

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes February 8, 2018**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 8, 2018, 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 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.

### **Presentation**

Kelly Andrisano, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Affiliated Healthcare & Living Communities (“PACAH”) attended the meeting to address the State funding crisis as it relates to county nursing homes. Ms. Andrisano reported PACAH represents all Pennsylvania county nursing homes, and the trend now is to privatize nursing homes mainly due to funding issues. Ms. Andrisano emphasized and urged those concerned about the future of county nursing homes, especially the Berks Heim, to contact and communicate those concerns to the Governor, State legislators in both the House and Senate, and DHS Secretary Miller. Ms. Andrisano stated county nursing homes are very highly Medicaid populated, and every year the State sets Medicaid rates and unfortunately, Pennsylvania rates have remained flat for many years. Ms. Andrisano briefly talked about the Commonwealth HealthChoices program the State has started to implement across the State, advising Berks County should see the change in early 2020, explaining this is where county nursing homes will be paid by a managed care organization (MCO). Ms. Andrisano remarked the Commissioners have been advocating for Berks County, but it is not enough, the citizens, employees and residents and their families must all reach out to their elected officials, the Governor and the Secretary of DHS.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of February 8, 2018 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### **Agenda Items**

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the Agenda as presented. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott. Commissioner Leinbach stated the motion was made and seconded and asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Scott asked to be recorded as a No vote on Item 1, enactment of County Ordinance 01-2018, for the reasons he had previously

articulated at a Commissioners' meeting. As there were no other comments, all voted to approve the items listed below with the exception of Commissioner Scott's No vote. The motion carried.

Enactment of County Ordinance:

- 01.2018 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING CREATION OF THE MT. PENN PRESERVE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (MP3 COG) TO FOSTER A COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT COMPONENTS FROM THE MT. PENN PRESERVE MASTER PLAN AND IMPLEMENT OTHER REGIONAL INITIATIVES THAT WILL IMPROVE THE AREA; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, OR ANY MEMBER THEREOF, TO EXECUTE THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.
- 48.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers \$114,027; 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$328,715; 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$471,214 and 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$(106,707) per listing dated February 5, 2018.
- 49.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated February 8, 2018 as follows:
1. Authorize stipend in the amount of \$1,833 for Shanna Kim, PC011266 Law Clerk I – Court Administration, effective 2/1/2018. The stipend is for additional responsibilities associated with video arraignments. This request is due to the recent separation of Bernice Hartman who previously received the stipend for performing this function. Budget 10000 – 11600.
- 50.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute two (2) contracts as a result of RFP #17-35-CN for a period of three (3) years for surveying services for the Berks County Department of Agriculture for a total estimated annual expenditure of \$150,000 as follows:
- SSM Group, Inc.**  
1047 North Park Road  
Reading, PA 19610-0307
- Michael Baker International**  
4431 N. Front Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-1709

- 51.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jillayne M. Reich, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board of Directors for a three (3) year term expiring on February 1, 2021.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated February 6, 2018. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are five contracts and referenced the departments.
  3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated February 6, 2018 for week ending February 7, 2018 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

### **Reports**

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA, was absent. Commissioner Leinbach submitted the prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Commissioner Leinbach reported at this afternoon's Budget Meeting there will be a discussion on medical marijuana, fleet replacement requests, and a discussion on a contract extension for the Wastewater Treatment Facility and the County bridge engineer.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Mr. Seaman thanked Kelly Andrisano for her work on behalf of county nursing homes.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

#### **Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Board for approving the County Ordinance enacting the COG, reporting the County was the first to officially approve the COG. Commissioner Barnhardt expects Lower Alsace to approve an Ordinance tonight, with Alsace Township to follow, and the City of Reading to have it on their Agenda next Monday night. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned Mt. Penn is not quite ready to sign until they've determined who will sit on the committee. Commissioner Barnhardt also reported that as a result of Commissioner Scott's comments and concerns, some funding modifications will be made to the Articles of Agreement.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott expressed disappointment with a recent study performed by the National Lands Trust for Antietam Lake Park presented at a public meeting in January, saying it seems very superficial and inconclusive, and doesn't seem to focus on many of the problems facing the forest at Antietam Lake Park. Commissioner Scott reflected on a previous study performed at no cost by Gladfelter Paper Company, noting the results of that study were more about what timber should be harvested and maintenance of the forest. Commissioner Scott renewed his request for something to be done to improve the timber stand.

Commissioner Leinbach

Following up on the Berks Heim, Commissioner Leinbach commented that this is an appropriate time for everyone concerned about the future of the Berks Heim to reach out to the Governor, State legislators because they are all up for re-election this year, and it is a good opportunity to put pressure on these elected officials.

Commissioner Leinbach reported the U.S.D.A. will provide \$17.5 million to battle the spotted lanternfly. Commissioner Leinbach reported the spotted lanternfly has now expanded dramatically in New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, and NACo will be addressing this issue at the Spring conference.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Joe Rudderow, Maiden creek Township, and a Maiden creek Township Supervisor, reported to the Board that Berks County Conservation District presented a very informative program on the spotted lanternfly at a recent Township Meeting, and encouraged other municipalities and land owners to reach out to the District with any questions or concerns.

Ann Sellers, Lower Alsace Township, questioned how the COG differs from a commission. Commissioner Barnhardt commented his understanding of the creation of the COG is as long as the governments agree to the formation of a COG, and the Articles of Agreement, it can be made of up of whoever they choose, adding after looking at numerous COGs, they all seem to be written a little differently.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk