

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes March 13, 2014

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 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 Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach was in Washington, D.C. on NACo business, but was connected to the meeting via telephone to participate and lend his support to Items 66.14 and 67.14. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

Commissioner Barnhardt opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 6, 2014 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1.

- 66.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the exemption from real property taxation the assessed valuation of improvements to deteriorated properties and the assessed valuation of new construction within the Township of Bern's designated deteriorated area in the amounts and in accordance with Pennsylvania General Assembly Act No. 76 of 1977, the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance ("LERTA") Act, as amended. Commissioner Barnhardt introduced Steve Weik, EnerSys' Vice President of Global Operations, Pamela Shupp, Greater Reading Economic Partnership (GREP), and Attorney Thomas A. Bowen, Stevens & Lee, who attended the meeting to offer comments on the LERTA project. Mr. Weik commented this project is not only a great opportunity for Bern Township, but for Berks County as well. Mr. Weik stated that EnerSys is one of the largest manufacturers of industrial batteries, adding EnerSys has 9,500 employees worldwide, has its world headquarters in Bern Township and currently has 250 full-time employees and is running out of capacity at their Bern Township facility. Mr. Weik commented EnerSys would like to double the size of the business and if the project is approved by his Board at their meeting this afternoon, EnerSys will add approximately 115 employees to the corporate headquarters. Mr. Weik anticipates groundbreaking to occur around June 16, 2014 and is critical for continued operation of the

plant and would cost about \$16 million. Mr. Weik mentioned the additional 70,000 square feet addition would house both a corporate campus of 58,000 square feet and 12,000 square feet for a laboratory. Mr. Weik highlighted the increased tax revenue will be significant, including incremental property tax for municipalities as well as other income from Berks EIT. Mr. Weik stated this project has the support of the Governor's Action Committee, Senator Walker, the Secretary of Community and Economic Development, Senator Schwank as well as Bern Township and the Schuylkill Valley School Board. Mr. Bowen commented the Township of Bern has formerly enacted the LERTA Ordinance last week on 5-0 vote and same 10 year tenure. The Schuylkill Valley School Board has supported the project by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Bowen commented the School District will formerly adopt a resolution on March 24. Ms. Shupp commented this is one of those instances where GREP is not only able to help the company create job opportunities, but create good job opportunities, and will also enable Berks County young, quality talent to stay in Berks County, and by putting programs in place like this we will be able to keep companies like EnerSys in Berks County.

- 67.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the County of Berks and EnerSys Delaware, Inc., whereby during the term of the exemption as set forth in Resolution No. 66-14, EnerSys Delaware, Inc. agrees not to appeal the assessed value pursuant to certain conditions outlined in the MOU. On motion by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach it was unanimously voted to approve items 66-14 and 67-14.
- 68.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing that the monthly ARC (Annual Retirement Contribution) payments for a given calendar year shall be one-twelfth (1/12) of the amount established in the adopted County budget for that year subject to automatic adjustment, if necessary, for the remainder of said year based upon the finalized actuarial report for that year. Solicitor Miller commented that he, Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio, Treasurer Dennis Adams and Controller Sandy Graffius discussed the fact that the County was doing too many resolutions for ARC payments and decided to prepare just one resolution that will break down the payments to one twelfth of what is budgeted for a given year and when the actual report comes out adjust the figures accordingly for the remainder of the year.
- 69.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$397,115.00, 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of

\$320,814.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$41,213.00 per listing dated March 7, 2014. Robert Patrizio reported that the 2013 transfers are making a change on how we allocate costs to the benefitting departments, which will carry over to 2014 and 2015. Mr. Patrizio announced there will not be a Budget Meeting today.

- 70.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of two Engineering Services Agreement between the County of Berks and STV Incorporated, Douglassville, Pennsylvania for the following projects:

Proposal 300-30-0057784A – Design of Make-Up & Exhaust Air Systems for the Heim Annex Facility

Contract Amount Not to Exceed - \$18,000.00

Proposal 300-30-0057784B – Design of Standby Power to Support the Air Conditioning Systems at the Heim Facility

Contract Amount Not to Exceed - \$21,000.00

- 71.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Amended and Restated Access Easement Agreement (In Lieu of Condemnation) between Richard L. Senn and Sally A. Senn and the County of Berks for property located in Honey Brook Township, Chester County, for use as a tower site regarding the Berks County Emergency Radio Project.
- 72.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certificates to the Department of Justice reporting that the Berks County Sheriff's Department did not acquire any funds or assets as a result of seizures for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated March 11, 2014 for week ending March 12, 2014 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

A motion was made by Commissioner Scott to approve the items listed above with the exception of Items 66-14 and 67-14, which were previously voted and approved. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed above.

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 offered a note of congratulations to the Berks County Parks Department who won an award for a program presented by Jennifer Brooks called 'Roots to Wings- Preschool Science Adventure' and will receive the award at the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society Conference.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt provided an update on the latest developments regarding Wiley's Bridge in Ontelaunee Township. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that a group known as Workin Bridges has shown an interest in possibly acquiring and relocating the 1883 vintage bridge to a location in Alabama. Commissioner Barnhardt commented Julie Bower, a representative for Workin Bridges, must get clearance from the Alabama Department of Transportation to relocate Wiley's Bridge to another location where there is a pre-existing bridge. Commissioner Barnhardt will keep the Board apprised of any future developments.

Commissioner Scott commented that on a recent trip he took through Bucks and Montgomery Counties, he was taken aback and appalled by the number of vacant stores and strip malls. Commissioner Scott stated it seems to be a far greater number than what we see locally in Berks County. Commissioner Scott related that observation to one of the reasons for a shrinking tax base. Commissioner Scott mentioned that at this time of year, tax time, he stressed that it is important for everybody to look into setting up an individual retirement account if you are not covered by a plan a work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk