

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 19, 2013

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 19, 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 Chair Christian Y. Leinbach called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Assistant County Solicitor Heidi B. Masano, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk - Maryjo Gibson.

Commissioner Leinbach opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and announced Executive Sessions were held September 13, 2013 dealing with litigation and September 16, 2013 dealing with contracts, litigation and personnel matters.

Presentation

Linda Bell, Assistant Dean of the Business Division at Reading Area Community College (RACC), as part of RACC's quarterly update, presented information on the Technical Academy. Ms. Bell commented this is a joint venture with RACC, the Berks Career and Technology Center and Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center and is an opportunity for students beginning in the 10th grade to earn college credits for degrees in business, computer technology and mechatronics. Ms. Bell stated students are selected from the Career and Technology Schools and there is a selection criteria.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 12, 2013 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:
 - 277.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$780,818.00 and 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$703,128.00 per listing dated September 16, 2013. Robert Patrizio commented the majority of transfers and appropriations are related to Children and Youth Services in order to reduce the County match and free up funds under Act 148.
 - 278.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 19, 2013 as

follows:

1. Authorize the promotion of Brendan Lederer, PC012688 part-time Trails Manager to PC012972 Natural Resource Manager – Parks, effective 9/25/13. Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$35,638; Midpoint \$47,517; Maximum \$59,396. New position created by Salary Board on 9/19/13. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16070.
 2. Authorize the promotion of Jennifer Brooks, PC012687 part-time Environmental Educator to PC12973 Environmental Educator – Parks, effective 9/25/13. Rate of \$37,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$33,968; Midpoint \$45,291; Maximum \$56,616. New position created by Salary Board on 9/19/13. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16070.
- 279.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Contract Amendment #3 to the contract with Motorola Solutions including alterations of certain terms and conditions and Change Order #008 in the amount of \$1,961,050.15. This amount includes \$994,736.15 for end user radios, \$962,926.00 for infrastructure, and \$3,388.00 for maintenance and support during years 1-10 of ownership.
- 280.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency State Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant Agreement in the amount of \$52,781.00. This is an annual recurring grant agreement used to manage, update and perform hazardous response reports, requirements and training.
- 281.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Termination of Deed of Easement and Right-of-Way (Driveway Easement) between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the County of Berks for property located in Cumru Township. The County never received the necessary governmental approvals for the construction of the Tower Site, and therefore no longer plan to use the property.
- 282.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Michael Malinowski, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees for a six (6) year term expiring June 30, 2019.
- 283.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christine M. Sadler, Esq., First Assistant County Solicitor, to execute the Engagement Letter with Stock and Leader, York, Pennsylvania, to provide environmental legal representation.

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 16, 2013. Commissioner Leinbach reported there was 2 contracts and referenced the departments.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 17, 2013 for week ending September 18, 2013 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by First Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken reported the Department of Veterans Affairs received the Five Star Service Award for the second year in a row for outstanding recoveries of veteran's benefits. Mr. Geffken commented that Ed McCann, Director of Workforce Development, at their monthly meeting, highly praised the Mechatronics programs being offered through the County technical schools stating there are job shortages in that area in Berks County.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported today the Commissioners will receive a presentation of the results accomplished from expansion of the Treatment Court Program back in 2010 and a request from the Courts to continue that funding with General tax dollars, and there is also a request by the Courts to create a new position entitled Truancy Coordinator. Mr. Patrizio commented Ken Pick, Community Development, will discuss funding options for the Colebrookdale Spur and Trust.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Scott clarified one of the executive session items, stating in accordance with the Sunshine Act, and when a newspaper asks, we divulge subject matter of litigation. Commissioner Scott commented this case pertains to Kaercher Creek Park operated by the County on lands owned by Commonwealth and under the auspices of the Fish and Boat Commission. Commissioner Scott stated the County received verbal notice, but to date never received written notice, from U. S. Environmental Protection Agency of their intent to conduct a cleanup of battery casings and lead contaminated soil in an area downhill from the dam breast at the Kaercher Creek Park. Commissioner Scott commented that is why we are retaining Stock and Leader as environmental counsel.

Commissioner Leinbach commented on a newspaper article today on the new census data and the slight uptick in the Reading poverty rate. Commissioner Leinbach commented in his opinion statistically Reading pulls down the number for Countywide numbers.

Commissioner Leinbach offered the reason for the high poverty rate is directly related to educational attainment, and more specifically the dropout rate of high school students in Reading and young people with high school education lacking core skills. Commissioner Leinbach stated until that issue is addressed; the poverty level will not change.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk