

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes May 12, 2016**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 12, 2016, 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 in attendance. Commissioner Mark C. Scott was absent. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

### **Presentations**

Diane Price, Chair of the Berks County Armed Forces Day Parade Committee, attended the Meeting to present information on the 68<sup>th</sup> Berks County Armed Forces Day Parade to be held Saturday, May 21, 2016. Ms. Price announced the Parade route has been modified this year due to the Buttonwood Street Bridge construction and will start in West Reading at 8<sup>th</sup> & Penn Avenue. The Reviewing Stand will be located at S. 6<sup>th</sup> & Cherry Streets in the City. Ms. Price commented this year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the Parade Marshalls will be representatives from every branch of the military service along with the Moving Wall. Ms. Price expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Commissioners for their continued support of this event.

Lucine E. Sihelnik, M.A., Local Food System Director at ReDesign Reading Community Development Corporation ("ReDesign"), presented a PowerPoint program on the season opening of the Penn Street Market to be held June 2, 2016. Ms. Sihelnik commented that in 2015 ReDesign adopted the Penn Street Market, and is a project of the Regional Reading Food Policy and Action Council (RRFPAC) and ReDesign Reading CDD, which supports local food systems, engages in healthy community programs and helps to promote economic development in Reading. Ms. Sihelnik mentioned all the food and produce is seasonal and is grown locally. Ms. Sihelnik announced the Reading Parking Authority will be issuing free parking vouchers for the 4<sup>th</sup> & Cherry Street Parking Garage during Market hours. Ms. Sihelnik commented new this year, thanks to a \$10,000.00 grant, the Market will be open the first four Fridays of each month, June through September, in partnership with Reading Arts Initiative. Ms. Sihelnik urged everyone to visit the [www.ReDesignReading.org](http://www.ReDesignReading.org) website for more information on vendors and special events.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of May 5, 2016 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
  - 128.16 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 funding of various capital improvements, the refunding of certain outstanding bonds of the Authority issued for the benefit of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and the payment of the costs and expenses related to such financing; 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; 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.  
Peter Edelman, Esquire, attended the meeting on behalf of Diakon and commented this is a standard resolution to approve financing on behalf of Diakon who owns and operates eight nursing home facilities in the State, including one in Berks County, and in part, will refund 2014 Bonds and fund some general capital projects.
  - 129.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$24,232.00 and 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$4,975,007.00 per listing dated May 10, 2016.
  - 130.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated May 12, 2016 as follows:
    1. Authorize the appointment of Rochelle Wanner to PC010232 Caseworker Supervisor I – Area Agency on Aging, effective 6/1/16. Rate of \$49,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,747; Midpoint \$58,329; Maximum \$72,912. Replacement for Dennis Scales who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 28000 – 23150.
    2. Authorize the appointment of Daniel Assaraf to Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender's Office, effective 5/25/2016. Rate of \$46,500/annually. Salary range

Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,587; Maximum \$74,483. Replacement for Harminda Morales who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.

- 131.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Donnie R. Swope, Planning Manager, Berks County Department of Emergency Services, to execute a letter of commitment to Thomas Hughes, State Hazard Mitigation Officer for Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (“PEMA”) and the application for the Competitive Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant for purposes of updating the current 2013 Hazard Vulnerability Assessment & Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is a recurring process every five years and the current plan will expire February 2018, and the commitment letter and application is required as part of the grant application process.
- 132.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing an increase in Berks Heim private pay per diem room rates as set forth below:
- Private Room - \$370.00/day  
Semi-Private Room - \$340.00/day  
Rehab Unit Private Room - \$380.00/day  
Rehab Semi-Private Room - \$360.00  
All rates are effective July 1, 2016 and represent a \$10.00 rate increase.  
Commissioner Leinbach commented that about 80% of the beds are set aside for Medicaid patients, and the rates we are approving today are for patients who choose to stay or rehabilitate at the Heim instead of another facility.
- 133.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the 2016-2017 PELICAN Loss Prevention Grant Program Application to be used to partially fund the purchase of 40-LED lamp fixtures to replace the existing metal halide lamp fixtures on all parking lot light poles at the Berks Heim. The grant amount requested is \$5,000.00 and total project cost is \$20,800.00 plus installation costs.  
Commissioner Leinbach commented that the County was able to apply for and participate in this program because we are members of CCAP and recommendation by EH&D.
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 May 10, 2016. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 7 contracts and referenced the departments.

3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated May 10, 2016 for week ending May 11, 2016 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**

1. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Board will receive a update from Jane Meeks and the Berks County Solid Waste Authority on their 2017 Budget; a review of the PCoRP June 1, 2016 Insurance Renewal from Mike Malinowski, EH&D, and a brief cash flow update.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported on the first full meeting of the group that attended *The Stepping* initiative a few weeks ago in Washington, D.C. commenting the most difficult piece but most important is the data collection of folks who have or suffer from mental health issues in the criminal justice system. Commissioner Barnhardt commented when this part is complete, we should be in compliance and be able to start tracking these folks and divert them from the criminal justice system as much as possible.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented he is glad Lucine is here today because he, Lucine and others including Tami Hildebrand, are working on an idea and concept for vertical hydroponic farming that was discussed at the *Considerate It* Conference held earlier in the week at Albright College. Commissioner Barnhardt commented it could be a good use of abandoned buildings in Reading and also provide good affordable quality food in Reading.

Commissioner Leinbach commented yesterday he had the opportunity and privilege to celebrate with a number of individuals 100 years old and older, including a 106 year old gentleman at the Centenarian Luncheon. Commissioner Leinbach shared some important events and famous people from 1916.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Tonya Wenger from First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County attended the meeting to comment on the Berks County Residential Center. Ms. Wenger commented she and the congregation continue to be concerned for the women and children who continue to be illegally detained at the Center.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk