

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 7, 2017**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 7, 2017, 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Barnhardt was absent. Also present were First Assistant County Solicitor Chad Schnee, 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 31, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### **Agenda Items**

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
  - 249.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$35,411 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$186,223 per listing dated September 5, 2017.
  - 250.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 5, 2017 as follows:
    1. Authorize the promotion of Doris Natal from PC010860 Deputy Sheriff to PC010222 Captain (Courts) – Sheriff's Department, effective 9/6/2017. Rate of \$63,726/annually. Salary range Minimum \$45,724; Midpoint \$60,966; Maximum \$76,207. Replacement for Timothy Moore who transferred to Captain (Administration). This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11510.
    2. Authorize the promotion of Troy Wolf from PC010839 Deputy Sheriff to PC012247 Sergeant – Sheriff's Department, effective 9/6/2017. Rate of \$60,119/annually. Salary range Minimum \$41,396; Midpoint \$55,195; Maximum \$68,994. Replacement for Timothy Moore who previously transferred from

Sergeant to Captain (Courts). This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11510.

- 251.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement #EA-196281-17 between the County of Berks and Elliott, LeBoeuf & McElwain, P.C., Springfield, Virginia, to perform the annual structural engineering evaluation at the conclusion of the 2017 burn season at the burn building, Berks County Fire Training Center, Morgantown Road, Reading at a not to exceed amount of \$4,710.00.
- 252.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Federal Fiscal Year 2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program Agreement (“EMPG) to enhance and sustain all-hazards emergency management capabilities within the Berks County Department of Emergency Services. The grant is in the amount of \$106,870.00 and will be utilized to support the approved personnel.
- 253.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement between the County of Berks and Timothy Haahs & Associates, Inc., Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, to provide engineering and construction management services for the limited restoration of the Berks County Services Center garage parking facility at a not to exceed amount of \$17,500.00.  
Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations, attended the meeting and commented this contract is for recurring inspections and maintenance of the Services Center garage.
- 254.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Right-of-Way Clearance Certification as drafted by the PA Department of Transportation on behalf of the Owner as it pertains to the Schaeffer Road Bridge a/k/a Blandon Bridge (County Bridge #53A) Replacement Project in Maidencreek Township. This Clearance Certification confirms that all necessary rights-of-way have been fully acquired and that the right to occupy and to use all rights-of-way required for the proper execution of the project has been acquired.  
Mr. Hunter requested in addition to execution of the ROW Clearance Certification, if the Board would also authorize execution of three Deeds and Temporary Easements for Construction with owners of the property affected by the project.
- 255.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Addendum to Lease Agreement between the Robert J. Marrella and John M. Reshetar, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, for office space located at 1150 Muhlenberg Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, and used by

Magisterial District Court 23-1-02 (currently vacant), for a one (1) term beginning January 1, 2018 at a monthly rental amount of \$3,124.39.

- 256.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Addendum to Lease Agreement between Robert J. Marrella and John M. Reshetar, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, for office space located at 441 Morgantown Road, Reading, Pennsylvania and used by Magisterial District Court 23-2-01 (MDJ Stuart Kennedy) for a one (1) year term beginning January 1, 2018 at a monthly rental amount of \$3,694.42
- 257.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Bucks County IT & Coroner's Office Medical Officer's Records Tracking License Users Agreement ("Agreement") between the County of Bucks and the County of Berks granting a non-exclusive, non-transferrable, royalty free license use of the Medical Officer's Records Tracking system ("MORT"), a proprietary product created and owned by the County of Bucks, by the Berks County Coroner's Office for a ten (10) year term effective upon complete execution of the Agreement.  
Coroner Dennis Hess attended the meeting and reported this program was developed by Bucks County and will aid in compiling and building different reports more quickly, and will save the County about \$2,500 a year.
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 September 5, 2017. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 8 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 5, 2017 for week ending September 6, 2017 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll. Due to the fact the September 14, 2017 is cancelled for lack of a quorum, Controller Graffius submitted a voucher payable listing for the week ending September 12, 2017.

### **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 the meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. today and the Commissioners will receive a report and update from the County's Health Care Consultant to review health plan changes; the Director of 911 will discuss municipal billing, and the Director of Children & Youth Services will make a request for new items in the 2018 Budget.

**REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

None.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS****Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott remarked that in the wake of recent discussions at Budget Meetings of the possibility of privatizing the Berks Heim and the Berks County Jail, he has received many emails, letters and phone calls, and has listened and read all of them. Commissioner Scott commented while he takes all the communications seriously, and is sensitive to their concerns, he doesn't necessarily agree with all of them. Commissioner Scott gave a brief historical overview of the Berks Heim facility and operations, and feels the Berks Heim shouldn't be run by politicians and would rather see it placed in the hands of a non-profit.

**Commissioner Leinbach**

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the approaching Hurricane Irma that could potentially be one of the worst to hit the region in decades. Commissioner Leinbach announced this Friday and Saturday the Reading Radsport Festival will take place in Reading and West Reading, with a bike race on Mt. Penn Friday and night race in West Reading Saturday. Commissioner Leinbach commented this event resulted from the loss of the Reading 120 Bike Ride. Commissioner Leinbach remarked he has also received many phone calls, emails, etc. regarding the Berks Heim and Jail and has read all of them and has attempted to respond to all of them. Commissioner Leinbach further dispelled the rumor the sale of the Berks Heim was imminent, stating no decisions have been made either way, as the Commissioners are exploring all options.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Attending from the public to comment on both the Berks Heim and Berks County Jail issues were the following individuals and a brief description of their concerns or comments:

1. Danielle Dietrich, an RN at the Heim, attended to advocate for patients and families of the Berks Heim. She is most concerned about the quality of care patients would receive if it is sold. Ms. Dietrich read an article about the success of the Allegheny County Nursing Home System, and submitted petitions to the

- Chief Clerk signed by staff and family members asking the Commissioners not to sell the Berks Heim.
2. Ivan Dorta, West Reading, a Correctional Officer at the Jail, provided a report on jail privatization and the costs of arbitration. Mr. Dorta was not able to finish his report in the allotted amount of time, but Commissioner Leinbach suggested Mr. Dorta have someone else finish reading his report.
  3. Ted Flowers, Reading, has parents at the Berks Heim, and stated he understands this is a money issue and asked what funding efforts are being made. Commissioner Scott provided the example of turning over management of the Heim to CHR (Complete HealthCare Resources") that has saved the County a lot of money. Commissioner Scott also noted that health care and pension costs are another reason for losses.
  4. Ed Daubert, Pottsville, and a Correctional Officer at the Jail, finished reading Mr. Dorta's report.
  5. Berks County Recorder of Deeds Frederick Sheeler shared his positive experience of members of his family at the Berks Heim. Mr. Sheeler commented that he had a conversation with Mr. Patrizio about the funding issue and was told the primary issue was Medicaid funding. Both Mr. Patrizio and Commissioner Leinbach provided data on the Medicaid funding problem coming out of Harrisburg, and are looking at how the County can manage the almost little or no increase in Medicaid funding from the State.
  6. Lisa Santiago, West Lawn, an RN at the Berks Heim, commented she has worked for a private nursing home and that the quality of care is far below what the Berks Heim provides, and talked about how difficult it is for a nurse to not be able to give the appropriate amount of time that a patient needs.
  7. Cindy Hoffman Hinsley, Laureldale, a CNA at the Berks Heim, shared her bad experience she had with family members at a private nursing facility.
  8. Connie Snyder's mother is at the Berks Heim and shared her pleasant experience with the Commissioners and asked the Board not to sell the Heim.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk