

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes July 17, 2014

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 17, 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 Christian Y. Leinbach and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach wasn't feeling well and requested Commissioner Barnhardt Chair the meeting. Also present were Assistant County Solicitor Heidi B. Masano, 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

The Commissioners requested Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations, to provide an update on the Buttonwood Street Bridge construction project. Mr. Hunter reported he was advised yesterday by PennDOT that the official letting of bids for the project will be December 18, 2014, adding the actual target date for letting the bids could still be early October. Mr. Hunter commented this is due exclusively to the uncertainty of resolving utility clearances in time to go out for bid and more specifically with the Reading Area Water Authority (RAWA), and the ability of the City of Reading and RAWA to finalize an agreement. Mr. Hunter commented he has spoken with the County's project manager who has been in touch with the various parties involved in the project who remain optimistic that even with the later bidding date the project will still conclude by 2016 as originally planned. Mr. Hunter commented that the utility work will be performed first and should last about 4 to 6 months. Mr. Hunter commented that if the bids go out in October the bridge would likely be closed early December.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 10, 2014 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 202.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$308,641.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$152,252.00 per listing dated July 11, 2014.

203.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources

Recommendations per listing dated July 17, 2014 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Amanda Kosmerl to Assistant District Attorney I – District Attorney's Office, effective 7/30/2014. Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$46,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$41,227; Midpoint \$54,969; Maximum \$68,711. Replacement for James Mancuso who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.
2. Authorize the transfer of Nancy Mackay from PC010061 Judicial Administrative Floater to PC011155 Judicial Administrative Assistant, effective 7/23/2014. Rate of \$40,279/annually. Salary budgeted \$0. Salary range Minimum \$31,715; Midpoint \$42,286; Maximum \$52,858. Replacement for Barbara Crossley who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
3. Authorize the promotion of Jeremy Kalis from PC010823 Deputy Sheriff to PC012244 Sergeant – Sheriff's Department, effective 7/16/2014. Rate of \$56,376/annually. Salary budgeted \$54,013/annually. Salary range Minimum \$38,189; Midpoint \$50,918; Maximum \$63,648. Replacement for Keith Neiswender who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11510.
4. Authorize the promotion of Karen Barsoum from PC011066 Executive Assistant – Commissioners to PC010139 Assistant Director – Election Services, effective 7/23/2014. Rate of \$50,160/annually. Salary budgeted \$45,100/annually. Salary range Minimum \$35,255; Midpoint \$47,007; Maximum \$58,759. Replacement for Maritza Colon who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11050.
5. Authorize the promotion of Shannon Rossman from PC012000 Planner III to PC011073 Executive Director – Planning Bureau, effective 7/16/2014. Rate of \$80,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$94,280/annually. Salary range Minimum \$65,482; Midpoint \$87,310; Maximum \$109,137. Replacement for Glenn Knoblauch who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11140.

- 204.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Agreement between the County of Berks and High Environmental Health & Safety Consulting, Ltd., Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to conduct an indoor environmental quality assessment in the Basement-Sheriff's Department, Berks County Courthouse at follows:
- \$2,595.00 for CIH/CSP Senior Level Consultant
 - \$2,275.00 for Technician Level Consultant
- 205.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Fund Assessment for Calendar Year 2013 as required by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.
- 206.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execution the Rebroadcast Authorization Agreement and Site Authorization Agreement between T-Mobile USA, Inc. and the County of Berks governing the rebroadcast of T-Mobile wireless signals.
- 207.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Grant Agreement with the Department of Public Welfare for the Family Center Grant for Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Initiative Grant Renewal for Fiscal Years 2014-2017.
- 208.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Grant Agreement with the Department of Public Welfare for the Family Center Grant for the Family Center Grant Renewal for Fiscal Years 2014-2017.
- 209.14 Adopt a resolution ratifying and confirming execution of Amendment/Modification No. P00001 between ICE/Detention Management/Detention Contracts-DC and the County of Berks to fully fund the one-time costs associated with the expansion project of the Berks Family Shelter.
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 July 15, 2014.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated July 15, 2014 for week ending July 16, 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.

4. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken congratulated Karen Barsoum on her promotion to Assistant Director of Election Services adding it is a well-deserved promotion. Mr. Geffken commented the Agreement with High Safety listed under Facilities does not indicate a problem, but is part of the Risk and Safety Committee's assessment of air quality of different areas of the building.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported there will not be a Budget meeting today.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt offered his compliments and best of luck to Karen Barsoum on her new position in Election Services, and best of luck to Shannon Rossman on her promotion to Executive Director of the Planning Commission. Commissioner Barnhardt provided an update on the potential merger between BARTA and Red Rose Transit Authority, commenting he met last week with representatives from Red Rose to discuss financial impacts and staffing issues, and there will be a meeting of the full BARTA Board next Thursday to go over these findings.

Commissioner Scott reported yesterday the Pension Board received its quarterly update from SEI Investments, and the assets are again at an all-time high of \$414,000,000.

Commissioner Leinbach provided a brief analysis of his attendance at the NACo Annual conference last week in New Orleans. Commissioner Leinbach reported there were discussions dealing with proposed regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS); a lengthy floor discussion dealing with unaccompanied minors crossing the Border, stating NACo is calling on Congress to address the humanitarian crises of unaccompanied minors crossing the border; a debate on the minimum wage and the Keystone Pipeline, stating NACo took the position in favor of the Pipeline. Commissioner Leinbach commented he posted on Facebook a tool called county intelligence 2.0, which is a new interactive map of every county in the United States where you can look at health data, educational data, population, crime, and economic development data. Commissioner Leinbach commented it is a great tool to see where your county is and where other counties stand. Commissioner Leinbach announced he was reelected to the NACo Executive Committee by the Northeast Caucus of Counties serving for another 2 years.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jerry Bloom, a Berks County resident, commented on an article he read in the New York Times editorial regarding the influx of unaccompanied minors. Mr. Bloom commented we need to look more closely at why they are running. Mr. Bloom commented they are

running for their lives because the drug cartels are basically in charge of their countries and are making the lives of the citizens and children intolerable.

Berks County Clerk of Courts James Troutman commented he read an article where a county commissioner from Maryland said the federal government is shipping unaccompanied children into states and counties without even advising them that they were doing so.

Brian Miller, a resident of Spring Township, requested to comment about the County's Youth Recreational facilities situation. Mr. Miller stated his interest is because he was recently President of the Spring Township Athletic Association for 7 years resigning last year, and his association with Big Vision as he is a customer and plays in tournaments. Mr. Miller commented field space is at critical mass in Berks County for all volunteer organizations and the rental of fields draws people from all over the east coast who stay in our hotels and eat at our restaurants and has a big impact on tourism in Berks County. Mr. Miller asked the Commissioners to reconsider their original proposal for \$500,000 stating it is a good investment for the County and County Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Miller commented that Big Vision has gone leaps and bounds to improve the youth recreation facility for all Berks County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk