

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 26, 2013

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 26, 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 Kevin S. Barnhardt and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING/PRESENTATION

The Board of Commissioners convened a public hearing on the proposed update by the Berks County Planning Commission to the Berks County Comprehensive Plan of 2003. Commissioner Leinbach announced the Plan was submitted to Berks County municipalities for review and comment along with the general public, and after a brief presentation will open up the meeting for public comment. Glenn Knoblauch, Executive Director of the Berks County Planning Commission, commented the 2030 Comprehensive Plan is a regional plan for land use, transportation and community facilities, stating the County uses the Plan as a way to express policy and to prioritize funding and projects; and municipalities use the plan as a template to conform to the Plan. Mr. Knoblauch commented this is a refinement of and builds on previous plans incorporating changes in local level and planning, and reflects economic development and is 100% geographic information system technology based (GIS). Shannon Rossman, Planner III, presented an executive summary power point of the plan, commenting the County is required to update the Plan every 10 years. Commissioner Leinbach asked if the County received any public comment or formal support or formal opposition to the plan. Mr. Knoblauch reported there were some municipalities that wanted changes to Plan that the Planning Commission agreed to; and there were one or two property owners who did not like the way their properties were shown. Mr. Knoblauch commented after review and discussion by the Planning Commission, it was agreed to keep the Plan as drafted. Commissioner Barnhardt questioned if the existing plan has been followed over the last 10 to 15 years. Mr. Knoblauch commented that when the money was available, the Planning Commission conditioned funding to complying with the County Plan, and for the most part is pleased with how local municipalities followed the Plan. Commissioner Scott commented the County has made a conscience effort to deal with any disagreements and inconsistencies with local municipalities, stating our comprehensive Plan is conceptual and only a recommendation and it is up to local municipalities to conform and implement our recommendations. When asked by Commissioner Leinbach about the transportation aspect of the Plan, Alan Piper, Transportation Planner III, commented the focus is narrow and the Plan has to reflect the dollars available. Mr. Piper commented the Planning Commission's focus is to maintain what transportation systems

are currently in place and no new plans for new expressways or major transit initiatives are planned. Commissioner Leinbach closed the public hearing and called for a vote. Kevin Barnhardt motioned to approve the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030, motion seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the Plan and adopt Resolution No. 290.13.

Army Lieutenant Colonel Wendell May, Chief Instructor, and the Wilson High School Jr. ROTC presented a video of last year's Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance and announced the 2013 Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance will be held Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Wilson High School. The Cadets in attendance were Cadet Lt. Col. Andy Bortz, Cadet Major Emily McGuigan, Cadet Captain Jacob Healy, Cadet 1 Lt. Margaret Dziamba. Each Cadet explained their role in organizing the Dance. Cadet Major McGuigan stated the staff meets every Tuesday night with the Berks County Veterans Appreciate Committee and spent almost 4,000 hours planning the event this year.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 19, 2013 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

284.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$17,231,075.00 and 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$70,892.00 per listing dated September 23, 2013. Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio commented the majority of transfers and appropriations are related to the redesign of Aging accounts which was necessary due to the need to align Oracle to support external compliance reporting and completing the reconciliation process.

285.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute a contract as a result of Invitation to Bid #13-23-JR, Painting, Heritage Center and Gring's Mill as follows:

SMJ Contracting Inc
1050 Benjamin Franklin Highway West
Douglassville, PA 19518

Heritage Center: \$ 23,795.00

Gring's Mill: \$ 50,885.00

Total Amount \$74,680.00

- 286.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Lease Agreement between Marvin C. Miller, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania and the County of Berks for office space located at the Matthew Brooke Professional Center, Birdsboro used by Magisterial District Court 23-3-01 for a five (5) year term ending December 31, 2018 at a rate of \$1,916.67 per month for the 5 year term.
- 287.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Lease Agreement between the Borough of Hamburg and the County of Berks for office space located at the Hamburg Municipal Center, 61 North Third Street, Hamburg, used by Magisterial District Court 23-3-06 for a five (5) year term ending February 28, 2019 at a rate of \$2,194.23 per month for the 5 year term.
- 288.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Access and Grading Easement Agreement (In Lieu of Condemnation) between Mark Garvey, Alburdis, Pennsylvania and the County of Berks regarding the Berks County Emergency Radio Project. This easement will allow the County access over the Garvey property to assist the County in the construction and development of the Heeps Tower Site, Longswamp Township.
- 289.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Dr. John J. George, Lititz, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Nicholas Camacho, who resigned. This term will expire February 14, 2014.
- 290.13 Adopt a resolution the approving the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 in accordance with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code
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 23, 2013. Commissioner Leinbach reported there were 8 contracts and referenced the departments.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 24, 2013 for week ending September 25, 2013 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report, but left the meeting early. The report was read by Commissioner Leinbach.
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 had nothing to report today.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive the preliminary 2014 Budget and the impact on the five year forecast.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt commented yesterday he participated in a breakfast sponsored by Berks Connection Pretrial Services (BCPS) which was aimed at encouraging local businesses to hire those coming out of CRC program. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that Tuesday colleagues from the Lancaster County Jail toured the Berks County Jail to view the farm program and other operations at the Jail. Commissioner Barnhardt stated the Lancaster officials were very surprised at the amount of work the inmates perform. Commissioner Barnhardt reported yesterday he attended the opening of the Financial Education Center at Berks Hall at Reading Area Community College which is designed to provide financial services and engage the student population in financial education. Commissioner Barnhardt commented a check was presented for \$35,000.00 for scholarships over a five year period. Commissioner Barnhardt provided an update to Law Enforcement Needs Assessment stating all surveys are out and most have come back. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the county law enforcement departments surveys will be going out around Thanksgiving and the social service agencies will go out during the winter season.

Commissioner Scott commented yesterday he met with Carl Geffken, Facilities representatives and Hazen Swoyer, the County's consultant regarding the Waste Water Treatment Facility. Commissioner Scott stated there were discussions regarding preparing an RFP for operation of the facility by either a third party, a private contractor or even by County staff. Commissioner Scott commented the firm is very thorough and experienced in this field. Commissioner Scott reported that capital improvements to the Plant could have financial ramifications one of which is an upgrade to the sludge equipment. Commissioner Scott mentioned one choice to keep costs down would be to possibly transport the sludge to outside facilities. Commissioner Scott commented the County's success in managing its Pensions Fund continues to be noticed by other entities most recently by the Reading Police Fund who decided to select SEI, the County investment consultant.

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the garden tour at the Jail with Lancaster Officials this past Tuesday, stating the prisoners harvested over 11,000 pounds of produce. Commissioner Leinbach commented the prisoners planted, cultivated, maintained and harvested the produce which is then preserved using the Jail's cannery. Commissioner Leinbach commented there is also an operating sawmill which was built from scratch from reused materials. Commissioner Leinbach commended the Warden and his staff stating they are good examples for other Counties to follow. Commissioner Scott complimented the Prison supervisory staff who has been crucial to the vegetable growing program.

Comments from the Floor

County Controller Graffius reported all local libraries have received copies of the FUFSS (Friendly Understandable Financial Statement).

Gerri Blomquist, Bechtelsville, Washington Township, Berks County, commented that 13 years ago Washington Township overbuilt a sewer system and she feels she is overpaying for sewer services. Ms. Blomquist suggested to Commissioner Scott the possibility of the County transporting its sludge to the Washington Township facility. Commissioner Scott commented he will pass that information to Hazen and Sawyer, the County's sewer consultant. Ms. Blomquist also commented that the high taxes and sewer costs in the Township have a great burden on senior citizens, sometimes forcing them to sell their homes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:46 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk