

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes June 28, 2018

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 28, 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.

Presentation

Kayla Fusselman, 2018 American Honey Queen and National Spokesperson for the American Beekeeping Federation, and a Kempton resident, presented information on beekeeping and honey production in Berks County and the United States. Ms. Fusselman reported Pennsylvania has 5,000 beekeepers who manage about 56,000 honey bee colonies that brought in about \$2.5 million in honey sales in 2017. Ms. Fusselman also attends fairs, community events, public meetings and schools to educate the public on the importance of beekeeping for crops and the environment.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held yesterday, June 27, 2018 to discuss personnel.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 21, 2018 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 187.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$116,576 and 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$180,069 per listing dated June 25, 2018.

- 188.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated June 28, 2018 as follows:
1. Authorize the promotion of Nicole Blanding from PC012684 Accounting Assistant to Office Manager – Treasurer's Office, effective 6/27/2018. Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$34,703; Midpoint \$46,271; Maximum \$57,839. New position created by Salary Board on 6/28/2018. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11090.
 2. Authorize the promotion of Rochelle Wanner from PC010232 Caseworker Supervisor I to Caseworker Supervisor II – Area Agency on Aging, effective 7/11/2018. Rate of \$56,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$45,194; Midpoint \$60,259; Maximum \$75,323. New position created by Salary Board on 6/28/2018. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 28100 – 23150.
- 189.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute all legal documents on behalf of the County associated with permanent and temporary Right-of-Way acquisitions directly related to the Dreibelbis Station Covered Wooden Bridge Rehabilitation Project (County Bridge #46B, Greenwich & Windsor Townships), and further to execute the Right-of-Way Clearance Certification as drafted by the PA Department of Transportation which confirms that all necessary Rights-of-Way have been fully and properly acquired for the Project.
- 190.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Addendum No. 2 to the Engineering Services/Design Agreement between RPA Engineering, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania and the County of Berks, that will reduce construction meeting participation from 12 to 7 and increase the project duration and resource allocation for Level of Effort design at a not to exceed amount of \$9,200, including reimbursable expenses.
- 191.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Addendum to Lease Agreement between Bern Partners, L.P., Reading, Pennsylvania, and the County of Berks for office space located at 2739 Bernville Road, Leesport, Pennsylvania for use by Magisterial District Justice Strand (MDJ 23-3-05) for a five (5) year term effective January 1, 2019.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated June 26, 2018. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 16 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated June 26, 2018 for week ending June 27, 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 County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In Mr. Patrizio's absence, Jennifer Lawler, Financial Manager, reported at today's Budget Meeting there will be an assessment software recommendation, an employee discount portal/solicitation policy discussion, a status update on HIPPA implementation and non-county department IT support.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt addressed a piece of immigration that often gets lost, the people that legally and properly come to the United States and request status as a legal citizen, mentioning last week he attended the John Gay Sports Banquet in Chester County, where Vai Sikahema, a former Philadelphia Eagle player and now a WCAU sports director, who is originally from the Tonga, told a very compelling and passionate story about his parents living in Tonga and their interaction with American soldiers during WWII, and of their dedication and hard work in getting him and his family to the United States. Responding to Commissioner Scott's news conference Tuesday, Commissioner Barnhart remarked this is an issue of timing, noting we have already hired a law firm to look at the viability of either selling or not selling the Heim and have already received non-binding bids. Commissioner Barnhardt again reiterated, as he did last October, he is not in favor of selling the Heim, and is solidly behind keeping it. Commissioner Barnhardt also reported he was contacted by State Representative Caltagirone who confirmed the State budget includes a 1% increase in Medicaid reimbursements in 2019.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott appreciated Commissioner Barnhardt's input on the Heim issue, adding the 5 year forecast does show worsening losses over a period of time. Commissioner Scott stated the point of his news conference on Tuesday was to reach out to the union, and try to provide an alternative to the labor force instead of selling the Heim.

Commissioner Leinbach

Responding to Commissioner Scott's press conference, Commissioner Leinbach commented his core focus was not selling the Heim, but getting the State to step up and follow the commitment they had put in place many decades ago, and to properly fund the Medicaid reimbursement rate for county nursing homes. Commissioner Leinbach believes the pressure that has been put on the Governor and State legislators recently has begun to pay off, as there is new money (\$1 million) on the table this year for the IGT program, plus the announcement of the 1% increase in Medicaid reimbursement. Based on these recent developments, Commissioner Leinbach is not willing to give up on a strategy that is bearing fruit.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Ivan Dorta, West Lawn and a Correctional Officer at the Jail, read a prepared statement on how the lives of Correctional Officers at the Jail are affected by the emotional difficulties and stress of the job.

The following individuals spoke in support of not selling the Berks Heim:

Claudia Strause, Berkshire Heights resident
Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing resident
Jane Beck, Brecknock Township resident
Danielle Leasier, a Nurse at the Berks Heim and Sinking Spring resident
Gilbert Ortiz, a Nurse at the Berks Heim and Exeter Township Resident

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:31 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk