

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes March 26, 2015

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 26, 2015, 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 Solicitor Alan Miller, 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

Mr. Doug Keim, Director of Workforce Development at Reading Area Community College (RACC), presented information on the new machine operator programs at RACC as part of RACC's quarterly report to the Commissioners. Mr. Keim reported a new robot called motoman is being delivered to the College today and will be used in the machine technology programs. Mr. Keim commented there is a dire need for machinists in the area and RACC is focusing on upgrading the precision machine programs as well as the associate degree technology programs. Mr. Keim commented RACC has recently worked with the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and local employers on a report concerning the need for precision machinists, and the report pointed out that by 2020, 26% of current precision machinists from the 7 county region will be near or at retirement age totaling about 2,000 jobs. Mr. Keim commented that these programs and apprenticeship programs give students the basic precision machinists' skills to meet the demands of local companies.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 19, 2015 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:
 - 84.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$(750,000.00) per listing dated March 23, 2015. Chief Financial Officer Bob Patrizio reported that this money is left over from the Temple Bridge Project and going toward the renovation of Berks Hall at Reading Area Community College.

- 85.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated March 26, 2015 as follows:
Authorize the promotion of Timothy Moore, from PC010839 Deputy Sheriff to PC012247 Sergeant – Sheriff's Department, effective 3/25/2015. Rate of \$57,504/annually. Salary range Minimum \$38,189; Midpoint \$50,918; Maximum \$63,648. Replacement for Keith Neiswender who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11510.
1. Authorize the appointment of Lynn Lickman to PC011134 Internal Auditor – Controller's Office, effective 4/8/2015. Rate of \$45,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$38,641; Midpoint \$51,521; Maximum \$64,402. Replacement for Keith McLaughlin who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11120.
 2. Authorize the appointment of Corinne Brumbach to PC011947 Outreach Services Coordinator – County Library Systems, effective 4/15/2015. Rate of \$47,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,165; Midpoint \$53,554; Maximum \$66,942. Replacement for Susan Harvard who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16050.
 3. Authorize \$200 uniform/clothing allowance for Lieutenants and Sergeants – Jail System, per attached listing, effective for the paycheck of 4/7/2015. Budget 10000 – 12090.
- 86.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment No. 2 to the Engineering Services Agreement with Hill International, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to provide professional engineering services supporting the 2nd phase of the work to complete the condensate piping leak repairs at manholes #9 and #10 and to propose recommendations for the permanent repairs concerning the Project at the Berks Heim Nursing and Rehabilitation facility at a not to exceed amount of \$12,200.00.
- 87.15 Adopt a resolution amending the expiration term for Ronald Heim, West Reading, Pennsylvania, who was appointed to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee by Resolution No. 415-14 on December 18, 2014. Said term will expire December 31, 2016. Commissioner Barnhardt commented these three resolutions are necessary to cleanup expiration terms due to a conflict in the By-Laws and Ordinance.

- 88.15 Adopt a resolution amending the expiration term for Denise Commings, West Reading, Pennsylvania, who was appointed to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee by Resolution No. 416-14 on December 18, 2014. Said term will expire December 31, 2016.
- 89.15 Adopt a resolution amending the expiration term for Commissioners Kevin S. Barnhardt, Reading, Pennsylvania, who was appointed to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee by Resolution No. 417-14 on December 18, 2014. Said term will expire December 31, 2016.
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 24, 2015. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 2 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated March 24, 2015 for week ending March 25, 2015 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 Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken reported the Pleasantville Covered Bridge is repaired and now open, and there was a brief meeting this morning regarding the VTX Contract for the elevator improvement project.
2. Robert J. Patrizio commented the Commissioners will hear from Ed Balliet, President of CHR and Terry Brennan, Administrator at the Berks Heim, regarding the medical assistance funding formula in Pennsylvania and an update on the enhanced dining program at the Berks Heim; a report on 911 financial trends and a February cash flow update.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt commented that both he and Commissioner Leinbach attended CCAP's Spring Session Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in Harrisburg where they participated in an informative and lively discussion on 911 funding. Commissioner Barnhardt commented this issue is still the number priority of CCAP this legislative

session. Commissioner Barnhardt commented there were also good discussions on the mental health issues at county jails, the JPO and juvenile issues in Children and Youth budgets, and what Children & Youth Agencies are dealing with as a result of the new 22 laws recently passed resulting from the Jerry Sanduski case.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced the Commissioners will be receiving a visit this afternoon from the new President of CCAP, Craig Lehman, a Commissioner from Lancaster County, who is trying to visit every County in Pennsylvania during his term. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned tonight the 9th Annual Berks Municipal Officials Dinner will be held at the Reading Country Club, where the highlight will be the giving of the Dick Trostle Award, who was the long time serving Mayor of Mohnton, and epitomized local municipal cooperation.

Commissioner Scott congratulated District Attorney John Adams, his detectives and other law enforcement for the most recent seizure of very large quantities of drugs. Commissioner Scott reported he was at the Berks Heim yesterday with Carl Geffken where they met with four County Commissioners from Lehigh County to tour the Heim facility. Commissioner Scott commented that Lehigh County is currently experiencing difficulties in managing its nursing home and is looking at Berks Heim as an example. Commissioner Scott commented they went over with the Commissioners the facts that have led to the success of Berks Heim, and recommended to the Lehigh County Commissioners to conduct a demand study as Berks County did, which will lay out the pros and cons of owning and operating a nursing facility. Commissioner Scott mentioned in order to have a well-run nursing facility it is critical to have a high occupancy rate.

Commissioner Leinbach followed up with the Spring CCAP conference agreeing the big issue is 911 funding. Commissioner Leinbach commented it is a serious issue, enough that over the next three weeks, CCAP will be taking a day in Harrisburg to lobby the legislature to get a long term 911 funding bill in place. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned that Liam Migdail-Smith is working on an article on 911 funding. Commissioner Leinbach also mentioned that the Commissioners have invited the entire Berks legislative delegation to the April 9th Commissioners' Meeting which will be held at Department of Emergency Services Office at the Direct Link facility in Bern Township.

Commissioner Leinbach commented on a recent study released and prepared by PACA, an organization associated with CCAP and made up of private and county nursing homes, which shows the current inequity of reimbursements to County nursing home versus private nursing home which shows private nursing homes are receiving higher reimbursements than County nursing home. Commissioner Leinbach stated it should be the same and is asking for equal funding. Bob Patrizio commented that CHR is attending the Budget Meeting this afternoon to discuss this study.

Comments from the Floor

Berks County Recorder of Deeds reported that as of today, the Recorder of Deeds website has registered 45,000 users.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk