

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2015

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 28, 2015, 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 and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

Presentation

Shannon Rossman, Executive Director of the Berks County Planning Commission and David Berryman, Planner II, presented a Power Point of the Property Tax Report prepared by the Berks County Planning Commission staff. Ms. Rossman commented that this Report provides an analysis of the taxes and tax rates of the County and its' municipalities and school districts. Ms. Rossman commented this Report also draws a comparison of the tax collections and tax rates of the surrounding counties and some of the 3rd Class counties in the Commonwealth. Mr. Berryman provided an explanation of the Power Point and stated the reports have been posted on the Planning Commissions' homepage. Commissioner Leinbach reported there will be another part to this report that is being prepared by Albright College and the Center for Excellence and will go deeper in determining what all the factors driving the tax rate in Berks County versus the surrounding counties. Commissioner Scott asked the Planning Commission to share these reports and studies with the Reading Association of Realtors. Ms. Rossman commented it has already been provided to them.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 21, 2015 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 137.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$17,155.00 and 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$473,090.00 per listing dated May 26, 2015.
 - 138.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to

execute the Application for Municipal Recycling Program Performance Grant to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management for Calendar Year 2014.

- 139.15 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute as a result of a Request for Quote by the County's contracted utility consultant, EdgeInsights, for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017 for transfer/delivery and supply of natural gas for (14) NT accounts to Direct Energy, 1001 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Chief Financial Officer Bob Patrizio commented that he and Kelly Laubach saw an opportunity to lock in natural gas rates and decided to recommended locking in 2016 and 2017 rates of \$.10 lower than what the County is currently paying. Mr. Patrizio stated this is for not for the Downtown campus, but for the smaller accounts.
- 140.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), or Director of Contracts & Procurement in the CFO's absence, to execute all agreements and transaction confirmations for the transfer/delivery and supply of natural gas and electricity for the County of Berks small and large accounts.
- 141.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Miguel Ocasio, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Housing Authority to fill the unexpired term of William Portner who has resigned. This term will expire on December 31, 2019.
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 26, 2015. Commissioner Leinbach reported there was 13 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated May 26, 2015 for week ending May 27, 2015 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.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken was absent.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive a June 1 insurance renewal report from EH&D.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt commented time is drawing nearer for the closure of the Buttonwood Street Bridge, advising we will receive a 30 day advance notice issued by PennDOT of the closure which is anticipated to be either June 30 or July 6. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there would be a joint press release with the Chamber of Commerce, and the Reading Bridges website is always updated with the latest information. Commissioner Barnhardt commented they are also continuing to meet with local merchants in West Reading and Reading's 6th Ward residents and the West Reading Fire Company for updates on detours and restrictions. Commissioner Leinbach reported he heard from Norfolk Southern and they will address their bridge repairs in 2016 while the Bridge is closed.

Commissioner Scott mentioned an interesting article he read in the newspaper regarding a number of lawsuits filed against Blue Cross Blue Shield alleging the non-profits have divided up areas and inflated premiums resulting in higher prices.

Commissioner Leinbach reported he participated in two Memorial Day events; one in Leesport and one at Bellman's Church. Commissioner Leinbach estimated more than 200 people attended both events and it was a very moving day.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Berks County Controller Sandy Graffius reported that the Pennsylvania County Controller's Conference will be held in Berks County in July and reported on some of the activities that are scheduled.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk