.
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 26, 2016. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are six contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated January 26, 2016 for week ending January 27, 2016 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 thanked County staff and personnel who worked around the County for their efforts during the snow storm, and especially the Parks Department who plowed and shoveled out a man whose car was stuck. Mr. Geffken also complimented the Emergency Operations Center, Facilities staff, the Jail and Heim staff, where many staff worked around the clock. Commissioner Barnhardt also commended all County employees for stepping forward and going above and beyond.
2. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there will be no Budget Meeting this afternoon and next week there will be an Operations Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt had no comments, but reserved his right after everyone else had an opportunity to speak.

Commissioner Scott asked Bob Patrizio if he'd like to talk about the Moody's credit rating. Mr. Patrizio reported Moody's reaffirmed the County AA1 stable outlook rating, but is disappointed and was expecting our rating to be raised to AAA, explaining the County's tax base was the deciding factor in not raising it to AAA. Commissioner Scott read a portion of the review published in Moody's Investor Services publication.

Commissioner Leinbach also thanked the team that worked around the clock and 24/7 operations due to the winter storm and speaks to the quality of employees we have. Commissioner Leinbach commented on the Moody's rating, agreeing our team of Budget, Human Resources, the COO and department heads have all worked hard to make the County fiscally sound and responsible, and it is one our stronger assets, but we need to grow our commercial tax base.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

County Controller Sandy Graffius reported 1099s were mailed this morning, and gave a shout out to Suzanne Baer and Grazyna Nykiel, employees in her office, who came into work Monday even though County government was closed, to get out Pension payroll.

CITIZEN COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR

John Sallade, Managing Director of Insurance Programs with CCAP, attended the meeting as he was in Reading to register a will. Mr. Sallade commented the Register of Wills staff was amazing to work with and made it a very easy process.

Hunter Ducheine, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania requested to comment. Mr. Ducheine announced he is running for Pennsylvania Senate for the 11th District. Mr. Ducheine commented would like to propose a plan to enhance existing policy changes on investments for companies to encourage broader employment for Berks County, would like to propose a plan to focus more attention to enhancing school taxes, would like to propose a plan to promote changes to existing tax infrastructure for property taxes, property owner's which is modeled after Delaware State.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk