

Berks County Operations Minutes **May 3, 2022**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 9:30 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 and Commissioner Michael S. Rivera in attendance. 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 April 19, 2022 were approved as presented.

9:30am – 9:45am

RACC Bridge Recommendations – Alan Piper, Planner III – Transportation, BC Planning Commission

Upon a field view being conducted, Alan Piper, Planner III, identified and delineated the issues found requiring immediate attention. Mr. Piper also requested that a county department be assigned to be responsible for making any decision upon improvements to the bridge. Long-term options were also discussed and the only request in that regard was for an inspection to be scheduled and completed.

The commissioners agreed that acting upon the urgent needs of the bridge was paramount and listed each repair to be moved forward with which will greatly remedy safety concerns. It was also agreed to make Facilities the department assigned to oversee and implement the named improvements.

Commissioner Rivera motioned to proceed forward with emergency repairs to the bridge and follow-up with an inspection of the bridge thereafter in preparation for determining a long-term plan, and it will go under the care of Facilities. Commissioner Leinbach seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

9:45am – 10:00am

Letter to Representative Hennessey re: HB 2366, Proposed Taxation for Transportation Projects. – Alan Piper, Planner III – Transportation, BC Planning Commission

Alan Piper, Planner III, gave a brief summary of House Bill 2366 and requested the commissioners' support for a letter to be sent to PA State Representative Tim Hennessey outlining one requested adjustment to the bill, which is to include all third-class counties to also provide to them, outside of the five counties within the Philadelphia region, the ability to enact, at their discretion, new taxes, for funds able to be put forth and used for transportation purposes, services, and/or make capital repairs. The adjustment to include all third-class counties would ultimately cover a majority of counties that currently have public transit authorities.

Commissioner Rivera motioned to send letter to State Representative Hennessey in support of the option for third-class counties to be included for the ability to have tax options to fund transportation. Commissioner Leinbach seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously.

10:00am – 10:30m

Berks County Needs Assessment presentation – BCCF, Chloe Jaco, Chris Monsma, Kevin Barnhardt, Commissioner, & Jeffrey Smith, Warden

Chloe Jaco and Chris Monsma together provided their Needs Assessment overview by way of a PowerPoint presentation, introducing each slide, and encouraging open dialogue throughout. Background, updates and then a masterplan were topics, where project timelines, trends, influences, projections, methodology and initiatives were shared and thoroughly depicted by CGL. The subjects of differences in bail and mental health were two focus points that were recipients of valuable discussion during the presentation. CGL noted that they were very pleased with the criminal justice stakeholder interviews and found them to be extremely forthcoming and very beneficial to the process. Recommendations and next steps will be forthcoming.

Commissioners Leinbach and Rivera expressed gratitude and praise for the good work completed so far by the CGL team and reminded that the entire process and upcoming decisions will be very deliberate, well-thought-out, and thoroughly examined to warrant the success of this very impactful project. The community's voice is and will remain of the utmost importance as well.

No Comments.

There being no further business, Commissioner Leinbach adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carmen Torres", written over a horizontal line.

Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk