

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes July 23, 2015

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 23, 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 First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson. Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken was absent.

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

PRESENTATION

Dean Druckenmiller, Assistant District Executive of the Berks County Conservation District, presented a PowerPoint overview of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources' (DCNR) Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. Mr. Druckenmiller noted the gypsy moth was brought to Boston in the late 1800's for breeding purposes for the silkworm industry where it escaped in the 1930's, and has since been very destructive, spreading along the East coast and as far west as the Great Lakes area. Mr. Druckenmiller commented the Gypsy Moth Program is not a complete eradication of the moth, and the goal of DCNR is to prevent 30% defoliation of 80% of the canopy. Mr. Druckenmiller commented the County is required to enter into a cooperative agreement with DCNR chooses to participate in the Suppression Program and the deadline for submission to the Program is August 15, 2015. In response to Commissioner Barnhardt's question of payment, Mr. Druckenmiller stated the cost is shared 50/50. Mr. Druckenmiller stated the County's share would be \$16,000.00.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 16, 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:
 - 190.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$98,675.00 and 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$10,406.00 per listing dated July 22, 2015.

- 191.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated July 23, 2015 as follows:
1. Authorize the transfer of Vicki Vottero, PC012295 Shelter Care Counselor to PC013050 Recreation Coordinator – Berks County Residential Center, effective 7/22/15. Rate of \$40,800/annually. Salary range Minimum \$34,826; Midpoint \$46,435; Maximum \$58,044. Replacement for Robert Barrett who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 32200.
 2. Authorize the promotion of Brandon Clinton from PC010591 County Caseworker II to PC013124 County Caseworker Supervisor – Children and Youth Services Department, effective 7/29/2015. Rate of \$50,915/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,357; Midpoint \$53,809; Maximum \$67,262. New position created by Salary Board on 6/18/2015. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 22000 – 23200.
 3. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for the Internal Auditor position – Controller's Office, effective 7/24/2015. Rate not to exceed \$26.70/hr. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when a candidate is hired to fill the Internal Auditor position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11120.
- 192.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #15-11-MB a contract for the Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project - North Campus as identified herein:
- M & A Excavating, LLC
120 Lyons Road
Mertztown, PA 19539
General Construction Base Bid Total: \$159,216.00
- 193.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Addendum to Lease Agreement between the Township of Exeter and the County of Berks to lease office space situate at 10 Fairlane Road, Reading, Pennsylvania for Magisterial District Court 23-2-03 for a five (5) year term beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2020.

- 194.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the 2015/2016 Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant from the Pennsylvania Crime and Delinquency Commission in the amount of \$50,759.00 and is 100% funded. Todd Trupp, A Detective in the Berks County District Attorney's Office, commented this 6th or 7th consecutive year the District Attorney's Office has received this Grant and it will be used to attain accreditation of the District Attorney's Forensic Services.
- 195.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Funds Transfer Agreement (Commercial) between Tompkins Vist Bank, Ithaca, NY and the County of Berks which authorizes electronic transfers.
- 196.15 Adopt a resolution, that after consideration of all bid documents for ITB #15-06-MB, the Board of Commissioners authorizes the award of and execution of the Agreement between J.P.S. Construction Co., Inc., Glenside, Pennsylvania and the County of Berks to perform repairs to the exterior Services Center Plaza at a not to exceed amount of \$80,000.00.
- 197.15 Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to reduce the allowable ozone level in U.S. counties. Berks County is in compliance with the current ozone standard with ozone levels, but any decrease in the standard would drop Berks County into noncompliance along with 58 other Pennsylvania counties. Commissioner Leinbach asked Mike Golembiewski, Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, to comment on the impact reduction in the ozone level will have on Berks County. Mr. Golembiewski gave a brief synopsis of ground-level ozone and the potential implications of the proposed rule change. Mr. Golembiewski described how ozone is formed in the atmosphere, and described the measures currently in place that over time have lowered ozone measurements. Mr. Golembiewski remarked the proposed 65 ppb rule would be more difficult to meet and, if not met, could have negative federal funding implications for transportation projects for Berks County.
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 21, 2015. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 12 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated July 21, 2015 for week ending July 22, 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 Oliver Arthur, Manager of Auditing in the Controller's Office.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken was absent today.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive an update of the 2016 Benefit Plan from Human Resources.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt informed the Board yesterday he met with the County hired consultant, Ivy Group, along with Denise Sticha, Berks County Library System Administrator, and City representatives from the Reading Library System, concerning their review and preliminary findings of the Library Systems and Library Board the preliminary findings of their report, and to come up with what changes should occur. Commissioner Barnhardt commented he will forward the final report to the Board. Commissioner Barnhardt reported yesterday he and Dave Kilmer went to Harrisburg to meet with the nine County region, which included the seven remaining counties who want to hear how the merger of Red Rose and BARTA is proceeding. Commissioner Barnhardt announced the Buttonwood Street Bridge is now closed for 2 year and urged the public to use the BARTA Park and Ride route from R.J. Willoughby's to the City.

Commissioner Scott had no additional comments.

Commissioner Leinbach gave a report on his attendance at the Annual NACo conference he attended earlier in the month, remarking there was an extensive discussion on the Ozone regulation; there is a new tool posted on NACo's website called NACo/County Explorer which provides very extensive information on County government; a discussion and proposed resolution regarding minimum wage, noting the resolution failed to get a majority vote. Commissioner Leinbach commented they discussed and passed a resolution concerning juvenile life sentences without the opportunity for parole. Commissioner Leinbach announced a new reality television program that's been in the works for about 2 years and is the brainchild of someone from the Lehigh Valley call "Across the County Line", and tells the story of what County governments do. Commissioner Leinbach presented a 3 minutes video showing what the program is expected to be about and mentioned the show will be broadcast on PBS Channel 39.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Berks County Recorder of Deeds Frederick Sheeler advised and cautioned County homeowners there are several companies sending letters urging homeowners to send money for a certified copy of their deed. Mr. Sheeler advised homeowners the amount being requested is much more than it actually costs to get a copy of the deed. Mr. Sheeler commented most homeowners should have a copy of their deed, and if they can't find it to either contact their attorney or contact his office and they will provide a copy for a very small fee.

James P. Troutman, Berks County Clerk of Courts, asked about the resolution concerning the contract for repairs to the Plaza out front of the Services Center. Commissioner Leinbach commented the contract is to repair work that was done by one of the previous contractors and was rejected and the cost will come from liquidated damages.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk