

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes January 30, 2014

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 30, 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 announced there were Executive Sessions held January 23, 2014, two on January 24, 2014 and one January 29, 2014 all dealing with personnel issues.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 23, 2014 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 29.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$30,923.00, 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$360,459.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of **\$(605.00)** per listing dated January 24, 2014. Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio commented after the motion was made and seconded, that he had to make a correction to the explanation portion of the report, adding no values are changing, just the detail of the explanation.
 - 30.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated January 30, 2014 as follows:
 1. Authorize salary increase for Trisha Stine, PC011149 Judicial Administrative Assistant – Court Administration, effective 1/25/14. Rate of \$42,581/annually. Salary budgeted \$40,279/annually. Salary range Minimum \$31,715; Midpoint \$42,286; Maximum \$52,858. This increase is based on the compensation structure for the Court-appointed Judicial Administrative Assistant classification approved by Salary Board on 8/19/2008. Budget 10000 – 11600.

- 31.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the annual Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Application for FFY 2013 (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014) in the amount of \$108,159.00; and any and all other required documents necessary to the application process. This grant application includes funding for a Coordinator and a Planner position.
- 32.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Access Easement Agreement (In Lieu of Condemnation) between Richard L. Senn and Sally A. Senn, and the County of Berks for property situate at 1090 Morganton Road, Honey Brook Township, Chester County for use as a tower site regarding the Emergency Radio Response Project.
- 33.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Certificate of County Funds for 2014 Program Year in the amount of \$1,742,240.00 for the purchasing of agricultural conversation easements. Tami Hildebrand, Executive Director of the Berks County Agricultural Preservation Board ("Board") commented every January she comes in on behalf of the Board and requests money to send to the State for certification. Ms. Hildebrand provided a more detailed breakdown of the funds and how they will be distributed, commenting the Board is hoping to preserve 11,000 acres in 2014. Commissioner Barnhardt questioned how long the USDA money will come in and Ms. Hildebrand replied as long as they apply for it. Tami Hildebrand introduced the new Chair, Vicki Kintzer, stating Ms. Kintzer has been on the Board since the inception of the Board in 1989. Ms. Kintzer announced the Board set the cap per acre at \$2,500.00 which was kept at the 2013 rate. Ms. Kintzer reported the Board welcomed new Board member Clyde Myers, who is a good fit.
- 34.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the approval of the financing by The Cumberland County Municipal Authority of certain projects for the benefit of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries which projects consist of, among other things, the refunding and purchase of certain outstanding Bonds of the authority issued for the benefit of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and the acquisition, construction, installation, renovation and equipping of certain health center facilities of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and the payment of the costs and expenses related to such financing; declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the areas served by Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, to have the project provided by and financed through the authority; designating the Chairman of The Board of

Commissioners or, in his absence, any other member of the Board of Commissioners as the person to act on behalf of the Board of Commissioners as The "Applicable Elected Representative" within the meaning of The Internal Revenue Code Of 1986, as amended; authorizing such Chairman or any such member of the Board of Commissioners to take certain actions on behalf of the Board of Commissioners as such "Applicable Representative;" and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action. Peter Edelman, Esq., Stevens & Lee, P.C., commented the Commissioners are approving this funding because Diakon has continued care retirement community facilities in 8 separate County's including Berks County and identified the Lutheran Home at Topton as one of the facilities. Mr. Edelman stated that this financing will benefit all 8 communities and the Cumberland County Municipal Authority is seeking the Commissioners approval of that portion of the project that is located in Berks County. Mr. Edelman commented that this is a \$90 million dollar financing project with \$25 million going to each campus for capital improvements.

- 35.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a letter to the Berks County Emergency Response Team endorsing the continued support for 2014 from non-member agencies to better plan, organize and support an available tactical resource for any Berks County requesting agency.
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 30, 2014. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 8 contracts and referenced the departments.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated January 28, 2014 for week ending January 29, 2014 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA, did not attend the meeting but submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report which was read by Commissioner Leinbach.
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 the County is looking to expand the use of iPads to the County Solicitor and First Assistant County Solicitor. Commissioner Leinbach commented the Chief Clerk should also be utilizing an iPad.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported that at today's Budget Meeting the Commissioners will be discussing Facility projects updates and an analysis of parking violations in the Magisterial District Justice system. Mr. Patrizio commented this is due to a recent legislative challenge by State Representative Thomas Caltagirone by looking at what the fiscal impact would be on the County budget. Commissioner Leinbach added that this legislation is being championed by Berks County State Representative Thomas Caltagirone and that it is a good piece of legislation which basically takes the parking tickets out of the criminal system and becomes a simple civil issue.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt provided another update from last week regarding the closure of the Buttonwood Street Bridge. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Bridge will now be closed in late September or early October of this year for a 2 year period instead of the previously reported date of July 2014.

Commissioner Scott reminded the public that fires do occur during the cold weather and that fire hydrants should be shoveled out so the fire departments and fire firefighters can access the hydrants. Commissioner Scott commented on and read a recent article he saw in the Wall Street Journal regarding the legalization of marijuana. Commissioner Scott commented he provided a copy to the District Attorney.

Commissioner Leinbach had nothing to share today.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

County Controller Sandy Graffius reported that her office will shortly be implementing the direct deposit of employee expense checks beginning with Children and Youth Services, Adult Probation Office and Juvenile Probation Office.

Berks County Recorder of Deeds Frederick Sheeler announced his office was recently audited by the Department of Auditor General. Mr. Sheeler commented this was the first audit since they began the investigation into the past Recorder of Deeds Ellie Antoine. Mr. Sheeler reported the audit found no findings or observations and it was a good report.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk