

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes June 5, 2014

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 5, 2014, 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 recognized Reading Eagle Newspaper Reporter Mary Young announcing Mary is retiring as a reporter from the Reading Eagle, and today marks her last time covering a Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Leinbach thanked Mary for her professionalism and fairness, and always trusted Mary to get the story out there and get it right. Commissioner Barnhardt agreed with much of what Commissioner Leinbach said, adding Mary always got the story right, which is a tribute to her. Commissioner Barnhardt wished Mary best of luck in her retirement. Commissioner Scott echoed much of Commissioner Leinbach's statements adding he has enjoyed working with Mary and she always took time to pursue a story, never brought an agenda and was always in pursuit of the truth. Commissioner Scott complimented Mary on her recent article regarding Municipal Pensions.

Presentation

Sheila Miller, Berks County Agricultural Coordinator, presented information on the Penn Street Market, announcing the Market will open tomorrow June 6, 2014 from 10: 30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Ms. Miller commented this is the sixth year in an effort to bring the market back to the City. Ms. Miller reported there are two new locations this year; one at Willow Street Market which is open every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and an indoor market at The Goggleworks every Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ms. Miller commented the farmers and vendors at the Goggleworks will be the same, they will tear down the Penn Street stands and move to the Goggleworks.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 29, 2014 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held Monday, June 2, 2014 dealing with personnel issues.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Chris Gant, a Reading resident, requested to comment on Item #160.14 regarding the Buttonwood Street Bridge, and asked this resolution not be passed and that the funds be appropriated for another project involving a railroad project. Commissioner Leinbach commented this project is pretty far along and has been ongoing for several years. Commissioner Leinbach asked Ryan Hunter to address Mr. Gant's concerns when we reach that point on the Agenda.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 157.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$204,750.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$58,550.00 per listing dated May 30, 2014.
 - 158.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Capital Blue Cross Administrative Services Agreement for 2014.
 - 159.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to execute Change Order No. 06 to the United Prison Equipment Agreement (AIA-147533-13) in the amount of \$125,602.00. This Change Order is to furnish labor and materials related to ladder and rail modifications to inmate bunks. The Change Order has been reviewed and endorsed by the Architect and Construction Manager. Costs to be offset by Change Orders (credits) issued for related work in other Prime contracts. Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations, commented that some revisions were made to the original design which led to the solicitation of additional pricing away from the original contract amount and led to the issuance of credit changes to certain prime contractors. Mr. Hunter commented as a result the County will actually now be spending less for this line item.
 - 160.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Engineering Agreement 057390, as drafted by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation, with TRC Engineers, Inc., 5050 West Tilghman Street, Suite 140, Allentown, PA 18104, required to provide full-time on-site Construction Inspection Services during the rehabilitation of the Buttonwood Street Bridge (County Bridge 17A) spanning the Schuylkill River between the City of Reading and West Reading Borough at a not to exceed cost of \$768,480.63. These services span approximately twenty-four (24) months and are funded utilizing Federal and State dollars assigned to the project. Mr. Hunter explained to Mr. Gant this project is federally funded

through federal highway dollars and there are very specific places we must use those dollars, and one of those is to provide a full-time onsite construction inspection. Mr. Hunter stated the Commissioners do not have the authority to use these funds for any other project but this one. Mr. Hunter offered to supply Mr. Gant copies of the list of firms that responded to the proposal.

- 161.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks, Berks Lodge No. 71, Fraternal Order of Police and Berks County Police Heroes Fund which sets forth the roles and responsibilities of each party for operation and maintenance with respect to the Berks County Police Memorial located at the Berks County Heritage Center, Bern Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Commissioner Leinbach commented that this document formalizes responsibility of maintenance of the Memorial.
- 162.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Charles M. Jones, P.E., Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Public Libraries Board, to replace Michelle P. Kircher, until her term expires December 31, 2016.
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 June 3, 2014. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 8 contracts and referenced the departments.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated June 3, 2014 for week ending June 4, 2014 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. The County Treasurer's prepared weekly report was presented by Commissioner Leinbach. Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA was attending the State Treasurer's Conference in Lancaster.
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 last week he attended the CCAP Conference for County Administrators in State College along with Human Resources Director Arnie Wetzel. Mr. Geffken commented this year several sessions were presented on the current state of what is going on in Harrisburg and how it affects counties in legislative and regulatory matters.

2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will be discussing MDJ (Magisterial District Justice) office space and a Facility Building Project status update.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt reported that last Thursday he was privileged to speak at the GED graduation at RACC. Commissioner Barnhardt commented it's rewarding to see folks who have had problems with drugs, alcohol and teen pregnancies, pick themselves up, complete their course curriculum and receive their GED. It was an uplifting experience to see their successes. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that yesterday he attended the Criminal Justice Employment Council event at Wyomissing Family Restaurant, where Hamid Chaudhry, Steve Elmarzouky and Steve Poole were just some of the business owners who attended. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned that they currently employ ex-offenders, and it was a good opportunity to network.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott thanked Michelle Kircher for her service to the Berks County Libraries Board, adding she was a driving force behind the creation of the Exeter Community Library. Commissioner Scott commented Michelle brought a great deal of insight and practicality to the Board. Commissioner Scott commented on an investment matter he is looking into regarding surplus funds. Commissioner Scott commented that he and Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, have met a few times with some advisors and are looking at the issue of investment of County's surplus funds, stating the County Code does require the County to develop a policy for investment of surplus funds.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach commented on a recent article in the Lehigh Valley Business Journal on Hamid Chaudhry. Commissioner Leinbach stated it is a fascinating article about how Hamid hires people; that he doesn't hire them for skills, but he hires for attitude. Commissioner Leinbach announced this coming Saturday will be the Berks County Pre-Trial Services Softball Charity Tournament at the Youth Recreational Fields. Commissioner Leinbach stated this is a great event and is open to the public. Commissioner Leinbach announced starting today is the beginning of WWII weekend in Berks County. Commissioner Leinbach stated this is one of the most significant events occurring in Berks County and will attract between 30,000 and 40,000 people from all over the world, and today is also the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

County Controller Sandy Graffius announced the Controller's Office is in the process of sending letters to people who did not cash their checks from 2012 in the amount of \$50.00 or more. Ms. Graffius commented the list should be posted on the County's website in about 30 days.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk