

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes April 27, 2017**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 27, 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 Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach participated via telephone conference from Washington, D.C. where he is attending a NACO meeting. Also present were First Assistant County Solicitor Chad Schnee, Honorary Assistant Solicitor Hunter Schnee, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

Commissioner Barnhardt opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced today we are observing *Bring Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day*. Sitting in place of Commissioner Leinbach is Hunter Schnee, son of First Assistant County Solicitor Chad Schnee.

Commissioner Barnhardt introduced everyone sitting at the head table and the elected officials, explaining what they do and the meeting process to the audience.

### **Presentation**

Megan Daugherty, representing the YMCA of Reading, and Becky Richards, Program Supervisor for the Berks County Parks & Recreation Department, presented information on *YMCA Healthy Kids Day* and *Go Fly a Kite Day* scheduled Saturday, April 29, 2017 at the Berks County Youth Recreational Facility. Ms. Richards reported this is the 30<sup>th</sup> year the County is sponsoring *Go Fly a Kite Day* and it is a perfect opportunity for these two programs to come together to get youth outside and active. Ms. Dougherty reported last year 2,500 attended this event.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of April 20, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### **Agenda Items**

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
  - 129.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$40,766; 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$5,200 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$318,243 per listing dated April 24, 2017.

- 130.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing an increase in Berks Heim private pay per diem room rates as set forth below:  
Private Room - \$380.00/day  
Semi-Private Room - \$350.00/day  
Rehab Unit Private Room - \$390.00/day  
Rehab Semi-Private Room - \$370.00  
All rates are effective July 1, 2017 and represent a \$10.00 rate increase.
- 131.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing John T. Adams, Berks County District Attorney, to execute the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement with the City of Reading Police Department's Academy Director of Training for use of the Firearms Range for the purpose of firearms qualifications and training for two (2) weeks a year.
- 132.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing A. Dennis Adams, Berks County Treasurer, to open an investment account, and further authorizes Mr. Adams to execute any and all actions associated with this transaction.  
On February 26, 1998, the Berks County Commissioners enacted Ordinance No. 1-98 joining with other counties ("Local Government Units") to become a settlor of the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (the "Trust") to purchase shares in the Trust from time to time and to redeem some or all of those shares from time to time as funds are needed subject to the terms and restrictions of the Declaration of Trust; and further authorized the County Treasurer and Deputy County Treasurer to take such actions.
- 133.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the Membership Application with Sam's Club for a County membership for the benefit of the Berks County Parks Department.
2. Motion authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt as Vice Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated April 25, 2017. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that are 23 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated April 25, 2017 for week ending April 26, 2017 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

**Reports**

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report. Mr. Adams had Jenny Smith, daughter of Tim Smith, Information Systems, read his report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

**REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Robert J. Patrizio reported today is the 2018 Budget Kick-Off Meeting.

**REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Ronald R. Seaman commended the parents for bringing their children to work today; noting it is a great experience for them.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS****Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott commented on the increase in Berks Heim cost per day for long term care and skilled care, recommending people consider purchasing long term care insurance.

**Commissioner Leinbach**

Commissioner Leinbach reported he is in Washington at the request of NACO to deal with a number of critical issues facing counties concerning the proposed infrastructure spending bill; various aspects of repeal and replacing Obamacare, tax reform issues, immigration issues and the President's Budget.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned they will be meeting with Congressman Charlie Dent to talk about a number of issues dealing with repeal and replace and tax reform, and will be meeting with the Under Secretary of Homeland Security to discuss emergency management and immigration. Commissioner Leinbach talked about the 287 (g) program and detainees.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the West Shore By-Pass Traffic Task Force Committee will be reinstated due to the Penn Street Bridge construction project, and consists of Reading, West Reading, Spring Township, Cumru Township, Exeter Township and the Department of Emergency Services, and suggested there is talk of placing and using electric signage to notify drivers of emergency situations that exist on the By-Pass. Commissioner Barnhardt announced tomorrow night at the Reading Phillies, Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities will sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Strike Out The Stigma" event to increase awareness of mental illness and suicide prevention. Commissioner Barnhardt introduced Karen Shuey, Reading Eagle Reporter, who replaced Liam Migdail-Smith, to cover Commissioners' Meetings.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Stacey Taylor, President of the Reading Branch NAACP, attended the meeting to comment on the 287(g) Program. Ms. Taylor read a portion of a prepared letter to the Commissioners, that included copies of the 287(g) Program Overview and an article from the ACLU addressing the 287 (g) Program, and submitted the letter to the Chief Clerk for distribution. Ms. Taylor asked the Commissioners to vote "No" on the proposed plan to allow the Sheriff's Department to enforce the 298 (g) Program. A copy of Ms. Taylor's letter and attachments are made part of the Minutes.

Bernardo Carbajal, Esq., President of the Community Justice Project, read a prepared letter to the Commissioners regarding the ICE detainer requests and President Trump's January 25, 2017 Executive Order. Mr. Carbajal asked to meet with the Board of Commissioners and the Sheriff to discuss these issues. A copy of Mr. Carbajal's letter is made part of the Minutes.

The Commissioners each made brief comments on the 287 (g) Program and offered the following closing statements about the Program:

Commissioner Scott commented he will be a strong supporter of the Sheriff's efforts to participate in the 287 (g) Program.

Commissioner Leinbach cited what is required of law enforcement when someone is picked up. The 287 (g) Program impacts Pennsylvania very differently than the rest of the country, because in Pennsylvania, sheriffs have limited arrest powers. Commissioner Leinbach again mentioned ICE detainers have been determined to be only a request and must be backed up by a warrant and probable cause.

Commissioner Leinbach directed Ron Seaman to set up a meeting with Mr. Carbajal, possibly occurring at an Operations Meeting.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented he was disturbed to read in a recent newspaper article that he would be voting "No". Commissioner Barnhardt commented he never spoke to a reporter, did not have a definitive discussion with the Sheriff, and has not decided either way on this issue. Commissioner Barnhardt suggested a meeting with the Sheriff and District Attorney to figure out all the facts to come to an honest decision,

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk