

Commissioners' Special Board Meeting Minutes December 12, 2017

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in a special session on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, 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 Scott was absent. Also present were Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman, Assistant County Solicitor Paul Bradshaw, Brian Gottschall, Director of Emergency Management, Shannon Rossman, Executive Director of Berks County Planning Commission and Chief Clerk - Maryjo Gibson.

Discussion

Due to an extremely aggressive timeline, the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in special session to discuss participation, and the filing of a general overview application in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program offered by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA"). In order to properly complete the application, the Board requested certain County Departments to provide to the Board a vision for incorporating the use of UAVs into accomplishing department mission goals, tasks, projects or economic development.

Additionally, the County discussed possible public partnerships. During the Meeting, the Board reached out to Rick Longacre, Schlouch, Inc. to inquire if they would be interested in partnering with the County on this project. It should be noted that Schlouch, Inc. is currently using drone technology. Mr. Longacre responded he thought Schlouch would be interested in partnering with the County. Commissioner Leinbach and Commissioner Barnhardt also agreed to individually reach out to representatives at UGI, MetEd, NACo, Reading Regional Airport, Dave Wolfskill and Mr. Hartman, representing the farm community, PP&L, PennDOT, 69 News and the Reading Eagle. Brian will reach out to Buckeye and Sunoco. Commissioner Barnhardt will also have an opportunity to speak with Governor Wolf later this week, and will ask if the State will consider being a partner with Berks County.

In conclusion, it was determined the County is able to apply many of the uses set forth on the Application, which has to be submitted tomorrow, December 13, 2017, and the following motion was made and unanimously approved:

1. Authorizing:

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve a resolution authorizing and directing Commissioner Leinbach as Chair of the Board to file an application for the County to participate as a Lead Applicant in the Program, and if selected for participation, authorizes any member of the Board to execute an MOA, and further authorizes any member of the Board, or Brian Gottschall,

Director of Berks County Emergency Management to sign with one or more team members an agreement designating the County as Lead Applicant for the team and authorizing the County to execute and file the application and MOA to the FAA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve the following Resolution:

- 372.17 A. Adopt a resolution approving the application by the County to participate in the Federal Aviation Administration's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program as a lead agency.

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 3:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk