

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 30, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the on Thursday, September 30, 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

Dr. Anthony DeMarco and Dr. Susan Looney gave the Board an update on Reading Area Community College ("RACC") 50th anniversary events planned. Advised of the three initiatives of the 50th anniversary event: opportunities between Reading High School and RACC, workforce development scholarships, and emerging needs. That RACC's Alive newsletter is again available, it's refreshed and improved, and they are excited about it being circulated. Even more exciting is the keynote speaker at the November 10, 2021, 50th anniversary celebration at the DoubleTree: Steve Wozniak ("The Woz"), Apple Computer Co-Founder and Philanthropist, which should entice a great turnout and contribute to a wonderful celebration.

Berks County Covid-19 Data Report — Brian Gottschall

There is a rise in the case count, the rise is less steep, however the Delta Variant surge is not quite over. Testing numbers remain high, coupled with a high positivity rate. Hospital numbers are also up and resulting deaths have not yet lessened. Not much change in vaccination numbers, a slow increase and a large percentage of the population remain at one dose.

CO-COUNTY WELLNESS UPDATE – Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt

September 15th – September 29th contact tracing report shows a significant increase in cases as well as a decent decrease in contact tracing.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 23, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach noted an Executive session was held September 29, 2021 and dealt with personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

Agenda Items

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

1. Authorizing:

Budget Department

323.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$50,218 and 2021 Appropriations in the amount of \$105,770 per listing dated September 27, 2021.

Human Resources

324.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated September 30, 2021 as follows:

1. Authorize the promotion of Andrew Noll PC013015 Senior Governmental Accountant - Team Lead to PC013424 Manager of Financial Reporting and Accounting – Controller's Office, effective 10/1/2021. Rate of \$70,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$59,937; Midpoint \$79,916; Maximum \$99,895. Replacement for Daniel Jenkins who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11120.
2. Authorize a salary adjustment for Kristen Ketch PC011069 Executive Assistant – Court Administration, effective 10/1/2021. Rate of \$55,032/annually. Salary range Minimum \$33,721; Midpoint \$44,961; Maximum \$56,202. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
3. Authorize a salary adjustment for Rochelle Wanner PC010234 Caseworker Supervisor II – Area Agency on Aging, effective 10/1/2021. Rate of \$62,012/annually. Salary range Minimum \$45,194; Midpoint \$60,259; Maximum \$75,323. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 23150.

325.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jorge Diaz, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Redevelopment Authority to fill the remainder of a 5 year term which will expire on December 31, 2021.

326.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Brian Gottschall, Director of the Berks County Department of Emergency Services, to execute on

behalf of the County of Berks any necessary and required documents to permit potential tenants to perform due diligence tasks in investigating the use of the County emergency radio sites for possible occupancy, subject to final review and approval by the County Solicitor's Office.

- 327.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement between Pennsylvania-American Water Company, Inc., a Pennsylvania corporation ("PAWC"), and the County of Berks to disclose certain proprietary and confidential information or data relating to PAWC's business, operations, engineering, infrastructure, programs, facilities and/or customer records, including digital data, which is of a sensitive and confidential nature.
- 328.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a letter of support to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Washington DC, on behalf of the County of Berks to express support for S. 1942, the National Heritage Area Act of 2021. S. 1942, which will provide long-term stability to National Heritage Areas (NHAs).
- 329.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer and Paul T. Bradshaw, Assistant Solicitor, acting singly or together, to act as representatives of the County in negotiations with the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") in regard to the proposed lease agreement between the County and the USDA for office space located at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Leesport, Pennsylvania (the "Proposal"); and that the Board of Commissioners further authorizes Scott O. Graham, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, to communicate directly with the USDA on behalf of the County in regard to the Proposal with or without a County representative present during the communication; provided however, that the said Scott O. Graham shall have no authority to bind the County to any terms regarding the Proposal discussed during such communications without further action of the Board of Commissioners.
2. Motion to authorize execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as set forth on attached listing dated September 27, 2021. There was a total of 4 contracts.
3. Motion to authorize execution of the payments and electronic transfers as set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated September 30, 2021.

Reports

1. Chief Deputy Treasurer, Linda Weaver, 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

Nothing to report this week.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Rivera

Spoke about attending the Pennsylvania Latino Convention at the DoubleTree, which had very good statewide participation and turnout. Explained the application ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program) application deadlines, stating that new applications are accepted through Monday, October 4, 2021, but if you apply prior to the deadline of October 18, 2021, you will be placed on a waiting list, and this is due to the three total allocations currently in place. Congratulated and welcomed Jorge Diaz to the county Development Authority, as well as Mikayla Davis on being awarded Dairy Princess of Pennsylvania title.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Quick reminder to continue to be cognizant of the vital importance of implementing all safety measures and protocols pertaining to COVID-19 when we gather to enjoy social events, to help protect our community.

Commissioner Leinbach

Also conveyed congratulations to Mikayla Davis on her title of Dairy Princess of Pennsylvania and acknowledged her family's long-standing ties in Berks County. Explained how well laid out the Reading Firefighter's Museum is and the great history it displays, plus the perk of it being a tour both adults and children will find incredibly interesting. Come out and support a very well worth it local attraction. Informed of the ribbon cutting ceremony in Boyertown for the General Carl A. Spaatz Museum, which honors General Spaatz, a WWI and WWII pilot under President Truman, who was the first General appointed to oversee the Air Force.

Q&A Questions were read (See attached)

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Sandy Graffius stated that both Oliver Arthur and herself will be attending election day training for the purpose of explaining the debit cards being given for payment, to promote their usage and prevent them from going to waste or incurring additional charges.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk

Source	Type	Identity	Timestamp	Conversation Id	Content
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/10/2021 19:29	e061ada3-5f1a-4cb7-a72e-8bd07c7ba5d9	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.
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 14:08	3e222ef6-0621-4ec6-abba-cdb55561a5f2	To learn more about RACC or the 50th Anniversary Celebration go to https://www.racc.edu/50th-gala
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 14:19	ce8695f6-4174-4657-981d-99065a8f6fc0	For current information on Berks COVID vaccines locations and other resources please go to https://www.doyourpartberks.com/
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 14:21	b82a50f0-5bb4-4182-bbda-aab7e387f3ce	For more about the CDC recommendations please go to https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 14:24	58aebc87-b8d0-4714-9cfe-56190c9e1dee	The link provided for details about underlying conditions provided in the COVID update is https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html
Attendee	Question	John Archer, The Spring township (Unverified)	9/30/2021 14:24	59ad4c85-fecb-419d-a363-431379d6e055	Has the county's contact tracing identified areas, organizations, businesses, or other entities that seemingly are COVID hotspots?
Attendee	Question	Jean Archer, The Spring township (Unverified)	9/30/2021 14:41	e251387a-9106-4150-b940-8f8527436893	Regarding Berks County's sponsorship of RACC, what exactly does that entail? For example does it include financial support, oversight of curricula, facilities interfaces, advisory board involvement, etc?
Moderator	Announcement	Lopez, Barbara (BLopez@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 14:42	f5b80cdd-63fb-4dc4-89fc-a1e366176376	Berks Coalition to End Homelessness Phone: 610-372-7222 Applicants can also check the status of their application with their case ID number here: www.bceh.org/berks-county-emergency-rental-assistance-program-application/
Moderator	Announcement (Archived)	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 14:43	eb657bb-bb-bf81-455f-9981-6d707ac5a667	Berks Coalition to End Homelessness please call (610) 372-7222 or online at http://bceh.org/
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 14:49	c0d427d2-0c32-4801-a507-582033b2ae5f	Find out more about the Reading Area Firefighters Museum at http://www.readingareafirefightersmuseum.com/
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 14:51	41406813-7b51-48b7-9c8e-1f4d143a23f6	Find out more about General Carl Spaatz at https://www.spaatzmuseum.org/
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/30/2021 15:00	a054439c-5bc0-4e0e-840a-b3038a07cd29	Thank you for your questions and comments. This Q&A is closed as the public comments have been addressed.