

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 23, 2014

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 23, 2014, 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.

PRESENTATION

Dale Derr, Director of Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs, attended the meeting to present for approval by the Board of Commissioners the following nominations for induction to the Berks County Military Hall of Fame, which will be awarded at the Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance to be held November 8, 2014:

1. U.S. Army, Medal of Honor recipient, Major James Burt, Colony Park (Posthumous-World War II)
2. U.S. Army, Distinguished Service Cross recipient, Colonel Frederick Muhlenberg, Reading (Posthumous-World War I)
3. U.S. Army, Commendation Medal with Valor Device, First Sergeant Librado Mancias, Mohnton (Vietnam War)
4. U.S. Army, Commendation Medal with Valor Device, PFC Richard Mest, Reading (Vietnam War)

Mr. Derr also requested the Board to pay special recognition to Arlene Cleaver, former Director of the Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs for her commitment, service and dedication to Berks County government, and for her contributions to the Veterans Office.

Commissioner Leinbach asked for a motion for approval by the Board of the 4 nominations presented by Dale Derr for induction to the Berks County Military Hall of Fame. On motion by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, all voted unanimously to approve the nominations set forth by Mr. Derr to the Berks County Military Hall of Fame.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 16, 2014 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

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

1. Enactment of Ordinance No. 08-2014:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING INCURRING OF NONELECTORAL DEBT THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF A SERIES OF 2015 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE COUNTY AND THE REFUNDING OF THE 2008 BONDS AND THE BALANCE OF THE 2010A BONDS.

Michael Vind, Esq., S&Lutions, commented that this proposal was discussed at the Budget Meeting last week, and because of the drop of interest rates in this last series and the potential additional savings to the County, they are recommending for consideration by the Board enactment of this Ordinance.

- 2.

- 321.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,560,918.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$137,000.00 per listing dated October 17, 2014.
- 322.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to execute Change Order No. 05 to the Wescott Electric, Inc. contract in the additional amount of \$35,369.00 in regard to the Berks County Jail Infrastructure & Security Upgrade Project. This Change Order is to furnish labor and materials required to provide electrical revisions to the existing smoke evacuation system as well as the replacement fire alarm system. This Change Order has been reviewed and endorsed by the Architect and Construction Manager. Funding is to be provided by project contingency reserves.
- 323.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to execute Change Order No. 001 to the Clearwater Construction, Inc. contract in regard to the Berne Station Bridge Replacement Project. This Change Order is a request for a no cost adjustment to the project schedule that extends the date of completion by 204 calendar days or to June 9, 2015. This Change Order is a result of a delay on the part of the electric utility.
- 324.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 to the Engineering Services Agreement between the County of Berks and Hill International, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the amount of \$12,750.00 to provide additional engineering services for the leaks in the condensate line at the Berks Heim Facility.

- 325.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Amendment to Administrative Entity Operating Agreement between the Department of Public Welfare and Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities effective July 1, 2014. This Amendment is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and will ensure the continued participation in the Consolidated and Person Family Directed Services Waiver which provides individuals with developmental disabilities supports and therapies necessary to address their individualized needs.
- 326.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Certification Statement for the Human Services Block Grant Report to the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for fiscal year 2013-2014 (July 2013 to June 2014) for the Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Office. Dr. Edward Michalik, MH/DD Administrator, commented this report relates to this past fiscal year and is a certification of final figures.
- 327.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness for 2014 County taxes including penalties and interest for Willow Creek Road (PIN 68-5400-16-84-0192), Ontelaunee Township, Berks County, and owned by the Township of Ontelaunee.
- 328.14 Adopt a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 248-14 adopted August 21, 2014 which authorized the County Solicitor, Alan S. Miller, to execute a letter agreement with Conrad O'Brien, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to represent the County in such legal matter as the Commissioners may from time to time direct. Solicitor Alan S. Miller commented the County was interested in pursuing a legal matter, but has since decided to go in another direction. Commissioner Scott added that the firm withdrew its offer due to a conflict.
- 329.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing advertisement of a proposed Ordinance of the County of Berks creating a blighted property review committee to be known as the "Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee" and allowing for the acquisition and disposition of real property under certain conditions. Ken Pick, Executive Director of the Berks County Redevelopment Authority, commented the objective of this committee is to oversee on behalf of the borough and townships, the review and inspection of blighted properties within the County. Mr. Pick emphasized it is not the intention of this Committee or the County to acquire properties, but to incentivize property owners to be responsible and to take care of and keep their properties in good repair.

- 330.14 Adopt a resolution, that in the absence of Carl E. Geffken, Interim Executive Director of Berks County Children and Youth Services, Barbara Jakubek, Director of Placement for Berks County Children and Youth Services, is authorized to execute all Petitions to Confirm Consent for Adoptions.
3. 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 21, 2014. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 4 contracts and referenced the departments.
4. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated October 21, 2014 for week ending October 22, 2014 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
5. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken was attending a Children and Youth Services Conference.
2. Robert J. Patrizio commented the Board will receive a report on a proposed investment policy developed by Treasurer Dennis Adams and himself, and an update on selected budget items.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt provided an update on the joint meeting he attended yesterday between BARTA and Red Rose Transit Authority regarding the merger. Commissioner Barnhardt commented they went through the By-Laws and Amendments, and the funds received from the Federal government will still remain separate for now. Commissioner Barnhardt stated that the potential savings resulting from the combined health care coverages could reach about \$212,000. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that it has been determined the corporate office of the new agency will be where the health benefits are provided from and that is BARTA, and the first meeting will be scheduled at the BARTA offices in January. Commissioner Leinbach stated that to date he has not received one single call or communication for or against the merger and is satisfied with the public process so far. Commissioner Scott had a question about the by-laws and how they speak to a board member not attending 3 consecutive meetings. Commissioner Scott asked at what point are they eligible for removal and how would they would be removed. Commissioner Barnhardt commented he will check with legal counsel on that process.

Commissioner Scott reported that yesterday he drove to Media for a meeting with representatives of INR, an investment firm regarding 457(b) deferred compensation accounts. Commissioner Scott commented INR was introduced to the Commissioners a few weeks ago at a Budget Meeting. Commissioner Scott stated deferred compensation plans such as this will give employees active or passive management of their retirement funds and is an investment alternative that is inexpensive.

Commissioner Leinbach reported that yesterday he and his Executive Assistant, Mary Buerer, along with Jon Scott, and members of Greater Reading Economic Partnership (GREP) toured the duck farm of Joe Jurgielewicz & Son Ltd. in Tilden Township and was amazed at the growth of the operation. Commissioner Leinbach commented that recently pressure on agricultural in Berks County is coming from the local Planning Commissions and citing the Richmond Township farm incident where the Planning Commission stopped development of a large poultry house. Commissioner Leinbach commented he would like to gather a varied group of people and organize a meeting to determine how we can better help and assist agricultural related businesses when they want to expand their business, and how this would help the general economic health of this County and provide a better process for expansion of agricultural projects in Berks County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk