

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes April 18, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 18, 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.

Presentations

1. Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt and Michael D. Golembiewski, Transportation Planner in the Berks County Planning Commission, presented a PowerPoint update regarding the 2020 Census and how important it is to have everyone participate because of the large amount of federal funds distributed based on the count. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the 2010 Census for Berks County had an estimated undercount of 16,715 people; that meant a loss of approximately \$350 million for Berks County, over a ten (10) year period. Commissioner Barnhardt announced in early 2020, all Berks County households will receive a postcard that will encourage on-line responses; those who don't respond will receive a questionnaire, and if the postcard isn't returned, they will receive a personal visit from a census representative. Mr. Golembiewski reported there are 132 federal programs with a distribution of more than \$675 billion dollars.
2. Nicole Schnovel, Co-Executive Director, Berks Connections/Pretrial Services ("BCPS"), presented information on the R3 ("Rebuilding Reentrance in Reading") and Rehiring Citizen's Program offered by BCPS. Ms. Schnovel stated the program focuses on work force development programs at the Community Reentry Center and provides resume writing, interview skills and computer skills. Ms. Schnovel commented the agency's goal is to assist the individuals to get a good job that is a good fit for them and the employer. Ms. Schnovel was proud to report BCPS has been recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry as a pre-apprentice program.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 11, 2019 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held Friday, April 12, 2019 dealing with litigation, personnel and contract negotiations.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Agenda 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:
 - 138.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$196,168; 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$314,045 and 2019 Appropriations in the negative amount of \$(259,586) per listing dated April 15, 2019.
 - 139.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the 2019 PBGH Participating Group Addendum extending the agreement term an additional three (3) year period ending December 31, 2021. The agreement is for the provision of prescription benefit services between CaremarkPCS Health, LLC and PBGH Services, Inc, a coalition that provides negotiated deep discounts and rebates for the County's Caremark RX Program.
 - 140.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment #13 to the current HealthChoices Behavioral Health Agreement 4100056426 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acting through the Department of Human Services, and the County of Berks, and amends various appendices of the Program Standards and Requirements.
 - 141.19 Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners agreeing to extend the current HealthChoices Behavioral Health Agreement 4100056426 with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acting through the Department of Human Services, until June 30, 2024; and further authorizes execution of the new HealthChoices Behavioral Health Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acting through the Department of Human Services and the County of Berks effective July 1, 2019.
Dr. Edward Michalik, MH/DD Program Administrator, stated the first part of this resolution accepts his letter of interest in extending the current agreement he previously submitted to DHS, and authorizes the new agreement.

- 142.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Edward B. Michalik, MH/DD Administrator, to accept the capitation rates offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services for the HealthChoices Program for the Fiscal Year July 2019-June 2020.
- 143.19 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving execution by Terrence J. Brennan, Berks Heim Administrator, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services Exceptional DME Grant for reimbursement of the rental cost of a Cinitron Bed.
- 144.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing A. Dennis Adams, Berks County Treasurer, to execute a letter of extension to BB&T Bank extending banking and treasury services pricing and fee structure for a 15-month period beginning April 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.
- 145.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Jack R. Gombach, West Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees for a six (6) year term expiring June 30, 2025.
- 146.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Edwin L. Stock, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees for a six (6) year term expiring June 30, 2025.
- 147.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Amendment No. 1 to the TextBehind Inmate Mail Screening, Processing and Management System Implementation Agreement between the County of Berks and TextBehind, Inc., Phoenix, Maryland, which modifies the processing requirements to reduce the processing required for non-photographic items.
- 148.19 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Justin Loose, Chief Information Officer, execution of the letter agreement with Kroll Cyber Security, LLC, New York, NY, to provide forensic services.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated April 16, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 21 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated April 16, 2019 for week ending April 17, 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 was absent. Mr. Seaman reported Dr. Michalik and Lydia Singley will discuss the HealthChoices carve out, and Dr. Michalik and Justin Loose will provide an update on the Stepping Up Data Driven Justice program.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported last Thursday he and Warden Quigley toured the new SCI Phoenix facility that replaced Graterford Prison. It is an amazing facility, housing 3,840 inmates with 1,108 full time employees, and an annual budget of \$145 million. Commissioner Barnhardt noted hundreds of inmates are employed at SCI Phoenix in jobs including making their own clothing and boots for themselves and other State prisons, and because of the industrial laundry facility, they do laundry for other jails and VA hospitals.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he attended the BARTA and SCTA meeting last evening, noting they purchased 25 solar bus shelters; and have agreed to allow Clydesdale Bus at no cost, to drop off and pick up passengers from the BARTA Transportation Center in Reading for runs to Philly and New York.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott read a portion of a letter the Board of Commissioners recently received from the Reading Regional Airport Authority ("Authority") requesting the County satisfy the outstanding debt owed to the County. Commissioner Scott stated at a previous meeting with the Authority the Commissioners attended with the Authority in February, he asked the Authority to put together a business plan and is still waiting for the plan. Commissioner Scott also mentioned he has asked Pam Shupp, GRCA, to assist the Authority in looking for opportunities to reconcile the rental rates at the Airport.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach announced this Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. at the lower parking lot at Reading City Park, the Veterans Coalition's monthly mini-stand-down will take place.

Commissioner Leinbach announced next week the Commissioners will have a meeting and tour at the Berks Heim with our legislative delegation and will sit down for a presentation by CCAP on the status of pending legislation, and SEIU and UFCW will report on their current lobbying efforts.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Leah Henisey, Fleetwood, appeared on behalf of union employees from Children & Youth Services and the Prison, and presented and read excerpts from letters of support from State Senator Katie Muth and House Representative Mark Rozzi, and a note card of support from Senator Judy Schwank.

Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights, commented on a newspaper article this week on the State's request for input from citizens on where the State should spend state funds on transportation issues.

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, asked if there was any new development on a public meeting regarding truancy with the district justices.

Commissioner Leinbach commented the truancy matter is going very well through efforts of the Truancy Task Force, and no update on the constable matter, it is still in the hands of the President Judge.

Joe Rudderow, Maiden creek Township Supervisor, thanked the Board, Ron Seaman and Christine Sadler for efforts in helping getting Schaeffer Road Bridge open.

Commissioner Scott commented on the letters submitted by the State legislators that suggested the Commissioners are not negotiating with the union. Commissioner Scott asked Solicitor Sadler to clarify for the record what the County has been doing. Solicitor Sadler noted there was a negotiating session scheduled this past Monday, and the County had made a request in advance requesting the union to have written proposals prior the negotiating session. Ms. Sadler stated unfortunately that did not happen, and the County waited 45 minutes for the proposal to be presented. Ms. Sadler also noted the union choose not to meet face to face, instead passing the proposal to a State mediator. Ms. Sadler reported that since the last meeting in January 2018, the County offered up at least 15 dates to continue negotiations, and the union cancelled all those dates. Ms. Sadler stated the County has been more than willing to sit down and have face to face negotiations, and it is unfortunate the union is not willing to sit down.

County Controller Sandy Graffius announced there would be a County Commissioner candidate event tonight at the Leesport Farmers Market

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk