

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes July 18, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 18, 2019, 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 11, 2019 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:
 - 228.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$97,771 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$22,600 per listing dated July 18, 2019.
 - 229.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated July 18, 2019 as follows:
 1. Authorize the promotion of Kari Bollinger from PC013344 Senior Governmental Accountant – Office of the Controller to PC013017 Financial Manager – Budget and Finance Department, effective 7/31/2019. Rate of \$74,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$60,121; Midpoint \$80,161; Maximum \$100,201. Replacement for Laura Jones who was promoted. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11400.
 2. Authorize a salary increase for Elise Santarelli, PC011154 Judicial Administrative Assistant – Court Administration, effective 7/31/2019. Rate of \$47,707/annually. Salary range Minimum

\$33,721; Midpoint \$44,961; Maximum \$56,202. The requested salary increase is based on the Judicial Administrative Assistant compensation structure previously approved by Salary Board. Budget 10000 – 11600.

- 230.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Pass Through Contract Agreement between the County of Berks (Subgrantee) and the Council on Chemical Abuse (“COCA”) (Contractor) for the Berks County Jail System Vivitrol Program. The County will transfer grant funds received from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (“PCCD”) to COCA for the Case Management services. The grant is in the not to exceed amount of \$136,544.
- 231.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Amendment #2 to the Family Center Grant Agreement No. 4100066994 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services, and the Berks County Commissioners that will extend the current contract by two (2) years through June 30, 2021. This is a pass-through grant to the Berks County Action Program to provide services to at-risk families. The grant amount is \$105,323 annually.
- 232.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Release of Liability and Attestation of Truth for the Gateway Health Plan® Recredentialing Application. This is a Medicaid plan primarily for non-senior individuals.
- 233.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Agreement No. EA-219922-19 between the County of Berks and Entech Engineering, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, for the provision of engineering services for the schematic design to develop the scope, phasing and budget for installation of a decentralized heating system for the Berks Heim at a not to exceed amount of \$15,800.
- 234.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Joseph E. Rudderow, III, Blandon, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Regional Airport Authority for a term ending December 31, 2021. This is a replacement for Tom Kopel whose term expired December 31, 2016.
- 235.19 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, execution of the letter agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to access, treat, remove or kill all *Ailanthus altissima* trees located at the Allegheny Aqueduct Historic Park, which has been placed in quarantine due to the Spotted Lanternfly. Said treatment will be performed by a

fully licensed and insured tree care professional.

- 236.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Michele Richards, Mohnton, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Convention Center Authority for a term ending August 27, 2023.
- 237.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Agreement by and between the County of Berks ("County") and the Berks County Convention Center Authority ("Authority") whereby the County approves the application by the Authority of a \$1,500,000 Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistant Capital Program grant for the renovation of 758 Penn Street to expand the Authority's entertainment and meeting venues ("Project"); and further authorizes the activities of the Project.
Edward Swoyer, Greater Reading Chamber Alliance, commented this project is a continuation of the Authority's investment in downtown Reading, and the endorsement by the County is required by the State to allow the Authority to proceed with the Project.
- 238.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Lease Extension Agreement between the County of Berks and Mark Hathaway and Pam Hathaway, Reading, Pennsylvania, for property located at 136 N. 8th Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, for purposes of accomplishing Title IV-B Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act goals to improve the quality of monthly caseworker visits with children who are in foster care.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated July 16, 2019.
Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 16 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated July 16, 2019 for week ending July 17, 2019 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

Robert Patrizio reported the meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. due to the RATS Meeting, and there will be discussions on the County's website translation services; debt refinancing with Mike Vind and on the Veterans' Affairs Lease Agreement.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported 17 representatives from Chester County will be attending a joint meeting with Adult Probation this afternoon to share what the County has done as a Stepping Up Innovator County.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced there will be a Classic Car Show at the Heritage Center this Sunday, where the new voting machines will also be displayed.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott reiterated his support for Berks County Residential Center, stating it is an important function of Federal immigration policy, and supports it to keep the public safe. Commissioner Scott also noted it provides an important source of revenue for the County, and if the detention doesn't take place here, it will take place somewhere.

Commissioner Scott further stated the care provided for the detainees is humane and we adhere rigorously to the standards set forth by the Federal government.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach reported he attended the NACo (National Association of Counties) Annual Conference last week and gained support for two resolutions. One was for the continuation of federal support and funding to fight the Spotted Lanternfly, and the second was for the repeal of the Cadillac Tax. Both resolutions passed the House and now proceeds to the Senate.

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the BCRC, stating he also continues to support keeping the facility open, but does not view the individuals as illegal, but seeking asylum. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned all the services the individuals receive, including education, English as second language and medical care.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

The following individuals attended the meeting to thank Commissioner Barnhardt for announcing he has changed his position and does not support keeping the BCRC open. Commissioner Barnhardt cited a change in the national immigration conversation as the reason.

Jesse Royer, Spring Township

Jane Palmer, Wyomissing, Indivisible Berks
Linda and John Woelagle, Cumru Township
Risa Marmontello, Douglassville
Donna Reed, Reading City Council
Susie Bigelow, Tilden Township
Brennan Kaye, (they/them) Pittsburgh
Kathiria Zorrilla (they/them) Reading
Troy Turner, Reading

Donna Reed asked a question about the June 27, 2019 Budget Meeting she attended, where Homeland Security and her staff attended. Ms. Reed asked if a decision was made and if the minutes and agenda are posted.

County Solicitor Sadler answered no decision has been made, and no action will be taken by the County until the County has received a detailed proposal, which we have requested.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk