

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 29, 2016

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 29, 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.

At this point in the meeting, Commissioner Leinbach announced it is the Board's privilege to take time to recognize Marianne Sutton, Berks County Prothonotary for many years, and who has announced she will be retiring October 1, 2016. Commissioner Leinbach read and presented a Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Sutton. The Certificate recognized Ms. Sutton's two terms as Berks County Jury Commissioner, and almost six terms as Berks County Prothonotary.

Commissioner Scott expressed his gratitude to Marianne for her dedication and commitment to the County throughout her terms, and for all her accomplishments; and wished Marianne all the best in her retirement.

Commissioner Barnhardt recognized Marianne's accomplishments at the State level for bringing automation and technology to the Prothonotary's Offices and her fierce dedication to her staff, and hopes she enjoys her retirement.

Commissioner Leinbach remarked he first met Marianne in the 1980's when Marianne was one of a very small group of women in leadership roles in the local Berks County Republican Party. Commissioner Leinbach thanked Marianne for all she has accomplished over the years and for her commitment to her office, and wished her good luck.

Ms. Sutton remarked she has worked most of her 31 years on technology, and facing many challenges that she feels have all been met, and leaves the office a leader among 3rd Class counties in the State. Ms. Sutton commented it has been a collaboration of many officials and staff members who throughout the challenge made it a success. Ms. Sutton thanked everyone for their dedication and support.

Berks County Treasurer Dennis Adams thanked Marianne for all her support and guidance as he started his role as County Treasurer and has enjoyed working with her.

Berks County Clerk of Courts James Troutman commented he is in the same Association with Marianne, and it has been a real pleasure working with her over the years and wished Marianne good luck in her retirement.

Ronald Rutkowski, Deputy County Controller, on behalf of County Controller Sandy Graffius and himself, thanked Marianne for her years of service, and wished Marianne and her husband Ken, the best.

Berks County Budget Director Bob Patrizio remarked he always respected and admired her passion for her Office and for running it efficiently and effectively, and wished Marianne congratulations on her retirement.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 22, 2016 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:
 - 271.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$383,800.00 and 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$244,446.00 per listing dated September 27, 2016.
 - 272.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 29, 2016 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of John Pauley to PC011400 Materials Management Coordinator – Berks Heim, effective 10/19/2016. Rate of \$47,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$39,562; Midpoint \$52,749; Maximum \$65,936. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33340.
 2. Authorize the promotion of Blair Miller from PC012923 Telecommunicator +6 to PC012694 Watch Officer – Department of Emergency Services, effective 10/5/2016. Rate of \$56,943/annually. Salary range Minimum \$42,507; Midpoint \$56,676; Maximum \$70,845. Replacement for Nelson Lopez who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 51100 – 36010.
 3. Authorize Kathe Stanislaw, Assessor III PC010119 to work out of classification as the Acting Chief Assessor PC010238 – Assessment, effective 9/28/2016. Rate of \$33.41/hour. Replacement for Michael Collie who separated. Budget 10000 - 11070.
 - 273.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement #EA-184477-16 between the County of Berks and SSM Group, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania to provide engineering services for the review of 4-Log Treatment options and the design of the water system modifications for the Red Bridge Recreation

Area located along Tulpehocken Road, Bern Township at a not to exceed amount of \$8,700.00 including reimbursable expenses.

- 274.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Change Order Number 002 to the Land-Tech Enterprises, Inc. Agreement in the amount of \$137,000.00 as an allowance for the repair of the existing stone wall lining Antietam Creek from Seidel Road to the Hinnershitz Dam. This repair is required from a public safety standpoint as the walls are badly deteriorated, and public access to this Site would be prohibited without the repair.
- 275.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the CWEL Agreement between the County of Berks, the University of Pittsburgh, of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, and Robert J. Lambert, Downingtown, Pennsylvania, a Berks County Children & Youth Services employee, to participate in a graduate level social work program as outlined in Title IV-B, Part 1 of the Commonwealth's Child and Family Services Plan.
- 276.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 to Subgrant Agreement No. 2015-FS-01-26218, National Forensic Science Improvement Act, to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency ("PCCD") extending the period from September 30, 2016 to December 31, 2016.
- 277.16 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Christine M. Sadler, Berks County Solicitor, to execute the retention letter with Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, to handle environmental matters on behalf of the County of Berks.
- 278.16 Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to the terms of the Berks County Employee Thrift Trust Agreement and the associated Employee Thrift Plan, each dated July 5, 2005, to appoint Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer, and Arnel R. Wetzel, Jr., Human Resources Director, to serve as Successor Trustee and Authorized Signatory, respectively replacing William Dennis, Jennifer Biehn and John Craig Stott, who separated from County employment. Suzanne K. Baer, Pension Coordinator, shall continue to serve as Authorized Signatory concurrently with Mr. Wetzel, respecting all ordinary and necessary administrative Plan related communications.
- 279.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Clerk to advertise enactment of proposed County Ordinance No. 05-2016 implementing a \$5 Local Use Fee for non-exempt vehicles

registered to an address in Berks County to be used by Berks County for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, safety improvements and repairs to County roads and bridges; and can be allocated to Berks County municipalities.

- 280.16 Adopt a resolution approving the County of Berks to join the White House Data-Driven Justice (DDJ) Initiative that will address the following two key populations in the County, and authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute a letter to Lynn Overmann, Senior Advisor to the U.S. Chief Technology Officer, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President:
1. "High-utilizers", often people with serious mental illness, substance abuse and chronic health problems who repeatedly cycle through multiple systems, including jails, hospital emergency rooms, shelters and other services; and
 2. People held in jail before trial because they cannot afford to bond out, not because they are a risk to the community or a risk of flight.
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 27, 2016. 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 27, 2016 for week ending September 28, 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.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by Deputy County Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive a preliminary 2017 Budget review focusing on items that need to be changed and a comparison to the original 2017 forecast, and a discussion of three items that have a significance to the Budget.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman reserved his comments for Marianne until now; remarking his best recollection was when he was previously with the County as Chief Clerk and Director of Elections, and how ecstatic everyone was when it was determined Marianne won the race in 1993 making her the first woman Prothonotary. Mr. Seaman wished Marianne the best in retirement.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt commented on the proposed County Ordinance, advising the Ordinance will sit until October 27th when it will then go before the Board for a final vote, and if successful will be implemented March 1, 2017. PennDOT will then have 90 days to implement the fee. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned he has heard from many individuals who are both for and against the proposal, and after speaking to those against the fee, can report that most were satisfied with his explanation.

Commissioner Barnhardt expressed his appreciation for adoption of Data-Driven Justice initiative that ties together the NACo *Stepping Up* initiative and CCAP's efforts on the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Task Force, adding now we must get the local support of the Courts, MDJs, APO, Wardens and down the line, to recognize this is a serious issue, not just financially but for the betterment of the community and the people we serve.

Commissioner Scott had no additional comments.

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the Behavioral Health Task Force Report that Commissioner Barnhardt and Dauphin County Commissioner George Hartwick, co-chair, who yesterday were able to share a top-line review of the reports and recommendations with the northeast U.S. counties. Commissioner Leinbach reported the report is available to the public at Pacounties.org, and is NACO's number one initiative under the umbrella of criminal justice reform.

Commissioner Leinbach reminded everyone that this weekend is the annual Heritage Festival at the Berks County Heritage Center, and one highlight is the performance of Commissioner Joe Kantz from Snyder County, and his colleague who have been performing gospel/country music for almost 30 years.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Berks County Recorder of Deeds Fred Sheeler commented on the issue of mental health and commitment to jails, that as a Board member of the Hamburg Center for many years, they are finding that sometimes the judges just don't know what to do and where to place individuals, and wind up placing them in jail. Mr. Sheeler commented the Center is for developmental disabled people, not individuals who have to be watched 24 hours a day. A discussion with Commissioner Leinbach and Mr. Sheeler took place on possible solutions and alternatives and agreed there is a lot of work to be done on this issue. Mr. Sheeler was happy to see Kathe Stanislaw has been appointed as the Acting Chief Assessor, and will do a good job.

David Headman of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County, attended the meeting to comment on the Berks County Residential Center, and he is here today to draw critical attention to an incident of medical negligence that occurred to a female detainee at the Center. Mr. Headman proceeded to read from a prepared statement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk