

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes December 9, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 9, 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 Barnhardt opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Berks County COVID-19 Data Report / Co-County Wellness Update - Brian Gottschall, Director of Department of Emergency Services

There is a steady upward rise in COVID cases and much of the gains in Berks County and surrounding Counties are now reversing. Although we have seen a rise in Pediatric cases, they remain flat but there has been a slow growth in the 0–4 year old category of ages. Vaccination numbers continuous slow development, but we saw the highest vaccination numbers last week at the Berks Cares vaccination center. Hospitals continue to worsen with hospitalizations, and we will continue to track the numbers. Death continues a slow climb week after week. Keeping an eye on influenza due to an increase in a rate greater that prior years.

Co-County wellness workload is going up dramatically. Contact tracing has been going slow due to the lack of improved effort from the public to cooperate with case investigation.

Reminded everyone that COVID testing is being done outside DES and everyone can get the information by visiting www.doyourpartberks.com.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 2, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach noted an Executive Session was held December 8, 2021 and dealt with personnel and contract negotiations.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

See Q&A attached.

Agenda Items

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

- 438.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$27,881 and 2021 Appropriations in the amount of \$856,034 per listing dated December 3, 2021.
- 439.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated December 9, 2021 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Tracy Shoemaker to PC011158 Judicial Administrative Assistant – Court Administration, effective 12/15/2021. Rate of \$53,047/annually. Salary range Minimum \$33,721; Midpoint \$44,961; Maximum \$56,202. Replacement for Tracey Zeglen who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 2. Authorize the transfer of Valerie Baldwin from PC011695 Office Support II to PC011168 Judicial Coordinator – Court Administration, effective 12/15/2021. Rate of \$39,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$31,912; Midpoint \$42,550; Maximum \$53,187. Replacing Denise Simon who was separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 3. Authorize a salary adjustment for Brenda Hein PC012817 Fiscal Officer – Sheriff Department, effective 12/10/2021. Rate of \$56,426/annually. Salary range Minimum \$37,080; Midpoint \$49,440; Maximum \$61,800. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11510.
 4. Authorize Troy Wolf, PC012252 Sergeant – Sheriff's Department to work out of classification in the Captain position, effective 10/18/2021. Rate of \$33.90/hour. Salary range Minimum \$45,724; Midpoint \$60,966; Maximum \$76,207. This working out of classification will cease upon the appointment of a Captain. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11510.
 5. Authorize salary adjustments for Judicial Coordinators – Court Administration, per attached listing, effective 12/10/2021. Salary range Minimum \$31,912; Midpoint \$42,500; Maximum \$53,187. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.

6. Authorize salary adjustments for Judicial Administrative Assistants – Court Administration, per attached listing, effective 12/10/2021. Salary range Minimum \$33,721; Midpoint \$44,961; Maximum \$56,202. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.

- 440.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute four (4) contracts, with a three (3) year term, at the rate of \$21.00 per hour for personal care and home support services, as a result of Request for Proposal #21-27-CN for In-Home Personal Care & Home Support Services for the County of Berks Area Agency on Aging as follows:

CareGivers America, LLC

718 S. State Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411

I Am Home Care, LLC

5 S. 9th Street

Reading, PA 19602

Open Systems Healthcare

1818 Market Street, Suite 1105

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Romar Corporation

dba Caring Matters Home Care

530 Kenhorst Boulevard

Reading, PA 19611

The County reserves the right to extend the agreement for two additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties.

- 441.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of David Phillips, Mohrsville, Pennsylvania to serve as Chair of the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2022.

- 442.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Amy Sundstrom, Pottstown, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Children & Youth Services Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.

- 443.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Amy Pletz, Bernville, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Children & Youth Services Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 444.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Dave Kline, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a 4 year term expiring on December 31, 2025.
- 445.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jenna M. Martorana, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania to the Berks County MH/DD Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 446.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jaime Perez, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Housing Authority for a 5 year term expiring on December 31, 2026.
- 447.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Michael Toledo, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 448.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) by and between Berks Alliance (“Alliance”) and the County of Berks (“County”), agreed on engaging Lit Communities (“Lit”) to provide broadband consulting services and perform a feasibility study (“Study”), to analyze current needs for additional broadband services within Berks County, Pennsylvania.
- 449.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health Employer Member Application 2022 for participation in the Prescription Drug Consortium.
- 450.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the following 2022-2023 PCoRP Renewal documents:
1. General Instructions
 2. PCoRP Renewal Payment Options/Commission Selection
- 451.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the HOME Investment Partnerships – American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Program applications and agreements for additional funding in the amount of \$2,296,766 which will require amendments or budget revisions to its FY 2021 Annual Action Plan.

Commissioner Leinbach called on Kenneth Pick, Executive Director of Berks County Redevelopment Authority, to explain agenda item No. 451.2021. Mr. Pick indicated the American Rescue Plan provided funds to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a special version of the Home Investment Partnerships Program. The program focuses on any population needing Social Services. Mr. Pick informed the Board of the current projects in the works to spend the \$2,296,766 awarded.

2. Motion to authorize execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as set forth on attached listing dated December 6, 2021.
3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated December 9, 2021.

Reports

1. Dennis Adams, Treasurer, prepared and submitted a weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's two-week report was presented by Sandy Graffius, Controller.

Report of Chief Administrative Officer - Ronald R. Seaman

Mr. Seaman gave a detailed Parks & Recreation schedule of events for the month of December.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Rivera

Reminded the public to please be careful when renting or buying a home. There is a scam in which individuals pretend to be the homeowners and take money from the renters/buyers. Please be sure that when you rent/buy a home, you are giving money to the actual owner and not being scammed.

Commissioner Barnhardt

No comments

Commissioner Leinbach

Reminded everyone the following Commissioners' meeting is on the Road in Muhlenberg Township at 7:00 PM.

Touched on sessions attended at the National Association of Counties in Atlanta, GA. There were sessions on Economic Development and Economic growth, which are not the same thing, and House Bill # 5735 simplifies the American Rescue Plan lost revenue formula.

Row Officers' Comments

No comments.

Public Comment

No comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk