

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 15, 2016

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 15, 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

Dr. Anna Weitz, President of Reading Area Community College ("RACC"), Mr. Ken Dearstyne, Senior VP Finance & Administration Services, and Dr. Susan Looney, Senior VP of Academic Affairs presented a brief PowerPoint on proposed renovations to Berks Hall, the former Holiday Inn, which will now be used exclusively for biology classes, and chemistry and physics classes will move to the Schmidt Center for Training and Technology. Dr. Weitz commented they chose renovating over new construction due to the cost and minimal interference with classes and ongoing operations, and would see a savings of approximately \$700,000. Dr. Weitz reported last night the Board of Trustees approved the issuance of an RFP ("Request for Proposals") and funding in the amount of \$4,290,000.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 8, 2016 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Execution Session held yesterday, September 14, 2016 to discuss personnel and litigation.

Agenda Items

1. Enactment of County Ordinance:

03-2016 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE NO. 09-2014 OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS, WHICH CREATED A BLIGHTED PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE AND ALLOWED FOR THE ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, BY

AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE
DEFINITION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTY AS SET
FORTH THEREIN

Ken Pick, Director of the Berks County Redevelopment Authority, commented this amendment was made on behalf of the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Pick remarked the blighted property review process and elimination of blight has been working very well so far, and this amendment is needed to capture a few odd properties not covered by the original Ordinance.

2. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott with a request for discussion. Commissioner Leinbach acknowledged Commissioner Scott's request for discussion.

Commissioner Scott commented he has some concerns, questions and observations with respect to the SSM Contract. Commissioner Scott commented he had a chance to review the RFP and the submissions for this Contract and it seems to him that \$297,313 is a very big % of the cost of installing improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Commissioner Scott did review the other two proposals which were a slightly lower percentage, and asked Ryan Hunter why this number is so high.

Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations, remarked Commissioner Scott is correct that M&B Environmental, the Plant Operator, came back with a peer review of the 2010 capital study but the costs reflected in the peer review are for equipment only and does not include ancillary costs such as labor, demolition of existing, permitting, etc. Mr. Hunter stated the overall estimated price for the capital improvements is about \$2.4 million, and SSM's price represents approximately 6% design and 6% for construction and is in line for what we would typically see for this type of project. Mr. Hunter commented there was one other proposal that did come in, and some components of that proposal were not included as basic services and would therefore risk additional costs.

Commissioner Scott observed M&B did rank SSM higher than ARRO.

Commissioner Leinbach clarified for the public the Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at the North Campus and services the Berks Heim, Jail, CRC, Library System, Agricultural Center, the 4-H Facilities and a very small area of Bern Township.

Commissioner Scott also commented on item 263.16 that he is concerned with how much money the County has put into the Beidler Mansion over the years, but understands in speaking with Chris Stress that usage is up at the park.

Commissioner Scott commented this property does have some limitations which should have precluded the enormous amount of money put into the building and structures. Commissioner Scott commented that since the operation of Blue Marsh Lake that property has been flooded once or twice a decade, and considering these facts questions whether this is the best place to spend grant money.

Commissioner Leinbach asked all those in favor of the motion signify by saying yes. All voted unanimously to approve the Agenda items, with the exception of item 263.16 to which Commissioner Scott voted no.

- 258.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$151,558.00 per listing dated September 12, 2016.
- 259.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Request for Proposal #16-30-KO a contract for Engineering Services for Capital Improvements to the Berks County WWTP as identified herein:
SSM Group, Inc.
1047 North Park Road
PO Box 6307
Reading, PA 19610-0307
Total Not to Exceed Amount - \$297,313.00
- 260.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute, a one year contract as a result of ITB# 16-39-JR, for Firearm Accessories and Supplies to be utilized by the Berks County Jail, Sheriff's Office and Probation Office as follows:
Atlantic Tactical
763 Corporate Circle
New Cumberland, PA 17070
Line Items:46,47,51,56
- 261.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #16-38-JRPB, two (2) contracts to supply Food Provisions for the Jail System, Residential Center and Berks Heim for a one year period as follows:
Clover Farms Dairy
3300 Pottsville Pike
Reading, PA 19605
Line Items:11V,12V,27V,28V,29V,30V,31V,32V,33V
Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$5,732.70
- Karetas Foods**
1012 Tuckerton Court
Reading, PA 19605
Line Items:1,2,3,8V,9V,10V,36V,37V,38V,40V
Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$32,427.05
- 262.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2015 County taxes in the amount of \$2,336.19, including penalty and interest in the amount of \$291.43 for 905 Byram Street (43-5327-18-32-0092), Mt. Penn Borough, Berks County, Pennsylvania and owned by the Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority.

- 263.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Agreement No. EA 180617-16 between the County of Berks and McCormick Taylor, Inc., Exton, Pennsylvania for engineering services for the repair and rehabilitation design and construction services for the Allegheny Aqueduct over Allegheny Creek, Allegheny Aqueduct Historical Park, Robeson Township, Berks County, at the not to exceed amount of \$69,078.00.
- 264.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Glenn R. Knoblauch, Wernersville, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Planning Commission Board of Directors replacing Mark C. Scott, who resigned effective September 15, 2016. Mr. Knoblauch's term is effective September 15, 2016 with a term ending January 1, 2019.
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 13, 2016.
Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 11 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 13, 2016 for week ending September 14, 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.
3. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Robert J. Patrizio reported there will be no Budget or Operations Meetings today.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman had no comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt reported public review of the proposed imposition of a \$5 fee on vehicle registration has begun with the first meeting being held this past Monday night in Muhlenberg Township. Commissioner Barnhardt announced he will be at the Leesport Farmers Market at the Berks Patriots meeting, and next Thursday, Ryan Hunter will show the PowerPoint at the Commissioners' Board Meeting, with the final public meeting

being held at Birdsboro Borough Hall Thursday evening. Commissioner Barnhardt commented he would like to place the ordinance on the table for consideration at the September 29, 2016 Commissioners' Meeting.

Commissioner Leinbach commented he has been attending the meetings, and will continue attending the meetings in order to hear from the public on this issue.

Commissioner Scott commented he doesn't feel that an extra \$5.00 a year is an extraordinary burden on the public if it means safer more accessible bridges, but his concern is that the State would scale back and shift State matching funds to the County, making it a possible no win situation.

Commissioner Scott announced that after ten years on the Berks County Planning Commission he is resigning effective today; and announced his replacement is Glenn Knoblauch, the former Executive Director of the Planning Commission, who is very well respected all over the State and has graciously accepted his offer to serve out his term.

Commissioner Leinbach thanked Ryan Hunter for his detailed explanation and is always impressed with the detail Ryan provides to the Board when requested.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned he participated in the Reading 120 Bike Race by riding in the Race Director's car for the first mile, and was very impressed with what he heard and saw and complimented everyone involved in making this Race a success.

Commissioner Leinbach announced this Sunday will be the annual Fiddle Fest in Lyons, and it is one of the premier fiddle events of its kind.

Commissioner Leinbach announced this Friday he will be part of the POW/MIA candle light vigil at Veteran's Grove in Reading City Park, and at least one of the POW/MIA family members will be there.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned with sadness the passing of Leigh Tallas, a former Director of the Berks County Veteran's Office, who was passionate about veteran's issues and helped many veteran's in Berks County.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Rebecca Acosta, a legislative aide in State Representative Tom Caltagirone's Reading Office, asked the Commissioners if senior citizens will be required to pay the additional \$5 fee or will they be exempt? Commissioner Barnhardt replied he didn't think they would be exempt but would find out for sure and get back to Ms. Acosta.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk