

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes November 17, 2016**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 17, 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 in attendance. Commissioner Mark C. Scott was absent. 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.

### **Presentation**

Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio presented a PowerPoint program on the proposed 2017 County Budget. Mr. Patrizio reported the proposed 2017 County Budget calls for no property tax increase, will hold wages and expenditure growth to the projected CPI, adds no new debt, and no new, unfunded discretionary programs. Mr. Patrizio reported the 2017 Budget maintains the County's financial commitments to GREP, the Library System, Agricultural Land Preservation and increases support to the Reading Area Community College, and includes as new revenue, the \$5 vehicle registration fee, which must be exclusively for County bridge maintenance and repair. Mr. Patrizio pointed out that the Judicial and Public Safety segments of the County Budget consume 56% of the total budget. Mr. Patrizio recommends leaving the mileage rate at 7.372, and announced the 2017 proposed Budget will be adopted at the Commissioners' December 15, 2016 Meeting, and is available for public inspection on the County website or at his office. Commissioner Barnhardt commented he is pleased to see a budget like this on the table, where we are still able to maintain funding for education to RACC, economic development to Greater Reading Economic Program ("GREP"), the Library System and Agricultural Land Preservation. Commissioner Barnhardt is glad to see the Heim is still under the auspices of Berks County and it is a treasure in Berks County. He is happy with the accelerated efforts to restore and repair County bridges with the imposition of the \$5 vehicle registration fee; and reemphasized the critical need to overhaul the Jail. With changing demographics over the last ten years; we need to find better ways to treat individuals so they are not a burden on society. Commissioner Barnhardt thanked everyone from the Budget Department for all their efforts on a budget well done. Commissioner Leinbach commented budgets are very important, he believes when you look at the County's Budget you see a budget that is appropriate but lean, and we look at every department throughout the year to determine what is necessary and what isn't. Commissioner Leinbach referenced the pie chart that shows where property taxes are spent, and 56% is going to Judicial and Public Safety. Commissioner Leinbach encouraged taxpayers to lobby their legislator on the issue of sensible criminal justice reform, noting Berks County is not just talking about it, but is actively involved in the

process of making changes in our community that will have a tremendous benefit on the community and taxpayers.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 10, 2016 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
  - 337.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$1,439.00 per listing dated November 15, 2016.
  - 338.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated November 17, 2016 as follows:
    1. Authorize the appointment of Riley Downs to Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender's Office, effective 12/7/2016. Rate of \$46,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,587; Maximum \$74,483. Replacement for Kathryn Schweitzer who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
    2. Authorize a salary adjustment for Malcom Townes, PC013156 Enterprise Support Technician – Information Systems, effective 1/1/2016. Rate of \$45,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,292; Midpoint \$59,057; Maximum \$73,821. The request is due to the results of an internal equity analysis regarding the Enterprise Support Technician position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.
    3. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for a confidential Office Support position – Court Administration, effective 11/18/2016. Rate not to exceed \$18.00/hour. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease upon the hiring of a regular full-time County employee. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
    4. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for an Office Support position – Public Defender's Office, effective 1/1/2017. Rate not to exceed \$16.50/hour.

Temporary position will provide coverage during an employee's extended leave of absence and will be eliminated upon employee's return from leave or separation from County employment. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.

- 339.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Berks County System Improvement Project Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency ("PCCD") in the amount of \$123,650 in State funding with no County match, for the period December 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The grant is for Berks County Adult Probation and three other County APO's to fund the full implementation of the Ohio Risk Assessment System ("ORAS") in each County and to fund upgrades to the ORAS module in the County Commissioner's Association of PA's Unified Case Management System. Deputy Chief Dan Heydt, Adult Probation, attended the meeting, and reported this grant will help give a better idea where to allocate funds and manpower to focus on high risk offenders, and also validates the risk assessment system in Berks County.
- 340.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Berks County Second Chance Pilot Project Grant application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency ("PCCD") in the total amount of 256,588.00; \$115,446 Federal share, \$57,810 State share and \$83,332 County in-kind match for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. This grant is guaranteed and Berks County is one of four counties selected by the State to receive this funding. Deputy Chief Jeff Gregro, Juvenile Probation, attended the meeting and reported that this grant will help keep youth who are released from juvenile detention from not going back to detention. Mr. Gregro commented Berks County has lowered juvenile detention by over 60%.
- 341.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Supplemental General Reimbursement Agreement for Federal Aid Projects (No. 057008-D) between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the County of Berks for the Buttonwood Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project in the City of Reading and Borough of West Reading. As a result of this Amendment the costs reflected in Exhibit "AAAAA" will be increased from \$15,539,488 to \$16,360,224 which accounts for increases in the construction costs and associated acceleration of the work to maintain the April 2017 completion date. In addition this Amendment shall serve to update several standard Commonwealth provisions and extend the term of the Agreement

through December 31, 2017. All other terms and conditions in the Agreement and all previous amendments thereto, unless specifically revised by virtue of Amendment "D", remain in full effect.

- 342.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Christian Y. Leinbach as Commissioner Director to the Berks County Conservation District for a one (1) year term commencing January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017.
- 343.16 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Glenn Seidel, Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania as Farmer Director to the Berks County Conservation District for a four (4) year term commencing January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2020.
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 November 15, 2016. 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 November 15, 2016 for week ending November 16, 2016 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll, and vouchers listing dated November 21, 2016 for week ending November 23, 2016 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

### **Reports**

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

### **REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Robert J. Patrizio reported the Budget Meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. and there will be a mental health discussion on the diversion from incarceration plan with Dr. Edward Michalik, Executor Director of Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities, and a conversation on three topics that could impact the proposed 2017 Budget.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Ronald R. Seaman thanked and congratulated Bob Patrizio and his staff for an excellent and thorough job on the proposed 2017 Budget and for monitoring department spending throughout the year. Mr. Seaman wished everyone a happy and bountiful Thanksgiving and encouraged everyone to reach out to lend a hand to the less fortunate.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Barnhardt commented in the interest of municipal cooperation, last evening SCTA ("South Central Transportation Authority") approved the leasing of four retired buses to Lackawanna County until they receive their new buses.

Commissioner Barnhardt stated there is an opioid coalition being put together by about 20 members of the Berks County community, and will be working with a group from the University of Pittsburgh who does data analysis regarding opioid overdose, and reported it is expected that this year Berks County will have over 100 deaths associated with opioid overdose.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced Governor Wolfe is on his way to the Services Center to meet with some local elected municipal officials and discuss issues that are impacting their municipalities.

Commissioner Scott was absent.

Commissioner Leinbach wished everyone a very blessed Thanksgiving and read two short quotes on the topic of Thanksgiving.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

There was no public comment from the floor.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk