

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 14, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. via Microsoft Teams Live, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Michael S. Rivera in attendance and Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach participating via Microsoft Teams. 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 gave a report on COVID-19 combined with CO-County Wellness report. Mr. Gottschall indicated there is a rise in case count, positive test results as well as hospitalizations and the death rate. Case count tracking for pediatrics has officially begun. There's a drastic increase in those receiving a first dose vaccine, and we're very close to our 70% goal, with the 12-18 age group lagging. The Booster vaccine is still being recommended pursuant to the guidelines currently in place. Reminded everyone to visit Do Your Part Berks at www.doyourpartberks.com for the most up to date information.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 7, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Presentation

Stephanie Shirk, Client Relationship Manager, Penn State Extension spoke to the Board regarding the focuses of agronomy, health, youth development and food. Ms. Shirk introduced the following educators/staff to the Board of Commissioners, *Nathan Briggs*, Beef/Livestock, *Becky Clawson*, Local Food Systems, *Alyssa DeFazio*, Food Families & Health, *Sarah Frame*, Master Gardener Coordinator & Spotted Lanternfly, *Natalie Marioni*, Master Watershed Steward Coordinator, *Rainey Rosemond*, Dairy, and participating virtually was *Kelly Dukovic*, Berks County 4-H. Each educator gave an overview of the innovative new programs in their designated fields. They are each looking forward to getting started and are truly passionate about what they do.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No Public Comments.

Agenda Items

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

- 340.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$75,000 and 2021 Appropriations in the negative amount of \$(41,021) per listing dated October 7, 2021.
- 341.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated October 14, 2021 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Melissa Oley to PC011935 Ombudsman – Area Agency on Aging, effective 10/27/2021. Rate of \$48,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$37,753; Midpoint \$50,337; Maximum \$62,921. Replacement for David Shields who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 28000 – 23150.
 2. Authorize the appointment of Stephanie Williams to PC013488 Deputy Administrator/Outreach Services Coordinator – Library Systems, effective 11/03/2021. Rate of \$63,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$48,966; Midpoint \$65,289; Maximum \$81,611. New position created by Salary Board on 9/16/2021. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16050.
 3. Authorize the promotion of Natasha Waddy from PC012295 Resident Care Counselor to PC012630 Residential Center Supervisor – Berks County Residential Center, effective 10/15/2021. Rate of \$61,545/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,957; Midpoint \$59,943; Maximum \$74,929. Replacement for Elmer Miller who was separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 32200.
 4. Authorize the promotion of Josiah Scott-Manga from PC013042 Resident Care Counselor to PC012626 Residential Center Supervisor – Berks County Residential Center, effective 10/15/2021. Rate of \$61,545/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,957; Midpoint \$59,943; Maximum \$74,929. Replacement for Leonard Kopetsky who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 32200.
 5. Authorize the promotion of Lisa Gauker from PC013034 Part-time Assistant Environmental Educator to PC012351 Full-time Recreation and Special Events Supervisor – Parks Department, effective 10/19/2021. Rate of \$49,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$38,992;

Midpoint \$51,989; Maximum \$64,986. Replacement for Rebecca Hughes who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16070.

6. Authorize the promotion of Travis Johnson from PC012105 Probation Officer IV to PC010135 Assistant Chief – Juvenile Probation, effective 11/02/2021. Rate of \$83,539/annually. Salary range Minimum \$52,197; Midpoint \$69,596; Maximum \$86,995. Replacement for Todd Kaley who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12020.
7. Authorize the transfer of Joseph Famiglietti from PC012343 Sr. Financial Analyst – Budget & Finance to PC013015 Sr. Governmental Accountant – Team Lead – Controller's Office, effective 11/01/2021. Rate of \$67,098/annually. Salary range Minimum \$45,194; Midpoint \$60,258; Maximum \$75,323. Replacement for Andrew Noll who was promoted. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11120.

342.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contract & Procurement to execute, four (4) agreements as result of Invitation to bid # 21-03-JR, Uniform Provisions for a period of one (1) year for uniform provisions for the County of Berks departments as follows;

Municipal Emergency Services

7150 Arbor Highway
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Line items:

3,4,11,24,25,28,35,39,40,41,42,43,46,52,53,54,56,59,61,64,67,
68,69,70,71,72,73,74,
101,102,103,104,105,106,107,108,109,110,111,112,115,116,11
7,118,119,120,121,122,140,141,
142,143,144

Estimated Annual Expenditure \$134,178.43

Starr Uniform Center

207 Center St
Scranton, PA 18503

Line items: 13,14,15,16,20,21,22,50,51,56

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$14,631.54

Hess Embroidery & Uniform

694 Reading Ave
West Reading, PA 19611

Line Items:

5,6,7,8,9,10,12,17,18,19,23,26,27,29,30,31,32,33,34,36,37,38,4
 4,45,47,48,49,55,
 56,57,58,60,62,63,65,66,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,92,93,9
 4,95,96,97,98,99,100,113,114,
 115,116,117,118,119,120,121,122,123,124,125,126,127,128,12
 9,130,131,132,133,134,135,
 136,137,138,139

Estimated annual expenditure \$23,436.95

Weikel Sportswear, Inc.

3100 St Lawrence Ave
 Reading, PA 19606

Line Items:

75,76,77,78,89,90,91,108,109,110,111,112,115,116,117,118,11
 9,120,121,122

Estimated Annual Expenditure \$12,561.00

The County reserves the right to extend the contract for two additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties in accordance with the unit prices herein.

- 343.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute, a one (1) year agreement as a result of ITB #21-23-GW, Medical Grade Oxygen, as follows:

Columbia Ancillary Services, Inc.

1388 State Route 487
 Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$68,104.26

The County reserves the right to extend the agreement for four additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties at the awarded unit prices.

- 344.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Jeremy Meck, Womelsdorf, PA to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 345.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Steve Mohn, Womelsdorf, PA to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.
- 346.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Don Moll, Reading, PA to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for a 5 year term expiring on December 31, 2026.

- 347.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of John "JD" Turner, Mohnton, PA to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a 4 year term expiring on December 31, 2025.
- 348.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Pamela Seaman, MH/DD Administrator to accept the capitation rates offered by the Department of Human Services for the HealthChoices Program for the calendar year January through December 2022.
- 349.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the renewal rates summaries for Capital Blue Cross due to removal of MyCare Rewards for period October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
- 350.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the renewal rates summaries for Capital Blue Cross effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
- 351.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of letter of engagement with Michael J. Herzog, Esquire and David Laigaie, Esquire of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC for professional legal services pertaining to a Medicaid reimbursement appeal.
- 352.2021 Adopt resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair to execute termination of License Agreement between North Reading Investors, LP, Licensor, New York, NY and County of Berks and Berks Community Health Center, Licensee for space, located at North Reading Plaza, Leesport Avenue and Route 222, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County effective October 31, 2021.
- 353.2021 Adopt resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair to execute License Agreement between North Reading Investors, LP, New York, NY and County of Berks, Pennsylvania and Penn State Health, Hershey, Pennsylvania for space, located at North Reading Plaza, Leesport Avenue and Route 222, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County effective November 1, 2021 and shall terminate October 31, 2022.
- 354.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a letter of support for a funding application(s) to the PennDOT Multimodal program and other state and federal funding programs by Coral Aviation for a development project at the Reading Regional Airport.

2. Motion to authorize execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as set forth on attached listing dated October 8, 2021. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are 6 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated October 14, 2021.
4. Motion to authorize execution of tax collector payroll payments dated October 15, 2021.

Reports

1. A. Dennis Adams, County Treasurer, prepared and submitted a weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by Sandra Graffius, County Controller.

Report of Chief Administrative Officer - Ronald R. Seaman

Please note that the deadline to register to vote is Monday, October 18, 2021, which is also the first day drop boxes for ballots will become available.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Rivera

Congratulated both the Berks County Industrial Development Authority and the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance for their recent awards recognizing some of their great local achievements. Reminded of Nolde Forest's Day of the Dead Celebration happening this upcoming weekend and reiterated for folks to call 811 before digging to help prevent hitting underground utility pipes, lines and wires when digging.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Stated that there is a need for poll workers on election day, most critically in Muhlenberg, Kutztown, Topton and the City of Reading. Poll workers receive training as well as compensation. Interpreter services are also needed at the polls. Confirmed that the Post-Master has assured that all mail-in ballots, as well as overweight mail-in ballots will be accepted and received before November 2, 2021, and that prepaid-postage envelopes will be budgeted for next year to resolve this oversight.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commented on the appeal of Dr. Tim Richards, a sixth-generation Hawaiian rancher and big animal vet, who managed to create a program to help those people needing food, procuring that food through local agriculture, which is a continued success and incorporates both the public and private sectors. Also made everyone aware that he is attending and representing Berks County at the NACo conference this week, held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Row Officers' Comments

Sandy Graffius stated that her office will continue to attend the training for Election volunteers to discuss the debit card payments.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk