

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes April 4, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 4, 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

Because of Berks County's remarkable efforts related to the Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails (Stepping Up) Program, Berks County has been nominated by The National Association of Counties ("NACo"), The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation to be a **Stepping Up Innovator County**. Commissioner Leinbach stated Berks County was one of the original counties selected to participate in the Stepping Up Initiative Program.

A short PowerPoint was shown and is also posted on the County's homepage.

Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt stated a few years ago Berks County began to focus the County's efforts on people in jail with severe mental health issues, a huge cost driver for the Jail and 100% funded by the County, with the goal to reduce the cost of incarceration and the burden on the criminal justice system and get individuals the treatment they need. Commissioner Barnhardt stated this is a huge collaboration of many County departments and agencies, and local police departments, and Berks County is one of eleven counties in the country selected for this prestigious selection.

Dr. Edward Michalik, MH/DD Administrator, stressed the goal of this initiative is getting people the treatment they need so they are less likely to be involved in the criminal justice system, and reported with the assistance of the District Attorney, Public Defender, law enforcement and Jail staff, since 2012 Berks County has diverted 461 individuals out of the criminal justice system, a national figure. Dr. Michalik noted in 2015 the Berks County Commissioners adopted a resolution creating the Stepping Up Initiative, the first county in Pennsylvania to do so.

Justin Loose, Chief Information Officer, reported the data acquired is used to cut across the criminal justice system and can be used in the daily administration of the criminal justice system.

Approval of Minutes

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

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held yesterday dealing with litigation, contract negotiations and personnel.

Public Comment on Agenda ItemsAgenda 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:

117.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Transfers in the amount of \$1,409,587; 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$105,424 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$937,980 per listing dated April 1, 2019.

118.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated April 4, 2019 as follows:

1. Authorize the promotion of Kristen Winchester from PC012488 Telecommunicator +6 to PC012560 Training/QA Officer – Department of Emergency Services, effective 4/3/2019. Rate of \$61,854/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,924; Midpoint \$58,565; Maximum \$73,206. Replacement for Sarah Shivers who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 51100 – 36010.

119.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #19-07-GR a contract for the Services Center Third Floor Renovations – General Contractor as identified herein:

Burkey Corporation
506 Morgantown Road
Reading, PA 19611

Total Bid Not to Exceed Amount for General Contractor:
\$273,630.00

The Base Bid for Contract #1 General/Mechanical includes the following:

Item Description	Bid Price
Bonds	\$3,578.00
Division 06 – Wood, Plastics, and Composites	\$35,892.00
Division 07 – Thermal and Moisture Protection	\$550.00
Division 08 – Openings	\$45,901.00
Division 09 – Finishes	\$187,709.00

- 120.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State County Application and Agreement for HAVA Grant Funds in the amount of \$420,961.39 to be used for HAVA compliant voting equipment replacement and upgrades.
- 121.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Addendum No. 3 to Agreement #EA-186787-16 between the County of Berks and RPA Engineering, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to provide additional engineering services for construction administration due to the selection of three (3) add alternates regarding the Annex Switchgear Replacement Project at a not to exceed amount of \$14,870.00.
- 122.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the 2018 Court Interpreter Services Grant from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (“AOPC”) in the reimbursement request amount of \$453,100.50, to provide on-site in-person courtroom interpreting services at the Court of Common Pleas and Magisterial District Judge levels.
- 123.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Elizabeth Fortuner, Mohnton, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board, filling an unexpired term ending December 31, 2019.
- 124.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Melissa DeMotta, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2021.
- 125.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Andre C. Bourrie, Mohnton, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Municipal Authority to fill an unexpired term expiring December 31, 2022.

- 126.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant (DCNR-2018-C2P2-19) Resolution Page for the Berks County Greenway, Park and Recreation Plan Update Project. The estimated total cost of the project is \$67,834.74, and the grant is a 50% match in the amount of \$33,917.37.
- 127.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Master Services Agreement between Global Tel*Link Corporation, Reston, Virginia, and the County of Berks for the installation, management, operation and maintenance of the inmate telephone service at the Berks County Jail for a five (5) year term effective April 4, 2019.
- 128.19 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving execution by George C. Hlavac, Esq., Berks County Special Labor Counsel, of the Tentative Agreement between the County of Berks d/b/a Berks Heim Nursing and Rehabilitation and the United Food Workers Union Local 1776 KS; the Tentative Agreement between the County of Berks d/b/a Berks Heim Nursing and Rehabilitation and SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania; and the Memorandum of Agreement between SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania and UFCW Local 1776 KS and Berks County. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned these agreements effectively take the sale of the Berks Heim off the table for the next five years.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated April 2, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are two contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated April 2, 2019 for week ending April 3, 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 the Budget/Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and there will be a review of the goals and objectives of the 2020 Budget Kickoff, and a facilities discussion regarding Jail projects.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman mentioned the Berks County Parks & Recreation Department's Eggstravaganza Event will be held April 13, 2019, and is a free event.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the 2020 Census kickoff at Albright College was very successful.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported that based on the recent number of calls through the 911 system for automobile related incidents on the Bypasses, the safety patrols will be adjusted to have more units available in the afternoon than the morning.

Commissioner Barnhardt was pleased and satisfied with the results of the UFCW and SEIU votes, and commended the public for being engaged with the process, and thanked the staff at the Heim and County staff. Commissioner Barnhardt stated we must continue to keep pressure on state and federal officials regarding the Medicaid rate increase.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott mentioned through the Berks Heim controversy he assumed that there would be no opportunity to reach any type of compromise with the unions. But he learned you must challenge certain assumptions and give your opponent the benefit of the doubt. When we did we were pleasantly surprised, and he is very happy with the outcome.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach commented it was great news with the Berks Heim and the important lesson he learned is when there is a common goal and objective, people can get together and solve the problem. Commissioner Leinbach also mentioned the long-term solution to funding must still be addressed, and a serious effort to lobby the State legislature to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate must still be made.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Berks County Clerk of Courts James P. Troutman questioned how many inmates are strictly drug related based on choices made.

Commissioner Barnhardt didn't have that number available.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Leah Henisey, Fleetwood and a member of the contract negotiating team for PSSU, informed the Commissioners PSSU wants to come back to the table and restart negotiations.

Dennis Leinbach, Reading, distributed The Happy Traveler, a publication he picked up at a rest stop on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Mr. Leinbach was dismayed at the lack of places of interest to visit in Berks County as compared to other counties in Pennsylvania.

Chris Ellis, Reading, thanked the Board for the Stepping Up Initiative and the data collection.

Mr. Ellis also stated that the City has an ordinance protecting LGBTQ rights, noting the Berks County does not.

Risa Marmontello, Douglassville, was happy with the good news on the Berks Heim and commended the two unions for making concessions that shows the dedication for their jobs. Ms. Marmontello asked if the subdivision process will be discontinued.

Solicitor Sadler responded the subdivision process has not stopped and will continue as a majority of work has been done and money expended, and reported she has contacted Stevens & Lee to notify the bidders the sale process is stopped.

Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights, was glad for the reprieve of the sale of the Berks Heim for the next five years.

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, thanked the unions for making concessions and for their spirit of generosity, and asked as the County moves forward to not ask them to give more.

Mike Morrill, West Reading, thanked all the activists who have been so firm in standing up that the Heim not be sold, and thanked the unions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk