

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 7, 2019, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, 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

Dennis Toomey, P.E., District Traffic and Operations Engineer from PennDOT, and Alan Piper, Transportation Planner from the Berks County Planning Commission, provided an update on the upcoming I-78 construction projects in Berks County, and recent statistics on vehicular crashes on the interstate. Mr. Toomey reported the figures cover a three year period from 2016 to 2018, and noted over 38,000 vehicles travel daily on the Berks County section of I-78. Mr. Toomey reported surprisingly the crash rate is only slightly above the crash rates on other interstate highways, and the rate for tractor trailer is about average.

Alan Piper reported there are seven construction projects scheduled over a ten period that began in 2015, from Bethel Township to the Lehigh County line, and includes replacing 14 bridges, upgrading 3 interchanges, adding truck climbing lanes, and resurfacing 13 miles of highway, noting seven bridges have already been replaced. Mr. Piper mentioned the project also includes related project on Old 22 in Berks County and a Hamburg Traffic Study to identify additional funding. Mr. Piper stated all these projects are 100% federally funded.

Commissioner Barnhardt requested the two presentations be posted to the County's website.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 28, 2019 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the Agenda as presented. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

- 79.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$43,529; 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$504,601; 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$14,286 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$1,456,809 per listing dated March 4, 2019.
- 80.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated March 7, 2019 as follows:
1. Authorize a temporary salary adjustment for Jeffrey Smith, PC010250 Chief Deputy Warden – Jail System, effective 1/3/2019. Rate of \$84,702/annually. This request is in accordance with the County's Department Head/Acting Leadership Guidelines. The temporary salary adjustment will cease upon the appointment of a Deputy Warden of Operations. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.
 2. Authorize a temporary salary adjustment for Stephanie Smith, PC010905 Deputy Warden – Treatment – Jail System, effective 1/3/2019. Rate of \$76,467/annually. This request is in accordance with the County's Department Head/Acting Leadership Guidelines. The temporary salary adjustment will cease upon the appointment of a Deputy Warden of Operations. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.
 3. Authorize \$250 uniform/clothing allowance for Lieutenants and Sergeants – Jail System, per attached listing, effective for the pay of 4/2/2019. Budget 10000 – 12090.
- 81.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Letter Agreement – Interim Addendum to the Program Management Agreement for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). This Agreement updates the current Program Management Agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the County of Berks by including a federal regulatory provision pertaining to food safety and food recalls. Said Agreement is effective through September 30, 2021.
- 82.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Guido M. Pichini, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees for a six (6) year term ending June 30, 2025.

- 83.19 Adopt a resolution amending Resolution No. 11-19 by replacing the existing language with the following:
Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners approving the Berks County Board of Election's recommendation to purchase voting machines and related equipment from ES&S, Omaha, Nebraska; and further authorizes execution of any and all documents necessary, pending legal review.
- 84.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Stevens & Lee to advertise proposed Ordinance No. 01-2019; and as Bond Counsel, prepare an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of the County's General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2019 for enactment March 14, 2019.
- 85.19 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the GIS Data Sharing Agreement and Terms between the County of Berks and the County of York for the sharing of digital information.
- 86.19 Adopt a resolution amending Resolution No. 248-13 by temporarily designating Alan Piper, Transportation Planner from the Berks County Planning Commission, in place of the Director of Facilities and Operations, to act as the County's signatory agent for the exclusive purposes of navigating and updating Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's ECMS system as well as notifying PennDOT that the County of Berks concurs to the award of contracts for Federally-funded County bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects until a new Director of Facilities is appointed.
- 87.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Agreement between the County of Berks ("County") and the Industrial Development Authority of the County of Berks ("Authority") whereby the County authorizes the Authority to assist the Berks Community Health Center with funding and other assistance for the development of an additional health center location at the Rockland Plaza, 1110 Rockland Street, Reading, Pennsylvania ("Project") as a result of a Grant the Authority applied for and was awarded in the amount of \$500,000 for the Project.
- 88.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute any and all litigation documents related to the Foundation for the Reading Public Museum case.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated March 5, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 10 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated March 5, 2019 for week ending March 6, 2019 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.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Robert Patrizio reported there would be a continuing discussion on the security project and adopt the 2019 5 Year Forecast.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No Report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt reported roadside assistance is now available to aid disabled vehicles and motorists on the Route 222, Route 12 and Route 422 Bypasses in getting them off the roadway. County radios have been provided to State Farm Safety Patrol, and assistance will be provided Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. - 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported SOS Berks now has 25 police departments involved in the Blue Cares program that keeps people alive and encourages them to go into treatment. Commissioner Barnhardt reported last night he attended the Berks Black Balloon Day fundraiser held by Patrick Murray in memory of his brother Christopher who died of an overdose 14 years ago. Commissioner Barnhardt stated the family will donate all proceeds from the event to help build the SOS Berks website.

Commissioner Scott

No comments

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach reported he attended the NACo Legislative Conference this past week in Washington, D.C. It was an intense and productive conference. Commissioner Leinbach chaired the Waters of the U.S. ("WOTUS") working committee along with 30 county leaders, the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA.

Commissioner Leinbach shared the new mobile broadband testing app called TestIT created by NACo that measures the download and upload speed and location and gaps in cell phone coverage across America.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Berks County Recorder of Deeds Fred Sheeler reported a property in Bethel Township recently sold for \$79 million and his office collected \$795,750 in State transfer taxes of which the County received \$7,957 in commission, and the commission from \$397,875 township and school transfer taxes was \$23,872.

Berks County Controller Sandy Graffius reported she and Ron Rutkowski, Deputy Controllers, attended the *What's So Cool About Manufacturing* event at the DoubleTree. Ms. Graffius reported over 1,000 people attended and all middle schools in Berks and Schuylkill counties participated in the contest.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Elizabeth Schmoyer, Wernersville, read a prepared statement asking the Commissioners not to sell the Berks Heim.

Commissioner Leinbach responded no decision has been made to sell the Heim, but tours will be scheduled.

Commissioner Barnhardt restated his position that he does not support the sale or tours of the nursing home.

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, asked how to reword a Right to Know Request she filed and received a denial on, and what is the General Obligation Bond for.

Solicitor Sadler asked Ms. Kowalski to see her after the meeting regarding the Right to Know Request, and Bob Patrizio explained the General Obligation Bond is simply refinancing a current Bond at a lower interest rate.

Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights, asked if any of the companies or organizations that provided bids for the Heim have toured the Heim, and have any tours been scheduled.

Solicitor Sadler responded none have been scheduled and no tours have occurred.

Joe Rudderow, Maiden creek Township, asked who pays for those who attend NACo conferences.

Commissioner Leinbach responded since he is a Board Member, NACo pays his way, and for CCAP, the County pays pursuant to County policies in place for conferences.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk