

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 28, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 28, 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/Co-County Wellness Update

Brian Gottschall, Director of Department of Emergency Services reported that we have seen a leveling off in cases within the last couple of weeks. It appears that we have hit the peak for this surge and hopefully we continue to see a plateau. Our pediatric case data remains flat, and we will continue to monitor. Deaths continue to climb on a steady rate. Please visit Do Your Part Berks for the most up to date information at www.doyourpartberks.com. is flat and

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 21, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach noted an Executive session was held October 27, 2021 and dealt with personnel and litigation.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 369.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$136,800 and 2021 Appropriations in the amount of \$47,006 per listing dated October 21, 2021.
 - 370.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated October 28, 2021 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Valerie Kramer to PC011265 Law Clerk I – Court Administration, effective 11/01/2021. Rate of 50,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,078; Midpoint \$53,438; Maximum \$66,797. Replacement for Kelli Long who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 2. Authorize the promotion of Brooke Strausser from PC010568 County Caseworker II to PC010662 County Caseworker Supervisor – Children & Youth Services, effective 10/29/2021. Rate of \$57,651/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,747; Midpoint \$58,329; Maximum \$72,912. Replacement for Cara Angelo who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 23200.
 3. Authorize the promotion of Nicole Kauffman-Jacoby from PC010552 County Caseworker II to PC010644 County Caseworker Supervisor – Children & Youth Services, effective 11/01/2021. Rate of \$57,651/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,747; Midpoint \$58,329; Maximum \$72,912. Replacement for Rebecca Keller who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 23200.
 4. Authorize the promotion of Olivia Cavallo from PC010637 County Caseworker II to PC010661 County Caseworker Supervisor – Children & Youth Services, effective 11/10/2021. Rate of \$57,651/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,747; Midpoint \$58,329; Maximum \$72,912. Replacement for Melinda Henisey who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 23200.
- 371.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #21-21-GR a one-year contract for Emergency Bridge Repair: Equipment Rental, Material, and Labor to be utilized by the Facilities Department as identified herein:

Lobar Site Development Corporation
4 Barlo Circle, P.O. Box 432
Dillsburg, PA 17019
Total Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$89,062.40

The County of Berks reserves the right to extend the Agreement for two (2) additional one-year terms at the unit prices herein, upon mutual agreement of both parties.

- 372.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #21-19-GR a contract for the Pleasantville Covered Bridge Headache Bars Replacement Project as identified herein:
- Minichi, Inc.
453 Ziegler Street
Dupont, PA 18641
Total Bid Amount Not to Exceed: \$67,000.00
- 373.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Ineavelle Ruiz, Reading, Pennsylvania to the South Central Transit Authority/BARTA board to fill the remainder of a 5 year term which will expire on December 31, 2023.
- 374.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Carl Staples, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees to fill the remainder of a 6 year term which will expire on June 30, 2025.
- 375.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute PennDOT Form MS-340 to encumber County Fee for Local Use (\$5.00 Fee) funding for the design and construction of the following County-owned project:
1. Pinnacle View Bridge (32A) Superstructure Replacement carrying Pine Creek Road over Pine Creek (Albany Twp.) - \$910,951.00.
- 376.2021 Adopt resolution to endorse and adopt for publication the Berks County COVID-19 Health Advisory Panel Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation.
- 377.2021 Adopt a resolution amending resolution No. 262-2021 adopted July 15, 2021, that the Berks County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the allocation of an amount up to \$3 Million to the Berks County Convention Center Authority (BCCCA) as a result of the negative economic impact/lost revenue from the harmful consequences of the economic disruptions resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency. These funds will be provided upon receipt and successful review of the information provided by BCCCA of the agreement between the County and BCCCA regarding the funds and subject to final review and approval by the County Solicitor's Office.
2. Motion to authorize execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as set forth on attached listing dated October 25, 2021. Commissioner Leinbach noted there is a total of 8 contracts and listed the departments.

3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated October 28, 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 Sandy Graffius, Controller.

Report of Chief Administrative Officer - Ronald R. Seaman

Reminded everyone that all absentee/mail-in-ballots must be received in the Elections Office by 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. They can be dropped off in any of the two drop boxes available or dropped off in person at the Elections office.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Rivera

Thanked the Chambers of Commerce and Reading Area Community College for supporting manufacturing and holding the Manufacturing Summit job fair. Congratulated both Carl Staples for his appointment to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees. Also congratulated Ineavelle Ruiz for her appointment to the South Central Transit Authority/BARTA. Announced that he met with members of the City of Reading and different organizations to discuss where we stand with home evictions and what assistance can be provided. Gave an update on all the efforts in place to reach out to the Latino community to promote the correct Election date. Have been in contact with local radio stations, Latino community leaders, held an interview on RUMBA 92.3 to ensure the Latino community is informed of the correct Election date.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Thanked Commissioner Rivera for his efforts in reaching out to the Latino Community on behalf of the Elections office to promote the correct Election date. Gave an overview of the Elections Board meeting agenda following the Commissioners' meeting. Thanked Carl Staples for being appointed to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees and Ineavelle Ruiz for her appointment to the South Central Transit Authority/BARTA. Thanked Dennis Rex who served on the South Central Transit Authority/BARTA and bid him farewell. Pointed out that agenda item No. 375.2021 is made possible because of the collection of the \$5.00 fee tagged onto the vehicle registration.

Commissioner Leinbach

Thanked Commissioner Rivera for his significant outreach to the Latino community to promote the correct Election date due to the serious error on letters sent out. Expressed his frustration with some of the letters to Reading Eagle editors which contain misinformation and does not promote the correct Election date. Gave a breakdown on what the County has done to investigate how the error happened, make corrective measures, and follow up with the correct information. Noted that a mistake was made, and the County is rectifying that mistake. Any organization wanting to help should promote correct information and not misinformation.

Row Officers' Comments

Sandy Graffius reported that Oliver Arthur and herself have attended multiple training sessions for election workers to promote the use of debit cards.

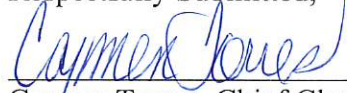
Public Comment

See Q&A attached

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk