

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes March 10, 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 in attendance. Commissioner Scott was absent. 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.

### **Presentation**

Dr. Susan Looney, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost, Reading Area Community College ("RACC") presented information on distance learning as part of RACC's quarterly update.

\*Due to technical difficulties experienced by BCTV, this presentation was held after the Agenda was presented and approved.

Dr. Looney reported RACC is now offering new online classes and services to students, and the advantages are convenience and flexibility of scheduling, allowing students to study at their peak times and have the course material available 24/7. Dr. Looney commented online courses also allow students to work while earning a degree, avoid commuting and takes into consideration the Penn Street Bridge Project, which will most likely adversely affect attendance. Dr. Looney mentioned beginning this summer, RACC will offer 5 new courses; Accounting, Business Administration, Psychology, Social Work and General Studies.

Commissioner Barnhardt asked what percentage of students take online courses, and Dr. Looney reported about 14%, and the cost of online courses is the same as regular admission.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of March 3, 2016 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
  - 66.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$53,227.00; 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$114,192.00; 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$51,327.00

and 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$55,267.00 per listing dated March 8, 2016.

- 67.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated March 10, 2016 as follows:
1. Authorize \$200 uniform/clothing allowance for Lieutenants and Sergeants – Jail System, per attached listing, effective for the pay of 4/5/2016. Budget 10000 – 12090.
- 68.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute, as a result of Invitation to Bid #16-03-KO, a contract for the Antietam Lake Park – Phase 1 Improvement Project as identified herein:
- Land-Tech Enterprises, Inc.**  
3084 B. Bristol Road  
Warrington, PA 18976  
**Total Contract Amount: \$1,117,900.00**  
-Angora Road Trailhead – Total Base Bid - \$306,153.00  
-Mother Tree and Upper Mudcatcher Area - \$430,668.00  
-Seidel Road Trailhead - \$381,079.00  
-Additional Unit Pricing:  
Unit Price No. S-1 – Mitigation of Unstable Subgrade - \$75.00/cubic yard  
Unit Price No. S-2 – Stone Wall Creek Restoration - \$80.00/square foot
- 69.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations, to sign the License Agreement between the County of Berks and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC, (“Comcast”) which grants access to Comcast to enter County property to provide wired service to equipment owned and installed by Limitless Mobile, LLC, on the roof of the Berks County Services Center.
- 70.16 Adopt a resolution urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Administration to restore funding for human services programs to historic levels and to put mechanisms in place to assure any future budget impasse or budget delay does not become a burden on Berks County and its constituents. Commissioner Leinbach commented that ‘historic’ levels mean to return to the level that was cut in 2012, and by social services we’re not talking about welfare, but MH/DD programs, Area Agency on Aging programs and Children & Youth Services programs, stating many times the County had to either cut services or in some cases the cost was picked up by the taxpayer.

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 8, 2016. Commissioner Leinbach reported there were three contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated March 8, 2016 for week ending March 9, 2016 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Before the Reports were given, Commissioner Leinbach asked Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to update the Board on the Solar Feasibility Study that was pulled from last week's Agenda.

Mr. Hunter reported this study involves the 19 acre site at the North Campus and the repurposing of that area. Mr. Hunter commented there have been multiple concepts discussed over the last few years, including solar use, as this site has the topography, sun and space. Mr. Hunter commented the difference and objective of this study to be performed by The Stone House Group, compared to a study discussed last week that could be performed at no cost, is to provide an in depth analysis and show the economic viability of the site. Mr. Hunter reported the North Campus capacity for electricity is at the end of the current line and is not always reliable. The study by Stone House would allow the County to partner with a consultant to come up with an in depth economic analysis and give the County a reason to negotiate a road map with any utility company. Commissioner Leinbach commented we have to make sure we have all the facts, that it makes financial sense for the County, and this study must be an entirely independent opinion. Commissioner Leinbach stated Stone House exclusively is a consulting firm on solar energy. Commissioner Leinbach requested Mr. Hunter obtain as much information as possible in order to make sure we have all the facts to determine if this project makes financial sense for the County. Mr. Hunter will report back to Board when he has more information.

### **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 introduced Krista McIlhany, the new Administrator of Children & Youth Services. Ms. McIlhany commented she is looking forward to serving Children & Youth Services.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive the Solicitor's proposed reorganization plan, a request from Office of Aging for additional Protective Services positions, a January Cash Flow report and information regarding Clean & Green.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported this past Friday he was at CCAP in Harrisburg to attend the Behavioral Health Task Force for Criminal Justice Reform meeting, and in order to move the process forward more quickly they will be meeting twice a month in June and July to have recommendations moving forward for the August CCAP Conference.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported Monday he attended a meeting at DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), Southeast Region, concerning the Hamburg Logistics Park Project. Commissioner Barnhardt commented it was very interesting to sit through a meeting and see the details DEP requires contractors to meet. The intent of the meeting was to go over some of the issues arising out of a Court case involving Perry Township, who must now alter some of the plans to make sure everything is carried out properly. Commissioner Barnhardt reported yesterday he attended the Active Shooter Drill at the old Central Catholic High School put on by the Berks County Sheriff's Office. It was a very intense training and very impressive.

Commissioner Leinbach reported he also attended the Active Shooter Drill and agreed it was impressive, and was a great opportunity to be able to sit down and hear the scenario and see the situation play out.

Commissioner Leinbach reported he, along with Commissioner Barnhardt, will be attending CCAP's Spring Conference starting Monday through Tuesday. Commissioner Leinbach commented two major areas of discussion will be the Human Services resolution that we just passed this morning, and the proposed 50% funding cuts for Agricultural. Commissioner Leinbach commented he will be presenting a letter signed by him and his two colleagues addressed to the Governor dealing with that issue. Commissioner Leinbach reported the funding cuts would zero out the Fair Funds, which would affect the three fairs in Berks County; the Reading Fair, Kutztown Fair and the Oley Fair.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

County Controller Sandy Graffius introduced a new employee in her office, Kathryn Dietrich, Internal Auditor, who is in charge of the Hotel Tax audits.

Glenn B. Reber, a former Berks County Commissioner, attended the meeting and requested to address the Board concerning Social Services, Welfare and Food Stamp fraud. Mr. Reber reported he is now Director of Special Projects for City Light of Spring Valley, and he did a study and has been working with homeless people. Mr. Reber commented he purposely made himself homeless for two years to observe and experience human services. Mr. Reber spoke of his reasons why Berks County has become a magnet for people seeking human services. Mr. Reber asked the Commissioners to go to DPW (now Department of Human Services) and demand to know answers concerning abuse of the system because the abuse is wrong, wasteful and not working.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk