

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes May 23, 2013

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 23, 2013, 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 was attending the Spring NACo Board Meeting. 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 16, 2013 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott to approve the Agenda as published, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 149.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$46,487.00 and 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$6,454,596.00 per listing dated May 17, 2013. Robert Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer, commented that the majority of the appropriations are primarily a carry forward of 2012 Bond funded projects.
 - 150.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated May 23, 2013 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Thomas A. McFarland to PC010218 Buyer – Purchasing Department, effective 6/5/13. Rate of \$35,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$38,110/annually. Salary range Minimum \$32,443; Midpoint \$43,258; Maximum \$54,072. Replacement for Kimberly Styer who transferred. This request was reviewed and has met the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11180.
 - 151.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the Wellness Programs Services Agreement between the County of Berks and TMA @ Your Service, LLC, d/b/a Wellworks For You to provide and manage the County's wellness

program at a fee of \$1.25 per employee per month. Arnel Wetzel, Human Resources Director, reported that the County is changing providers. Mr. Wetzel commented the fee is consistent with the former provider, but this Agreement includes additional services for the same cost.

- 152.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Right-of-Way Agreement with PPL Electric Utilities Corporation (PPL) which will allow PPL to install two (2) anchor guys and overhead wires, cables, fixtures and apparatus upon and across County property situate along Van Red Road, Bern Township. Alan Miller, County Solicitor, commented that PPL requested this Right-of-Way for a new development being built along the Tulpehocken Creek. Mr. Miller stated that the Parks Department has reviewed the site and plans and find no negative impact to County property.
- 153.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations, to execute Change Order No. 002 in the amount \$61,675.00 to the contract with DESCOCO Design & Construction, Inc. for the Greenawalt Bridge (#32A) Rehabilitation Project. The Change Order is to furnish additional masonry construction services to rehabilitate and strengthen the northwest wingwall of the Bridge.
- 154.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Working with Victim's of Juvenile Offenders Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in the amount of \$62,004.00 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Mr. Williams stated in a written memorandum that this is a resumption of funding for the victim-witness unit in Juvenile Probation. To fill the void, the Juvenile Probation Office (JPO) was allocated some of the RASA (Rights and Services Act) money from the District Attorney's office for the past six months.
- 155.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Infants, Toddlers and Families Medicaid Waiver Operating Agreement between the Office of Child Development & Early Learning, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and the Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Program for fiscal years 2013-2016. Dr. Edward Michalik, Executive Director of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities (MH/DD), commented this is a standard agreement and it is a fully funded program.
- 156.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Memorandum of Lease between the Mohnton Fish & Game Protective Association and the County of Berks for land situate in Cumru Township for a proposed tower site in regard to the Berks County Emergency

Response Radio Project.

- 157.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the Agreement between the County of Berks, the Berks County Jail System and US Corrections Special Operations Group (US C-SOG) for the provision of specialized training to Berks County Jail SOG Operators at the Berks County Jail System in the amount of \$54,000.00.
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, 2013. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are 7 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated May 21, 2013 for the week ending May 22, 2013.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, 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 reported that Friday night is Family Movie in the Park at the Gring's Mill Amphitheater and the Ringgold Band will be performing Sunday, May 26th at the Heritage Center.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported that at the Budget Meeting the Commissioners will be discussing Library funding and the Berks County Water & Sewer Association will make a presentation.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt acknowledged the hard work of Debbie Olivieri, Director of Election Services, and her staff, and the over 1,200 poll workers, and commented it was an error free election. Commissioner Barnhardt reported he attended two Agricultural Land Preservation settlements totaling the preservation of 6 farms. Commissioner Barnhardt commented it was nice meeting the folks. Commissioner Barnhardt commented these were the first farms to be preserved in Union and Brecknock Townships. Commissioner Barnhardt commented on a compliment he received on behalf of the Berks Heim from a friend whose mother was a patient at the Heim. Commissioner Barnhardt stated his friend's mother considered the staff at the Heim her family.

Commissioner Scott followed up to Commissioner Barnhardt's comments on Agricultural Land Preservation by stating there are impending a number of regulations for producers and growers, especially related to vegetable growers. Commissioner Scott mentioned some the regulations proposed to be implemented. Commissioner Scott offered his congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in the Election process, and in particular to the Director of Election Services and her staff for a job well done. Commissioner Scott commented on the successful joint appearance by the Board of Commissioners at Bethel where the County asked the Supervisors to reconsider their position regarding a zoning amendment to allow the County to erect the necessary tower to vastly improve our emergency communication system.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Reverend David Kistler, George Shollenberger, Richard Welker and Frank Welker attended the meeting to comment on the proposed tower location in Bethel Township. Reverend David Kistler, a resident of Bethel Township stated he lives along Hill Road where the proposed site for a communications tower is planned. Reverend Kistler distributed a prepared statement to the Board and read the statement opposing the County's plan to place the tower at the Bethel site.

Mr. Shollenberger questioned the design of the plan and the proposal to the American Tower Company (ATC) tower. Mr. Shollenberger stated he would like to see the plans. Solicitor Alan Miller suggested Mr. Shollenberger speak with Brian Gottschall, but stated that there has been no plans offered by ATC that would justify the County placing its equipment on ATC's tower.

Richard Welker commented he lives 500 feet from the proposed tower and is very concerned about all the service trucks that travel very close to his front yard. Mr. Welker stated he is not against emergency services and understands why they are needed. Mr. Welker asked the County to consider alternate sites naming the Donley site as one alternative.

Frank Welker, Richard's son, stated he lives across the road from the tower and has been an assistant Paramedic for 20 years. Mr. Welker also stated he is not against the tower but asked the Commissioners to make smart decisions and consider other options.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented that the gentlemen were asking the County to place its radio equipment on American Tower's tower that is 95% occupied. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that American Tower has not shown the County any plans that show their tower would support the County's equipment. The Commissioners suggested the gentlemen contact American Towers directly and request of copy of the plans, if they exist.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk