

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 12, 2013

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 12, 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. Christian Y. Leinbach was out of town. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

PRESENTATION

George J. Vogel, Jr., Executive Director of Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse, Drew Eisenhower, and members of the recovering community attended the meeting to celebrate the 24th Annual National Recovery Month event, which is recognized during the month of September. Mr. Eisenhower commented this event puts a face on recovery, and today marks 36 years of continuous sobriety for himself. Several individuals who are residents of Easy Does It, Inc. and YMCA Bridge Housing shared their recovery stories and thanked the Commissioners for their support in funding the programs that led to their recovery. Mr. Eisenhower announced 3 fundraising events coming up; this weekend is the 5th Annual Recovery Walk held at Penn State Berks Campus, Saturday at Easy Does It is the Recovery Fest featuring various speakers, and September 21st is Soberfest, a free event held at Easy Does It. Commissioner Scott commended the speakers commenting they seemed to have developed a strong sense of self awareness and understanding of themselves and complimented everyone for their success in recovery. Commissioner Barnhardt commented funding is the easy part, the hard part is recognizing you have a problem and congratulated everyone on their recovery and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 5, 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:
 - 271.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$163,888.00 and 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$63,046.00 per listing dated September 9, 2013.

272.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 12 , 2013 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Richard Krumm to PC012361 Systems Architect – Information Systems, effective 9/25/13. Rate of \$59,000/annually. Salary Budgeted \$58,888/annually. Salary range Minimum \$47,878; Midpoint \$63,837; Maximum \$79,796. Replacement for James Aloye who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.
2. Authorize the appointment of Julianne Oliver to PC010170 Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender's Office, effective 9/18/13. Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary Budgeted \$46,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$41,227; Midpoint \$54,969; Maximum \$68,711. Replacement for James Roman who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
3. Authorize the transfer of Joanna Baittinger, PC012941 Sr. Human Resources Administrator to PC012942 Sr. Human Resources Administrator (Berks Heim) – Human Resources, effective 9/18/13. Rate of \$50,874/annually. Salary budgeted \$54,690/annually. Salary range Minimum \$36,686; Midpoint \$48,915; Maximum \$61,143. New position created by Salary Board on 5/16/13. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11410.

273.13 Adopt a resolution ratifying and confirming execution of the Agreement between High Environmental Health & Safety Consulting, Ltd. and the County of Berks for Berks County Parks & Recreation Department Asbestos Evaluations of Window and Door Caulking/Glazing of Six (6) Requested Structures at a not to exceed amount of \$2,500.00. This evaluation is necessary to determine the appropriate scope for the Invitation To Bid for the Painting Project of Park Buildings.

274.13 Adopt a resolution ratifying and confirming execution of the Nursing Facility Agreement between the County of Berks and Heartland Hospice, LLC, for the provision of hospice care services for one resident at the Berks Heim Facility. The services will be paid through Medicare and Medicaid.

- 275.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement No. EA 148620-13 between McCormick Taylor, Inc and the County of Berks to provide engineering services for the evaluation of ten (10) non-composite pre-stressed adjacent concrete box beam bridges located in Berks County at a not to exceed amount of \$19,012.52.
- 276.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Medical Assistance Transportation Program Year End Report for Pass-Through Monies for the 4th Quarter (April 1, 2013 June 30, 2013) for Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority (BARTA).
2. Motion authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated September 9, 2013. Commissioner Barnhardt reported 15 contracts were listed and referenced the departments.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 10, 2013 for week ending September 11, 2013 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA, did not attend the meeting, but submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report which was read by Commissioner Barnhardt.
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 he received information from Tammy Hildebrand, Ag Land Preservation Director, that Berks County has been selected as the location for the 2014 Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association Conference held from May 1 to May 3, 2014 at the Crown Plaza. Mr. Geffken reported the trial basis of service to Harrisburg and Lebanon from the BARTA Franklin Street Center has begun and is an opportunity for all Veterans to ride BARTA to their doctor appointments. Mr. Geffken reported the kickoff meeting for the United Way was held yesterday and a presentation will be made at the next Department Head meeting. Mr. Geffken reported the unemployment rate for August for the County dropped one tenth of a percent to 7.5% and is based on information provided by CareerLink.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will discuss finalization of the preliminary Capital Plan, a bridge planning discussion and a discussion on the Pyramid Contract in regard to the Emergency Radio Project.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt commented that the return of the BARTA run to Lebanon and the site of its departure, the Franklin Street Station, can be credited to the late Dennis Louwerse. Commissioner Barnhardt stated those accomplishments will be part of his legacy that will live on. Commissioner Barnhardt advised the public that over the next several years bridges coming into the city will be closed for extensive renovation and repair and will have major impacts on travel into the City. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Schuylkill Avenue Bridge is projected to begin in Spring 2014 and then the Buttonwood Street Bridge will be completely shut down for about 2 years. Commissioner Barnhardt reported when the Schuylkill Avenue Bridge and Buttonwood Street Bridge projects are complete, the Penn Street Bridge will be renovated. Commissioner Barnhardt reassured the public that meetings are being held now to develop plans so that when the bridge closures begin there will be a plan in place to move people in and out of the City, suggesting carpooling as an option. Commissioner Barnhardt announced that the Masonic Center in West Reading is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this Saturday and invited the public to attend a free concert with the Ringgold Band at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Commissioner Scott commented on the deficiencies of bridge infrastructures within the Commonwealth which is a statewide and a local problem. Commissioner Scott stated the State seems to be re-rating the Bridges to extend their life by allowing fewer and lighter vehicles to travel over them. Commissioner Scott commented on a call from a constituent about the Clean and Green Program. Commissioner Scott commented that if certain rules of the Agreement are not followed, the participants face a very large increase in their tax bill. Commissioner Scott encouraged the participants in the program to fully read and understand the consequences for breaching the rules. Commissioner Scott advised individuals with questions to contact the Assessment Office.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

County Controller Sandy Graffius reported the FUFs Report (Friendly Understandable Financial Statement) is being printed and will be made available for distribution to Senior Citizen Centers and Libraries and will also be available online for review.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk