

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2022

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in session on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. On The Road at Cumru Township Building, 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 Michael S. Rivera in attendance. Also present were Christine Sadler, Solicitor, Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer, and Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk.

Commissioner Leinbach opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MEETING HOST WELCOME FROM CUMRU TOWNSHIP

Jeanne E. Johnston, Manager, Cumru Township welcomed the County Commissioners to Cumru Township. She spoke about the County's adoption of the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance which encourages existing businesses and attracts new businesses. She also spoke about the repairs to the Poplar Neck Bridge which was a \$1 million project and detailed the importance of the project. She finished by stating that Cumru Township appreciates the collaboration between the County Commissioners and the Township and looks forward to an ongoing productive relationship.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commissioners' meeting minutes of June 23, 2022 were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach noted that there were several Executive Sessions held, the first session was held on June 23, 2022, dealing with litigation, a session was held on June 27, 2022, dealing with personnel, and a session was held on June 29, 2022, dealing with personnel and litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ken Borky, Center Township, YMCA spoke on agenda item 232.2022 ARP Grant.
Nathan Brant, South Heidelberg Township, YMCA spoke on agenda item 232.2022 ARP Grant
Chris Winters, Wernersville, Olivet Boys and Girls Club spoke on agenda item 232.2022 ARP Grant.

AGENDA ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, and seconded by Commissioner Rivera, to approve the agenda as presented.

- 215.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Appropriations in the amount of \$25,424; 2022 Budget Transfers in the amount of

\$36,328 and 2022 Appropriations in the amount of \$45,020 per listing dated June 24, 2022.

- 216.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated June 30, 2022 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Tracey Zeglen to PC011160 Judicial Administrative Assistant – Court Administration, effective 07/18/2022. Rate of \$55,503/annually. Salary range Minimum \$35,744; Midpoint \$47,659; Maximum \$59,574. Replacing Nicole Slackway who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 2. Authorize the appointment of Jennifer Savage to PC013506 Sr. Financial Analyst – Office of Budget & Finance, effective 07/18/2022. Rate of \$ 82,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$51,350; Midpoint \$68,466; Maximum \$85,583. Replacing Dominic DiPaul who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11400.
- 217.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the hiring of Hartman, Valeriano, Magovern, and Lutz, P.C. as special counsel to the County of Berks to handle right-to-know matters as assigned by the County Solicitor.
- 218.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jamal Abodalo, Reading, to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Technical Committee for a one (1) year term expiring June 30, 2023.
- 219.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Eric Peters to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Technical Committee for a two (2) year term expiring June 30, 2024.
- 220.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Gail Landis, Leesport, to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Technical Committee for a three (3) year term expiring June 30, 2025.
- 221.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Robert (Bob) Myers, Birdsboro, to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Technical Committee for a one (1) year term expiring June 30, 2023.
- 222.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Troy Bingaman, Douglassville, to the Schuylkill River Passenger

- Rail Authority Technical Committee for a two (2) year term expiring June 30, 2024.
- 223.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Glenn Knoblauch, Wernersville, to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Technical Committee for a three (3) year term expiring June 30, 2025.
- 224.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Michael Toledo, Blandon, to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Technical Committee for a one (1) year term expiring June 30, 2023.
- 225.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Gregory Downing, Ephrata, to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Technical Committee for a two (2) year term expiring June 30, 2024.
- 226.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of John Weidenhammer, Wyomissing, to the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority Technical Committee for a three (3) year term expiring June 30, 2025.
- 227.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the County of Berks FY2022 Action Plan for the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program (“CDBG”), Emergency Solutions Grant Program (“ESG”) and Home Investment Partnerships Program (“HOME”) and to further provide such assurances, certifications, contracts, agreements, environmental reviews, and supplemental or revised data that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development may request in conjunction with the Plan.
- 228.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Subgrant Award Notification for subgrant 36997 awarding grant funds for a part-time Forensic Interviewer position within the District Attorney’s Office in the amount of \$55,117.00 for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024.
- 229.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the Amending Agreement between the County of Berks and Rapid Financial Solutions, LLC for the purpose of adding Grand Jury participants to the CourtFunds prepaid cards and/or digital payments program.
- 230.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the First Amendment to Subrecipient Grant Agreement by and between the County of Berks (“the

County”) and Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks (“Subrecipient”) extending the deadline to September 30, 2022 and inserting close-out fee relating to funding from the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

- 231.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing Rex Levengood, Director of Facilities, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Berks Career and Technology Center (“BCTC”) and the County of Berks for the use of the Berks County Agricultural Center.
 - 232.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing the approval of grants as reviewed by the Grant Review Committee and approved by the County Board of Commissioners in an amount not to exceed \$18,080,000 of County General Funds, such grants to be made to the selected applicants and subject to the terms and conditions contained in a grant contract to be reviewed and approved by the County Solicitor’s office and further authorize Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer to execute grant contracts on behalf of the County of Berks (see attached listing).
 - 233.2022 Adopt Resolution whereby the Berks County Board of Commissioners authorize the year one implementation portion of the proposed IMAGINE Berks Economic Development Plan, said implementation period to be effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, by allocating County General Fund dollars in the amount of \$100,000.00 to the O’Pake Institute of Alvernia University for the Financial Lending & Innovation Collaborative (Microgrant Program) and County General Fund dollars in the amount of \$450,000.00 to PA Americana Region for tourism marketing support.
 - 234.2022 Adopt a resolution authorizing Jeffrey R. Smith, Warden to execute the Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services (KPETS) Terms and Conditions Form to bring therapy dogs to the jail as part of an employee wellness program.
2. Motion to authorize execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as set forth on the attached listing dated June 27, 2022.
 3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller’s Office vouchers listing dated June 30, 2022.
 4. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers for the week ending July 8, 2022, subject to final review and approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.

5. Motion to authorize execution of employee payroll disbursements dated July 5, 2022.

REPORTS OF TREASURER AND CONTROLLER

1. The weekly Treasurer's report was read by Commissioner Leinbach, Chair.
2. The weekly Controller's report was presented by Sandy Graffius, Controller.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – Ronald R. Seaman

Mr. Seaman reported on behalf of the Parks and Recreations Department detailing upcoming activities being held during the month of July.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Rivera

He stated that B.A.R.Nopoly which is a Community Centered Collaboration by Berks Agricultural Resource Network, started and ends on August 20th. He read the comments he made during the Berks County Liberty Bell Dedication ceremony held in the morning hours of June 30, 2022, at the Services Center. He reminded everyone to stop by the Services Center to see the Berks County Liberty Bell on display.

Commissioner Barnhardt

He publicly thanked the appointees who volunteered on the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority. He reminded everyone of the Berks County Correctional Facility Steering Committee which meets every Thursday at 1:00 PM. He gave an update on the progress of the planning for the new correctional facility. He mentioned that this is our 4th on the road meeting and thanked Cumru Township for their willingness to host us. He wished everyone a safe and happy 4th of July weekend.

Commissioner Leinbach

He announced the great news that the Lenhartsville Bridge tolling project has been halted by the Commonwealth Court. He spoke about the significance of the 4th of July and the dedication of the Berks County Liberty Bell ceremony held in the Services Center. He stated that Berks County has its own Liberty Bell which hung on the original Courthouse building and the bell was rung on July 8, 1776. He read some of the quotes/comments from his speech during the Berks County Liberty Bell dedication ceremony on the morning of June 30, 2022. He invited everyone to the Wyomissing July 4th parade taking place on Monday, July 4th at 10:00 AM.

ROW OFFICERS' COMMENTS

No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Leinbach adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk