

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes August 22, 2013

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 22, 2013, 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 Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach was in Harrisburg. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 15, 2013 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below. NOTE: It was moved to pull Resolution No. 256.13 until more information is received and reviewed by the Board.
 - 249.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$9,200.00 and 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$71,006.00 per listing dated August 20, 2013.
 - 250.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated August 22, 2013 as follows:
 1. Authorize the promotion of Amanda Stover, PC012086 Probation Officer IV to PC010126 Assistant Chief Adult Probation Officer – Adult Probation, effective 8/28/13. Rate of \$69,070/annually. Salary budgeted \$69,070/annually. Salary range Minimum \$47,870; Midpoint \$63,827; Maximum \$79,784. Replacement for Lori Dietrich who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12010.
 2. Authorize the promotion of Nicholas S. Volo, PC012047 Probation Officer II to PC010127 Assistant Chief Adult Probation Officer – Adult Probation, effective 8/28/13. Rate of \$69,070/annually. Salary budgeted

\$74,063/annually. Salary range Minimum \$47,870; Midpoint \$63,827; Maximum \$79,784. Replacement for Richard Forry who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12010.

- 251.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2010 County taxes, including penalties and interest for Main Street (28-4453-16-84-0362), Sharltesville, Upper Bern Township, owned by Upper Bern Township.
- 252.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Change Order No. 01-16 to the Pyramid Network Services, LLC, Agreement in the amount of \$606,745.37. This Change Order is for a reconciliation of site costs for the Blue Mountain, Kutztown, Ontelaunee, Cumru, Alsace and West Penn Tower Sites in regard to the Berks County Public Safety Radio Project.
- 253.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Change Order No. 01-17 to the Pyramid Network Services, LLC, Agreement in the amount of \$2,323.65. This Change Order is to furnish materials and labor for sign packages for all tower sites in regard to the Berks County Public Safety Radio Project.
- 254.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the 2012-2013 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification to the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Treasury Department of the Federal drug forfeiture money received and spent by the District Attorney's Office.
- 255.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the General Reimbursement Agreement for Federal Aid Projects (No. 057368) between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the County of Berks for the Schaeffer Road Bridge a/k/a Blandon Bridge Replacement Project in Maiden creek Township. This Agreement provides the terms and guidelines that govern reimbursement for funding for the Preliminary Engineering, Environmental Studies, Final Design, Utility, Right-of-Way acquisition and Construction phases of the Project.
- 256.13 **PULLED**
Adopt a resolution authorizing the amendment to the FFY2012 and FFY2013 HOME (Home Investment Partnership) Program to eliminate \$100,000.00 allocated to the West Reading affordable housing project of Habitat for Humanity of Berks County and the funds to be re-allocated to contingencies, and be it further

authorized that FFY 2013 HOME Program be amended to allocate \$175,000.00 from contingencies for the Veterans Housing Project of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks. The Project involved the development of 15 affordable rental units and community/office space for homeless veterans and will be located on Hendel Street, Shillington, Pennsylvania. Ken Pick, Executive Director of Berks County Redevelopment Authority, reported that the committee was not finding a project for the Habitat de-conversion project in the Main Street area of West Reading, and asked if they would forego the funding to be redirected to this project. Mr. Pick commented his role has been to come up with the actual facility, and the concept is to provide a community for the veterans and that it has to be adjacent to a bus route. Mr. Pick stated a preexisting facility didn't pan out and building a new unit seemed to be the answer. Mr. Pick assured the Commissioners the County's role would be to facilitate the application process and the County will not own the facility. Commissioner Scott referenced a letter to the editor that raised attention to the extraordinary costs of this project. Commissioner Scott stated the methodology in place guarantees that it will be extraordinarily expensive and the tax credits could be eliminated or modified which would jeopardize an important funding source which could negatively impact County finances. Commissioner Scott stated he is not against the concept but against something that has no business plan and is based on limited evidence. Commissioner Scott commented that due to these reasons he is requesting that this item be pulled until the Commissioners have more information and are able to make a sound decision. Commissioner Scott motioned to table this item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and the item was pulled until further notice.

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 19, 2013.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated August 20, 2013 for week ending August 21, 2013 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken had nothing to report today.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will be meeting with representatives from Utilitech to discuss recommendations regarding rate locks for 2014 gas and electric and will be discussing open items for the Capital Plan.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt commented he recently returned from Washington, D.C. and had an enjoyable trip and saw some new sites.

Commissioner Scott praised Mary Young's four part series published in the Reading Eagle on municipal pension plans in Pennsylvania stating it was very well done. Commissioner Scott commented he was disappointed in an editorial in the Reading Eagle recently praising the Reading School Board and City for agreeing to a payment in lieu of taxes involving the Goggleworks. Commissioner Scott commented it is a not for profit entity and this deal could have a negative impact to the taxpayers of the County of Berks.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

County Controller Graffius reported her office is moving forward with paperless invoicing.

Berks County Recorder of Deeds announced that the Hamburger Festival in Hamburg will be held a week from this Saturday, August 31, 2013.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk