

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes February 20, 2014

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 20, 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 First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 6, 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:
 - 42.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$13,851.00, 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$49,000.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$211,430.00 per listing dated February 14, 2014.
 - 43.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated February 20, 2014 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Richard Dumancas, PC012593 Veterans Services Supervisor, effective 2/26/14. Rate of \$42,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$40,488/annually. Salary range Minimum \$34,658; Midpoint \$46,211; Maximum \$57,764. Replacement for Janice Kinginger who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16030.
 2. Authorize the appointment of Christopher C. Muvdi, PC010171 Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender, effective 2/26/14. Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$47,150/annually. Salary range Minimum \$41,227; Midpoint \$54,969; Maximum \$68,711. Replacement for Matthew Kopecki who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.

3. Authorize the appointment of Janine Quigley to Acting Warden – Jail System, effective 2/12/14. Rate of \$88,771/annually. Salary range Minimum \$68,609; Midpoint \$91,479; Maximum \$114,349. The working out of classification compensation will cease upon the appointment of a Warden. Replacement for George Wagner who separated. Budget 10000 – 12090.
 4. Authorize transfer of Nicole S. Johnson, PC011825 Office Support III – Domestic Relations to PC011921 Office Support IV/MC – Court Administration, effective 2/19/14. Rate of \$34,500/annually. Salary budgeted \$34,840/annually. Salary range Minimum \$28,585; Midpoint \$38,113; Maximum \$47,641. Replacement for Christina Yatron who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 5. Authorize transfer of Miles Klein, PC011679 Office Support II – Prothonotary to PC011176 Judicial Coordinator Floater – Court Administration, effective 2/26/14. Rate of \$31,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$30,176/annually. Salary range Minimum \$29,440; Midpoint \$39,253; Maximum \$49,066. Replacement for Kathleen Grim who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 6. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for the Public Defender's Office, effective 2/19/14. Rate not to exceed \$16.50/hr. Position will provide clerical support during an employee's extended leave of absence. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease upon the employee's return from leave of absence. This request was reviewed and has met the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
 7. Authorize \$200 uniform/clothing allowance for Lieutenants and Sergeants – Jail System, effective in the 4/08/14 paycheck, per attached listing. Budget 10000 – 12090.
- 44.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Dr. Robert Ziegenfus, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board as an ex-officio, non-voting member effective immediately. Commissioner Leinbach commented that this action is permitted within the By Laws of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board.
- 45.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Scott M. Carl, Sr., Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and shall serve until the completion of the revised plan or until otherwise their duties have ended by statute.

This is a replacement for Tom Showman who resigned.

- 46.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Jay Worrall, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a four (4) year term expiring March 10, 2018.
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 February 18, 2014. Commissioner Leinbach commented there are 8 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated February 11, 2014 for week ending February 12, 2014, and February 18, 2014 for week ending February 19, 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 had no report today except to mention that things have worked out well so far with the new proposed inclement weather leave policy and thanked the Board of Commissioners and President Judge for their considerations.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported there will be an update by the Chief Operating Officer regarding parking negotiations with the Reading Parking Authority for employee parking, a follow-up discussion of the Magisterial District Justice office space concept of whether we own or lease the facilities, and Michael Vind, the County's financial advisor, will discuss modification of the interest rate management agreement (SWAP).

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt commented that the last two weeks have been very difficult for many in the community including County employees. Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the dedicated work force especially the essential employees at the Department of Emergency Services, the Berks Heim, the Jail and Community Re-Entry Center, and in particular Brian Gottschall, who is now part of the decision making pyramid, and who stayed for two days straight last week to monitor County operations. Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the newspaper for publicizing the bridge program and the impending closure of the Buttonwood Street Bridge and ultimately the Penn Street Bridge. Commissioner Barnhardt announced the Bridge Committee will meet tomorrow at the

Airport and will continue to look for alternatives for traffic flow and input from employers who may have ideas to implement flex time and alternate shift schedules, and will continue to reach out for ideas from the community.

Commissioner Scott offered comments on the discussion that will be held at today's Budget Meeting regarding parking negotiations with the Reading Parking Authority. Commissioner Scott commented that years ago, as a result of the departure of Ludens, the County leased in bulk many parking places at Poplar and Walnut Parking Garage, and it opened an opportunity for the County to bargain for fairly reasonable parking fees for county employees. Commissioner Scott added that over the years the original price for parking has escalated to \$56.00 per month, and in the course of negotiations, we have found the Parking Authority has discriminated against County employees by charging City employees only \$40.00 per month. Commissioner Scott stated the Commissioners are concerned about that and have been working diligently to try to bring down the cost to a more reasonable level.

Commissioner Leinbach offered an apology on behalf of the Board of Commissioners in the decision making process and in waiting too long to make a decision on whether to close the County during the snow storm Monday, March 3, 2014. Commissioner Leinbach commented that this mishandling became the impetus to revise the policy for inclement weather closings. The new policy is in draft form, and the three options for weather related closing will now be Unscheduled Leave, Delayed Opening and Closing of County facilities. Commissioner Leinbach stated he anticipates the final draft will be ready by the end of next week. Commissioner Leinbach commented that his request to submit an op-ed piece regarding employee paycheck protection was denied by the newspaper, adding a decision he respects, and proceeded to read his letter in its entirety, and is made part of the minutes. Commissioner Leinbach announced that starting next Friday, February 28, 2014 Comcast is moving BCTV from Channel 2 to Channel 15, which is the channel the Commissioners' Meetings are broadcast.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Herman, Business Agent for PSSU, attended the meeting and requested to comment on the Commissioners support last week of the paycheck protection resolution. Mr. Herman provided and read a prepared statement strongly disagreeing and condemning the action taken by Commissioner Leinbach and Commissioner Scott. A copy of Mr. Herman's letter is made part of the minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk

