

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes November 18, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 18, 2021, 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 Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor, Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer and Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk.

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

Berks County COVID-19 Data Report - Brian Gottschall, Director of Department of Emergency Services

Reported that the State Department of Health changed the national reporting on case count regarding contracting COVID. This caused a higher count in COVID cases over a 7 day period. Our pediatric cases did slightly go up and our hospital numbers remain kind of flat. Pointed out that we are seeing a larger percentage of individuals hospitalized who have been vaccinated. COVID death rates continue a slow steady rise. We are close in reaching the 70% percent goal in Berks County. Gave a breakdown on COVID boosters and the forthcoming news for the opportunity to make boosters universal for everyone. Informed the board of a preliminary medication called Molnupiravir that will allow those who contracted COVID to take the drug at home in the hopes of avoiding hospitalization. This medication is not yet approved but it is being reviewed by the FDA. Please visit www.doyourpartberks.com for latest information about COVID.

Comment from Mr. Archer attached.

Mr. Gottschall indicated that he can't answer to the intent of those creating the graph but can certainly look into whether CDC publishes data with respect to cardiovascular disease and how it relates to COVID.

PRESENTATION

Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio presented the proposed 2022 Berks County General Operating Budget for review. Mr. Patrizio said this proposed budget is responsive to the needs of County taxpayers and meets the Commissioners' goal of a responsible budget, and without recommending a tax increase. Mr. Patrizio commented on the lowering of debt service and managing it down to 7% by using our reserves in a strategic way to pay down debt.

Mr. Patrizio pointed out the proposed Budget maintains long term financial stability, preserves the County's Aaa bond rating, and maintain budget neutrality.

The proposed Budget package will be available for public inspection and posted on the County's website beginning today through Budget adoption December 16, 2021.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 4, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach noted two Executive sessions were held November 12, 2021 and November 17, 2021 and dealt with personnel, security, and litigation.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Agenda Items

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

391.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$138,801 per listing dated November 12, 2021.

392.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated November 18, 2021 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of David Peris to PC013426 Assistant County Solicitor Procurement – Solicitor's Office, effective 12/1/2021. Rate of 79,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$61,235; Midpoint \$81,647; Maximum \$102,059. Replacement for A. Elizabeth Kraft who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11020.
2. Authorize the promotion of Rebecca Dorsey from PC012127 HealthChoices Quality Officer to HealthChoices Project Manager – MH /DD Services, effective 11/19/2021. Rate of \$69,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$48,450; Midpoint \$64,599; Maximum \$80,749. New position created by Salary Board on 11/4/2021. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 35000 – 25050.
3. Authorize a salary adjustment for Laura Kemp PC013455 Victim Advocate – District Attorney, effective 11/19/2021. Rate of \$37,440/annually. Salary range Minimum \$29,609; Midpoint \$39,478; Maximum \$49,347. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.
4. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for a Senior Financial Analyst – Budget and Finance

Department, effective 11/19/2021. Rate not to exceed \$45.25/hour. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when a candidate is hired to fill the Financial Analyst position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11400.

- 393.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the amendment of Resolution 342-2021, the result of a recommendation to award for ITB 21-03-KL as indicated herein. Language that is underlined denotes that which has been added. Language that has been stricken denotes that which is hereby removed from the award;

Weikel Sportswear, Inc.

3100 St Lawrence Ave
Reading, PA 19606

Line Items:

~~75,76,77,78,89,90,91,108,109,110,111,112,115,116,117,118,119,120,121,122~~

Estimated Annual Expenditure \$11,181.00 ~~\$12,561.00~~

- 394.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Edward F. Anewalt IV, Bernville, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a 4 year term expiring on December 31, 2025.
- 395.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Virginia Hand, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Public Libraries Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 396.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Alan Carman, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania to the Reading Public Library Board of Trustees for a 5 year term expiring on December 31, 2026.
- 397.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Douglas Didyoung, Sr., Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Municipal Authority for a 5 year term expiring on January 2, 2027.
- 398.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Patricia Giles, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a 2 year term expiring on December 31, 2023.
- 399.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Malcom Cole, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a 2 year term expiring on December 31, 2023.

- 400.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Yvonne Stroman, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 401.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of James Miller, Hamburg, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 402.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Brian Wlazelek, Blandon, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 403.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Edward Chastka, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 404.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment #4 to HealthChoices Behavioral Health Agreement No. 4100083356 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Human Services and the County of Berks, amending various appendices of the Program Standards and Requirements.
- 405.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Novation Agreements, Amendment No. 2 – 2018/2019/2020-VF-05-33198 between the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and Berks County for salary provisions.
- 406.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jason Bailey, Blandon, Pennsylvania to the Conservation District board to fill the remainder of a 4 year term which will expire on December 31, 2023.
- 407.2021 Adopt a resolution approving the financing by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks of a project for the benefit of Berks County Nonprofit Development Corporation which project consists, generally, of the design, construction, renovation and improvement of certain capital projects, declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the area served by Berks County Nonprofit Development Corporation for the authority to participate in the financing of the project; authorizing the approval of the project for the federal internal revenue code purposes; and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action.

- 408.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the Risk Control Service Agreement-Renewal effective January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.
- 409.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to bind the Excess Workers' Compensation Policy with Arch Insurance at a rate of \$0.1824 versus our renewal rate of \$0.2163 saving the County \$40,879. This amount is approximately 17% under the 2022 budgeted amount.
- 410.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the renewal of a 3 year agreement with EHD to manage the Self Insured Workers' Compensation and PA Heart and Lung program for the County of Berks, Pennsylvania. The discounted fee for this agreement will remain unchanged and has remained flat for a period of 9 years.
- 411.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the renewal of a 3 year agreement with PMA Management Corporation to provide Third Party Administrative Services for the County of Berks self- insured workers compensation program based on the conditions in the proposed renewal agreement. There is a 3% increase to the expiring agreement that remains flat throughout the agreement.
- 412.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute a letter of support for the application by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks for funding to complete the Pottstown Steel River Station, an important regional downtown tourism space left half-completed due to the Pandemic.
- 413.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute a letter of support for the application for funding submitted by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks (the "Authority") to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements ("CRISI") Program. CRISI funds are needed for essential safety and capacity upgrades to the Colebrookdale Railroad connecting Berks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania.
- 414.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and SEIU regarding staffing incentive program at the Berks Heim.

- 415.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and UFCW regarding staffing incentive program at the Berks Heim.
- 416.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute amendment/modification # P00029 between Berks County and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to update Section XVII Security Requirements and incorporate Adequate COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors subject to final review and approval of the terms and conditions by the County Solicitor. All other terms and conditions of the contract remain unchanged.
- 417.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing EH&D, Berks County's Insurance Broker, to place coverage for the Public Officials Crime Policy effective January 1, 2022.
2. Motion to authorize execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as set forth on attached listing dated November 15, 2021.
 3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated November 18, 2021.
 4. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers for week ending November 25, 2021, subject to final review and approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.
 5. Motion to authorize execution of employee payroll disbursements dated November 23, 2021.

Reports

1. Dennis Adams, Treasurer, prepared and submitted a weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by Mitchel Salvatore, Accounting Assistant.

Report of Chief Administrative Officer - Ronald R. Seaman

Gave the board an update on the progress of the current mandated election recount. Thanked employees in both Elections and Information Systems for their dedicated work on the ongoing grueling recount work. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded us that overall, we all have plenty more to be thankful for and we should mitigate out the negative to focus on the positive.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Rivera

Encouraged everyone to take advantage of the 2021 Berks County Farm Tours taking place Saturday, November 20th and Sunday, November 21st from 1-4 PM.

Warned about a scam with individuals passing as property owners and they try to collect deposit for rent, but they are not the owners. Ask everyone to please try to rent/buy locally in which they can personally meet with the landlord/seller to avoid being scammed.

Commended all institutions of higher education for all they do within the communities.

Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Reminded us to focus on all the positive things rather than the negative things and give thanks for all our blessings.

Reminded everyone about the Reading Holiday Parade taking place Saturday, November 20th.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Thanked SEIU and UFCW for agreeing to the employee incentive program for the Berks Heim. Commended Information Systems, Elections staff, ES&S and other staff for the ongoing work on Election recount. Wished everyone a blessed Thanksgiving and to be thankful for all we have.

Commissioner Leinbach

Informed everyone the Commissioners & Solicitor will be attending the CCAP Fall conference in Hershey, PA starting Sunday, November 21st. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded all to be thankful for what we have. Remanence on a song titled "Thanks to God" selected by his mother who recently passed. Read some of the words of the song which are meaningful and reminds us to be thankful not only when things are going great but also during our most difficult times in our lives.

Introduced Ann Marie Yocom-Grill as his newly hired Executive Assistant who will be taking over for Mary Buerer when she retires in January 2022.

Row Officers' Comments

Dennis Adams, Treasurer wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Public Comment

Tom Gerhard, Deputy District Director & Director of Community Development for Congressman Dan Muser, commended Commissioners for working together to serve the residents of Berks County. Mr. Gerhard introduced Anthony Seiwel to the Board, who will assume the position of Deputy District Director soon.

See Q&A attached

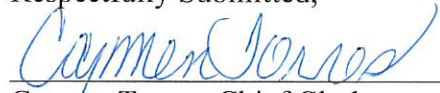
Commissioner Barnhardt stated that the facility assessment conducted was the present condition of the jail and not necessarily a population discussion. We did ask CGL earlier in the year for staffing analysis of upper management and recently conclude what the needs are going forward to maintain the existing jail. Asked CGL to scale back the bed count, but we must

remember that it is not all necessarily about the number of beds. We need flexibility built into a jail and we are mindful of the number of beds and the utilization. There is much more to consider when building a new jail such as space, activity area, mental health unit and we need to consider the square footage allocation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk