

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 7, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the on Thursday, October 7, 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 Cody L. Kauffman, 1st Assistant 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

There remains a steady growth in cases, along with a considerable amount of testing, however the positivity rate has remained stable. The Department of Health is now able to produce and provide new data points on children. Hospital and death statistics remain slightly increased but mostly no change. Reiterated the importance of obtaining either the third dose or booster vaccine, guidelines permitting. Reminded of the helpful information provided on the Do Your Part website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 30, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Q&A comments were read and are attached hereto.

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Budget

- 330.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$142,196 and 2021 Appropriations in the amount of \$309,100 per listing dated October 4, 2021.

Human Resources

331.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated October 7, 2021 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Anne-Marie Yocom-Grill to PC011065 Executive Assistant – Commissioner's Office, effective 10/29/2021. Rate of \$55,032/annually. Salary range Minimum \$33,721; Midpoint \$44,961; Maximum \$56,202. Replacement for Mary Buerer who will be retiring. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11010.
2. Authorize the promotion of George Rodrigues from PC012242 Senior Contract Coordinator to PC013358 Contract Manager – Purchasing Department, effective 10/13/2021. Rate of \$61,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$46,434; Midpoint \$61,912; Maximum \$77,390. Replacement for Candace Noll who will be retiring. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11180.
3. Authorize the promotion of Christine Esterly from PC010620 County Caseworker II to PC010655 County Caseworker Supervisor I – Children and Youth Services effective 10/08/2021. Rate of \$57,651/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,747; Midpoint \$58,329; Maximum \$72,912. Replacement for Amanda Wargo who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 22000 – 23200.

Commissioners

- 332.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the “Drawings Authorizing Acquisition of Right-of-Way for Peach Street R/W” dated September 17, 2021, as prepared by Malick & Scherer P.C. and WSP USA, Inc., pertaining to lands affected by the Peach Street Bridge Replacement Project (County Bridge #10-B) crossing Sacony Creek in Kutztown Borough, Berks County, Pennsylvania.
- 333.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute Lease Agreement between the Berks County Nonprofit Development Corporation and the County of Berks for 100,000 square feet of space in the building located at 400 East Wyomissing Avenue, Mohnton, for a 30 year term expiring December 31, 2051.

- 334.2021 Adopt a resolution declaring an emergency to exist due to rapid deterioration of the trails located at the Heritage Center, Bern Township and Antietam Lake, Lower Alsace Township due to tropical storm Ida, thereby requiring immediate repair; and further accepting and authorizing the quotations from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc., New Enterprise, Pennsylvania and Fisher's Rental, Reading, Pennsylvania and the issuance of a purchase order to perform said emergency services at a not to exceed amount of \$15,890.
- 335.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a letter of support to be provided to the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern PA, for a revolving loan fund application to the United States Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.
- 336.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute agreement between the County of Berks, Pennsylvania and The United States Small Business Administration, Washington DC to utilize space at the Berks County Fire Training Center for the temporary operation of a Disaster Loan Outreach Center to support the needs of Berks County residents and business owners recovering for damages related to the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida. The duration of the agreement to be finalized with the Director of the County's Department of Emergency Services based on community need for the resource.
- 337.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the approval and execution of the official quote for services from Elections Systems & Software (ES&S) to provide general administrative and technical support leading up to and throughout the November 2021 General Election. This quote/expenditure shall not exceed the sum of \$40,000 and shall be subject to final review and approval by the County Solicitor's Office.
- 338.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Amendment to the Master Services Agreement between Global Tel*Link Corporation, Reston, Virginia, and the County of Berks due to mandated rate caps by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for inmate telephone services and ancillary service charges, and other equipment.
- 339.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a letter of support of Berks Connections/Pretrial Services (BCPS) application for PAsmart Growing Registered Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeships in Pennsylvania Grant Program funding to enhance the success of young adult reentrants in their registered pre-apprenticeship program entitled Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading ("R3").

2. Motion to authorize execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as set forth on attached listing dated October 4, 2021. There was a total of 19 contracts.
3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated October 7, 2021.
4. Motion to authorize execution of employee payroll disbursements dated October 12, 2021.

REPORTS OF TREASURER AND CONTROLLER

1. A. Dennis Adams, County Treasurer
2. Grazyna Nykiel, First Deputy Controller

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER - Ronald R. Seaman
Nothing to report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Rivera

Welcomed Anne-Marie Yocom-Grill to the Office of the Commissioners. Noted two events happening this weekend being put on by both the Berks History Center as well as the Reading Area Firefighters Museum. Explained that each month BCTV hosts a program where a Commissioner will speak, which is a great opportunity to learn more about county government.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Focusing on the positive, congratulated all new hires and promoted employees. Acknowledged accomplishments specifically requiring swift action for projects such as replacing a bridge in Kutztown, park repairs, as well as securing a location for the processing of loans for Ida damages to occur. The Parks and Recreation board meeting was successful in explaining improvements and outlining future projects with a mission for growth – the bigger, the better, with programs and leagues already in place for not only children, but seniors and women's leagues as well. Conveyed exciting news about the opportunity of leased building space through the Redevelopment Authority and thanked everyone involved on all the work they did for the tremendous opportunity. Described the good work of Berks County Pretrial Services and the "R3" graduation that was just held as a result.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commemorated Mary Buerer on her 19 years of remarkable service working side by side with him, and on her impending retirement come January 2022. Welcomed Anne-Marie Yocom-Grill as Mary's replacement to begin in November.

ROW OFFICERS' COMMENTS

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Q&A comments were read and are attached hereto.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk

Source	Type	Identity	Timestamp	Conversation Id	Content
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 18:55	7bce63fd-4fae-4a72-8aa0-815789898489	Public comment will be accepted in person and through the Q&A function. Please include Your first name, last name and municipality for all comments. Any comments without name and municipality will not be considered. Each citizen can submit one comment. Comment length is dictated by limitations of the platform being used (Teams Q&A, Facebook, YouTube). In person comments will be accepted first, followed by comments submitted virtually. The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 30 minutes including both in person and virtual comments. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Board. Please be concise. Comments that are germane to County business will be read during the meeting and should not be considered to be interactive dialog with the Commissioners. The County Solicitor shall be the final arbiter of whether a comment is germane and should be read. Any Commissioner response to public comment will be done at the discretion of the Commissioners.
Attendee	Question	John Archer, The Spring Township (Unverified)	10/7/2021 13:34	a5dc2286-1839-4ebf-a2e4-0664542cf92b	Subject: Agenda Item: 337.2021 F – Approval of ES&S Quotation Please address the following questions concerning the ES&S quotation for services which augments the county's Election Services Department's election tasks: 1. Will the contract be fixed cost or time and material with a cost cap? 2. What exactly is the scope of work to be provided by ES&S? 3. What is the contract's start date and termination date? 4. Will ES&S employees be constantly under Election Service's observation and control during the entire period that the contract is in place? 5. Will any use of ES&S to make corrections to precinct ballot formats or any algorithms be documented and saved as a change record and will it be available to the public upon request?
Attendee	Question	Dwight Wegman - Lower Heidelberg Township (Unverified)	10/7/2021 13:34	a9a661cf-fa90-4f3c-be0c-423238df1707	Who is the Berks County official who is ultimately responsible for assuring that the upcoming November general election will be performed with integrity, meaning free of fraud and irregularities and how does that individual expect that to happen?

Source	Type	Identity	Timestamp	Conversation Id	Content
Attendee	Question	Crystal Kowalski - Wyomissing -Agenda Item (Unverified)	10/7/2021 13:49	6019c6b5-8039-4a66-abd3-3eff2b9839fc	<p>Good Morning Commissioners,</p> <p>My comment addresses agenda item 338 G pertaining to the amendment to the Master Services Agreement between Global Tel*Link Corporation and the County of Berks. The FCC has stepped in to cap phone rates for incarcerated people. What is the new cap for calls made to and from Berks County Prison? What changes have been made to ancillary service charges and what does "other equipment" refer to?</p> <p>It is industry practice for companies like Global Tel*Link to offer jails and prisons a percentage of the revenue they collect from the incarcerated people and their families. The most recent information provided by Prison Phone Justice, finds this percentage to average between 59 – 60% in Pennsylvania. These "commissions" paid to the prison or jail can come in other forms as well, signing bonuses for the contract, annual or monthly administrative fees, free equipment, and receiving extremely high rent to house the vendor's equipment at the correctional facility. Does the Berks County Prison receive a percentage commission, or any of the above listed forms of payment from Global Tel*Link? These caps were placed by the FCC because the rates previously charged were considered predatory. Will Global Tel*Link be required to return any of the money collected through predatory rates from previous years to the impacted families? If Berks County Prison has received a percentage commission on predatory rates from previous years, do you have plans to return any of that money to the impacted families?</p> <p>Thank you, Crystal Kowalski - Wyomissing</p>
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	10/7/2021 14:09	957c5af4-3cc8-4f03-9abf-b70700e3ee05	<p>Current information about COVID in Berks at https://www.doyourpartberks.com/</p> <p>Has ES&S made political contributions to any Berks elected officials involved in making election services decisions.</p> <p>For more information on Open Records please see webpage: https://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Commissioners/Pages/CountyOpenRecordsOffice.aspx or email: Countyopenrecordsofficer@countyofberks.com</p> <p>Fall '21 Road Ramble October 9th, 2021 Tickets are now on sale. \$35/ car for BHC members, \$45/ car non-members Call 610-375-4375 or visit berkshistory.org</p>
Attendee	Question	Jon James, Bernville (Unverified)	10/7/2021 14:23	6141ec69-4bb5-4d7f-942b-280deddc7983	
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	10/7/2021 14:28	615f08b8-4aa1-4075-ae87-a768a7905827	
Moderator	Announcement	Lopez, Barbara (BLopez@countyofberks.com)	10/7/2021 14:34	59e8ff6b-b40d-4e60-a606-0f3211762ba7	
Moderator	Announcement	Lopez, Barbara (BLopez@countyofberks.com)	10/7/2021 14:34	c45d4fc-42b4-4340-93c7-f0ba8abb309f	<p>READING AREA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM, INC. PRESENTS - FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION DAY Saturday, October 9th 10am- 2pm 501 S. 5th St, Reading 19602</p>
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	10/7/2021 14:34	245cf59d-a153-47be-9c1c-242ed6a6fafb	<p>For more on the Berks History Road go to https://www.berkshistory.org/ or call (610) 375-4375</p>

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Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	10/7/2021 14:36	176bd5a9-e954-4e65-b4e4-29656cf72d0d	For more on the Reading Area Firefighters Museum go to http://www.readingareafirefightersmuseum.com/
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	10/7/2021 14:39	c19a59a3-4f35-47eb-b3e7-dd6b7064e93f	Commissioners' County Connections are available at https://www.youtube.com/user/BCTVORG1/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=1
Attendee	Question	Anonymous (Unverified)	10/7/2021 14:44	e9b46fbf-4dd9-4f2a-8bdd-824040d33c3c	Congratulations Mrs. Butter. 14 years is about time for parole. Best wishes.
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	10/7/2021 14:44	b2ac7861-2e60-4fc3-9bd5-86c92d80a593	Thank you for your questions and comments. This Q&A is closed as the public comments have been addressed.