

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes April 23, 2015

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 23, 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 County Solicitor Alan S. 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.

Presentations

Today the County observed "*Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day*". Commissioner Leinbach welcomed the children and their parents and grandparents to the Meeting, and he hoped they learn something about the work their parents do. The Commissioners each offered a short story of accompanying their fathers to work or explaining what their fathers did for a living. Commissioner Leinbach explained the meeting process to the audience.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 16, 2015 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the Agenda items. Commissioner Scott stated that before the vote he would like to give Peter Edelman, Esq., an opportunity to comment on Diakon resolution. Mr. Edelman commented that a decision was made by Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, who owns and operates several skilled nursing, assisted living and independent retirement facilities throughout Pennsylvania, including the Lutheran Home at Topton in Berks County. Mr. Edelman commented Diakon had to make a decision a few year ago who would be the issuer of the Bonds, and Diakon decided to go with Cumberland County Municipal Authority ("CCMA"). Mr. Edelman commented Diakon had decided to issue a series of tax-exempt bonds for refunding certain outstanding debts and will be using CCMA as the conduit issuer for the new bonds; and as required by the Pennsylvania Municipality Authorities Act, Berks County must approve the financing of the Project, determining it is in the best interest of the people in Berks County. Following Mr. Edelman's comments, Commissioner Scott seconded Commissioner Barnhardt's motion to approve the Agenda items with the

exception of Resolution No. 113-15, to which he voted NO. Commissioner Scott commented, while he respects his colleagues' opinions, it is his opinion that the money needed to repair the light fixtures to the Courthouse lights can be spent better elsewhere. Commissioner Leinbach commented it is important when any entity has a facility, that it is maintained and taken care of appropriately. Commissioner Leinbach commented the Courthouse is more than just a building, it has a lot of history in it and those lights are very historical. Commissioner Leinbach reported he has seen the lights and the wiring is very bad and it makes sense to keep them in as pristine condition as possible. Commissioner Leinbach voted to approve all Agenda items, and all items listed were unanimously approved.

109.15 Adopt a resolution approving the financing by the Cumberland County Municipal Authority of certain projects for the benefit of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries which projects consist of, among other things, the refunding of certain outstanding bonds of the Authority issued for the benefit of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries; and declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the areas served by Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, to have the project provided by and financed through the authority; and designating the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners or, in his absence, any other member of the Board of Commissioners as the person to act on behalf of the Board of Commissioners as the "applicable elected representative" within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; authorizing such Chairman or any such member of the Board of Commissioners to take certain actions on behalf of the Board of Commissioners as such "applicable representative;" and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action.

110.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$18,675.00 and 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$1,565,010.00 per listing dated April 20, 2015.

111.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated April 23, 2015 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Ramon Reyes to PC010947 Developer Analyst – Information Systems Department, effective 4/29/2015. Rate of \$62,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$52,292; Midpoint \$69,723; Maximum \$87,153. Replacement for Joseph Noble who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.
2. Authorize the promotion of John Scolastico from PC012904 Probation Officer III to PC010132 Assistant

Chief Adult Probation Officer – Adult Probation Department, effective 4/29/2015. Rate of \$72,212/annually. Salary range Minimum \$47,870; Midpoint \$63,827; Maximum \$79,784. Replacement for James Sweitzer who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12010.

- 112.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #15-02-MB a contract for the Temple Bridge Superstructure Replacement Project as identified herein:

DESCCO Design & Construction, Inc.

1 Willow Street Industrial Park

Fleetwood, PA 19522

Base Bid Total: \$694,684.16

- 113.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute Amendment No. 13 to the Guaranteed Energy Services Agreement between the County of Berks and Noresco, LLC, Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania, for the refurbishment and retrofitting of the original/historic lanterns that flank the Sixth Street Entrance of the Courthouse, and adds an approximate \$86,000.00 to the repair fund.

- 114.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the State Fiscal Year 2015-2016 HMRF (Hazardous Materials Response Fund) Grant Guidance and Grant Application. This is the annual Grant request and will allow the Berks County Special Operations Group to maintain and upgrade its response capability, and additionally, allow for continued operation and improvement of the Berks County LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee).

- 115.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Crystal Dombrosky, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Mental Health/Developmental Disability Advisory Board for a term ending December 31, 2015. This is a replacement for Robert Rizetto, who resigned.

2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated April 21, 2015 for week ending April 22, 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 County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken had no report today.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported at today's Budget Meeting the Commissioners will receive a review of the prices for natural gas and electric going forward and a review of the proposed 2016 Budget Kickoff Meeting message which is scheduled May 1, 2015.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt announced that tomorrow morning the Board of Commissioners will be attending the semi-annual Municipal Breakfast Meeting at the Friendship Fire Company in Boyertown, where the Commissioners have a chance to discuss local issues and concerns with municipal officials from the Townships and Boroughs. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned that same evening the Commissioners are invited to another meeting at the Fleetwood Grange where all elected officials are invited to attend. Commissioner Barnhardt gave a shout out to the Reading Eagle staff, Liam Migdail-Smith and Bob Schneider for a phenomenal job of depicting what is going to be the Buttonwood Street closure, scheduled to close in early July for 2 years. Commissioner Barnhardt expressed the children they should feel proud of their parents, as they are the real nuts and bolts of running the County, and he commended the parents for bringing their children today.

Commissioner Scott commented that Commissioner Barnhardt spoke well for the wonderful opportunity that is embodied in bringing your children to this event. Commissioner Scott commented on a recent article he read a few days ago in the Wall Street Journal regarding FirstNet, which was very critical of the funding for the project and is probably inadequate. Commissioner Scott reported he gave a copy of the article to the other Commissioners and the Solicitor. Commissioner Scott commented the County recently received a very professional presentation on the FirstNet Project.

Commissioner Leinbach announced for the benefit of the audience and interest of the public that this Sunday at the Berks County Youth & Recreation Fields will be "Go Fly a Kite Day" and is a big event every year with all different kinds of kites and you can also make your own.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

William Murray, a resident of Wyomissing Borough, attended the meeting to discuss the Wyomissing LERTA. Mr. Murray commented he was last here to speak to the Board in June 2014, and wanted to provide an update to the Commissioners, stating there was a hearing this past Monday before the Assessment Board. Mr. Murray commented last June there was no support by the Borough or School District, but now both support the LERTA on the new hotel owner be stopped. Mr. Murray provided the Commissioners with a brief synopsis of the hearing and asked the Commissioners if the taxpayers can be figured into the equation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk