

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 29, 2015

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 29, 2015, 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.

Commissioner Leinbach announced on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler has been chosen as the new County Solicitor to replace long time County Solicitor Alan Miller, who recently passed away. Commissioner Leinbach commented the position was advertised in numerous publications.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented he has served with Christine in her capacity as First Assistant Solicitor for the last 8 years and has seen her expertise as Parks Board Solicitor and Solicitor for the Jail and she does a tremendous job. Commissioner Barnhardt commented there was a thorough analysis and interview process and Christine came out on top with her wealth of experience in County government.

Commissioner Scott commented the County had advertised and received numerous applications, the Board held numerous interviews, narrowed it down to three applicants, including Christine, and it was determined Christine was the best qualified candidate. Ms. Sadler commented she is honored by the trust and confidence the Board has put in her and is looking forward to the opportunity the position presents.

Commissioner Barnhardt moved to appoint Christine M. Sadler to the position of County Solicitor effective November 4, 2015 at a salary of \$92,000.00. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Christine M. Sadler to County Solicitor effective November 4, 2015.

Commissioner Leinbach announced the Board held an Executive Session Monday, October 26, 2015 regarding personnel and making a final decision to bring Christine on board.

Presentation

Dale Derr, Director of Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs, introduced LTC (Ret), U.S. Army William Coker, the Senior Army Instructor at Wilson High School, who, along with three Cadets from Wilson High School, attended the meeting to provide information on the annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance held November 7, 2015 at the Wilson High School Gymnasium. LTC Coker commented this is the seventh year the Dinner Dance is being held at Wilson High School, and this year there will be almost

1,000 attendees. LTC Coker introduced 3 members of the Jr. ROTC Program at Wilson High School, who individually presented a difference aspect of this event.

Battalion Operations Officer, Cadet Cpt. Stephen Swineheart commented this is the largest event the ROTC Program holds each year, and all Cadets take part in the organization and setting up of the event. Cadet Swineheart reported over 4,000 hours of work goes into planning and the executing the Dinner.

Battalion Executive Officer, Cadet Major Kaleigh Lanphar spoke about the schedule of events that will occur the evening of the Dinner Dance and reported they raised about \$30,000.00 for the event.

Battalion Commander, Cadet LTC Dominique Dorta talked of how important this event is for the Veterans and how much they appreciate the special evening which is dedicated to honoring them and their service.

Commissioner Leinbach commented this event could not take place without the commitment from Wilson High School and the Wilson High School ROTC team, who is the core of this event. Commissioner Leinbach commented this event is also a great opportunity for the County to show case the Military Hall of Fame, which recognizes those individuals that have been nominated and approved for the honor they will receive at the Dinner.

Dale Derr commented that since 2009 the Board of Commissioners has annually honored military personnel and military veterans with induction into the Berks County Military Hall of Fame, and proceeded to read the names of inductees for the Commissioners to consider and approve, and a detailed account of their personal gallantry in combat or a very special achievement to consider them for this honor:

US Army First Sergeant Charles Young, US Army Distinguished Service Cross, WWI-
US Army Corporal Russell Shoff, US Army Distinguished Service Cross, WWI-
US Army Technical Sergeant Edmund Pieller, Silver Star Medal, WWII-
US Army Private First Class Salvatore Rodino, Silver Star Medal, WWII-
Pennsylvania Senior Master Sergeant Linwood Miller, Airman's Medal, Cold War-
US Army Sergeant Spencer DeTurk, U.S. Army Commendation Medal, Global War on
Terrorism, Operation Iraqi Freedom with Valor Device.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 22, 2015 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Enactment of County Ordinance:

No. 06-2015 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 GENERAL
OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE COUNTY IN THE
AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO

EXCEED SIXTEEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$16,500,000) PURSUANT TO THE ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, 53 P.A.C.S., CHAPTERS 80-82, AS AMENDED (THE "ACT").

Michael Vind, Financial S&Lutions, attended the meeting along with Peter Edelman, Bond Counsel for the County of Berks, and commented this Issue was discussed at a public budget meeting last month, and because of the low interest rate opportunity and the excellent current financial stability of the County and high credit rating, this bond issue is possible and will save the County millions of dollars.

Mr. Vind commented they will start the process sometime after the budget has been passed.

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

296.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$174,210.00 and 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$4,921.00 per listing dated October 27, 2015.

297.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated October 29, 2015 as follows:

1. Authorize the promotion of Kristen Gumble from PC012945 Human Resource Administrator – Human Resources Department to PC010063 Administrative Services Manager – Jail System, effective 11/4/2015. Rate of \$49,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$37,738; Midpoint \$50,318; Maximum \$62,897. Replacement for Erica Grumbine who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.
2. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for the Developer Analyst position – Information Systems, effective 10/30/2015. Rate not to exceed \$65.00/hr. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when a candidate is hired to fill the Developer Analyst position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.

- 298.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Certification Statement for the Human Services Block Grant Report for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.
- 299.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Gail Landis, Leesport, Pennsylvania to the South Central Transit Authority and the BARTA Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Jayne Dieruff who resigned. This term will expire December 31, 2016.
- 300.15 Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners approving the financing of the refunding of the Maxatawny Township Municipal Authority's Revenue Note, Series 2011, issued to the Kutztown University Foundation, Inc. as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The approval by the Board shall not, in any way, pledge, obligate or make liable the County of Berks for the payment of the principal of or interest on any obligations issued by the Authority.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated October 27, 2015 for week ending October 28, 2015 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Commissioner Leinbach reported there are no contracts listed on the Agenda this week.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by Grazyna Nykiel, Sr. Governmental Accountant.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken offered congratulations to Christine on her appointment. Mr. Geffken reported the success of last Friday night's Murder Mystery Dinner held by the Parks & Recreation Department, and mentioned the current cash position is now down about \$15 million and is directly related to the budget impasse.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported there is no Budget Meeting this afternoon.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt reported there was a kickoff meeting yesterday concerning the Jail Condition Assessment Project being conducted by L.R. Kimball. Commissioner Barnhardt commented this is a comprehensive study of the infrastructure of the Jail and is well needed.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he attended the Senior Expo at Body Zone yesterday and it was a good opportunity for the Commissioners to meet folks from the County, and good opportunity for the folks to meet the Commissioners.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Blighted Review Committee sent notices to several property owners, and has had a response from two property owners. Commissioner Barnhardt reported one property in Cumru Township, the bank for owner will demolish the property and put it up for sale, and in the Borough of Wyomissing, the owner will start to correct the problems.

Commissioner Barnhardt reminded the public Tuesday, November 3rd is Election Day and urged everyone to please get out and exercise your right to vote. Commissioner Barnhardt commented it would be nice to see the percentage of people voting go above 20% this year.

Commissioner Scott reported the Board of Commissioners attended a breakfast meeting this morning with political and economic leaders of Berks County to meet the Chief Executive of BB&T Bank of North Carolina, who will be acquiring and merging with National Penn Bank. Commissioner Scott commented it was a very interesting discussion, noting one of the more important aspects is that a banking institution's economic vitality is important to any municipality including Berks County, and BB&T appears to be a strong organization and will be a good partner with the County.

Commissioner Leinbach reported last week he stopped at the Area Agency on Aging satellite office at Frieden's Lutheran Church and met Kathleen Schaeffer, Director of Learning at the Church, who took him on a tour of the Oley Valley Food Bank which is located in the Church's gymnasium and was filled with food. The food bank is organized by a number of local churches in the Oley area.

Commissioner Leinbach also reminded everyone to vote this Tuesday, but before you vote be informed and know your candidates before you vote.

Commissioner Leinbach highlighted three events that will be held celebrating and honoring veterans on Veterans Day. On Friday, November 6 a Veterans' Day Event will be held Berks Heim recognizing residents who are veterans. On Saturday, November 7 the Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance will be held at the Wilson High School Gymnasium, and on Veterans' Day, November 11 a ceremony will be held at the Veterans Memorial in Reading City Park.

ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMENTS

Berks County Recorder of Deeds Frederick Sheeler announced this Monday, November 2 is designated as Record Your Military Discharge Papers Day by House Resolution #473. Mr. Sheeler also announced his Office will participate at an offsite event Tuesday, November 16, 2015 at the Center in Spring Ridge in Boyertown, and will be joint effort with Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds to record discharge papers and issue free official Veterans I.D. card.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Carl Ramich, Zone Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans, attended the meeting to speak about the increase of outsourcing of America's defense industry and how it makes the country vulnerable. Mr. Ramich commented a lot could be manufactured in the United States where the quality is better and it could put our veterans back to work.

Patricia O'Brien Pieja, an Exeter Township resident and member of the Exeter Township School Board, attended the meeting to comment on the LERTA. Ms. Pieja thanked Commissioner Scott for voting against the LERTA and asked Commissioner Leinbach why he is now endorsing the LERTA. Commissioner Leinbach replied this came about when he realized that LERTAs in Berks County have been used exclusively by big business and why it isn't available for small business. Commissioner Leinbach believes the LERTA should be for small business as well because small businesses are the backbone of the economy in this country, and because every big business was once a small business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk