

## **Commissioners' Special Board Meeting Minutes December 20, 2016**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. in the Boardroom on the 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public, for purposes to consider action on a resolution fixing salaries of all county elected officials effective the first Monday of January, 2020.

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 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.

### **Agenda Items**

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Scott, with a request for discussion before the final vote. Commissioner Leinbach granted said request.

Commissioner Scott cited a number of concerns he has with the compensation of elected officials from local to the federal level, stating the compensation is modest in comparison to the private sector and local non-profits, and believes it discourages qualified people from seeking elected office. Commissioner Scott said he supports at least a 2% increase, which is more in line with what we give to management/confidential employees and the union.

Commissioner Barnhardt remarked he agonized over this item, and he thought about the idea of a percentage increase, but because the Board sets the salaries for management/confidential, it would be a conflict.

Commissioner Leinbach reported that in 2008 the Berks County Board of Commissioners were the highest paid Board in the State and today are the third highest paid, and noted this current Board adopted a Resolution freezing the salaries of elected officials and it has been 8 years since an increase.

At this time, Commissioner Leinbach asked for a motion to approve Resolution 385.16. Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to approve Resolution No. 385.16, Commissioner Scott voted no and Commissioner Leinbach voted yes. Resolution No. 385.16 was approved by a vote of two to one.

- 385.16 Adopt a resolution effective the first Monday of January 2020 that the annual schedule of salary percentage increases for all County Elected Officials shall be increased by the amount of the All Item, All Urban Consumers Price Index (CPI-U) as compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, D.C. or its successor.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no comments from the floor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk