

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes August 18, 2016**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 18, 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 First Assistant County Solicitor Matthew Kloiber, 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 August 11, 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. Before final vote, Commissioner Scott made an observation respecting the Ordinance for the Blighted Property Review Board, that while he believes we should do an amendment to be consistent with the State, some definitions are troubling to him, referencing that some wording in paragraph 10 of the Ordinance is very subjective. Commissioner Scott stated he is troubled by land banking as there is no provision for compensation to landowners for residual equity in the property. Commissioner Scott is raising these concerns as some of these statutes allow a lot of wiggle room for governmental entities to exercise their judgement possibly to the detriment of the landowner, known or unknown. Commissioner Barnhardt, speaking as a member of the Blighted Property Review Committee, commented the Committee is very conservative and diligent when it comes to assessing the property for blight and notifying the owner of violations. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Committee has been functioning for a year and a half and currently there are six properties under review with one now being rehabilitated, which is the Committee's intent. Commissioner Leinbach commented when this review board was first suggested, an individual reached out to him, who was a landlord, and was very much opposed to idea. Commissioner Leinbach listened to his concerns and assured him this wasn't meant to run 'rough shod' over landowners. Commissioner Leinbach asked him to serve on the Committee and after some hesitation, the individual finally agreed to serve, and after seeing how the process works, was glad he decided to serve. Commissioner Leinbach is very pleased so far with the actions

of the Blighted Property Review Committee, adding it is another tool the County can offer to local municipalities.

Commissioner Scott added this should be a last resort and it also benefits adjacent property owners.

225.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$71,972.00 and 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$565,606.00 per listing dated August 16, 2016.

226.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated August 18, 2016 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Christopher Mauchline to Developer Analyst – Information Systems, effective 8/24/2016. Rate of \$64,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$56,684; Midpoint \$75,579; Maximum \$94,474. Replacement for Ramon Reyes who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.

227.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #16-22-KO, a contract for Anthony's Mill Road Bridge Demolition Project as identified herein:

**SDL Construction LLC**

325 Eisenhower Drive

Orwigsburg, PA 17961

**Total Base Bid Amount: \$81,496.00**

228.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid # 16-33-KS, a one (1) year contract for the Transportation of Voting Machines to be utilized by Elections as follows:

**Glose Moving and Storage Inc.**

**d.b.a O'Brien's Moving & Storage**

7066 Snowdrift Rd.

Allentown, PA 18106

**Estimated Annual Expenditure - \$34,740.00**

The County reserves the right to extend the contract for two (2) additional one (1) year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties at the unit prices herein.

229.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #16-34-KO, two (2) contracts for the Fire Training Center Control Building Demolition and Improvements project as identified herein:

**General Construction:**

**Empire Wrecking Company of Reading PA, Inc.**

1420 Clarion Street

Reading, PA 19601

**Total Base Bid Amount: \$31,991.00**

**Electrical Construction:**

**H.B. Frazer Company – Pennsylvania**

3 Morgan Drive

Reading, PA 19608

**Total Base Bid Amount: \$32,565.00**

- 230.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Compliance page for the FY 2017-18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Children, Youth and Families' Needs Based Plan and Budget Narrative Template.
- 231.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Amendment to Grant Agreement No. 4100058024 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and Berks County Area Agency on Aging ("BCAAA"). This Agreement is utilized to provide federal and state funding to BCAA for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2107.
- 232.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Government Customer Certification to Wells Fargo Bank. Due to recent changes in federal governing policies, Wells Fargo is required to review and update their client documentation.
- 233.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations, to execute the Accommodation Agreement with Empire Today regarding contracted work for the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor MH/DD and Office of Aging renovations.
- 234.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Clerk to advertise a proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 09-2014 which established the Blighted Property Review Committee. The amendment will incorporate additional blight conditions which were included in the revision to the Pennsylvania Eminent Domain Law.
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 16, 2016. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 22 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated August 16, 2016 for week ending August 17, 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 County Controller Sandy Graffius.

**REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Robert J. Patrizio reported today there will be a discussion with the Director of DES concerning potential radio tower work and a discussion on some revenue components of their Budget; the Director of Facilities will discuss the Agricultural Center Feasibility Study commissioned by the Board of Commissioners and possibly other facility related projects.

**REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Ronald R. Seaman commented he feels very comfortable being back in county government and thanked employees and others for their warm wishes. Mr. Seaman thanked the Commissioners for the confidence and faith entrusted in him and pledges to earn that confidence and trust.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Barnhardt announced that the 2013 State Transportation Bill permits a local option of adding a \$5.00 fee on driver registrations annually that can be levied by counties to be used by counties for road and bridge improvements and repairs. So far 10 counties have imposed this fee and most of the revenue has been used for road and bridge repairs. Commissioner Barnhardt announced the County is scheduling three public meetings in September; September 12, 15 and 22, to discuss the possibility of Berks County enacting the \$5.00 fee and to explain the potential impact and what the money will be used for. Commissioner Barnhardt commented the maximum fee the County could realize is \$1.9 million but more likely \$1.7 million.

Commissioner Scott reflected on public pension funds and the budgetary impact local governments have concerning enhanced benefits, and in the current low interest rate environment, how difficult it is to earn enough profit to cover enhanced benefits. Commissioner Scott read a recent Wall Street Journal ("WSJ") article regarding stock market implications on this situation.

Commissioner Leinbach reported that yesterday he and Mary Buerer attended Ag Progress Days in State College, accompanied by three local students; Dylon Schoemaker, Conrad Weiser, who just graduated and will be attending Penn State; Kennedi Cavalier, Kutztown High School and Morgan Kunkel, Kutztown High School. It was a great and informative day for the students.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

There was no public comment today.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk