

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 6, 2018

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 6, 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 and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

Presentation

Today was set aside to recognize September as National Recovery Month. Stanley J. Papademetriou, Executive Director of Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse ("COCA"), reported a month from now, he will be submitting COCA's annual report showing how much was spent to address the addiction problem, the services provided, where people are placed and how the public dollars are being spent. Mr. Papademetriou commented the group here today shows people do get better and lead productive lives, and thanked the Commissioners for being generous and supportive to the program.

Yvonne Stroman, Community Programs Specialist, Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse, mentioned how thankful and grateful she is and everyone attending, in making dollars available to support the many treatment services that are available in Berks County. Ms. Stroman mentioned this the 29th year SAMHSA ("The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration") recognized September as Recovery Month to raise awareness and celebrate recovery.

Lisa Fuller, Berks Counseling Center, introduced Iris and Janice, who talked about their journey to recovery and thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.

Cherie attended this event 4 years ago and was here today and to report she now has a job, went back to school, gives back and is able to pay her court costs.

Samantha Dillman, YMCA, is also in recovery and has benefited by the programs the County's funds. She introduced Luke and Amy who talked about how the recovery services and programs the County funds are essential to their continued recovery.

Ms. Stroman reported there over 33,000 people in Berks County in long term recovery and believes about 25,000 have benefited directly from County funding.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 30, 2018 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the Agenda as presented. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 245.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$235,879 and 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$555,556 per listing dated September 3, 2018.
 - 246.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 6, 2018 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Adam Forney to PC012968 – Network Engineer – Information Systems, effective 9/19/2018. Rate of \$64,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$52,083; Midpoint \$69,444; Maximum \$86,805. Replacement for Corey Bires who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.
 - 247.18 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving the electronic execution by Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, of the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification annual report 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 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.
 - 248.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the final Fiscal Year FY 2016-2017 Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) allocation letter in the amount of \$2,369,850.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated September 4, 2018. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 2 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 4, 2018 for week ending September 5, 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

Commissioner Leinbach reported there will be no Budget/Operations Meeting this afternoon.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt was pleased and proud to report that through the outstanding efforts of Dale Derr, Director of Berks County Veterans Affairs, and staff Deputy Director Kenny Lebron, Sheila Hutchinson and Colette Saunders, they were able to bring into the veterans' community \$5,507,832 in benefits, monthly awards and retroactive pay to 24,000 veterans for fiscal year 2017/2018; and noted Berks County is ranked 4th in the State, excluding Philadelphia and Allegheny counties.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott provided an update on the efforts of the County to provide an opportunity to the work force at the Berks Heim to negotiate some economic concessions for purposes of preventing the sale of the facility, but noted the County has received sporadic correspondence from union leadership. Commissioner Scott presented letters recently received from UFCW and SEIU in response to a letter the Commissioners sent to each union at the end of August inviting the Unions to meet with the County to explore potential cost saving measures. Commissioner Scott considered the responses from the Unions to misrepresent the facts set forth in the County's letter; and in his opinion, shows a non-existent interest in approaching the County to negotiate, and is contrary to what he has learned from local union members. Commissioner Scott stated he remains committed to the concept of reaching a compromise and resolution with the unions which could avert a sale of the Heim.

Commissioner Leinbach commented it is important to note the commitment up front the County has made to be transparent. Commissioner Leinbach provided copies of the County's letters and the unions' responses to the press. Commissioner Leinbach stated he hopes the unions seriously consider listening to its rank and file members, and sit down to see if it possible to save the Berks Heim.

Commissioner Barnhardt stated his position remains the same; he does not support selling the Berks Heim, but urged the Unions to consider contract modifications to ease the burden on taxpayers for future deficits, and the impact the current contracts have on the taxpayers.

Commissioner Leinbach

Referring to the group in attendance at last week's Meeting challenging the license of the Berks County Residential Center, Commissioner Leinbach shared some data on the inspections of the facility. Commissioner Leinbach reported prior to the challenge, the facility was inspected five to ten times a year. Since the challenge, Commissioner Leinbach reported the facility was inspected 46 times in 2016, 49 times in 2017 and as of today, 27 times, adding, if the facility had violations, it would have been shut down. Commissioner Leinbach stated the facility continues to operate as it has for the past 16 years, as a family residential center, and operates within its license.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Warren Shaub, a concerned resident of West Walnut, read from a prepared statement of his concern of the lack of federal, state and local enforcement oversight, and lack of reporting by the media, of non-compliance issues regarding a local transportation company that receives public funds, the Bieber Bus Company.

Commissioner Leinbach encouraged the press to look into Mr. Shaub's concerns, and clarified the Bieber Bus Company is no longer owned by the Bieber family.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk