

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2013

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 7, 2013, 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 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.

Presentation

Dr. Robert Vaughn, Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development/Community Education at Reading Area Community College (RACC), presented a quarterly update of the College. Dr. Vaughn began by thanking the Board for their financial support to RACC which allows the College to do many good things. Dr. Vaughn spoke of a new program recently instituted at the College, sponsored by the Department of Labor in partnership with the Department of Education, and in Pennsylvania has been renamed JOB TRAKPA. Dr. Vaughn commented this program was made in consortium with 14 other community colleges who applied for a very competitive national grant, was successful in their bid and was awarded 20 million dollars to share. Dr. Vaughn reported the grant will help develop high paying and skilled training programs to put people back to work. Dr. Vaughn provided additional information on the new program and how it works stating it will improve the employment rate for people in Berks County.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 28, 2013 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:
 - 68.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2012 Appropriations in the amount of \$475,442.00, 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$111,000.00 and 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$432,217.00 per listing dated March 1, 2013.

- 69.13 Adopt a resolution ratifying and confirming the terms and conditions outlined in the attached Memorandum of Agreement regarding changes to the AFSCME Contract for calendar years 2013 and 2014. A Contract for execution will be provided at a later date. Commissioner Leinbach commented this is the portion of the AFSCME union that is not able to go to arbitration. Commissioner Leinbach complimented the employees for doing the right thing by approving, by a significant margin, a pay freeze for 2013.
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 4, 2013.
 3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated March 5, 2013 for the week ending March 6, 2013.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA reported that due to a family emergency of a staff member and another staff member being on a planned vacation, there will not be a weekly 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 this week.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported that at today's Budget meeting there will be a financial update of the 2012 results from Berks Heim and the Facilities Director will review bids and project pricing for the Services Center Façade Project. Mr. Patrizio will also be handing out the summary for the 2013 cash flow forecast.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt had no comments today.

Commissioner Scott observed that the DOW Jones Industrial Average has hit record territory this week which is very good news for the County pension fund.

Commissioner Leinbach reported that the last several days he has been in Washington, DC attending the 2013 NACo Legislative Conference. Commissioner Leinbach commented that one of the focuses was on why counties matter. Commissioner Leinbach offered several statistics on County governments, particularly the fact that elections would not happen without County government. Commissioner Leinbach further commented the number one issue that was raised at the Conference was one of the ways

the federal government is looking to save money is to eliminate tax exempt municipal bonds. Commissioner Leinbach commented he posted some of this information on facebook and twitter. Commissioner Leinbach spoke about how important this issue is to Pennsylvania and encouraged the public to contact their representatives in Washington to encourage them to support the NACo petition to not vote for this measure.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk