

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 28, 2017

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 28, 2017, 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

Chris Winters, Chief of Staff to Representative Thomas R. Caltagirone, attended the meeting to recognize September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Mr. Winters commented that Berks County was the first county to raise awareness of childhood cancer, and announced 60% of Berks County school districts, as well as businesses, day care centers, and emergency services organizations will be taking part in the GoGoldBerks initiative tomorrow, and asked all Berks County residents to wear gold tomorrow.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 21, 2017 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:
 - 271.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$169,852 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$294,693 per listing dated September 25, 2017.
 - 272.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 28, 2017 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Michael Daly to PC013228 Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender's Office, effective 10/4/2017. Rate of \$46,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,587; Maximum

\$74,483. Replacement for Riley Downs who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.

2. Authorize the promotion of Elmer Miller from PC012307 Shelter Care Counselor to PC012630 Residential Center Supervisor – Berks County Residential Center, effective 10/4/2017. Rate of \$55,461/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,957; Midpoint \$59,943; Maximum \$74,929. Replacement for Timothy Phillips who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 52013 – 32200.

273.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Change Order 43C to the contract with Pyramid Network Services, LLC, East Syracuse, New York, in the amount of \$622,156.51 to perform improvements at the Mt. Penn 1 Radio Transmission site in regard to the Berks County Public Safety Radio Network Project.

274.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #17-27-KO, a contract for the Berks County Agriculture Center Roof Replacement Project as identified herein:

Detwiler Roofing

324 Linden Grove Road
New Holland, PA 17557

Total (Not to Exceed): \$472,000.00

Commissioner Leinbach commented this is a planned capital improvement project of Facilities.

275.17 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving execution of the Title Page of the Drawings for Construction as prepared by professional engineers with Larson Design Group, Inc. and pertaining to the Schaeffer Road Bridge a/k/a Blandon Bridge (County Bridge #53A) Replacement Project in Maiden Creek Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

276.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the VOCA (“Victims of Crime Act”) Grant Application No. 29239 to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (“PCCD”). The Grant is for a three (3) year term, and will provide funding for a new position in the District Attorney’s Office, along with financial assistance to victims of crime.

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 26, 2017. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 8 contracts and referenced the departments.

3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 26, 2017 for week ending September 27, 2017 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 Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In the absence of Mr. Patrizio, Mr. Seaman reported there will be a presentation by Dominion Voting, and a presentation by Shannon Rossman, Executive Director of the Berks County Planning Commission, on the Berks County Comprehensive Plan.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

None

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt announced the Blighted Property Review Committee met Tuesday, and reported two houses in Wyomissing and one in Mt. Penn were removed from the list because they have been remediated.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Department of Drug and Alcohol awarded COCA and additional \$362,000 to battle the opioid epidemic for individuals with generally low insurance capabilities, and \$74,000 to Berks County Treatment Court.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott provided a response to comments made by members of the public at the past few Commissioners' Meetings concerning the possibility of privatizing the jail and of the pending budgetary deficits at the Heim. Commissioner Scott commented he has listened quietly and respectfully to the arguments, and will continue to do so, but must now respond to the current one sided conversation. Commissioner Scott stated there has been considerable discussion from those who want to maintain the status quo, suggesting things are perfect and running smoothly at the jail. But Commissioner Scott suggested otherwise, that based on information he has received from County officials things are not so perfect. Commissioner Scott commented in the future he will continue to release details that will refute what has been said to the public, as the truth is important on both sides.

Commissioner Leinbach commented he has also talked to individuals that have spoken at a Commissioners' Meeting about the Jail, and came to the table after the meeting.

Commissioner Leinbach warned them they should be careful because for every bad incident they mention that has occurred at a privately owned jail, we can give one that has occurred at the Berks County Jail.

Commissioner Leinbach agreed with Commissioner Scott that those actions do not represent a majority of the staff at the Jail.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach reported earlier this week the President of United States, along with members of Congress offered their tax reform package. Commissioner Leinbach reported the good news is tax free municipal bonds were taken off the table, but the deduction for state and local taxes is part of the proposal. Commissioner Leinbach strongly urged anyone watching or listening to reach out to their congressmen or women and ask them to oppose this double taxation action.

Commissioner Leinbach reported Monday night he participated in the first Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit in Berks County. This conference had a high number of attendees and a high number of paid vendors and was a great event.

Commissioner Leinbach reported yesterday morning he and Commissioner Barnhardt had the privilege to participate in the retirement of George Vogel. He is going to be missed.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk