

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 8, 2016

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 8, 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 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

Yvonne Stroman, Community Programs Specialist with the Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse, along with one of the largest groups from the recovery housing community, attended the meeting in recognition of National Recovery Month which is celebrated in September. Ms. Stroman remarked this group of individuals represents taxpayers, employers, employees and productive citizens in various stages of recovery, and are here today to thank the Commissioners for making public funds available to support the many programs and housing facilities for recovery to occur, and are here to represent that recovery does work. Ms. Stroman commented there are a few representatives from recovery houses and the Court Drug Treatment program to talk about their recovery journeys, and began by introducing Nina Oplinger. Ms. Oplinger thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Mental Health and Drug Treatment Court and graduated from the Drug Treatment Court in June, is now attending RACC and will be graduating in December with an Associate Degree in behavioral health and hopes to go on to Albright College. Ms. Oplinger also just got a job at Berks Counseling Center where she used to be a client, remarking it feels good to be on the other side helping someone else.

Also speaking and telling their stories were Don Madsen, Lisa Fuller, a representative from Berks Counseling Center; Stephanie Dickson from Philadelphia, who is now a student at RACC; Phillip Bennett, Nick Biancone, Erica, who immigrated from Poland and Finland, Jami Geist, Housing Director at the YMCA, Morgan Gwillim, John Gring, Vernon Brown and Drew Eisenhower. All speakers echoed the same message that they are grateful to the Commissioners for providing public funding which allows them to stay clean and give back to the community.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 1, 2016 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Commissioner Leinbach requested if his colleagues are willing, and with the exception of one item to give Doug Rauch an opportunity to comment on that item, to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Barnhardt so moved and Commissioner Scott seconded. Commissioner Leinbach stated the motion was made and seconded, but prior to the actual vote, opened the floor to Doug Rauch for comment on item 257-16.

Doug Rauch commented this project is for the benefit of the Yocum Institute for Arts Education, a 501(3)(c), and is a project undertaken by the Berks County Redevelopment Authority. This resolution recognizes and approves the project and directs the Chair of the Board to act on behalf of the Board and sign the approval as the "applicable elected representative" as required by the Internal Revenue Code.

Commissioner Scott questioned is what we are conferring upon either Spring Township and or the Yocum Institute the value of improvements to the building and do the funds come from the Community Development Block Grant program. Ken Pick commented there is \$450,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Program going towards the library renovations, and it is a small amount compared to some of the other revitalization efforts that were funded; citing the \$5.5 million in West Reading, \$1.6 million in Fleetwood, and \$3 million in Boyertown. Mr. Pick commented we have also funded several other library projects in the past such as Boyertown.

Commissioner Scott is concerned that this action could lead to other municipalities requesting the same type of financing and setting a precedent for other libraries in Berks County.

Commissioner Leinbach commented if there are no further questions or comments, all those in favor of approving the Agenda as presented, signify by saying aye. Commissioner Barnhardt voted yes and Commissioner Scott voted yes with the exception to Resolution No. 257-16 to which he was a No vote. Commissioner Leinbach commented let the record so indicate, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below with the exception of Commissioner Scott's no vote.

252.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$286,976.00 and 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$7,496.00 per listing dated September 6, 2016.

253.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 8, 2016 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of David Shields to PC011935 Ombudsman – Area Agency on Aging, effective 9/21/2016. Rate of \$40,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$37,753; Midpoint \$50,337; Maximum \$62,921. Replacement for Manetta Maniaci who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 28000 – 23150.

- 254.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the RASA (“Rights and Services Act”) Grant Application (#27380) to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (“PCCD”) in the amount of \$517,744.00 for a two year (2)) period beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. This grant covers the cost of salary, benefits and other expenses for the District Attorney’s Victim/Witness Unit and includes an additional position for a Victim/Witness Coordinator.
- 255.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Juvenile Probation Victim/Witness Unit Grant Application (#27389) to the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency (“PCCD”) in the amount of \$210,158.00 for a two (2) period beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. This grant covers partial funding for two probation officers who work with victims and witnesses in Juvenile Court.
- 256.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement between Championship Cycling, Inc., Redesign Reading and the County of Berks in connection with the support of the Berks County Sheriff’s Department to assist with traffic and crowd control along the race route for the 2016 Reading 120 Bike Race to be held September 10, 2016.
- 257.16 Adopt a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Berks, approving, pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the financing of a project by the Yocum Institute for Arts Education, Inc. (the “Company”), a Pennsylvania not-for-profit corporation, serving the public in the County of Berks, which project consists of, among other things, the financing of (a) the costs of acquisition of certain real property from the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks, and the renovation of an existing 40,000 square foot facility situate thereon, which facility will serve as the Company’s new program facility and as the location for the Township of Spring Community Library, and (b) the payment of certain costs and expenses related to the issuance of the notes (defined herein); designating the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the County (the “Board”) or, in his absence, any other member of the Board as the person to act on behalf of the Board as the “applicable elected representative” within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; authorizing such Chairman or any such member of the Board to take certain actions on behalf of the Board as such “applicable elected representative”; and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action.

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 6, 2016. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 9 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 6, 2016 for week ending September 7, 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 the Commissioners will receive a Capital Plan update; a headcount request update from departments for the 2017 Budget, and if time allows, an update on the 911 budget.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman had nothing to report today.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he was part of a meeting Tuesday with two representatives from Luzerne County who are looking into instituting a Blighted Property Review Committee, and commented Ken Pick and some of the members of the County's Committee were interviewed.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported tomorrow morning is the semi-annual Municipal Officials Breakfast at the Ontelaunee Grange.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported on Monday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Muhlenberg Township Office Building, will be first of three public meetings to discuss the impact of Act 89 and the proposed imposition of a \$5.00 fee on vehicle registrations in Berks County. Commissioner Barnhardt announced there is a Power Point presentation on this matter posted on the County's website on the homepage under Announcements.

Commissioner Scott had no further comments.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned that this weekend there are many major events taking place in Berks County; announcing the Berks Heim Annual Festival is Saturday; Reading Aero Fest; Reading 120 Bike Race, Leesport Area Community Days; Johanna Furnace Festival; and an event he will be attending, the Shoemakersville Fire Company Housing

event. Commissioner Leinbach also reminded everyone that this Sunday, September 11th is the 15th Anniversary of the 911 attacks and encouraged everyone to reach out to first responders with thanks and appreciation for keeping us safe.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

County Controller Sandy Graffius reported that Deborah Lachina, a retired Magisterial District Justice, passed away earlier in the week.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk