

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes May 17, 2018**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 17, 2018, 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 present. Commissioner Mark C. Scott participated via telephone. 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**

Gregory C. Gnatt, Business Operations Manager-Area 9, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Don Seifrit, the new Tree Fruit Educator at Penn State Extension, attended the meeting and to provide an update on the fruit tree industry in southeastern Pennsylvania, and the Spotted Lanternfly.

Mr. Gnatt reported the Extension Service is expanding services to Berks County citizens, and in the last year started the Master Watershed Stewardship Program ("Program"). Mr. Gnatt was pleased to announce the Program received the 2018 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

Mr. Seifrit mentioned he was hired from the University of Delaware, where he received his Bachelor and Master degrees in plant science, and was brought on board to assist with the spotted lanternfly problem and other pests, including the stink bug. Besides banding, Mr. Seifrit reported he is researching and looking into alternative methods of combatting the spotted lanternfly. Mr. Seifrit also works with the Young Growers Alliance ("YGA"), a network of individuals in their mid-30s and younger, on a variety of agricultural issues.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of May 10, 2018 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### **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, with a request to comment. Request to comment granted by Commissioner Leinbach.

Commissioner Scott commented that he does not feel it is the County's role or within the County's means to provide financial largesse to local municipalities, especially after just raising taxes, and the possibility of having to sell the Berks Heim. Commissioner Scott is concerned it could set a dangerous precedent for other municipalities where the County owns property, to seek similar financial arrangements with the County.

Commissioner Scott announced he will be a No vote to this Resolution 138.18 and a No vote to Item 141.18, but will vote Yes vote on the rest of the Agenda items.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented this is a unique situation we have with Lower Alsace Township, as Antietam Lake Park is a fully functioning County owned asset within the Township. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned Lower Alsace is a small, land-locked municipality, and cannot expand any commercial or industrial facilities to help grow its tax base. Lower Alsace is refinancing the debt, and this amount does away with the finance costs of the refinance charge. Commissioner Barnhardt commented this request from Lower Alsace has been discussed numerous times at County Budget Meetings. Commissioner Barnhardt supports this and will be a Yes vote.

Regarding items 141.18, Commissioner Barnhardt commented the Amendment to the Agreement was necessitated because Mt. Penn wanted a few changes to the Agreement.

Commissioner Leinbach commented he never questioned the original contract and believes we have no obligation to the contract. Commissioner Leinbach compared this arrangement to the relationship the County has with Bern Township, where the North Campus is located. There is a financial arrangement between the County and Bern Township because of the work and services provided by Bern Township to Berks County, where the Township doesn't receive any local property taxes.

Commissioner Leinbach commented Lower Alsace provides police responses to incidents at Antietam Lake Park. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned this has been discussed at length at the March 1, 2018 Budget Meeting, it has received legal review by the County Solicitor's Office, and he will be voting in favor of Resolution 138.18.

Having no further comments, all voted to approve the items listed below, with the exception of the No votes by Commissioner Scott on Items 138.18 and 141.18.

- 134.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$116,454 and 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$100,680 per listing dated May 14, 2018.

- 135.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated May 17, 2018 as follows:
1. Authorize the transfer of Joseph Famiglietti, PC012773 Senior Financial Analyst – Budget Department to PC011101 Fiscal Operations Officer I – Children and Youth Services Department, effective 5/16/2018. Rate of \$55,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$37,133; Midpoint \$49,510; Maximum \$61,888. Replacement for Susan Quinn who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 22000 – 23200.
  2. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for a Senior Financial Analyst – Budget Department, effective 5/18/2018. Rate not to exceed \$34.60/hour. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when a candidate is hired to fill the Senior Financial Analyst position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11400.
- 136.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Addendum No. 2 to Agreement No. EA-188649-17 with SSM Group, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, to provide additional engineering services to perform a Phase II Bog Turtle Survey at a not to exceed amount of \$5,800.00.
- 137.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Federal Fiscal Year 2017, Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant Agreement to provide financial assistance to local units of government to conduct hazardous materials planning or training in the amount of \$42,976.00 , which is 80% federally funded and 20% local match.
- 138.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and Lower Alsace Township authorizing a single, one-time contribution of \$398,000 to Lower Alsace Township for the sole purpose of assisting the Township in managing the Township's debt related to its contribution toward the acquisition of Antietam Lake Park.
- 139.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2014 and 2015 County taxes, including penalties and interest in the amount of \$8,020.74 for 101 W. Windsor Street (15-5307-49-55-6206), Reading, Pennsylvania, and \$830.34 for 822 North Front Street (15-5307-57-54-5977), Reading, owned by the Islamic Society of Berks County.

- 140.18 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, execution and acceptance of the Proposal date March 16, 2018, from Johnson Controls, Allentown, for 650 new smoke detectors for the Berks County Services Center at a net price of \$40,875; and further ratifying, confirming and approving the Chair's execution of the Pennsylvania 2017-2018 PCoRP Loss Prevention Grant Program Application in the amount of \$20,000 to be applied towards the cost of said detectors; and further authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to certify the Grant Application.
- 141.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Clerk to advertise proposed County Ordinance No. 04-2018 approving an Amendment to the Mt. Penn Preserve Partnership Council of Governments (MP3 COG) Articles of Agreement.
- 142.18 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Christine M. Sadler, Berks County Solicitor, execution of the letter agreement with Kroll Cyber Security, LLC, New York, NY, to provide forensic services.
2. Motion authorizing execution and ratification of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated May 15, 2018. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 10 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated May 15, 2018 for week ending May 16, 2018 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.  
Mr. Rutkowski mentioned the large disbursement is a bond payment.

### **Reports**

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Mr. Patrizio was absent. There was no report and no Budget/Operations Meeting scheduled this afternoon.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

None.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS****Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Election Day voter turnout was 18%, and commended the Elections Services Department for running an error free election, and thanked all the poll workers for working the polls.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he attended the South Central Transit Authority meeting last evening where the Board approved new parking rates for the BARTA Transportation Center and the Franklin Street Station parking garage.

**Commissioner Scott**

None

**Commissioner Leinbach**

Commissioner Leinbach reported this evening he will be speaking in Leesport at the Berks Patriots Meeting on challenges counties face regarding property taxes and the relationship counties have with government mandates; where we are for options for the Jail and an update on the Berks Heim.

Commissioner Leinbach read a letter he received from Sherry Reimert regarding an obituary she read of a former resident who received excellent care while at the Heim. Ms. Reimert also enclosed a check for \$10 in memory of the resident to help fund the Heim.

Commissioner Leinbach reported next week he will be attending the NACo Board Meeting in Idaho.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Diane Price, Chair of the Berks County Armed Forces Day Parade, announced this year's Armed Forces Day Parade will be held Saturday, May 19, 2018 and is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parade.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk