

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes December 7, 2017

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 7, 2017, 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 Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach was attending a NACo Board of Directors meeting in Texas. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

Commissioner Barnhardt opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 30, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott to approve the Agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

360.17 Adopt a resolution approving the financing by the Wernersville Municipal Authority ("Authority") of a project for the benefit of Albright College, which project consists, generally, of the acquisition, renovation and improvement of certain capital projects, declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the area served by Albright College for the Authority to participate in the financing of the project; authorizing the approval of the project for federal Internal Revenue code purposes; and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action.

Peter Edelman, Esq., Stevens & Lee, Bond Counsel for the Authority commented this is Phase 11 of the Albright College Project initiated earlier this year. The College will be acquiring a camp building located on its campus, and because of some anticipated changes in the Tax Code next year, the College accelerated its plans to move this purchase to this year.

- 361.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Piper Sherburne, Alburtis, Pennsylvania, as Public Director, to the Berks County Conservation District Board for a four (4) year term commencing January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2021.
- 362.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jesse R. Bitler, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, as Farmer Director, to the Berks County Conservation District Board for a four (4) year term commencing January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2021.
- 363.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Christian Y. Leinbach, Hamburg, Pennsylvania, as Commissioner Director, to the Berks County Conservation District Board for a one (1) year term commencing January 1, 2018 and expiring December 31, 2018.
- 364.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Clerk to advertise enactment of proposed Berks County Ordinance No. 05-2017 approving the participation in and execution of an Intergovernmental Transfer Agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Long-Term Living and Berks County to provide the non-federal share of Medical Assistance payments to county nursing facilities.
- 365.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$12,300 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$45,690 per listing dated December 4, 2017.
- 366.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated December 7, 2017 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of George Rodrigues to PC010317 Contract Coordinator – Purchasing Department, effective 12/13/2017. Rate of \$42,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$35,168; Midpoint \$46,891; Maximum \$58,614. Replacement for Hannah Seiple who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11180.
 2. Authorize the promotion of Megan Noll from PC013098 Tax Claim Manager – Tax Claim Department to PC013291 Fiscal Officer – Workforce Development Board / Career Link, effective 12/13/2017. Rate of \$45,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,646; Midpoint \$54,195; Maximum \$67,743. Replacement for Alan Fineman who will be retiring. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 25000 – 26660.

- 367.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (“PEMA”) 9-1-1 Fund Statewide Interconnectivity Funding Grant Agreement between PEMA and Berks County to be used towards the Addressing Enhancements for NG911 Readiness and Berks Network Connectivity to Southeast Region projects. The Grant award is in the amount of \$37,229.99 and will be distributed through a grant process in accordance with the guidelines and application procedures published by PEMA set forth in the Agreement and is for the period beginning April 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.
- 368.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Douglas Rauch, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Planning Commission for a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2021.
- 369.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Larry D. Cohen, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
- 370.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Karen Miller, Bernville, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
- 371.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Mark R. Sprow, Esq., Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019. This is a replacement for Barry Miller who is stepping down.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated December 5, 2017. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are five contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller’s Office vouchers payable listing dated December 5, 2017 for week ending December 6, 2017 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. The Treasurer’s weekly report was submitted by Deputy Treasurer Linda Weaver.
2. The Controller’s weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Robert J. Patrizio reported there will not be a Budget or Operations Meeting this afternoon.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported on Monday, he, Warden Quigley and Dr. Michalik, MH/DD attended a statewide Stepping Up Summit in State College along with two dozen Pennsylvania counties, to share challenges and best practices for reducing the number of people with mental illness in Pennsylvania jails. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned the Warden's presentation drew a lot of interest and she was asked to speak nationally on the subject of mental health issues in the jail.

Commissioner Barnhardt cleared up a recent newspaper article of a City Council workshop meeting this week regarding a plan to implement a \$15 recording fee to address widespread blighted properties in the City of Reading. Commissioner Barnhardt stated he brought the idea of implementing the fee to the City's attention, as well as local municipalities, after Governor Wolf signed a law allowing counties to impose a fee of \$15 on deeds and mortgages to be used solely for the demolition of blighted properties, and he suggested the City lobby his colleagues. Commissioner Barnhardt thought the fee would create an additional funding source, and could help both the City and the County, but if there isn't a second vote, the matter is moot.

Commissioner Scott commented that he was contacted by Mayor Scott yesterday and asked his opinion. Commissioner Scott stated he has long been opposed to this sort of fee, and it is an unwarranted burden on home ownership, something that should be encouraged, not discouraged. Commissioner Scott also spoke with Recorder of Deeds Fred Sheeler, who was present at the meeting, and understands he is not in favor of the fee. Commissioner Scott appreciates the problem the City is facing with blighted properties, and understands revitalization would have a positive impact on the City and the entire County, but indicated to the Mayor he would not support the fee.

Mr. Sheeler reported his base recording fee is up to \$82 because the State just increased the judicial fee, and stated Reading's transfer tax rates is seven times that of any other municipalities, and collects more than \$4 million.

Commissioner Scott

No further comments.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk