

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes November 1, 2012

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 1, 2012, 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.

Commissioner Leinbach announced Debbie Olivieri, Director of Election Services will provide an update on the status of absentee ballots and polling places as a result of the power outages due to Hurricane Sandy. Ms. Olivieri reported that with the help of DES and Carl Geffken they received a list of power outages throughout the County, and there were 30 polling places without power. Ms. Olivieri commented they have since contacted the judges of elections for a status on their polling places, and some are reporting that power has been restored, and it is looking promising for the rest. Ms. Olivier commented that GIS is ready to give alternate locations if polling places need to be moved and the moving company has been put on notice. Ms. Olivieri announced the public will be advised through the media and the website, and notices will be posted at the polling places. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that an interview on WEEU would be a good idea for the people who don't have power but do have battery operated radios. Ms. Olivieri advised that the deadline to submit absentee ballots in person has been extended by Executive Order to Monday, November 5, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Barnhardt thanked Debbie and her staff for their herculean efforts to struggle to get a presidential election off and also thanked the other county employees who volunteered to help. Ms. Olivieri commented that her goal is to make sure everyone gets their ballots in time in order to get them returned to Elections Services by the deadline. County Controller Graffius commented that her staff processes the election checks that are sent to the polling places for election workers, and because of being off Monday and Tuesday, 2 of her staff that were on vacation came in to get the checks out. Ms. Graffius commended her staff and is very proud of them.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 25, 2012 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

353.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources
Recommendations per listing dated October 31, 2012 as follows:

1. Authorize the promotion of Matthew Mendenhall, PC012246 Sergeant – Sheriff's Department to PC010223 Captain – Sheriff's Department, effective 10/31/12. Rate of \$55,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$56,375/annually. Salary range Minimum \$42,181; Midpoint \$56,242; Maximum \$70,302. Replacement for Anthony Damore who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 - 11510.
2. Authorize the promotion of Brian Boyer, PC010831 Deputy Sheriff – Sheriff's Department to PC012246 Sergeant – Sheriff's Department, effective 10/31/12. Rate of \$52,099/annually. Salary budgeted \$49,478/annually. Salary range Minimum \$38,189; Midpoint \$50,918; Maximum \$63,648. Replacement for Matthew Mendenhall who was promoted. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 - 11510.
3. Authorize salary increase for Matthew Green, PC012251 Sergeant – Sheriff's Department, effective 10/31/12. Rate of \$52,099/annually. Salary budgeted \$51,558/annually. Salary range Minimum \$38,189; Midpoint \$50,918; Maximum \$63,648. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 - 11510.

354.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Dr. Edward Chastka, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2015.

355.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of President Judge Jeffrey L. Schmehl to the Berks County Mental Health/Development Disabilities Advisory Board for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2015.

356.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of James Mason, Wyomissing, PA to the Berks County Planning Commission for a four year term which will expire on December

31, 2016.

- 357.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of John Bradley, Jr, Birdsboro, PA to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for a four year term which will expire on December 31, 2016.
 - 358.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Kim Stahler, Reading, PA to the Berks County Public Library Board for a three-year term which will expire on June 2, 2015.
 - 359.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Scott Rehr, Wernersville, PA, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for a three year term which will expire on February 1, 2015.
 - 360.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Mike Ehlerman, Wyomissing, PA, to the Berks County Convention Center Authority for a four year term which will expire on August 29, 2016.
2. Motion to ratify and approve the issuance by the Berks County Board of Commissioners of the Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the County of Berks on Friday, October 26, 2012 in anticipation of flooding, rain and winds of an approaching "storm" on or about October 29, 2012.
 3. Motion authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated October 31, 2012.
 4. Motion to ratify and confirm payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated October 31, 2012 for week ending October 31, 2012.

REPORTS OF TREASURER AND CONTROLLER

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long reported his office is behind in reporting but did give a report that the cash balance as of Monday is \$175,800,000, the Federal Reserve balance is not available now.
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 reported that at this afternoon's Budget Meeting, the Sheriff's budget and the 2013 budget will be discussed. Mr. Geffken also thanked all the departments that have provided employees to assist the Board of Elections, and also the great work performed by the DES staff these past couple days.

2. Robert J. Patrizio. Report given by Mr. Geffken.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

1. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that as a result of Hurricane Sandy there were 2 storm related deaths in Berks County. Commissioner Barnhardt complimented DES and Emergency Management for their planning and execution during and after the storm, and believes it is a model for many emergency management departments. Commissioner Barnhardt complimented Brian Gottschall and his staff for their reaction to crisis such as these. Commissioner Barnhardt also thanked Facilities, the Chief Operating Officer and his Staff, the Jail, Nursing Home, Family Shelter, all who were out of power for 3 days and commented how things do not occur because of the well trained professional staff. Commissioner Barnhardt also mentioned the Parks Department for tree removal and the Sheriff's Department who provided support to City Police and security to the Red Cross facility at Reading High School and the first responders throughout Berks County. Commissioner Barnhardt announced that Charles Johnson Consultants, who will provide the analysis of the hotel occupancy tax, had planned to come to Berks County next Tuesday and Wednesday and begin the interviews. Commissioner Barnhardt expects to have a document in 5 to 6 weeks.
2. Commissioner Scott echoed Commissioner Barnhardt's comments and compliments regarding DES and County departments who all did a superb job. Commissioner Scott further commented on how much better emergency communication would be once the new emergency communication system is up and running. Commissioner Scott offered his thoughts and opinions on political discourse and the mis-portrayal of the facts to the public by both parties. Commissioner Scott discussed recent television commercials put forth by a candidate regarding job creation and the misleading information of the ad.
3. Commissioner Leinbach addressed some of Commissioner Scott's comments, and responded in part that jobs are created by both the private sector and public sector. Commissioner Leinbach further commented he believes it is the responsibility of government to make sure the economic environment encourages free markets and encourage investments by private business. Commissioner Leinbach also recognized all the essential employees who came in Monday and Tuesday. Commissioner Leinbach further reminded the audience of the Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance scheduled Saturday, November 10, 2012 at Wilson High School, and that next Tuesday is Election Day. Commissioner Leinbach encouraged everyone to be well informed of the candidates and issues before they vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk