

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes March 3, 2016

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 10, 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 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 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 was an Executive Session held February 28, 2016 to discuss litigation, real estate and personnel.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 25, 2016 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, and was seconded by Commissioner Scott with a request for a discussion on Item 61.16. Commissioner Scott remarked that the award of the contract for a solar feasibility study came as a surprise and he had to scramble yesterday to get a historical background. Commissioner Scott commented this is not a tiny project for 19 acres that includes part of the former Berks Heim, and wondered if we should go ahead with the study if we are not prepared to spend the money. Commissioner Scott commented he contacted a local firm this morning, RMK Solar and spoke with Robert Klein, who told him they routinely study such things and provide proposals for free to corporations and municipalities. Commissioner Scott remarked solar energy generally is not competitive unless it is subsidized by the government and is very expensive, and although there are tax credits, they aren't available to government agencies. Commissioner Scott commented if someone can explain to his satisfaction, perhaps he could be persuaded to tolerate this expenditure if he is given good reason, but not having information, he would probably be a No vote.
Commissioner Leinbach replied that this issue has been talked about at Budget Meetings over the past two years, noting nothing has been decided and this is just a feasibility study. Commissioner Leinbach recommended in the interest of caution, he would support pulling this item from the Agenda until there is more information available.
Commissioner Barnhardt commented if we can get someone to do this study for free he would be agreeable.

Commissioner Leinbach stated he asked Ryan Hunter to contact the firm who did the feasibility study for Dauphin County for free, and they are somewhat different.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to amend his previous motion to now eliminate Item 61.16 from the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the Agenda as presented with the exception of deleting Item 61.16.

59.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$3,376,333.00; 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$123.00; 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,040,000.00 and 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$511,035.00 per listing dated March 1, 2016.

60.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the County of Berks and SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania for the term January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019, covering Berks Heim nurses.

61.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute, a contract as a result of RFP# 15-21-KS for the Solar Array Feasibility Study as identified herein:

The Stone House Group

301 Broadway, Suite 400
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Total (Not to Exceed): \$8,960.00

THIS ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA for further review and discussion.

62.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute two contracts as result of ITB #16-1-JR, Food Provisions for a period of six (6) months for the Jail System, Residential Center and Berks Heim as identified herein:

Karetas Foods
1012 Tuckerton Court
Reading, PA 19605

Line Items-

2,5H,6H,7H,8H,9H,10H,11H,12H,13H,14H,1B,3B,5B,6B,7B,8B,9B,
11B,13B,15B,16B,17B,18B,19B,21B,23B,27B,28B,33B,34B,40B,41B

Reading Coffee Roasters
316 West Main St
Birdsboro, PA 19508

Line Items-

2H, 3H,4H

Estimated Six Month Expenditure \$8,674.40

- 63.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Robert Bagenstose, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for a three (3) year term expiring January 31, 2019.
- 64.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Justin H. Istenes, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a four (4) year term expiring March 10, 2020.
- 65.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Carl Brown, Jr., Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for a three (3) year term expiring February 1, 2019.
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 March 1, 2016. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 7 contracts listed and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated March 1, 2016 for week ending March 2, 2016 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA did not attend the Meeting and did not submit 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 at the Operations Meeting this afternoon there will be a short discussion regarding the Security Assessment Initial report to address the elevators; a discussion on dispatching run cards; a debriefing on the snowstorm and use and allocation of SUVs for emergency staff; and a discussion of the Fire Training Center Water Tower.
2. Robert J. Patrizio had nothing to report today.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt reported today at 11:00 a.m. he will be meeting with our Transportation Planners and PennDOT on the proposal to restore and rehabilitate Wiley's Bridge in Ontelaunee Township, which has been closed to vehicular traffic for three plus years. This proposal to restore the historic Bridge will not be open to vehicular traffic and will be used only for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Commissioner Barnhardt is

hopeful when this process is complete, to possibly go back to the Township to see if they are interested in ownership.

Commissioner Scott had nothing further to report.

Commissioner Leinbach reported this week the Board received information from Dave Kline on the Reading 120 Bike Race that took place last September. Commissioner Leinbach commented the information was encouraging as it was reported about \$119,000 was received in direct local expenditures to area businesses, and this is good news for the potential for the Race occurring again this year.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned on Monday he attended the Returning Citizens Career Fair at the DoubleTree Hotel, a special event held by Berks County Pre-Trial Services (BCPS) organized and run by Cindy Fortunato. Commissioner Leinbach commented it was an extremely successful event attended by just under 500 job seekers. There were 35 employers and about 50 volunteers to help applicants with their applications, mock interviews and resume writing. Commissioner Leinbach reported three individuals were hired on the spot and many of the other employers intended to hire at least one person. Commissioner Leinbach recognized the companies that plan to hire some of the applicants, and commended BCPS for putting on this event.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk