

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 23, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the on Thursday, September 23, 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.

PRESENTATION

September is National Recovery Month to increase awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders.

Stan Papedimetriou, Executive Director, Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse ("COCA"), thanked the Commissioners on behalf of COCA and the Berks County residents for their continued support and assuring substance abuse services are provided throughout the County.

Yvonne Stroman, Community Programs Specialist, Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse ("COCA") said COCA could not do the work it does without the County's support. Spoke of her addiction recovery experience and is thankful to the programs that assisted her in her recovery. Addiction is an insidious disease that knows no boundaries, knows no color, no economic or academic background and anyone can fall to this disease. Thanked the Board for their time, effort, and decisions that they make.

Giancarlo Farduchi (JC) spoke of his ongoing recovery and stated he has been in and out of recovery for the last six months. Part of recovery is trusting the process and taking suggestions from people who know more than him. Thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.

Scott Althouse, Easy Does It ("EDI"), spoke about the difficulties over the last year and a half and the challenge to individuals experiencing isolation which fed their addictions. Mr. Althouse spoke about their recovery housing programs and the great year they had despite the pandemic. Gave the Commissioners a brief breakdown of those individuals they have helped, 139 individuals served and 78% engaged in a pathway recovery, and 75% maintained or increased their income even during the pandemic.

Michelle Strauss spoke of her recovery and has been at EDI for a year and is thankful for the assistance provided in her recovery, reconnecting with family, and going back to school.

Angel Martinez spoke about moving from New Jersey to Reading, how he found success in recovery here and invited everyone to Sober Stock festivities.

Berks County Covid-19 Data Report

Brian Gottschall reported there's a growth in cases, that there's a larger amount of testing being conducted, to which there's a large amount of negative results and the positivity rate is down. Hospitals remain busy but steady, third doses of the vaccine are being administered per the guidelines and our state and county statistic goals are slowly growing.

CO-COUNTY WELLNESS UPDATE – Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt

None. Commissioner Leinbach pointed out that this is a bi-weekly update.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 9, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach noted an Executive session was held September 22, 2021 and dealt with personnel, litigation, contract negotiations, and security.

Agenda Item:

Commissioner Leinbach recognized Peter Edelman, Stevens & Lee who spoke on behalf of Alvernia University on Agenda Item No. 322.2021.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to adopt resolution 322.2021 for the financing for The Berks County Municipal Authority regarding Alvernia University Project. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Seeing no further discussion, motion carried.

- 322.2021 Adopt a resolution approving the financing by the Berks County Municipal Authority of the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds of a project for the benefit of Alvernia University, declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the area served by Alvernia University for the authority to participate in the financing of the project; authorizing the approval of the project for Federal Internal Revenue Code purposes; and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action.

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:

- 318.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$294,721 and 2021 Appropriations in the amount of \$280,321 per listing dated September 20, 2021.
- 319.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated September 16, 2021 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Kay Leisey to Temporary Office Support – Parks & Recreation, effective 9/24/2021. Rate of \$21.95/hourly. Temporary position will provide coverage during an employee's extended leave of absence and will be eliminated upon employee's return from leave. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16070.
- 320.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute, five (5) agreements as a result of ITB #21-18-JR, Food Provisions for a period of one (1) year for the Jail System, BCRC and Berks Heim as follows:

Clover Farms Dairy

3300 Pottsville Pike
PO Box 14627
Reading, PA 19612

Line Items:
30H,31H,32H,33H,34H,35H,36H,50P,65P,66P,67P,68P,69P,70P,12V,
13V

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$14,689.38

Metropolitan Foods dba Driscoll Foods

6 Westbelt
Wayne, NJ 07470

Line Items:
1,5,6,7,9,10,11,13,18,19,59,21,25,29,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,58,87,89,90,
94,95,101,103,105,106,107,108

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$409,653.11

Good Source Solutions

3115 Melrose Dr Suite 160
Carlsbad, CA 92010

Line Items: 15.1,15.2,16,17,22,24,
59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,
82,83,84,85,86

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$68,321.09

Imperial Beverage Systems, Inc

1201 S 20th St
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Line Items: 14B,15B,16B,17B,18B,19B,20B,21B,22B

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$636.73

Simco Logistics, Inc dba Jack & Jill Ice Cream

101 Commerce Drive

Moorestown, NJ 08057

Line Items: 1I,2I,3I,4I,5I,6I,7I,8I,9I,10I,11I,12I,13I,14I,15I,16I

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$28,902.35

The Vendor is required to hold the unit prices above fixed and firm for a period of one six (6) month term and to allow for capped re-determination in pricing for remaining term of the contract resulting in an Agreement for a total of twelve (12) months as detailed in the Invitation to Bid. 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 terms of the contract governing the unit prices.

321.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Kimberly McGrath, Douglassville, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a 3 year term expiring on December 31, 2024.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated September 20, 2021. There was a total of 17 contracts listed.
3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated September 23, 2021.

Reports

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

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman

Highlighted upcoming Parks and Recreation events as well as noted other economic development activities happening throughout the county.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Leinbach**

Spoke first to enable leaving to attend the UGI ribbon cutting ceremony.

Attended the Crime Alert Berks awards breakfast and congratulated the recipients of the award who have worked hard to provide vital service in Berks County for many years.

Commissioner Rivera

Thanked Council on Chemical Abuse for their presentation and all other life-changing programs, including Teen Challenge, that Reading has to offer. Also acknowledged a few current economic development events and expos, and ongoing Community events. Reminded everyone that September is National Hispanic Heritage Month and encouraged everyone to attend the festivities this upcoming weekend which include a parade followed by a salsa music festival.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commended those individuals in active recovery and reminded everyone to support them, their community sponsors, and the institutions throughout the community that support their efforts and recovery. SOS Opioids Coalition meets every Friday, and they continue to look for individuals to join the group. Congratulated the Crime Alert Berks award recipients. Gave a preview of the Election Board agenda for the upcoming meeting. Voiced BAMBA's concern and request for additional safety signage and advertising to ensure awareness of the hunting allowance through January 2022 to help prevent accidents.

Q&A Questions were read (See attached)

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Sandy Graffius, Controller

Introduced and welcomed Syeda Asma Yaqeen, the Controller's Office's newest Senior Accountant; a welcome addition they're happy to have aboard.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk