COUNTY OF BERKS
COMMISSIONERS’ BOARD MEETING AGENDA
July 23, 2020

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

NOTICE: Anyone who wishes to comment on a printed agenda item prior to official action being taken must make that known to the Chair or the Chief Clerk in advance.

CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 A.M.

Observe a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the July 16, 2020 Commissioners’ Meeting, the July 16, 2020 Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Meeting and the July 21, 2020 Operations Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Authorizing:

Budget Department

241.2020  A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of $87,184 and 2020 Appropriations in the amount of $773,681 per listing dated July 20, 2020.

Human Resources

242.2020  A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated July 23, 2020 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Andrew Scott to Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender’s Office, effective 08/12/2020. Rate of $53,500/annually. Salary range Minimum $44,690; Midpoint $59,587; Maximum $74,483. Replacement for Anna LaMano who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
2. Authorize the salary adjustment for Jill Koharcheck PC013257 Paralegal – Solicitor’s Office, effective 07/01/2020. Rate of $46,500/annually. Salary range Minimum $34,445; Midpoint $45,927; Maximum $57,409. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11020.

3. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for a Senior Governmental Accountant – Office of the Controller, effective 07/23/2019. Rate not to exceed $37.00/hour. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when a candidate is hired to fill the Senior Governmental Accountant position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11120.

Commissioners

243.2020 A. Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Berks County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams to open a new PLIGIT account for the $38,034,840.00 in CARES Act Grant funds at the rate of .36%.

244.2020 B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Agreement SAP #4100086555 between the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and Berks County to develop and implement a comprehensive plan of addiction services relative to substance use and problem gambling disorders. The Agreement is in effect for a five (5) year period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025.

245.2020 C. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (“PCCD”) for the County Intermediate Punishment Programs for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 in the total amount of $410,000.

246.2020 D. Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with Tower Health on behalf of its entities and providers concerning guidance and advice provided by Tower Health members of the Berks County Government COVID-19 Healthcare Advisory Panel to the County Commissioner and County of Berks.

247.2020 E. Adopt a resolution authorizing and approving revisions to the Right to Know Policy and Procedures dated January 1, 2009; and further authorizes the appointment Jill Koharcheck as Berks County Open Records Officer, effective July 23, 2020.
248.2020  F. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the 2020-2025 Title IV-D Cooperative Agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services ("DHS"), the Domestic Relations Section ("DRS") of the Court of Common Pleas and the County Commissioner of Berks County for the administration and performance of the Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program and to ensure the securing of financial and medical support for minor children.

249.2020  G. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Plan and Budget Amendment Certification Statement for County Children & Youth Social Services Programs for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. The amendment is necessary because of increase expense in Institutional Placements for JPO assuming the 10% variance to budget threshold allowed by the State.

250.2020  H. Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to electronically execute the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification to the Department of Justice and U.S. Treasury Department reporting the federal drug forfeiture money received and spent by the District Attorney’s Office for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.


AGENDA APPROVAL

REPORTS OF TREASURER AND CONTROLLER

1. A. Dennis Adams, County Treasurer

2. Sandy Graffius, County Controller

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman
COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Rivera

Commissioner Leinbach

ROW OFFICERS’ COMMENTS

CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

ADJOURNMENT
Commissioners’ Board Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2020 (draft for approval July 23, 2020)

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. 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 County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

Commissioner Leinbach opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held yesterday, July 15, 2020 dealing with litigation, personnel and real estate.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 8, 2020 Operations Meeting, the July 9, 2020 Commissioners’ Meeting and the July 14, 2020 Operations Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach provided the platform and rules for participation by the public in the Microsoft Teams Live Commissioners’ Meeting

Public Comment on Agenda Items
None.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the Agenda as presented. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

   235.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of $34,700 and 2020 Appropriations in the amount of $124,839 per listing dated July 13, 2020.

   236.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated July 16, 2020 as follows:
   1. Authorize the appointment of Sara Torres to PC010214 Bilingual/HAVA Coordinator – Election Services, effective 07/22/2020. Rate of $42,000/annually. Salary range Minimum $37,751; Midpoint $50,334; Maximum $62,918. Replacement for Virginia Nunez who separated.
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This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy.
Budget 10000 – 11050.

2. Authorize the promotion of Leslie Gaines from PC013100 Assistant Cataloging Librarian to PC010213 Bibliographic Service Manager – Library System, effective 07/22/2020. Rate of $55,000/annually. Salary range Minimum $45,814; Midpoint $61,086; Maximum $76,357. Replacement for Mary Romig who is retiring.
This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy.
Budget 10000 – 16050.

237.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Designation of Agent Resolution for PEMA-DAP-1 designating Brian A. Gottschall, Director of Emergency Services, execution for and on behalf of the County of Berks of all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for DR-4506 – COVID-19.

238.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing the creation of a Berks County Government COVID-19 Healthcare Advisory Panel ("Panel") to advise the Berks County Board of Commissioners ("Board") on COVID-19 related matters; and whose objective is to provide professional COVID-19 related healthcare advice to the Board regarding specific issues facing the County generally, or County agencies or departments specifically; and further, to proactively provide input regarding COVID-19 to the Board as the Advisory Panel may deem necessary; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the following individuals and positions are appointed to the Panel effective immediately:
D. Michael Baxter MD, Panel Chair
Former Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine Reading Hospital (Retired)

Jeffrey Held, MD (Penn State Health St. Joseph System Representative)Vice President of Medical Affairs, Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center

Mary Kelleher, MD (Non-affiliated Community Physician Representative) Chief Medical Officer, Berks Community Health Center

Debra Powell, MD (Reading Hospital/Tower Health System Representative), Chief Section of Infectious Disease/Medical Director of Infection Prevention, Reading Hospital/Tower Health
Monica Reyes (Non-Physician Community Representative)
Health and Human Services Program Officer -
Berks County Community Foundation

Director of Emergency Services, who shall serve ex officio as a non-voting member.

Executive Director, Berks County Medical Society, who shall serve ex officio as a non-voting member

The Commissioners created this Panel to assist the County in processing all the information sent by the Federal government, the Governor's Office, the CDC and Department of Health, and help the County do a better job and bring clarity to matters that are often confusing. This is a voluntary effort, there is no compensation.

239.2020 Adopt a resolution of the Board of Commissioners approving the Next Generation Farmer Loan Program to provide financing in the total amount of $412,500 for Ivan S. and Arlene B. Burkholder, for property located at 1179 Pleasant Hill Road, Maidencreek Township, Fleetwood, Berks County, PA; and further authorizes Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Approval of Applicable Elected Representative form and the letter of approval to Ivan S. and Arlene B. Burkholder.
The Next Generation Farmer Loan Program provides financing to eligible next generation farmers to purchase land and other capital-intensive assets to begin their agriculture enterprise through the Berks County Industrial Development Authority and the Greater Berks Development and the Central and Western Chester County Industrial Development Authority. The approval by Berks County shall not in any way pledge or obligate the credit or taxing power of the County of Berks, nor shall the County of Berks be liable for the payment of the principal of or interest on any obligation issued by the Central and Western Chester County Industrial Development Authority.

240.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Alan D. Piper, Transportation Planner, to electronically execute Letter of Amendment 3 to the General Reimbursement Agreement for Federal Aid Projects (No. R17050008-3) between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the County of Berks for the Gibraltar Road Bridge Replacement Project, County Bridge 45-A, Exeter Township. This amendment increases the total project costs from $782,914.00 to $950,019.00 to incorporate additional professional costs for Final Design, Utilities and
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ROW Acquisition into the overall funding for the project. The Berks County share of this project increases from $39,145.70 to $47,500.95. All other terms and conditions of the original Agreement, which are not being modified by this Letter of Amendment, remain in full force and effect.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated July 14, 2020. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 24 contracts and referenced the departments.

3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller’s Office vouchers payable listing dated July 14, 2020 for week ending July 14, 2020 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer’s report.

2. The Controller’s weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
No report today.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt
- Community Needs Assessment - Reported 75 organizations requested assistance and the deadline to complete and submit a survey is extended to the end of July, 2020. The County has received the funds which are being held in a separate account. The funds will be disbursed beginning August 1, based on the Board of Commissioners approval.
- Co-County Wellness – 6 functioning contact teams are in place, with interns from Kutztown University for the fall school term. There are 266 contacts in the data base and only 22 (8%) have refused.
- SET Report – Putting together a final draft to be presented at next Thursday’s Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Meeting for review and comment by the Board.
Commissioners’ Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Rivera
Commissioner Rivera reported the Governor issued a new mitigation order yesterday that goes into effect today dealing mainly with restaurants and bars and the serving of alcohol.

The Rental Assistance Program and the Small Business Grant are still open, and applications are still being accepted. The moratorium on evictions has been extend until August 31, 2020. Commissioner Rivera reported there will be another small business grant available in the near future using CARES Act funds, and the criteria will be different than the criteria for the current Small Business Grant program.

Commissioner Leinbach
Commissioner Leinbach participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the brand-new Tower Health Acadia Mental Health facility on Route 183. It is a for-profit venture between Tower Health and Acadia, and they will pay property taxes on the property. Press Release – Tower Health just announced they are offering COVID-19 antibody testing at certain Tower Health Urgent Care facilities in Berks, Chester and Montgomery counties. There are three facilities in Berks County - Douglassville, Sinking Spring, and Wyomissing.

ELECTED OFFICIALS’ COMMENTS
None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR
Public comments are attached hereto. Only one comment per person and those that listed their name and area of residence were read.

Commissioner Leinbach explained this is not a Q&A session. The Commissioners are not obligated to respond to questions, but suggested the public is free to email the Commissioners with any questions they have.

Commissioner Leinbach responded to the following comments:
Commissioner Leinbach found it very offensive of the effort tying the ‘kids for cash’ issue to the Berks County Residential Center (“BCRC”). The BCRC is open today because the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has been unable since 2001 to find any legitimate reason to close the BCRC down.
Messaging from the County regarding Do Your Part – The County is preparing to launch a new campaign to promote the continued need for using a mask, social distancing and reinforce the effort for telework in Berks County.
Passenger Rail Service – There have been and continue to be discussions taking place with Norfolk Southern Railroad and the Chamber Alliance on passenger rail service in Berks County.
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Commissioner Rivera –
The article in the newspaper referencing receipt of $62 for a small business loan is a typo. The minimum of amount granted is $2,500.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk
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| Attendee | Question  | Crystal Kowalski. Wyomissing      | 7/16/2020 12:28 | Good Morning Commissioners, 
Will the new mental health facility on Rt. 183 be responsible for paying property tax? I ask because half of this joint venture is a publicly traded company that is financially doing quite well and growing. I am curious as to how tax liability is structured in such a situation. |
|         |           | Wyomissing                        |           | Thank you, Crystal Kowalski Wyomissing |
| Moderator | Announcement | Lori Schneider (LSchneider@countyofberks.com) | 7/16/2020 13:11 | Public comment will be accepted through the Q&A function. Please include your first name, last name and municipality. Any comments without name and municipality will not be considered. Each citizen can submit one comment that is no more than 3 minutes per comment. The meeting comment period is limited to 30 minutes in total. Please be concise. Comments will be read during the meeting and should not be considered to be interactive dialog with the Commissioners. Any Commissioner response to public comment will be done at the discretion of the Commissioners. |
| Attendee | Question  | Anonymous                          | 7/16/2020 13:59 | Saeed Ahmed (Wyomissing) 
You said (in your June 25 meeting) you don’t have enforcement authority if businesses don’t follow guidance regarding masks and social distancing, and that these violations should be reported to the DA. Have you worked out a process with the DA on how to coordinate guidance you provide with enforcement that DA would do, so that guidance and enforcement are fully in sync? And if in place, how is this being implemented in practice? — Saeed Ahmed Wyomissing Saeed Ahmed asking on behalf of Melvia Ahmed (wyomissing). If there is a spike of COVID19 in Berks, what educational or other measures are you planning to ensure people know that masks are important (to protect themselves and others), and guidance on social distancing? |
| Attendee | Question  | Anonymous                          | 7/16/2020 14:01 | Commissioners, tomorrow, July 17th, is the deadline set by Federal Judge Dolly Gee for ICE to release all migrant children from detention. ICE may ignore this ruling, as it has done in the past. Or it may use it as an excuse to forcibly remove children from their parents. You have consistently denied the veracity of sworn statements from detainees and immigration attorneys alike who claim that the detention center is not safe and the detainees not healthy. You have given nothing but lip service to efforts to repurpose the center into something of genuine service to our community. How long will you continue to preside over this travesty of human rights in our own backyard? |
| Attendee | Question  | Jane Palmer, Wyomissing            | 7/16/2020 14:07 | |

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A Commonwealth Court has just denied a petition to release families from the detention center, claiming they’re fine. The detainees have noted they are not fine so how do we release them and why have we not released them yet?

Even after release, children who are detained in ICE custody have been shown to carry trauma with them. Separating them from their families would be unconscionable. Especially with the looming threat of Covid-19, it’s imperative that the children and their families in the detention center must be released this week, as was ordered by a federal judge. The lives of the detainees are worth more than the money that Berks County makes off of their detention. Luzerne County had its kids for cash tragedy - let's not follow in its footsteps.

The Reading Eagle has been reporting on the financial help being made available to people and businesses in various circumstances. One article on the help going to local businesses stated the range of help that had been provided so far. The low end was $62. How is that possible? I hope it was a misprint because it’s hard to imagine that making any kind of dent at all.

You shared a lot of information about the Berks County Residential Center last week and there are some things I wish I knew more about. For example, if each immigrant-hopeful family has their own bedroom, are they confined to that bedroom all day? Is there common space where several families gather and interact? Do they have their meals in that common space? What about where they go to do laundry? Or space where children are taught? You said the residents are issued one—one disposable mask per week. How does that protect these residents? How does it protect the staff? My understanding of disposable masks is one-time-use only for health and safety, and that even with cloth masks, we are all being advised to use them at maximum for one day only.

And what is the protocol for the masks the staff are using? They are the ones going out into the world and back into the Center on a daily basis; the masks they wear are supposed to protect those around them. Do they start fresh each day? Please comment. Thank you.
On Wednesday, retired Judge Arthur Grim wrote the following letter to the editor of the Reading Eagle:

A former Luzerne County judge, who was involved in a scheme to send thousands of kids to a for-profit jail in exchange for taking millions of dollars in kickbacks, has received early release from federal prison because of coronavirus concerns. This stands in stark contrast to the innocent children and their asylum-seeking families who remain detained at the Berks County Residential Center.

What is crystal-clear is that all are at high risk to contract COVID-19 if they remain in a congregate facility. The convicted Luzerne judge admitted in court that he committed egregious felonies, while the children and families have not been charged with the commission of any crimes, and in fact many fled here to save themselves from rampant violence in their home countries.

Right now the federal government is tied in knots about what to do. For the second time, a well-reasoned opinion by a federal judge, orders that the kids be released with “all deliberate speed.” The Trump administration disagrees.

Counsel on behalf of the children argues persuasively, based on overwhelming research, that releasing children without their parents will disrupt the primal parent-child relationship. This will be devastating for both and can contribute to long-standing traumatic, social and psychological effects.

Keeping this facility open undermines our country’s long history as a beacon of hope for people seeking safety. Every family has a sponsor ready to take them. Our county leaders need to do the right thing. Close the center and close it now. Will you heed Judge Grim’s call to close the center and close it now?

How is it possible that a judge that concocted a scheme to build youth detention centers and then made money on each child he “sent away”—thereby destroying countless lives for minor offenses—and who was convicted and sentenced to seventeen years in prison—can be sent home to house arrest—for his protection during Covid-19—with the potential to spend the remaining six years of his sentence at home—when we have people here in Berks County in jail for less heinous crimes...and for no crimes at all. Where is the sense of justice? Where is the sense of proportion?

This sends a terrible message. That privilege and accomplishment — money, connections, having been a judge — deserves better treatment. It should be quite the opposite; he should be held to a higher standard.

Commissioners, your friend and Chamber President Jim Gerlach recently held a virtual meet & greet in which he cited bringing back passenger rail service to Philadelphia as a priority. Noting that a group in Phoenixville and Chester County has already organized an effort to extend rail service, he pointed out that it will also take commitments from Berks and Montgomery County officials to have the full line built. Will you make this commitment and what are you doing to make passenger rail a reality in Berks?

Community Needs Assessment URL:
https://communityneeds.countyofberks.com/results/main_page.aspx
Governor Wolf recently extended the moratorium on evictions to August 31. As I'm sure you're aware, many thousands of Berks County renters -- like myself -- and homeowners are nowhere near being able to make their rent or mortgage payments, and will be devastated if on September 1st they are suddenly confronted with massive unpayable bills. What measures are you taking to protect vulnerable Berks County residents from eviction in the fall? Do we have a countywide rent fund, and if so, how much and how does it work?

Will the County create a fund so that renters are able to pay their rent when the eviction moratorium ends? And will it be available for EVERY renter, regardless of municipality? This would help both renters AND landlords as renters will be able to pay their rent. It's win-win.

I don't get it. People fleeing for their very lives are to be imprisoned? People unable to pay their parking tickets are to be sent to jail? But judges who send children as young as 10 to reformatories in order to fill beds and line their pockets can literally go home to their own pillows? Finish out their prison terms in comfort and safety? The judge may have been imprisoned in Florida but he was a judge in our state, Pennsylvania, committed his crimes in our state, Pennsylvania. What about what we are doing here, in Berks County? Who are we releasing? Who are we imprisoning? Can we look our track record in the face? Imprisoning people who can't pay their fines? Holding families indefinitely, families doing what most of our forebears did, else we wouldn't be here. What are we thinking? Aren't we better than that, here in Berks County?

If they can release the Luzerne County judge because of COVID 19, why are the immigrants at the Center still being detained. They all have a sponsor. What are we waiting for? They are in danger of COVID 19 also!
Carla Mannix, Sinking Spring: (Sinking Spring) Thank you for enabling this new way to participate in local government. I have just learned that you would consider changing the use of the Berks Family Residential Center, which is really an immigrant family detention center, but only if ending the lease with ICE is "budget neutral". Meaning, the $1 million a year that ICE pays and the jobs held there could be equally replaced. That essentially means I have put a limit on my morality—that I am willing to engage in the immoral jailing of children for that price, that it is worth $1 million to me to continue traumatizing those children. I know that doctors have told us that detaining children for ANY amount of time affects their mental and emotional health for the long term. I have actually played with children jailed in that Detention Center and have personally seen the toll that imprisonment has on a child. So as a tax payer, I and my family want Berks County to get out of the business of family detention. Commissioner Rivera, can you see the hypocrisy of a moratorium on evictions because of "wanting to keep families in their home" but we won't let these families go to their sponsors' homes? Assuming most good people in our county are opposed to jailing children, I submit that the next agenda should include a report on what steps have actually been taken to find a replacement use for the Berks detention center.

On Restaurants - my daughter works in one that has opened minimally. The problem is not the restaurant workers but the guest that come. They have customer problems every day. Every day they tighten up their rules.

David Delnegro, West Reading: Cases of COVID-19 are still rising at an alarming rate. But President Trump is telling the nation to go back to school in just a few weeks. Reopening schools as the pandemic is still growing worse is like corralling people into a burning building before the fire has been extinguished. The recklessness and maleficence of this Administration is unconscionable. No effort has been made to consult with health officials, scientists, school administrations, or teachers unions before declaring this mandate. Millions of lives are being put at risk; children, teachers and other school workers, everyone they live with, and really all of us. I am aware that most decisions regarding schools fall to state leadership, and that there will be serious concerns about childcare if schools do not open. As County Commissioners, what are you saying to Governor Wolf about reopening schools in Berks County? What are you doing to support working families who need support with childcare now more than ever?

There was supposed to be a question there before the thank you, it should say: “Dear Commissioners, Do you expect to implement any local changes with recent changes in COVID data in the near future? What are the contingency plans for a prospective second wave. Thank you for your continual updates. Proud of our County Commissioners!”
Good morning Commissioners. If Pennsylvania is poised for another surge of coronavirus cases as we have seen in other states, what guidance and support can Berks County offer local schools as we all look to the fall? In my view, having a dedicated Berks County Health Department could help ascertain the risks and best course of action in a situation like this. Thank you.

Carla Mannix
(Sinking Spring) Thank you for enabling this new way to participate in local government. I have just learned that you would consider changing the use of the Berks Family Residential Center, which is really an immigrant family detention center, but only if ending the lease with ICE is "budget neutral". Meaning, the $1 million a year that ICE pays and the jobs held there could be equally replaced. That essentially means I have put a limit on my morality—that I am willing to engage in the immoral jailing of children for that price, that it is worth $1 million to me to continue traumatizing those children. I know that doctors have told us that detaining children for ANY amount of time affects their mental and emotional health for the long term. I have actually played with children jailed in that Detention Center and have personally seen the toll that imprisonment has on a child. So as a tax payer, I and my family want Berks County to get out of the business of family detention. Commissioner Rivera, can you see the hypocrisy of a moratorium on evictions because of "wanting to keep families in their home" but we won't let these families go to their sponsors' homes? Assuming most good people in our county are opposed to jailing children, I submit that the next agenda should include a report on what steps have actually been taken to find a replacement use for the Berks Detention Center.

Thank you for our questions and comments. This Q&A is closed as the public comments have been addressed.

Christian Leinbach (CLEinbach@countyofBerks.com)
Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Minutes  
July 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. (draft for approval July 23, 2020)

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 1:00 P.M. via Microsoft Teams Live, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

The Committee – Commissioner Christian Leinbach/Committee Chair, Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt/Chair of the Savings & Efficiency Task Force (SET), Commissioner Michael Rivera/Committee Vice Chair, Executive Assistants, Mary Buerer, Jessica Blauer & Barbara Lopez, Ron Seaman/CAO, Christine Sadler/Solicitor, Jessica Weaknecht/HR Director & Kristen Scheffler/HR Deputy Director. Ron Seaman and Christine Sadler were absent.

1. SET Report – Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt will present a final report with recommendations at the July 23rd Phase 3 meeting.

2. Sub-Committee Reports

* Team A Report – Commissioner Leinbach provided updates and recommendations/request for some of the following departments:

  1. Public Defender – Public Defender Glenn Welsh reported his office requires a full compliment of staff and is requesting laptops for the new Assistant Public Defenders. Team A also is recommending all Assistant Public Defenders be issued cell phones. The Commissioners support the issuance of laptops to new Assistant Public Defenders and cell phones be issued to all Assistant Public Defenders and directed Justin Loose, Jess Weaknecht and Ron Seaman to begin that process.
  2. Purchasing Dept.
  3. Berks Redevelopment Authority
  4. Berks VA Dept.
  5. Berks Heim – Resident count is down to the low 300s due to COVID-19, but the workload has not changed because of increased workload due to COVID-19. Jess Weaknecht reported there is a little delay in receiving testing results.

* Team B Report – Commissioner Rivera provided updates and recommendations for the following departments on a short-term basis:

  1. Archives – Cathy is teleworking when possible, and has rearranged the office space to allow for social distancing.
  2. Assessment – staggering of staff to all for social distancing. Working with IS to hold virtual appeals. Recommendation to close office at 4:00 p.m. because traffic is very light.
  3. BCRC – No furloughs and are in process of filling current vacancies. Currently working to fill ‘reserve’ of PPE. Completed set up of video for residents visit with lawyers.
  4. Commissioner Leinbach – no short-term plan
5. Commissioner Barnhardt – no short-term plan
6. DES – fully staffed.
7. Facilities – filling vacancies on the cleaning staff. Leadership Team must decide on protocols on deep cleaning at the Heim and BCRC with electrostatic machines and working on installing of plexiglass
8. HR – advertisement out for trainer. Setting up online training program with Liz Weber to begin in August.
9. IS
10. GIS
11. Library – All libraries are now open, and deliveries have resumed.
13. Mapping – Everyone working remotely, and everything is available online, so there is no need to open to the public.
14. Planning – all staff have laptops and telework is working well.
15. Solicitor – Looking at best practices to minimize security breaches. Telework is not viable and interviewing for an additional Assistant Solicitor position.
16. Solid Waste Authority – fully staffed and hired two part-time to catch up. Recycling Center open and a fence is installed.
17. WDB/CareerLink – open for in-person interviews by appointment only.

3. Liaison Reports • City Liaison – Commissioner Rivera
   City Hall remains closed under Green. Hired a new Communications Director and has begun communications with Stephanie Weaver.
   Working hard on the Census and will hold a Census Day on July 21 focusing on areas that have a low response in the City.

4. Court Liaison – Commissioner Leinbach

   • Row Officers
     i. Prothonotary, Reg. of Wills, Clerk of Courts, Sheriff, DA –
        The Row Officers expressed appreciation to the Commissioners for their communication and sharing of information during the COVID pandemic and would like to see the communication continue beyond COVID.

     ii. Recorder of Deeds, Coroner, Controller and Treasurer – Commissioner Rivera
        Also appreciative of the communications with Commissioners.
        - Treasurer reported tax sales will begin in November with Upset Sale November 20 and Judicial Sale will be December 4. Hoping to hold sales at DoubleTree.
        Doe License counter sales are cancelled. Applications must be made by mail. Working with Stephanie on a press release.
        Requesting Facilities restore hot water to his office.
        - Coroner is open by appointment only.
        - Recorder of Deeds is having plexiglass installed.
        - Controller preparing a chart for staff days home and office stagger.
5. GRCA Rebuilding Berks – Commissioner Rivera
   GRCA started their marketing campaign.

6. Co-County Wellness/Contact Tracing – Commissioner Barnhardt
   Reported on Co-County Wellness this morning during the Commissioners’ Meeting.

7. Whit O’Brien – Commissioner Barnhardt
   Misspoke this morning, there are only 93 assessment surveys to date, and at
   tomorrow’s meeting they will review the survey assessments, which ones qualify
   and which don’t, and what needs more information. Anticipates having the first
   round approved by the Commissioners in the very near future.

8. Helping Harvest – Commissioner Barnhardt
   Helping Harvest applied for CARES Act funds and should be one of the first to
   receive reimbursement for what they have spent for food.

9. Actions and Next Steps
   Commissioners asked for the Commonwealth Court Opinion be posted on the
   County’s website.

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 P.M.

Went into Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

__________________________
Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk
Operations Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public the Operations meeting was held via Microsoft Teams Live.

1. Schuylkill River Greenways -
   Elaine Schaefer, Executive Director of Schuylkill River Greenways, Julia Hurle and Bob Folwell, Trails Team, made a request to the Board of Commissioners for a letter of support for a Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Greenways and Trails Grant for funding to conduct a feasibility study of the Reading to Hamburg gap in the Schuylkill River Trail ("SRT"), and also requested financial support from the County in the amount of $7,500 towards their match for the grant. From the 2021 Budget
   Ms. Schaefer stated this is for a 21-mile section of the SRT, and it is important to Berks County because of the economic impact, tourism, health benefits and increase in land values. When asked what major impediments there are, Mr. Folwell admitted working with property owners will present some challenges. After discussion ended, Commissioner Barnhardt made a motion to support the request for letter of support, and the request for $7,500 in matching funds required by DCED for the grant. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera. The motion carried.

2. Parks Department – Antietam Lake Park –
   Ron Horn, Pretzel City Sports, made a request to the Board of Commissioners to re-establish the use of certain trails on Mt. Penn for trail races. Mr. Horn told the Commissioners he has been running trail races on Mt. Penn for over 25 years, and he and his staff spend a significant amount of time maintaining the trails and picking up trash. Mr. Horn mentioned a portion of funds he receives from the races is donated to the Schuylkill Greenway Association, the American Cancer Society and other organizations.
   Cathy Wegener, Berks County Parks Director, and Brendan Lederer, Deputy Director, said the County does not and has not allowed special events at Antietam Park, as well as night-time events, and does not allow events for profit entities. The Master Plan identified the Park as a pristine site, and they have declined requests for mountain bike events and large orienteering groups. Mr. Lederer said at this point Parks Department does not endorse Antietam Lake for trail runs.
   The Commissioners asked Cathy Wegener and Brendan Lederer to coordinate with Ron Horn at Antietam Lake Park and look at the actual section of trails he is interested in using and report back to the Commissioners next week so they can take a look at. The Commissioners also intend to look at the trails before deciding whether to allow Mr. Horn to use the trails.
3. Election Equipment Storage Update – Ron Seaman
   Mr. Seaman reported he solicited proposals from the Reading-Berks Association of Realtors to serve as a broker of record for the County for leasing purposes and only received one response yesterday. Mr. Seaman also had discussions with Steve Willems who will be submitting a proposal to provide broker services.

4. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the County’s PCCD grant application for $213,255 to cover PPE has been approved and should be received next week.

5. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the County would like to restructure our Transfer Agreement with Muhlenberg Township to remove a commitment of $250,000 that was to be used for a separate project by the Township, and apply those funds to the Ebling Bridge project to be applied to the cost of relocating sanitary sewer and water lines owned by the Muhlenberg Township Authority. The Agreement will allow the bridge to be reconstructed, including these utility relocations, at no cost to either Muhlenberg Township or the Muhlenberg Township Authority. At the completion of the project, the bridge ownership will be transferred to Muhlenberg Township.

Adjourned at 10:32 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk
## Transfers 2020

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## Appropriations 2020

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2020 Transfers Total $ 67,184

2020 Appropriations Total $ 773,681

1. Transferring Employment & Training funds between program accounts and between direct-debit contracted services and administrative-type expenditures through year end.
2. Approving funds received from the Bureau of Justice Crimes Act to provide reimbursement to the County for COVID-19 related expenditures.
4. Appropriation for CARES Act Housing Assistance funding.
5. Appropriating funds based on FY2021 allocations.
6. Appropriating funds based on FY2021 allocations.
7. Appropriating funds based on FY2021 allocations.
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10. Appropriating funds based on FY2021 allocations.
11. Appropriating funds based on FY2021 allocations.
12. Appropriating funds based on FY2021 allocations.
13. Appropriating funds based on FY2021 allocations.
Commissioners' Meeting
HUMAN RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS
July 23, 2020

1. Authorize the appointment of Andrew Scott to Assistant Public Defender I –
Public Defender’s Office, effective 08/12/2020. Rate of $53,500/annually.
Salary range Minimum $44,690; Midpoint $59,587; Maximum $74,483.
Replacement for Anna LaMano who separated. This request meets the

2. Authorize the salary adjustment for Jill Koharcheck PC013257 Paralegal –
Solicitor’s Office, effective 07/01/2020. Rate of $46,500/annually. Salary
range Minimum $34,445; Midpoint $45,927; Maximum $57,409. This request
meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11020.

3. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for a Senior Governmental
Accountant – Office of the Controller, effective 07/23/2019. Rate not to
exceed $37.00/hour. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when a
candidate is hired to fill the Senior Governmental Accountant position. This
request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11120.
MEMORANDUM

DATE: Tuesday, July 21, 2020

TO: The Board of Commissioners & the Chief Clerk

RE: Agenda Items – Commissioners’ Meeting

Please include the contract listings outlined in this Memorandum for inclusion on the Agenda for the Commissioners’ meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2020 for approval and formalization. Details are as follows:

1. **Contract Type & #:** Amendment #9 to Agreement #PC-158513-14
   - **Department:** Area Agency on Aging
   - **Vendor:** Boyertown Area Multi Services
   - **Term:**
     - Effective Date: October 1, 2020
     - Expiration Date: December 31, 2020
   - **Funding Source:** 100% State
   - **Description & Amount:** This Amendment serves to extend the Agreement for an additional three-month term for meals-on-wheels delivery services. The rate shall remain the same.

2. **Contract Type & #:** Amendment #2 to Agreement #ICA-219063-19
   - **Department:** Berks Heim Nursing and Rehabilitation
   - **Vendor:** Wiggins Shredding, Inc.
   - **Term:**
     - Effective Date: July 23, 2020
     - Expiration Date: June 19, 2021
   - **Funding Source:** 100% County
   - **Description & Amount:** This Amendment serves to add Berks Heim Nursing and Rehabilitation to this Agreement for document destruction service at the same unit price of $14.00 on a biweekly service frequency.
3. Contract Type & #: Amendment #3 to Agreement #PC-593876-19  
   Department: CareerLink  
   Vendor: Arbor E&T, LLC dba ResCare Workforce Services  
   Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2020  
   Expiration Date: June 30, 2021  
   Funding Source: 100% Federal  
   Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to increase the amount from $884,281.00 to $931,422.00 to this Agreement for the period 7/1/20 - 6/30/21 for the operation and administration of youth education and workforce services.

4. Contract Type & #: Amendment #1 to Agreement #ICA-599778-20  
   Department: CareerLink  
   Vendor: Arbor E&T, LLC dba ResCare Workforce Services  
   Term: Effective Date: January 1, 2020  
   Expiration Date: March 31, 2022  
   Funding Source: 100% Federal  
   Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to allocate $186,860.00 for the period of 7/1/20 to 3/31/22 for the provision of educational, social, and cognitive supports to qualifying young adults for future acceptance into the R3 program.

5. Contract Type & #: Amendment #3 to Agreement #PC-593875-19  
   Department: CareerLink  
   Vendor: Educational Data Systems, Inc.  
   Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2020  
   Expiration Date: June 30, 2021  
   Funding Source: 100% Federal  
   Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to modify Section 6, Fees, of this Agreement to increase the amount in Section 6, Fees, from $277,846.00 to $328,646.00 for business services.
6. Contract Type & #: Amendment #1 to Agreement #PSAP-582886-18  
Department: Children and Youth Services  
Vendor: Bethany Christian Services of Central Pennsylvania  
Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2019  
Expiration Date: November 30, 2020  
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other  
Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to extend the term of this Agreement and continue in effect Attachment A: Fee Schedule for placement services through the later of November 30, 2020 or the date upon which the State’s budget pass becomes effective. The estimated expense shall not exceed $35,000.00 during this term.

7. Contract Type & #: Amendment #1 to Agreement #PSAP-582887-18  
Department: Children and Youth Services  
Vendor: Bethany Christian Services of Greater Delaware Valley  
Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2019  
Expiration Date: November 30, 2020  
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other  
Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to extend the term of this Agreement and continue in effect Attachment A: Fee Schedule for placement services through the later of November 30, 2020 or the date upon which the State’s budget pass becomes effective. The estimated expense shall not exceed $35,000.00 during this term.

8. Contract Type & #: Amendment #2 to Agreement #PSAP-582944-18  
Department: Children and Youth Services  
Vendor: Board of Child Care of the United Methodist Church, Inc.  
Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2019  
Expiration Date: November 30, 2020  
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other  
Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to extend the term of this Agreement for placement services through the later of November 30, 2020 or the date upon which the State’s budget pass becomes effective. The estimated expense shall not exceed $61,806.00 during this term.
9. Contract Type & #: Amendment #1 to Agreement #PSAP-582910-18  
Department: Children and Youth Services  
Vendor: Community Specialists Corp dba The Academy  
Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2019  
Expiration Date: November 30, 2020  
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other  
Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to extend the term of this Agreement and continue in effect Attachment A: Fee Schedule for placement services through the later of November 30, 2020 or the date upon which the State’s budget pass becomes effective. The estimated expense shall not exceed $9,300.00 during this term.

10. Contract Type & #: Amendment #1 to Agreement #PSAP-598383-20  
Department: Children and Youth Services  
Vendor: Families United Network, Inc.  
Term: Effective Date: December 1, 2020  
Expiration Date: June 30, 2022  
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other  
Description & Amount: This Amendment is amending the effective date and the Attachment B – Fee Schedule to December 1, 2020. The Vendor provides for the provision of placement services to County client families as referred by Children and Youth Services. The estimated amount shall remain the same at $330,910.00 during this term.

11. Contract Type & #: Amendment #2 to Agreement #PSAP-582925-18  
Department: Children and Youth Services  
Vendor: The Impact Project  
Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2019  
Expiration Date: November 30, 2020  
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other  
Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to extend the term of this Agreement for placement services through the later of November 30, 2020 or the date upon which the State’s budget pass becomes effective. The estimated expense shall not exceed $19,296.00 during this term.
12. Contract Type & #: Amendment #2 to Agreement #PSAP-582927-18
Department: Children and Youth Services
Vendor: Kidspeace National Centers
Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2019
Expiration Date: November 30, 2020
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other
Description & Amount: This Amendment is serves to add the following rates to B-2, Fee Schedule for the term 7/1/19 to 11/30/20:
- Shelter Care (Barton House) - $320.51 per diem
- Residential (Barton House) - $326.93 per diem
The estimated amount shall not exceed $6,700.00 during this term.

13. Contract Type & #: Amendment #1 to Agreement #PSAP-582941-18
Department: Children and Youth Services
Vendor: The Salvation Army
Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2019
Expiration Date: November 30, 2020
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other
Description & Amount: This Amendment and continue in effect Attachment B: Fee Schedule for foster care services through the later of November 30, 2020 or the date upon which the State’s budget pass becomes effective. The estimated expense shall not exceed $56,020.00 during this term.

14. Contract Type & #: Amendment #4 to License Agreement
Department: Children and Youth Services
Vendor: University of Pittsburgh of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education
Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2020
Expiration Date: June 30, 2021
Funding Source: 13% County, 51% State, 32% Federal, 4% Other
Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to extend this Agreement for the Vendor’s use of the training room on the 9th floor of the Berks County Services Center for an additional one-year term. Vendor shall pay the County a fee of $40.00 per day for use of this room.
15. Contract Type & #: Vendor Contract – Agreement #VC-231474-20
   Department: Information Systems
   Vendor: Microsoft Corporation
   Term: Effective Date: July 1, 2020
       Expiration Date: June 30, 2023
   Funding Source: 100% County
   Description & Amount: The County is engaging the Vendor for the provision of Microsoft
                        Enterprise Software licenses. The total amount for the three-year term
                        shall not exceed $2,205,879.39 payable in annual installments of
                        $735,293.13.

16. Contract Type & #: Amendment #2 to Agreement #HAP-224539-19
   Department: Mental Health/Development Disabilities
   Vendor: Berks Coalition to End Homelessness, Inc.
   Term: Effective Date: June 30, 2020
       Expiration Date: November 30, 2020
   Funding Source: 100% State
   Description & Amount: This Amendment serves to include an allocation of $245,000.00 in CARE
                        Act HAP Funds to be spent as per Attachment F, Homeless Assistance
                        Program Supplemental Instructions and Requirements for CARES Act
                        Funds.