

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 10, 2013

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 10, 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 Solicitor Alan Miller, 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 3, 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:
 - 299.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2013 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$9,526.00 and 2013 Appropriations in the amount of \$500.00 per listing dated October 7, 2013.
 - 300.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated October 10, 2013 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Mary Picariello to PC012862 Risk & Safety Coordinator – Commissioners, effective 11/6/13. Rate of \$51,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$51,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$41,215; Midpoint \$54,953; Maximum \$68,692. Replacement for Brian Henion who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11010.
 2. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for two (2) office support positions in the Prothonotary's Office, effective 10/15/13. Rate not to exceed \$16.50/hr. Replacement request due to two (2) extended leaves of absence. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease upon the return of the employees from leave of absence.

This request was reviewed and meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11530.

- 301.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of a Request for Quote by the County's contracted utility consultant, Utilitech, one (1) contract for the period of January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for transfer/delivery of natural gas as identified herein:
- HESS Corporation
One Hess Plaza
Woodbridge, NJ 07085
(13) NT accounts
~~\$1.072~~ \$1.172Dth – Basis
- Jason Davey, a representative with Utilitech, attended the meeting and reported that the figures were refreshed this morning and have been adjusted up \$.10 cents. Mr. Davey commented this is still the best of the bid results that were put out and is an improvement over the current pricing.
- 302.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Engineering Agreement 057372, as drafted by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation, between the County of Berks and Larson Design Group, Inc., 201 East Oregon Road, Suite 110, Lititz, PA 17543, required to provide Design and Preliminary Engineering Services for the Schaeffer Road (aka Blandon) Bridge Replacement Project in Maiden creek Township at a cost not to exceed \$319,292.56. Commissioner Leinbach commented this is the same Bridge that was referenced last week that is going to be replaced by the County and turned over to Maiden creek Township.
- 303.13 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Access and Stormwater License Agreement between Morgantown Enterprises, L.P., and the County of Berks and acknowledged and agreed to by the Brandywine Conservancy, Inc. for access over a portion of Morgantown Enterprises' property in regard to the Berks County Emergency Radio Project.
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 October 7, 2013. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 5 contracts and referenced the departments.

3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated October 8, 2013 for week ending October 9, 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 County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken had nothing to report today.
2. Commissioner Leinbach reported there will be no Budget Meeting this afternoon.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the 911 staff, Brian Gottschall, Matt Stairiker and others for the tour of the 911 Center with representatives of Wyomissing Borough, who a few years ago transferred their 911 calls to the County's system. Commissioner Barnhardt commented Borough Officials wanted to see how the County dispatches fire police and EMS. Commissioner Barnhardt reported Monday evening he and Brian Gottschall had occasion to drive to Longswamp Township, stating a resolution and settlement on the 19th and final tower location has been accomplished. Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Longswamp Township Supervisors.

Commissioner Scott commented on a news report he saw and wanted to bring it the attention of HR and Budget departments. Commissioner Scott reported that Northampton County has deemed that its health care benefit to employees qualify as Cadillac benefits. Commissioner Scott stated it is an onerous problem for governments that provide health care benefits to their employees and Northampton County has decided to impose as of next year and 4 years in advance of the tax kicking in, a several hundred percent increase in deductible for its employees. Commissioner Scott asked the Budget Director and Human Resources Director to take a look at this issue and plan far in advance for when the plan takes effect.

Commissioner Leinbach commented there aren't many options when you look at the current status of Obamacare. Commissioner Leinbach commented the threshold is the issue impacting the County, and sitting around waiting is fool hearted. Commissioner Leinbach commented the County had a study prepared by EH&D, the County's consultant, which shows that over the first five years of Obamacare the Cadillac tax will cost County government and ultimately taxpayers in excess of \$25 million, which will escalate and is unsustainable. Commissioner Leinbach also directed the Budget Director, Human Resources and the Chief Operating Officer to meet with EH&D and look what we need to do to bring the plan under the threshold. Commissioner Leinbach commented

that 2 areas that impact the threshold is the deductible in Berks County and the benefits of the plan. Berks County Clerk of Courts Jim Troutman questioned has it been determined the County is in the Cadillac plan. Commissioner Leinbach responded yes. Mr. Troutman questioned will the tax that needs to be paid be paid by the employer or employee. Commissioner Leinbach responded it will be paid by the employer, but will eventually be passed onto the taxpayer. Commissioner Leinbach commented he was at the Berks Justice Hall of Fame breakfast awards where John Wetzel, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, who used to work at the Berks County Jail, spoke of criminal justice reform. Commissioner Leinbach commented it was a good presentation, and at the end heard from Craig Poole, manager of the Crowne Plaza, who highlighted one of his employees, who was incarcerated and took total responsibility for his actions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk