

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes August 11, 2016

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 11, 2016, 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 County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

Presentation

Dan Fogarty, Director of Workforce Development & Chief Operating Officer of the Berks County Workforce Development Board, presented a Power Point program on Manufacturing Employment in Berks County.

Mr. Fogarty commented that the Berks County Workforce Development Board ("BCWDB") has designated manufacturing a singular priority A Sector in Berks County. Mr. Fogarty commented over the last couple years we have seen small growth in employment in Berks County, and the County currently is at a record high 190,000 jobs, with Health Care adding over 10,000 jobs. Mr. Fogarty commented this trend should continue over the next ten years, while the finance and insurance industry in Berks County has lost about 3,000 jobs and are not likely to return.

Mr. Fogarty reported manufacturing remains the largest employment sector in Berks County, while still losing 7,700 jobs in the last ten years. Mr. Fogarty sees slow growth in the manufacturing sector with the exception of East Penn Manufacturing. Mr. Fogarty commented in manufacturing sector we are seeing a steady increase in wages, and better benefits than other sector jobs.

Mr. Fogarty commented in order to maintain this growth, the workforce must become more skilled and trained and the employers must make sure the workers are trained.

Mr. Fogarty reported that a large percentage of experienced workers are reaching retirement age which could result in a huge replacement crisis if new workers are not properly trained and skilled to replace those leaving. BCWDB is helping employers focus on growing and developing their talent, and working with partners such as RACC, the Career & Technology Centers, BCIU, Greater Reading Economic Partnership and the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there were three Executive Sessions since the last meeting; two Friday, August 5, 2016 dealing with litigation and personnel and one yesterday, August 10, 2016 dealing with personnel.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 4, 2016 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:

219.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$299,137.00 and 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$6,742.00 per listing dated August 8, 2016.

220.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated August 11, 2016 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Anna Ferguson to Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender's Office, effective 8/24/2016. Rate of \$46,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,587; Maximum \$74,483. Ms. Ferguson will be eligible for bridging of service for vacation accrual purposes; vacation accrual shall be based upon her total full-time years of County service. Replacement for Christopher Price who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
2. Authorize the promotion of Bobbi Jo Kramlich from PC011721 Office Support II to PC010200 Administrative Secretary – Berks Heim Administration, effective 9/14/2016. Rate of \$33,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$29,048; Midpoint \$38,730; Maximum \$48,413. Replacement for Kimberly O'Donnell who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33030.
3. Authorize the promotion of Bradley Bernhard from PC010611 County Caseworker II to PC013201 Contract Coordinator – Children and Youth Services, effective 9/14/2016. Rate of \$46,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$39,147; Midpoint \$52,197; Maximum \$65,246. New position created by Salary Board on 6/16/2016. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 22000 – 23200.

221.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Contractual Agreement between Crowne Plaza

Reading Hotel and the County of Berks for use of the facilities for the PA CareerLink Job Fair to be held October 3, 2016.

- 222.16 Adopt a resolution approving the financing by the Berks County Municipal Authority (“BCMA”) of a project for the benefit of Richard J. Caron Foundation, which project consists, generally, of the refunding of certain outstanding indebtedness of Richard J. Caron Foundation (“Foundation”) and the acquisition, construction and installation of new buildings and facilities for Richard J. Caron Foundation, declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the area served by Richard J. Caron Foundation for the authority to participate in the financing of the project; authorizing the approval of the project for federal Internal Revenue Code purposes; and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action.
Peter T. Edelman, Esq., attended the meeting on behalf of the Foundation, along with Becky Schock, Vice President of Finance. Mr. Edelman commented the BCMA is moving forward with financing for outstanding bonds and financing of a new medical center on the main campus. Mr. Edelman commented this approval is a requirement under the IRS code and there is no financial liability for the County. Mr. Edelman report the bond amount is \$28.5 million and they hope to close in September.
- 223.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christopher Stress, R.A., Director of Berks County Parks and Recreation Department, to execute all change orders of \$10,000.00 or less regarding the Antietam Lake Dam Park Project. Any change orders in excess of \$10,000.00 shall be presented to and subject to approval by the Berks County Board of Commissioners.
- 224.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Municipal Improvements Agreement and the Stormwater Controls and Best Management Practices Operations and Maintenance Agreement between the Berks County Solid Waste Authority, the Township of Bern and the County of Berks for the removal of an old shed and construction and installation of a new structure at the Berks County Recycling Center, Hilltop Road, Bern Township, Pennsylvania.
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 August 9, 2016. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 5 contracts and referenced the departments.

3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated August 9, 2016 for week ending August 10, 2016 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 Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive the annual Bond and Swap compliance review from Mike Vind and a bond financing proposal; Chris Stress will make a request for his capital plan for 2017 and there will be a brief cash flow report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt reported CCAP designated as a priority last year a study of behavioral health as part of criminal justice system, and after six months of planning, he attended six full days of meetings with twelve commissioners, dozens of staff members and dozens of experts in the criminal justice field who have put together an exhaustive Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force Report and Executive Summary that he will share with his colleagues and the media. Commissioner Barnhardt highlighted that counties spend \$100 billion a year in health care for inmates, and Berks County is spending \$3.5 million in medical care for incarcerated individuals.

Commissioner Barnhardt also highlighted since 1974 there has been an 800% increase in female incarcerations. Commissioner Barnhardt stated we must become smart on crime, and laid out the following six goals of the Task Force; encourage counties to employ successful strategies to reduce the need for incarceration; expand training and education to improve public perception and understanding; provide effective supports and services to avoid entry into the criminal justice system; understand special populations; address the needs of returning veterans and research large policy issue and develop long range policy strategies to assist counties.

Commissioner Scott had no additional comments.

Commissioner Leinbach complimented Commissioner Barnhardt, stating it is the most comprehensive and impactful study he has seen.

Commissioner Leinbach reported next week is Ag Progress Days in State College that brings together agricultural professionals and is put together by Penn State.

Commissioner Leinbach and his Executive Assistant Mary Buerer will be attending Wednesday and will be taking 2 students from local high schools that are serious about agriculture.

Commissioner Leinbach commented on two items from the CCAP Annual Conference last week. One is the impact of a recent decision by the Legislature to cut the per judge funding from \$70,000 to \$47,000. This mandate results from a court case that goes back to the 1980's that requires the State to fully fund the judges' salary. Commissioner Leinbach commented the Legislature basically is giving the taxpayers in Berks County a \$300,000 annual bill on their property tax. Mr. Patrizio commented they also arbitrarily reduced the reimbursement for Sr. Judges and administrative staff, and the AOPC ("Administrative Office") made a collateral change in the policy that has reduced fees at Magisterial District Justice levels which reduces revenues about \$280,000 annually. Commissioner Leinbach commented that relating to the Recorder of Deeds, CCAP unanimously choose to move forward in filing an Amicus Brief on behalf of counties that are involved in a lawsuit dealing with the MERS System. MERS was created by the banking industry to by-pass the Recorder of Deeds process, and impacts homeowners and commercial owners being able to know with certainty the status of their deed. Commissioner Leinbach commented this could have a multi-million dollar impact State-wide, and if successful, could benefit taxpayers across the Commonwealth. There are five counties involved in the suit; Berks, Delaware, Chester, Bucks and Montgomery.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no public comments today.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk