

Berks County Operations Minutes **March 29, 2022**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, and via Microsoft Teams Live 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 and Commissioner Michael S. Rivera participating via Microsoft Teams. Also present were Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor, Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer, and Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of March 15, 2022 were approved as presented.

9:30am – 9:45am

Ordinance Prohibiting Hunting and Discharge of Firearms on County-Owned Properties - David Peris, Assistant County Solicitor, Rex Levensgood, Director of Facilities & Operations, Diane Edwards, Executive Director, Berks Co. Residential Center

David Peris, Assistant County Solicitor, presented the board with a draft of an ordinance prohibiting hunting on the County-owned properties at North Campus. The ordinance is parallel to the Parks & Recreation no hunting ordinance.

Diane Edwards, Director of Residential Center, expressed concerns about the significant increase in hunting in the area and Welfare Road being inundated with traffic. In speaking to some of the hunters, they were unaware of the hunting boundaries and were on County grounds.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to move the ordinance forward for reasons noted as health, safety, and welfare of residents and County staff, pending final review and approval by Solicitor's office and ultimately list at an upcoming Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Rivera seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

9:45am – 10:00am

Approval of cooperation agreement between the County of Berks and the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks related to a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant for an expansion project of ByHeart, Inc. - Ken Pick, Executive Director Berks County Redevelopment Authority

Ken Pick, Executive Director Berks County Redevelopment Authority, presented and explained the ByHeart project and the need for the agreement. ByHeart, Inc., located in Exeter Township, makes organic baby formula, and they are seeking to renovate existing space and build additional space. This project will almost double the workforce for ByHeart, Inc.

Commissioner Rivera motioned to approve the request to support the RACP grant to provide the backing of the county in a future contract with ByHeart Inc. Commissioner Barnhardt seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

10:00am – 10:15am

The evaluation committee for Request for Proposal (RFP) #21-15-KL – Study for the Delivery of Health and Public Health Service in Berks County will be present to discuss the process regarding said RFP including the committee’s recommendation to award an agreement for the services outlined therein. - Pamela Shupp Menet, Deputy CAO/Director of Economic Development, Dr. Michael Baxter, Berks County COVID 19 Health Advisory Panel Chair, David N. Hunter, Sr. Executive Director, Berks County Planning, Kelly A. Laubach, Director, Contracts & Procurement

Kelly Laubach, Director of Purchasing, gave the board a breakdown of the timeline that transpired up until the RFP. After an extensive and transparent interview process, Mrs. Shupp-Menet stated that the evaluation committee selected a firm. Mrs. Shupp-Menet noted that the firm chosen brings a very diverse team and focuses on inclusive populations and geography.

Dr. Michael Baxter, MD, Berks County COVID 19 Health Advisory Panel Chair, indicated that during the process, he represented two groups, the citizens of Berks County and the Medical community. Dr. Baxter supports the operation and selection of the firm and looks forward to the outcome.

David Hunter, Sr. Executive Director, Berks County, echoed Mrs. Shupp-Menet said. Mr. Hunter supports the selection and believes they represent the entire population of Berks County.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to move the evaluation forward through the purchasing department for final approval by the Board of Commissioners at a regular Commissioners’ meeting. Commissioner Rivera seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

10:15am - 10:30am

Strategies for Opioid Settlement Funds - Stanley Papademetriou, Executive Director, Council on Chemical Abuse

Stanley Papademetriou, Executive Director, Council on Chemical Abuse, presented a slideshow of the strategies used by the Council on Chemical Abuse. He introduced the guiding principles for the use of the opioid settlement funds and discussed the approved areas where the settlement funds can be used. The funds will be used to treat opioid use disorder, educate the community on opioids, and support those in treatment, among other programs.

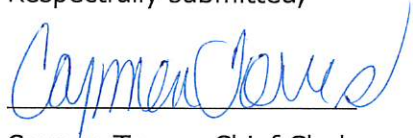
Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to authorize Council on Chemical Abuse to administer the funds received from the opioids settlement in Berks County and allow the Solicitor’s office to take the appropriate steps to formalize an agreement with COCA to be approved at a future commissioners’ meeting. Commissioner Rivera seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comments

No comments.

There being no further business, Commissioner Leinbach adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmen Torres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk