

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes June 14, 2018

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 14, 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 and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. 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.

Commissioner Leinbach noted today, June 14th is Flag Day, instituted in 1777 when the United States took down the Union Jack and put up the Stars and Stripes, and in 1949 President Truman federally recognized June 14 as the day to remember and honor the American flag.

Presentation

Randy Peers, President and CEO of the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance ("GRCA"), and Pamela Shupp, Executive Vice President of GRCA, presented an update and PowerPoint on recent business attractions and expansion activities in Berks County. Ms. Shupp mentioned the mission of the Greater Reading Economic Partnership, a division of GRCA, is to be a leading resource and advocate for all businesses in Berks County. Ms. Shupp reported since the inception of the project, there has been a \$3 million wage impact, 1,300 new jobs have been added, and the small business industry is the fastest growing. Ms. Shupp mentioned in 2017/2018 GRCA engaged with international companies interested in looking for east coast footprints, and heard from Ireland, China and Australia, and have conducted trade missions to China and the UK. Ms. Shupp reported just recently, she and Commissioner Barnhardt traveled to Chengdu, China, for purposes of a trade mission and foreign investments in Berks County, and asked Commissioner Barnhardt to comment.

Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned they traveled at the invitation of representatives from Asia Star and met with local government officials and business leaders to explore possible business relationships. Commissioner Barnhardt reported it was an intense trip and fascinating to see the explosive growth.

Ms. Shupp mentioned Berks County was the only U.S. community to present at the conference, which was made possible not only through the invitation, but by the Regional Partnerships of the FTZ ("Federal Trade Zone") 147 and Southeast PREP ("Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance").

Commissioner Leinbach reported there was an Executive Session held yesterday, June 13, 2018 to discuss litigation, contract negotiations, real estate and personnel. Commissioner Leinbach reported outside of the Sunshine Law, they discussed the hiring of Eckert Seamans to replace the law firm of Reed Smith.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 7, 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, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 172.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$3,392,940 and 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$1,358,767 per listing dated June 11, 2018.
 - 173.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated June 14, 2018 as follows:
 1. Authorize the transfer of Heather Barger, PC010553 County Caseworker II – Children and Youth Services to PC013319 Outreach and Education Coordinator – District Attorney's Office, effective 6/25/2018. Rate of \$39,836/annually. Salary range Minimum \$33,101; Midpoint \$44,135; Maximum \$55,168. New position created by Salary Board on 5/3/2018. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.
 2. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for two (2) Data Entry Clerk positions – Treasurer's Office, effective July 9, 2018 through August 31, 2018. Positions are requested to assist with the increase in data entry associated with the annual processing of hunting licenses. Rate not to exceed \$17.00/hour. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11090.

- 174.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Power of Attorney/Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement with Manheim Auctions, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, regarding the offloading of used County vehicles for which there is no trade-in value or other immediate viable option for sale.
- 175.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan C. Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to electronically execute the General Reimbursement Agreement for Federal Aid Projects No. R18050005 between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the County of Berks for the Glendale Bridge Replacement Project, County Bridge 43A, Douglass Township.
- 176.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing the County Solicitor's Office to file a Declaration of Taking with the Court of Common Pleas of Berks County, Pennsylvania for the acquisition of a right-of-way and temporary construction easement and possession of a portion of land owned by Sara L. Stuffle and Brendle J. Stuffle, Jr. for purposes of reconstructing and otherwise altering the Dreibelbis Station Covered Wooden Bridge in Windsor Township. Commissioner Leinbach reported this is an Eminent Domain proceeding where the parties are involved in a legal battle and are willing to sell but cannot decide on how to settle the money, and will be paid fair market value.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated June 12, 2018. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 8 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated June 12, 2018 for week ending June 13, 2018 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 Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Robert J. Patrizio reported the Budget Meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and there will be a discussion with CGL regarding the Berks County Criminal Justice Needs assessment for the Jail.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Commissioner Leinbach reported Ron Seaman is participating in CCAP's Leadership Program in Harrisburg.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned the observance of Flag Day and also the 243rd Anniversary of the U.S. Army and celebration of Father's Day Sunday.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott commented on the CGL assessment report to be discussed at the Budget Meeting today. Commissioner Scott stated the Jail is the most expensive aspect of County government, and he still supports privatization of the Jail, where according to discussions he had about a year ago, there could be potential savings of millions of dollars if we would privatize the operation of the Jail now. Commissioner Scott commented the current status quo is wrong, and again asked for support to issue an RFP. Commissioner Scott also reported on a letter the Board of Commissioners received from the President Judge regarding the request from the Courts to add additional adult probation officers to next year's budget.

Responding to Commissioner Scott's comments about the Jail, Commissioner Barnhardt believes privatizing the Jail is not the answer, because a private operator's only function is to house the inmate, not rehabilitate them, which is what the County has been doing for years in conjunction with the Courts, APO and the Community Re-Entry Center. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned the County has also received a letter of support from the Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned the County is still responsible and accountable for the inmates. Commissioner Barnhardt stated he will not vote for an RFP because he thinks it is fundamentally unnecessary.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the CGL proposal, stating the preliminary materials he reviewed gives him a sense this is will be a very detailed report and should be actionable, adding CGL will not be the company to build anything. Commissioner Leinbach further stated all options are still on the table, but believes we have to go through the appropriate process and doesn't think doing an RFP without doing due diligence is what we need, noting privatization is one of the areas the CGL assessment will look at.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:06 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk