

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes February 16, 2017

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 10:00 A.M. in the Boardroom on the 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.

Presentation

Nick Hiriak, President of the Pennsylvania Government Financial Officers of America ("GFOA") and Manager of Financial Reporting for Upper Marion Township, presented a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Sandra Graffius, Berks County Controller, and her staff for fiscal year ending December 31, 2015. Ms. Graffius and her entire Accounting Staff were present. The Certificate is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Mr. Hiriak reported Berks County is one of 15 counties in Pennsylvania to receive this award and the purpose is to promote good accounting practices and transparency in government.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 9, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

At this time Commissioner Leinbach noted the passing of Albert Boscov. Commissioner Leinbach remarked Mr. Boscov was a unique and special individual and will be greatly missed.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 55.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2016 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$532,470; 2016 Appropriations in the amount of \$14,912; and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$21,939 per listing dated February 13, 2017.

- 56.17 Adopt a resolution approving a revision to the Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy, Section 6.1. The purpose of the Travel Policy update is to revise the process/calculation for mileage reimbursement to and from a temporary worksite in the mileage reimbursement section. This revised policy also combines three (3) different union policies into one comprehensive policy that will apply to all County employees.
- 57.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute a letter to P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., Olde Farm Office Centre, PO Box 419, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, 16648, granting an extension of time of six (6) months for completion of Part I (Rehabilitation Assessment Phase) and Part II (Preliminary Engineering Phase) of the Dreibelbis Station Covered Wooden Bridge rehabilitation project until August 19, 2017. This extension is to allow for additional time with which to complete the archeological and environmental diligence required for the design of the rehabilitation, and does not impact the scheduled Let Date for the project of November 2, 2017. The existing agreement expires February 19, 2017.
- 58.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Service Order Sequence Number A-3 with Directlink Technologies Corporation, Reading, Pennsylvania, which will extend the Lease Agreement between the County of Berks and Directlink Technologies for two (2) additional five (5) year terms commencing October 1, 2018. Commissioner Leinbach noted this was another initiative of Albert Boscov and has been very successful.
- 59.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the letter dated January 29, 2017 from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to Berks County and Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole extending the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Berks an additional two (2) year period expiring January 29, 2019. This Agreement provides programming and full custody residential services to technical parole violators.
- 60.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Dale-Ann Farina, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2021.
- 61.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Pellegrino Orlando, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County

Redevelopment Authority for a five (5) year term expiring December 31, 2021.

- 62.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Commissioner, to execute the Verification to the Answer and New Matter of Defendants, Berks County and Berks County Solid Waste Authority, to Amended Complaint in regard to *New Morgan Landfill Company, Inc. v. Berks County Solid Waste Authority and County of Berks, Pennsylvania*, Berks County Court of Common Pleas No. 16-18038, and further authorizes Mark C. Scott, Commissioner, to execute any and all pleading documents in regard to the litigation in this matter.
2. Motion authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated February 14, 2017. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 15 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated February 14, 2017 for week ending February 15, 2017 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

Kimberly Grinage, Deputy Director of Budget and Finance, reported today the Commissioners will hear from Brian Gottschall on the Reading 120 - 2017; a report on a pro-cycling velodrome; a request for additional Guardian-At-Litem and a request from the Clerk of Courts for increase in pay for per diem employees and paid parking.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman congratulated County Controller Graffius and her staff on attaining the award for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt remarked that in May of last year, Lee Olsen, himself and a few other interested individuals organized an informational meeting to discuss the infrastructure and long term future use of the Mt. Penn Preserve, and as a result of that meeting, an Executive Committee was formed consisting of representatives from:

Reading, Mt. Penn, Alsace Township, Lower Alsace, The County, Pagoda Foundation, Pagoda Skyline and Reading Berks Association of Realtors (“RBAR”), and larger municipalities. Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Steering Committee met yesterday and announced a brainstorming program for the public will be held next Saturday at City Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to gauge interest from the public on the use of the Mt. Penn Preserve vicinity.

Commissioner Scott provided a retrospect on the DirectLink facility, stating that it was the former headquarters for Met Ed, and had a tremendous amount of amenities satisfactory for County use for its Communication Center. Commissioner Scott mentioned it was brought to the Board’s attention by Tom McKeon as a possible site for the County. The County reached out to the owner, Albert Boscov, who took County officials on a detailed tour of the facility, and it seemed to offer the County an inexpensive option in lieu of new construction. Commissioner Scott thanked Mr. Boscov for offering the County very favorable lease terms that saved the County a lot of money.

Commissioner Leinbach presented a video clip of his recent visit to Haiti showing the devastation to a number of churches that his group visited. Commissioner Leinbach commented they were the first outside group to assess the area since Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti four months ago. Commissioner Leinbach thought it noteworthy the Haitian people didn’t ask for money, but for prayers.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no public comments today.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk