

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes August 29, 2013

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 29, 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 Chair Christian Y. Leinbach called the meeting to order with Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

Commissioner Leinbach opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and announced the Commissioners held an Executive Session August 26, 2013 dealing with personnel, real estate and litigation issues.

Presentation

Barb Bieber, Senior Health Initiatives Representative-Berks Unit for the American Cancer Society, Inc., presented a kick-off video regarding the Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3), a nation-wide study to better pinpoint ways to prevent cancer to be held at the Reading Hospital Medical Center October 10 and October 15, 2013.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 22, 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:
 - 256.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$97,787.00 and 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$53,287.00 per listing dated August 27, 2013.
 - 257.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated August 29, 2013 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Carmen Jewel Bloom to PC010143 Assistant District Attorney I – District Attorney's Office, effective 9/4/13. (Action rescinds previous appointment to PD Office on 8/15/13). Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary Budgeted \$58,818. Salary range Minimum \$41,227; Midpoint \$54,969; Maximum \$68,711. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring

Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.

2. Authorize the appointment of Brenda Hein to PC012817 Fiscal Officer – Sheriff's Department, effective 9/18/13. Rate of \$45,000/annually. Salary Budgeted \$45,609. Salary range Minimum \$34,206; Midpoint \$45,609; Maximum \$57,011. Replacement for Brett Steffy who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11510.

- 258.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of a Request for Quote by the County's contracted utility consultant, Utilitech, one (1) contract for the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for transfer/delivery of natural gas as identified herein; Compass Energy Gas Services, LLC
1200 Smith Street, Suite 900
Houston, TX 77002
(2) DS accounts – Boiler Plant & Courthouse/Services Center
\$.129 Dth – Basis

Jason Davey, a representative from Utilitech, commented that as the prices were monitored by Utilitech they found an opportunity to secure a low basis rate, and this move will secure a basis contract.

- 259.13 Adopt a resolution amending Resolution No. 223-13 adopted July 25, 2013 authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant application for the acquisition of the Angora Fruit Farm, to reflect the grant amount request of \$207,839.00 and a County match of \$207,839.00.

- 260.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Agreement of Sale with the Estate of Alan D. Roth for the purchase of the Angora Fruit Farm, Lower Alsace Township. Commissioner Leinbach commented that this acreage is almost geographically in the middle of the Antietam Lake Park property and the Estate made the determination it wanted the County to have the property versus it being developed. Commissioner Leinbach commented it will improve the quality of the park and also protect it from some undesirable activity in the middle of the park area. Commissioner Leinbach further commented there will be an auction of old and antique items and equipment. Commissioner Barnhardt commended the Roth Family for reaching out to the County with this offer. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that the County is only paying the appraised value.

- 261.13 Adopt a resolution ratifying and confirming execution of the Memorandum of Agreement Among the Federal Communications Commission, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer and the County of Berks regarding the construction of a public safety Radio tower in Bethel Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.
- 262.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Certification Statement for County Children & Youth Social Service Programs for the submission of FY 12/13 4th quarter. This is part of the quarterly invoice of Office of Children, Youth and Families to receive reimbursement for expenditures.
- 263.13 Adopt a resolution approving the Amended and Restated Rules and Regulations to the Berks County Hotel Room Rental Tax in accordance with Berks County Ordinance No. 01-13 adopted June 27, 2013. Commissioner Scott commented that even though he voted against enacting the Ordinance , he will support the resolution approving the rules and regulations because they are needed in place in order to collect the tax.
- 264.13 Adopt a resolution ratifying and confirming execution of the renewal letter for the exiting Grant with the Department of Public Welfare, Catholic Charities and Berks County Domestic Relations Section. The purpose of the Grant is to establish and administer access and visitation grant programs to support and facilitate noncustodial parents' access to and visitation of their children.
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 26, 2013. Commissioner Leinbach commented there were 26 contracts.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated August 27, 2013 for week ending August 28, 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 reported that the Life Safety Survey is currently being conducted at the Berks Heim by the Department of Health and is a regular occurrence to protect health and safety of the residents. Mr. Geffken announce that there will be a Board of Elections Meeting at 11:00 today, and the County has received approval to begin work at the Albany Tower site and to file with the FCC to begin construction, which will mean all three towers will be in some state of construction in the northern section of the County.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported that Berks Heim will not be in today to present their 5 year forecast and the meeting will now start at 2:30. Mr. Patrizio commented the focus of today's Budget Meeting will be a general budget discussion focusing on the Library System and a follow up on capital items, and if time permits will discuss a revised Penn State Extension Budget. Commissioner Leinbach commented he spoke with a local businessman yesterday who mentioned how impressed he's been with the fiscal management of the County. Commissioner Leinbach credited the entire team for finding savings and being efficient and fiscally responsible.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt commented he is looking forward to the Special Election Board Meeting today to discuss the Maxatawny 3 polling place change, and has some new information. Commissioner Barnhardt recognized that this coming Monday is the Labor Day Celebration and would like to celebrate the work that about 70% of County employees, representing six labor unions, do. Commissioner Barnhardt commented most of the unions have really stepped forward with the County request to agree to a zero percent wage increase this year saving taxpayers an even bigger tax increase.

Commissioner Scott commented he supports the acquisition of the Angora Fruit Farm with some reservations because the property will certainly need some capital investments and ongoing maintenance which will increase the Parks Department budget along with other issues that will come up from time to time.

Commissioner Leinbach also noted the Special Election Board Meeting being held at 11:00 this morning and also has some new information to provide and as a result will not support the change of precincts. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned Labor Day being celebrated this coming Monday, commenting he believes that the early union Labor movement played a major role in this County's history and thanked all of the people that do all of the work, both union and non-union workers. Commissioner Leinbach commented on Antietam Park, he agrees with Commissioner Scott that capital improvements will be necessary stating most of the buildings are not historical in nature.

Comments from the Floor

County Controller Graffius announced the Labor Day Parade she will be participating in along with Commissioners Leinbach and Barnhardt on Monday.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk