

Berks County Operations Minutes
January 25, 2022
9:30 am

Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner, Chair
Kevin S. Barnhardt, Commissioner, Vice Chair
Michael S. Rivera, Commissioner
Ronald Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer
Christine M. Sadler, Esq., County Solicitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Operations Meeting on January 18, 2022 were approved as presented.

9:30am – 10:00am

Reading Regional Airport Authority (RRAA)- Formally introduce the new Executive Director and discuss partial funding for RRAA's Strategic plan – Pam Shupp-Menet, Deputy CAO/Director of Economic Development & Zack Tempesco, Executive Director of the RRAA. Discussion & decision requested.

Pam Shupp-Menet, Deputy CAO/Director of Economic Development, informed the Board of some exciting, proposed projects that have come to light. RRAA is looking to take the positive things happening and develop a plan for the future of Reading Regional Airport. Mrs. Shupp-Menet introduced Zack Tempesco, who moved from the Director of Operations for Reading Regional Airport Authority ("RRAA") to the Executive Director position. Mr. Tempesco gave a brief background of his career experience and is looking forward to his new role as Executive Director.

Commissioner Leinbach and Commissioner Rivera congratulated and welcomed Mr. Tempesco and are looking forward to working with him.

Mrs. Shupp-Menet informed the Board RRAA has been working with BBP Solutions on a strategic plan for the airport. Mr. Tempesco indicated the RRAA knows what they want to do with the airport and believes they are on the right path but want to hear from someone outside RRAA to study the airport and determine where we need to be for years to come. The plan presented by BBP Solutions is comprehensive, and Mrs. Shupp-Menet asked the Board to serve as partners with RRAA and cover half of the cost of the study by BBP Solutions. The County's shared cost would be \$5,450, which is half of the total cost of \$10,900.

Commissioner Leinbach indicated the value long-term to the County is leasing the land for commercial purposes. We are just beginning to see the benefits of all the developments on Route 183. One caveat is the power/electricity shared among all the businesses developed around the airport. Commissioner Leinbach recommended that the County pay the entire cost of the study since the County is asking for the study.

Commissioner Rivera expressed the importance of having the airport located in Berks County and recommended that the County pay for half of the strategic plan.

Commissioner Rivera motioned to pay half of the cost of the RRAA strategic study by BBP Solutions. Commissioner Leinbach seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

10:00am – 10:30am

Holy Trinity Church of God Plans – Christian Leinbach, Commissioner. Discussion

Commissioner Leinbach displayed a map and discussed the project site of the Holy Trinity Church of God. There were initial concerns with the access, trees/foliage, and the Blacksmith Shop which is of historical value. In the revised plans, the structure of the Church is significantly smaller and reduced the number of occupants it can hold to 275 as opposed to the 800 submitted on the original plans.

Commissioner Leinbach asked Cody Kauffman, Assistant County Solicitor to give an update on the revised plans. Mr. Kauffman indicated the September 2020 plans presented to the zoning board were denied. There were some concerns with trees/foliage being removed from around the Union Canal trail, exacerbation of the storm runoff, and the Blacksmith Shop. On January 12, 2022, the revised plans went back in front of the zoning hearing board showing the reduction in the number of occupants, no longer needing to remove trees/foliage from the trail, preserving the Blacksmith Shop, and presenting a stormwater runoff plan.

Mr. Kauffman indicated that Commissioner Leinbach was in support of the revised plans presented to him back in October 2021 and sent an email to the pastor replying to the revised plans. Although Commissioner Leinbach was replying in his individual capacity, the email was misinterpreted as support from the Board of Commissioners.

Cathy Wegener, Director of Parks, stated that they support the plans because all their concerns were addressed.

Jonathan DelCollo, Prothonotary, who lives in Greenfield Hills, spoke on behalf of the neighbors and voiced their approval of the new plans.

Commissioner Rivera motioned to submit a letter of support for the project based on the new plans and to clarify that the Board of Commissioners did not previously have a stance on the plans and Commissioner Leinbach was acting in his individual capacity. Commissioner Leinbach seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

10:30am – 10:45am

Discuss County Library System, PA Department of Education ARP-IMLS Grant Funding Application in the amount of \$100,103.00 and adopt Resolution No. 29-2022, authorizing Amy C. Resh, Berks County Library System Administrator, to electronically sign and submit same.

Amy Resh, Library System Administrator, presented the Board with a grant opportunity via the PA Department of Education and has collected all the data and revised a plan to apply for the grant. Ms. Resh indicated that the grant dollars must be spent by August 2022. She asked the Board for approval to electronically sign and submit the grant.

Commissioner Rivera motioned to approve moving forward with grant submission for \$100,103 and authorize Amy Resh to electronically sign. Commissioner Leinbach seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Leinbach adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk