

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes January 17, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, 13th floor of the Berks County Services Center, 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

Commissioner Leinbach opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held yesterday, January 16, 2019 dealing with litigation, potential litigation, contract negotiations and personnel.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 10, 2019 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the Agenda as presented. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott with a request for discussion. Motions accepted and request for discussion granted by the Chair.

Commissioner Scott requested to be recorded as a No vote to Item 32.2019 F, stating although this individual is clearly accomplished with strong credentials, he shares some of the same conflicts as a previous appointed nominee who did not accept the appointment. Commissioner Scott feels it important that the Industrial Development Authority have Board members that are truly independent from the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce, who Commissioner Scott understands has or had a strong relationship with.

Regarding Item 6 on the Contract Agenda, Commissioner Scott remarked this contract entails architectural work at the Angora Fruit Farm. Commissioner Scott reviewed the scope of work that includes in part, Phase 2, a master plan study for a new park building, and as stated at a previous Budget Meeting, does not believe the County should expand in environmental education. Commissioner Scott

considers this something Berks Nature could adequately provide, and would be willing to contract with to provide these services. Commissioner Scott does not see the need in spending \$400,000 for construction of another building at Antietam Lake Park.

Seeing no further comments, all voted to approve the Agenda, with the exceptions noted by Commissioner Scott, and the motion carried.

19.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$298,568, 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$89,289, 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$16,987 and 2019 Appropriations in net zero amount per listing dated January 14, 2019.

20.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated January 17, 2019 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Suzette Melendez to PC012945 Human Resources Generalist – Human Resources, effective 2/1/2019. Rate of \$45,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$37,751; Midpoint \$50,334; Maximum \$62,918. Replacement for Alexandria Diem who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11410.
2. Authorize the appointment of Eric Muhlenberg to Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender effective 1/30/2019. Rate of \$48,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,587; Maximum \$74,483. Replacement for Judy Chaverri who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
3. Authorize the appointment of Beverly Schaeffer to PC012779 Part-time RN Supervisor – Berks Heim Nursing, effective 2/13/2019. Rate of \$37.55/hour. Replacement for Theresa Smith who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33090.

21.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan C. Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to electronically execute Supplement 2 to Engineering Agreement L00275, as drafted by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation, with McCormick Taylor, Inc., 600 Eagleview Boulevard, Exton, Pennsylvania, required to provide additional full-time on-site Construction Inspection Services to span the revised completion of the replacement of the Schaeffer Road a/k/a Blandon Bridge (County Bridge 53A) in Maiden Creek

Township. The total maximum cost of this Supplement shall not exceed \$25,528.82. These services span an additional four hundred twenty (420) hours of on-site inspection due to winter conditions that extended the overall schedule for completion.

- 22.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement No. EA-212898-19 between the County of Berks and Entech Engineering, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, to provide a schematic design to develop the scope, phasing and budget for the installation of an decentralized heating system and replacement of the chillers in the Annex Building at a not to exceed amount of \$14,400.
- 23.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute all legal documents on behalf of the County of Berks associated with permanent and temporary Right-of-Way acquisitions directly related to the Schlegel Road Bridge Demolition & Removal Project (County Bridge #40C, Colebrookdale Township).
- 24.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Change Order No. 24 to the Motorola Solutions Contract #10-23185/CR in the amount of \$135,680 to convert existing DiagnostX Over-the-Air Waveform Analyzer to the newest version as well as add four (4) new NX remote Receivers regarding the Berks County Public Safety Radio Network.
- 25.2019 Adopt a resolution approving submission of the Application for Reimbursement for a County Recycling Coordinator to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management for reimbursement of 50% of the salary, benefits and expenses paid to the Berks County Recycling Coordinator for calendar year 2018.
- 26.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Sherry Camelleri, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Children & Youth Services Advisory Board for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2021.
- 27.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Eileen Kastura, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, as Chair to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2020.

- 28.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Denise Commings, West Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 29.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Lee Olsen, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 30.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Kevin S. Barnhardt, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 31.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Ronald Heim, West Lawn, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 32.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Robert F. Firely, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Industrial Development Authority to fill the remainder of a five (5) year term which will expire December 31, 2023.
- 33.2019 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute a letter of support to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania ("CCAP") of the CCAP Website Hosting and Design Modernization Project: Web Application grant-in-aid to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development through the Municipal Assistance Program.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated January 15, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 6 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated January 15, 2019 for week ending January 16, 2019 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.

2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Robert Patrizio reported there will be a follow-up discussion with the Security Consultant and a brief discussion on temporary positions at the Jail.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No report.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt commented the Blandon Bridge item under Facilities has been one of the County's more aggressive plans to turn back ownership of county owned bridges to local municipalities, and thanked Maiden Creek Township for being one of the first municipalities to take ownership once the project is completed.

Commissioner Barnhardt stated the demolition of the bridge in Colebrookdale Township is a very small County bridge, and is another good example of cooperative efforts between the County and local municipalities.

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Board for his reappointment to the Blighted Property Review Committee, and is happy to report there are currently no blighted properties to review.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he spoke with Reading Deputy Police Chief Robinson about crime fighting initiatives in the City, and reported he will be meeting in 60 to 90 days with the Deputy Chief Robinson to see how the County can help augment efforts already provided by the District Attorney and Sheriff's departments.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he has available the annual South Central Transportation Authority report, and is pleased to announce for the 4th consecutive year zero contributions were made by Lancaster County and Berks County toward the local match, noting PennDOT has again agreed to waive those fees.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced ES&S has placed two Easy Vote Systems and an optic scanner in Election Services, is now open to the public to come in and test the machines.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott followed up on the discussion last week on the new voting system, and read an excerpt from an email he received from Kevin Scoglin, a founding member of Citizens For Better Elections and a cyber security consultant, who agrees with Commissioner Scott, that paper ballots are less expensive, easier to use and usually results in shorter lines.

Commissioner Scott mentioned the County has been considering modifying an ordinance or resolution adopted a few years ago to encourage businesses to locate in Berks County in the form of tax abatements or LERTA. Commissioner Scott maintained because of the robust economy, the County should revisit and reconsider this program, as he is not inclined to give away tax abatements to businesses that can afford to pay taxes.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned that all three Commissioners are supporting a complete review of the LERTA program, and will be putting together a policy similar to what is used for the Tax Increment (TIF) program.

Commissioner Leinbach welcomed CCAP to Reading and Berks County. Commissioner Leinbach announced that the 2019 Annual CCAP Conference will be held in Berks County this August, and in January CCAP meets in the County where the conference will be held. There are meetings scheduled today and tomorrow.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

County Controller Graffius reported she and some members of her staff tried the new voting machines set up in Election Services and were very impressed. She found them easy to operate.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Joe Rudderow, Maiden Creek Township Supervisor, thanked Commissioner Barnhardt for recognizing the Township's willingness to rectify the Schaeffer Road Bridge issue, and requested the County continue to push to a quick completion date. Commissioner Barnhardt replied there is a possibility of a thirty day move up completion date.

Jim Blanski, owner of Blanski Energy Management, Reading, Bill Dorward and Pat Doyle, sheet metal workers, all remarked they were very disappointed that two Commissioners voted against the resolution on last week's Agenda supporting \$1 million grant for a Local 19 training school. They all asked the Board to reconsider and vote for this project.

Risa Marmontello, Douglassville, spoke in support of keeping the Berks Heim, and is concerned about the quality of life should the Heim be sold.

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, commented on the nature of the financial projections from 2017 to the present and future she has seen in budget reporting by the County.

Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights, talked about the cycles and trends in the nursing home industry.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk