

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes November 4, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 4, 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

Testing and case counts remain smoothed out, and we remain hopeful for a continuous decline. The Delta Variant surge is beginning to wane. Pediatric case count remains flat, and the death rate continues to slowly rise. Berks County is nearing its 70% vaccination goal which has been reached by the state of Pennsylvania. We continue to lead Pennsylvania in vaccinations, except in our 12-18 age range. The booster vaccination as well as the mixing and matching of vaccinations are both still being recommended to those eligible; visit DoYourPartBerks.com for updated information.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 28, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach noted an Executive session was held November 3, 2021 and dealt with personnel, real estate, and litigation.

PRESENTATION

Commissioner Leinbach read aloud the Hidden Heroes proclamation in support of Military and Veteran Caregivers. Present were Ken Lebron, Director of Veteran Affairs, Jason Mattise-Nauman, Deputy Director of Veterans Affairs, and April Mulvey, 2021 Elizabeth Dole Foundation fellow caregiver. It was acknowledged and agreed how big of a step forward this is; that we are a trendsetting county at the forefront. It was noted that we are the fifth county to sign this proclamation. Ms. Mulvey attested that this recognition is momentous and being heard and honored, although hard to put into words, is amazing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Rivera and all voted unanimously to approve agenda item 385.2021.

- 385.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Board of Commissioners to recognize and support the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes of Berks County. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY PROCLAIM BERKS COUNTY AS A HIDDEN HEROES COUNTY IN SUPPORT OF MILITARY AND VETERAN CAREGIVERS.

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:

378.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$68,623 and 2021 Appropriations in the amount of \$7,021 per listing dated October 28, 2021.

379.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated November 4, 2021 as follows:

1. Authorize the promotion of Kerry Racine from PC010399 Correctional Officer to PC012265 Sergeant – Jail System, effective 11/10/2021. Rate of \$68,377/annually. Salary range Minimum \$46,146; Midpoint \$61,528; Maximum \$76,910. Replacement for Robert McKenzie who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.
2. Authorize the promotion of Michael Johnson from PC010404 Correctional Officer to PC012264 Sergeant – Jail System, effective 11/10/2021. Rate of \$68,377/annually. Salary range Minimum \$46,146; Midpoint \$61,528; Maximum \$76,910. Replacement for Leo Davis who was promoted. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.
3. Authorize the transfer of Laurie Dow from PC010502 Correctional Officer to PC011791 Office Support III – M/C – Jail System, effective 11/10/2021. Rate of \$37,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$29,184; Midpoint \$38,912; Maximum \$48,641. Funding was reinstated on 10/10/2019 to a previously zero budgeted position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.

380.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Ken Lebron, Reading, PA, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a 2-year term expiring on December 31, 2023.

381.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Karen Miller, Bernville, PA, to the Berks County Area Agency on

Aging Advisory Council for a 2-year term expiring on December 31, 2023.

- 382.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Mark Sprow, Esq., Shillington, PA, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a 2-year term expiring on December 31, 2023.
- 383.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Eric Jenkins, Fleetwood, PA, to the Berks County Industrial Development Authority for a 5-year term expiring on December 31, 2026.
- 384.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Lisa Weaver, Reading, PA, to the Berks County Planning Commission for a 4-year term expiring on December 31, 2025.
- 386.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of the following individuals to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). Said members shall serve until the completion of the revised plan or until otherwise their duties have ended by statute.

Charlie Jones	City Representative (City of Reading)
Jim Bobeck	1st Class Township (Muhlenberg Township)
Brian Potts	2nd Class Township (Bern Township)
Brian Cole	Municipal Representative (Kenhorst Borough)
Brian Clements	Citizen Representative
Charles Mowbray	Citizen Representative
Mike Gombar	Citizen Representative
Josh Clements	Private Solid Waste Industry (AJ Blosenski, Inc.)
Diane Solomon	Private scrap/recycling (Alleghany Towing & Salvage)
Don Moll	Industry (B&G Glass)
Jane Meeks	Recycling Coordinator

- 387.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Brandy Neider, Children and Youth Administrator to execute Memorandum of Understanding between Berks County Children and Youth, Berks County, Pennsylvania and Lancaster County Children and Youth, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania for the purpose of establishing guidelines and address funding criteria for the use of Berks County licensed resource home.
- 388.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Berks County Adult Probation Office Grant-in-Aid for 2021/2022 application

to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The grant is in the amount of \$454,488 and is 100% reimbursed by the State.

389.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Social Service and Healthcare Professional Liability Renewal Application (d/b/a Partners in Parenting [PIP]) for Berks County Children and Youth Services effective January 8, 2022.

390.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution and submission of amendment by Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to the Emergency Solutions Grant – CARES Act (“ESG-CV”) Contract No. C000074187 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development and the Berks County Commissioners, County of Berks, to allow for an extension of the end date from January 8, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

2. Motion to authorize execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as set forth on attached listing dated November 1, 2021. There was a total of 34 contracts.
3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller’s Office vouchers listing dated November 4, 2021.
4. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers for week ending November 11, 2021, subject to final review and approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.
5. Motion to authorize execution of employee payroll disbursements dated November 9, 2021.

Reports

1. Linda Weaver, Chief Deputy Treasurer, prepared and submitted a weekly Treasurer’s report.
2. The Controller’s weekly report was presented by Sandy Graffius, Controller.

Report of Chief Administrative Officer - Ronald R. Seaman

Gave thanks and recognition to all county employees who reported to the DoubleTree and worked on Election Day and processed roughly 16,000 ballots – job well done!

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Rivera

Acknowledged and thanked Election Day workers, as well as the organizations involved who also supported and assisted, noted the record number of write-in votes, and congratulated the winners. Encouraged everyone to, this holiday season, support small and/or local businesses and farms by purchasing (some) gifts from the B.A.R.N 2021 Holiday Food and Gift Guide rather than buying everything via the internet. Honored veterans and their families for their sacrifices and support, before, during and after service.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Thanked Election Day workers, supporters, and leaders for their diligent and hard work throughout the day. Also voiced thanks to everyone who voted. Cautioned about mail-in and absentee ballots, stating that many were disqualified for lack of signature, date, and/or the secure envelop and wanted to stress to continue to vote this way but to be hyper-vigilant when filling out the form and ballot to ensure full compliance so your vote is counted – triple check it prior to returning. The Coalition continues to meet to address the opioid and overdose pandemic, and has expanded to include alcohol addiction, all of which could result in grave consequences and suffering. Expressed thanks and appreciation to all veteran's and is excited to portray that appreciation in person at the upcoming veteran's dinner dance and induction at Wilson.

Commissioner Leinbach

Articulated thanks to all the Election Day staff. Explained that criticisms received over the last two years regarding elections from various groups for various reasons should be directed to the Commissioners and not the elections office. The Commissioners are here to listen to and address all feedback and concerns received. It was noted that the PollBooks save many hours of manual labor and are exactly accurate as opposed to manual tabulation, and we plan to continue to utilize PollBooks going forward. Thanked and acknowledged all poll workers who show up and make in-person voting possible. Reminded of RACC's November 10 special 50th anniversary celebration and dinner, with the keynote speaker being Apple's co-founder, Steve Wozniak. Very proud of Doctor Looney, RACC personnel and all the students. Stated the difficult fact that when you sign a contract to enlist in the military, you are indeed signing to sacrifice your life, possibly making the ultimate sacrifice of self, which is so important to remember and honor. Wanted to remind people to stay sensitive and understanding, as not all wounds and scars from service are outward, many are emotional, and remain ongoing battles still being fought today for so many. Proudly noted that this will be the first year that all three commissioners will be present at the Veteran's dinner dance and induction ceremony which is very special and meaningful.

Row Officers' Comments

Sandy Graffius – Stated that the election rovers did a great job of handing out, but also returning all unneeded debit cards which resulted in a \$5,040 savings for the county and also reported that many have already successfully began using their debit cards following receipt. The process ran very smoothly.

Public Comment

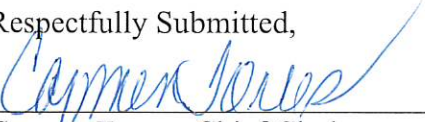
See Q&A attached

Reverend Evelyn Morrison – supports the election process but requests a local policy because ballot questions require additional explanation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk