

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes August 9, 2018**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 9, 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.

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of August 2, 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:
  - 221.18 A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated August 9, 2018 as follows:
    1. Authorize salary increase for Mary Ertel, PC011097 Fiscal Officer MH/DD – Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Department, effective 8/8/2018. Rate of \$56,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,852; Midpoint \$54,470; Maximum \$68,087. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 30142 – 25040.
    2. Authorize salary increase for Kristi Duffy, PC012990 Fiscal Operations Officer – Department of Emergency Services, effective 8/8/2018. Rate of \$56,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,646; Midpoint \$54,195; Maximum \$67,743. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 51100 – 36010.

3. Authorize salary increase for Shawn Clark, PC012343 Senior Financial Analyst – Budget and Finance Department, effective 8/8/2018. Rate of \$56,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,333; Midpoint \$57,778; Maximum \$72,222. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11400.
4. Authorize salary increase for Trevor Greth, PC012341 Senior Financial Analyst – Budget and Finance Department, effective 8/8/2018. Rate of \$56,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,333; Midpoint \$57,778; Maximum \$72,222. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11400.
5. Authorize 2018 Salary Compression Adjustments as outlined on the attached listing, effective 8/8/2018.

- 222-18 A. Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2016 and 2017 County taxes, including penalties and interest, for property located at 39 S. Reading Avenue, Boyertown Borough (Parcel Number 33-5387-20-81-4166) and owned by as follows:

2016- County Penalty \$226.54  
County Interest \$299.04

2017- County Penalty \$226.54  
County Interest \$74.76

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated August 7, 2018. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 11 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated August 7, 2018 for week ending August 8, 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**

Robert J. Patrizio reported the topics of the Budget/Operations Meeting scheduled for this afternoon consist of a presentation on healthcare recommendations for 2019 by McGriff, County Benefits Consultant, and a discussion on the provisions of a new Act authorizing County Redevelopment Authorities ("RDA") to administer a Land Bank Program led by Ken Pick, RDA Executive Director.

**REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Ronald R. Seaman, CAO, announced that following the closure of some trails at County Park Facilities due to the recent heavy rains and flooding, all have reopened with the exception of the trail from Berks Leisure Area to Stonecliffe. Otherwise, all park areas are back to regular operations.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS****Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported on his trip to Wilson County, Tennessee last week along with Director of Election Services, Deborah Olivieri, to observe their election process. Wilson County uses election equipment provided by one of several vendors that Berks County has looked at for replacement of our current system, which is nearing end-of-useful life and in advance of the State directive that all Counties must, when replacing election equipment, be ballot verifiable. Commissioner Barnhardt contrasted the procedures used in Wilson County, which incorporates early voting, with Pennsylvania Election Law, hoping that at some point the Commonwealth would be open to incorporating similar procedures here, which have been known to increase voter participation.

**Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott announced that he has asked the Solicitor's Staff to review the County Pension Act to determine the feasibility of reducing the level of benefits of the County's Defined Benefits Plan and supplementing it with a Defined Contribution Plan with the overall possible effect of reducing the required County contribution level.

**Commissioner Leinbach**

Commissioner Leinbach reported on his attendance at the CCAP Annual Conference last which ran from Sunday through Wednesday. At a Sunday Board of Directors Meeting the subject of the State's thoughts on the Opioid problem was discussed with the consensus being that the best interest of Counties was not being taken to heart.

Another topic of discussion was a glitch in the PennDOT Motor Voter Program which for a period of time, neglected to include a Citizenship question, thereby potentially allowing non-eligible individuals to register to vote. It was initially thought that possibly 10,000 individuals fell in this category. That number somehow was reduced to about 2,000, of which 371 were determined to be in Berks County. A cursory review resulted in a determination that an individual listed among the 371 was indeed a citizen and therefore

eligible to register and vote. The State has not provided any guidance on how to resolve this issue.

A session led by Acting Secretary of State Torres concerning the requirement to replace Election Equipment by the 2020 Presidential Election met with some resistance. The Acting Secretary indicated that an agreement would be forwarded to Counties in the next 3 to 4 weeks that would be required to be executed to enable the Counties to receive a portion of the federal monies that were being allocated to assist in the equipment purchase. Many Counties agree that introduction of new election equipment during a Presidential Election was a blueprint for disaster.

Another workshop centered on County Nursing Homes and the IGT. Amounts for 2019 have not been finally set. It was also the consensus of attendees that all of the IGT should be returned to Counties operating Nursing Homes. There may be potential for litigation over the legality of not using all the funding for that purpose.

Lastly, Commissioner Leinbach announced that in 2019, the Annual CCAP Conference will be hosted and held here in Berks County. An initial planning session with County and CCAP Officials is scheduled for next month.

#### **ROW OFFICERS**

There were no comments by any of the Row Officers in attendance.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights, asked if the early voting results in the Tennessee elections were tabulated prior to the actual Election Day. They are not. She then asked who the benefit consultants coming to the Budget/Operations Meeting were and what purpose did they serve? Commissioner Leinbach noted that they were from BB&T and made recommendations to the Board of Commissioners relative to health benefits offered to County Employees.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ronald R. Seaman, Deputy Chief Clerk