

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes May 22, 2014 (draft for approval May 29, 2014)

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 22, 2014, 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 and announced the Board is without the services of Commissioner Leinbach today. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

Presentation

Tom Davidock, Schuylkill Action Network Coordinator, Kurt D. Zwinkl, Executive Director of the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area, and Dan Greig and Glenn Seidel of the Berks County Conservation District, attended the meeting to highlight the efforts which have led to the Schuylkill River being named as Pennsylvania's "River of the Year". Mr. Seidel, Vice Chair of the Conservation District, commented the Schuylkill River has played an important role in the County's farming history, its towns and businesses, and still provides an economic value. Mr. Seidel commented Berks County consists of 555,000 acres of which 498,000 acres drain into the Schuylkill River. Mr. Seidel reported the distinction of "River of the Year" comes with a \$10,000.00 leadership grant. Mr. Davidock stated the Schuylkill River is an important resource to this area as it provides drinking water to over 2 million people throughout southeastern Pennsylvania and Berks County residents. Mr. Davidock commented the Schuylkill River is a vital element to the people who live and play here and is an important resource and watershed. Mr. Davidock reported that over the last ten years there have been over 500 projects completed to restore and protect the watershed and the River, adding much of that work has been focused in Berks County, which is a major landscape in the Schuylkill River watershed. Mr. Davidock commented the work has been accomplished through partnerships with businesses, local, state and federal agencies and hopes this cooperation will continue in the future. Mr. Zwinkl commented the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area is one of 49 congressionally designated heritage areas in the United States, and it is significant that this distinction will be celebrated this year on the Schuylkill River Sojourn.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 15, 2014 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below. Commissioner Scott commented he is in support of the entire Agenda but had a concern on Item A under Human Resources in that he would have preferred a lower starting salary for the new warden. Commissioner Scott added he doesn't want to belabor that point, emphasizing he believes Ms. Quigley is well qualified. Commissioner Scott commented with that caveat he will vote in favor of the salary so as not to delay her promotion and new salary.

145.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$184,102.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$0.00 per listing dated May 16, 2014.

146.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated May 22, 2014 as follows:

1. Authorize the promotion of Janine Quigley from PC010250 Chief Deputy Warden to PC012606 Warden – Jail System, effective 5/28/2014. Rate of \$94,500/annually. Salary budgeted \$98,401/annually. Salary range Minimum \$68,609; Midpoint \$91,479; Maximum \$114,349. Replacement for George Wagner who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that this recommendation is coupled with the earlier Prison Board meeting which recommended the appointment of Ms. Quigley as Warden of the Jail.

147.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing a private pay per diem rate increase at the Berks Heim-Berks County Home from the current per diem rate of \$310.00 for all rooms as follows:

Private Room to \$350.00
Semi-Private Room to \$320.00

Rehab Unit Private Room to \$360.00
Rehab Semi-Private Room to \$340.00

These rates are effective July 1, 2014. Pharmaceutical drug costs, physician service co-pay and non-covered therapy services will be billed separately.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented that an analysis was done of other facilities and these rates still fall within the range of other nursing home facilities.

- 148.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Commissioner Vice Chair, to execute the Patient Trust Fund Bond Decrease Certificate (PACAH) from \$900,000 to \$500,000 effective April 1, 2014 for the Berks Heim Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and the Rider noting the facility name change from Berks County Home-Berks Heim to Berks Heim Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Commissioner Barnhardt commented with efforts of CHR (Complete Healthcare Resources) a 32 wing was designated for rehabilitation services, which seems to be the direction most nursing homes are going.
- 149.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Commissioner Vice Chair, to execute the *ePaymentNow.com*TM Payments Gateway Agreement between *ePaymentNow.com*TM and the County of Berks to provide the community with on-line and off-line dog licensing services, including free notices and tracking for lost pets at no cost or maintenance to the County. This Agreement is for a five (5) year term upon execution of this Agreement. Treasurer Dennis Adams commented this is a great opportunity for the County adding Berks is the 35th County to go to *epayments*. Mr. Adams anticipates next year the number of dog licenses will increase.
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 20, 2014. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are 5 contracts and referenced the departments.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated May 20, 2014 for week ending May 21, 2014 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 First Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken reported last Thursday he and Karen Barsoum along with representatives from Assessment, Mapping, IS, Treasurer, Tax Claim were in Northampton County who hosted the County to show their assessment system. Mr. Geffken commented this was the County's second field trip, the first being to

- Dauphin County to look at their system. Mr. Geffken reported the new security policy went out for final review and approval to the Commissioners and President Judge. Mr. Geffken reported the records management committee has come up with a good process for storage of all electronic files, what we should be doing with them and how they should be stored. Mr. Geffken reported the review of the two departments suggested by the Commissioners; Aging and Children and Youth Services, is proceeding forward. Mr. Geffken reported there was two successful Park events this past weekend; the Fishing Rodeo and the Early Bird Fiddle Fest.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported there will be a discussion with the Greater Reading Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Scott commented next week he'll be joining a professional forester from Glatfelter Paper who has volunteered to evaluate the 16 parcels that comprise Antietam Lake Park. Commissioner Scott commented there are many invasive species that are out of control in some areas. Commissioner Scott will report to the Board of Commissioners the findings of Glatfelter adding this service is being performed at no cost to the County. Commissioner Scott mentioned his father passed away April 12th and in going through his belongings, found a Memorial Day Address his father was invited to write in 1962 in his hometown of Temple, New Hampshire. Commissioner Scott commented his father's address will be published in its entirety in the Reading Eagle's electronic edition Monday, Memorial Day.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented there will be many activities and events taking place this Memorial Day weekend to memorialize those who gave their ultimate sacrifice defending our Country. Commissioner Barnhardt announced that due to fact that Ms. Quigley was attending training today; he read a prepared statement written by Ms. Quigley regarding her appointment as Warden of the Berks County Jail. Commissioner Barnhardt provided an update on ReadingBridges.net and the effort being undertaken by multi-disciplines to notify the public of the impending closure of the Buttonwood Street Bridge, the Schuylkill Avenue Bridge and Penn Street Bridge. Commissioner Barnhardt commented it is now looking like the Buttonwood Street Bridge will be closed in September or October. Commissioner Barnhardt announced that in concert with that, BARTA has put together a six month demonstration run where they will designate a new bus route leaving from and going back to VF Parking Lot which will be in addition to the Park Road bus route.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk