

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes April 13, 2017

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 13, 2017, 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 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

Rick Periandi, President of Crime Alert Berks County, and Barry Rohrbach, past President, presented the annual report on the current activities of Crime Alert Berks County ("Crime Alert"). Mr. Rohrbach commented that it has been a pleasure serving as President for the last 18 years, recollecting it was Commissioner Scott who made the motion to give the first \$3,000 to Crime Alert. Mr. Rohrbach introduced District Attorney John Adams for presentation of a check.

Mr. Adams presented a \$15,000 check to Crime Alert and recognized Crime Alert for their continued efforts in assisting law enforcement in Berks County solve crimes and help in getting information on criminal activity. Mr. Adams noted this money is seized in drug investigations and comes out of the Drug Forfeiture Fund.

Mr. Periandi also thanked the Commissioners for their support over the past 19 years, and stated for the past 14 years Crime Alert has been number one in the State. Mr. Periandi reported over the last few years Crime Alert has paid out on over 40 tips that have led to arrests, that averaged \$1,000 per tip.

Commissioner Barnhardt remarked from the County's standpoint, the money is well spent in solving crime.

Commissioner Leinbach thanked Mr. Periandi for stepping up to the fill the role of President.

Commissioner Scott commented anything that can be done to solve a crime is money well spent.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held April 10, 2017 to discuss personnel and litigation of real estate.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 6, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

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

115.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$59,527, 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$488,505, 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$34,583 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$(42,742) per listing dated April 10, 2017.

Robert Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer, commented that the negative balance under 2017 Appropriations is primarily due to the negative appropriation of MH/DD funds in accordance with the allocation of FY 16/17 to cover December 2016 program services.

116.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing a Final Project Completion Payment to Lower Alsace Township, 1200 Carsonia Avenue, Reading, PA 19606 in the amount of \$3,906.25 as a reimbursement from the County Liquid Fuels Allocation for the Township's project to repair and relocate guiderail on Angora Road (PennDOT Project No. 16-06220-03CA).

117.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the signature page for a Grant with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This is a one-time, no match Grant in the amount of \$38,387.00 to assist county adult probation and parole offices in implementing evidence based practices and fund supervisory training, and an expansion of cognitive behavioral classes run for offenders.

Deputy Chief Adult Probation Officer Dan Heydt reported this grant was designed to improve implementation of evidence based practices for Adult Probation Officers and fund training for supervisory positions.

118.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Report and Certification on Hazardous Material Emergency Response Preparedness to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency ("PEMA").

119.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement #EA-190969-17 between the County of Berks and Skelly and Loy, Engineering Environmental Consultants, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to provide professional planning services to update the County's 2013 Hazard Vulnerability

Assessment and Mitigation Plan at a not to exceed amount of \$65,025.00.

- 120.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Release and Indemnity Agreement with the Borough of Kutztown ("Municipality") releasing the County of Berks from liability that may be incurred by the County due to dispatching emergency medical services units as directed by the Municipality.
 - 121.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a letter from the Board of Commissioners to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency ("PCCD") supporting PCCD's proposal submission to the United States Department of Justice for the planning and implementation of comprehensive strategies in response to the growing opioid epidemic.
 - 122.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing and approving the law firm Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A., New York, New York to provide additional legal services as assigned by the County Solicitor at their current rate of \$225.00 per hour.
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 April 11, 2017. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 9 contracts and referenced the departments
 3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated April 11, 2017 for week ending April 12, 2017 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll. Ms. Graffius reminded the Commissioners they signed this voucher last week so her office could get the checks out yesterday due to the Good Friday Holiday.

Commissioner Leinbach announced today is Liam Migdail-Smith's end of service with the County. He is taking a job with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau in Harrisburg. Commissioner Leinbach commented Liam did a great job and always was truthful in his reporting.

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 J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive an update on select items regarding the 2018/2021 budget forecast and a brief discussion on the upcoming 2018 Budget Kickoff. Mr. Patrizio reported the County just locked in electric and natural gas rates for 2018, based on recommendations from Utilitech, the County's energy consultant.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman congratulated Liam on a fine job he has done, and mentioned he first met Liam when he served on the BARTA Board.

Mr. Seaman offered the best of the Passover season to our friends of the Jewish faith and a good Holy Week to those of the Christian faith, asking everyone to reflect for a moment on how they can make the world a better place for each of us.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Board for supporting the letter to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for a grant request. Berks County is one of three counties in Pennsylvania selected to apply for this Grant, which is a sustainable grant, to continue with public outreach and education dealing with the opioid epidemic, and does not require any additional staffing.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported yesterday he was in southwest Philadelphia as part of contingent to appear before the Southcentral Leadership Council of the House of Representatives Democratic Caucus to speak about pretrial services and bail reform in Berks County.

Commissioner Barnhardt reminded the public next Thursday at Stokesay is the last and final public presentation on the Mt. Penn Preserve Final Plan where the ideas of the online survey will be presented.

Commissioner Scott had nothing further.

Commissioner Leinbach wished our Jewish friends a blessed Passover and Christians celebrating Good Friday and Easter a blessed Holiday.

Commissioner Leinbach commented he and Commissioner Barnhardt were on a CCAP conference call this morning to talk about the State proposed budget, and the core message is that the cuts recommended in Human Services are cuts that are currently being provided by counties, and in most cases, mandated, and is a cost shift from State taxes to county property taxes. Commissioner Leinbach will provide more information as he receives it.

Commissioner Leinbach will be offering testimony this afternoon before the Senate Sub-Committee hearing dealing with the proposed consolidation of four Human Services Departments into one.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

County Controller Graffius reminded everyone of the 5K No Excuse for Abuse Run organized by Berks County Children and Youth Services being held April 29, 2017 at the West Reading Playground to highlight child abuse.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk