

Berks County Operations Minutes
October 26, 2021
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 October 19, 2021 Operations Meeting were approved as presented.

AGENDA ITEMS

9:30am – 10:00am

- 1. Elections – What you need to know – Christian Leinbach (Commissioner), Ron Seaman (Chief Administrative Officer), Cody Kauffman (First Assistant County Solicitor) and Stephanie Weaver (Public Relations Officer) – Information Only***

A PowerPoint presentation was displayed and delineated by Commissioner Leinbach touching upon all of the important aspects of the election, which included time-sensitive deadlines, security measures, procedures and protocols relating to the voting machines, polling places, and the pre-canvassing process, as well as vital significances revolving around properly submitting a mail-in or absentee ballot, provisional voting, and drop boxes.

Chief Administrative Officer, Ron Seaman, provided a precise and detailed timeline of how all mail-in and absentee ballots are collected, stored, transported, and ultimately counted at the DoubleTree on Election Day by county employees.

First Assistant Solicitor, Cody Kauffman, gave explanatory information on the security measures in place for voter applications which confirm a voters eligibility to vote, as well as ensuring an individual is the correct person, and also introduced the ExpressPoll machine being utilized at certain polling locations, which can, as an option scan an individual's license to obtain their voter information: name, address and date of birth.

10:00am – 10:15am

- 2. CCAP 2026 Annual Conference – Promotional materials for the presentation at the CCAP Fall Conference - Christian Leinbach (Commissioner) and Crystal Seitz (Executive Director, Pennsylvania's Americana Region) – Decision Requested***

Commissioner Rivera explained that a vote will take place in Hershey, Pa in November of 2021 to select the location and host of the 2026 annual CCAP conference. Three locations remain in the running: Berks, at the DoubleTree and Santander Arena, the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos, and Lancaster. The hope is to aggressively promote Berks County as the 2026 host; however, the Santander Arena is charging a two-day fee of \$20,000 to house the vendors for this conference. It would be especially meaningful to hold the conference here as it will also be the 250th anniversary of the United States, celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Discussion was held among the Commissioners and it was decided to engage the Santander Arena and open dialogue to attempt to eliminate or find middle ground regarding the \$20,000 cost. Should those conversations not produce favorable results, it has been agreed to then withdraw Berks County from being considered as the host site for the 2026 CCAP annual conference.

10:15am – 10:30am

3. EDA Good Jobs Challenge Grant for SE PA - Pamela Shupp Menet, Director of Economic Development - Decision Requested

Director of Economic Development, Pamela Shupp Menet, requested the execution of a memorandum of understanding, which comes at no cost, to show support jointly with our South Central and now South Eastern Pennsylvania partners, primarily Bucks, Chester, Montgomery and Chester counties, to apply for the Good Jobs Challenge grant, which is a \$500 million dollar grant that funds programs for the underserved and challenged population. It was noted that there is an oversight committee in place for when we will move forward in this process if the Board so approves.

The Commissioners unanimously agreed, and upon motion of Commissioner Rivera to form part of memorandum of understanding to apply for the Good Jobs Challenge grant, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, the motion was carried.

COMMENTS

No public comments.

There being no further business, Commissioner Leinbach adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk