

Commissioners' Special Board Meeting Minutes February 19, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 4:15 P.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, First Assistant County Solicitor J. Chadwick Schnee, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson, Jessica Weaknecht, Human Resources Director, Kristin Scheffler, Assistant Human Resources Director, and Matthew Connell, Esq., outside legal counsel for the County relating to litigation matters. Representing the Courts were President Judge Thomas Parisi, District Court Administrator Stephen Weber and representing the AOPC, Geri St. Joseph, Staff Attorney.

Discussion

The purpose of the meeting was to clarify general Court operations regarding the process and/or procedure concerning handling of complaints, claims and potential litigation filed by court employees with respect to employees' rights and other employment issues. The question was raised to Ms. St. Joseph if the AOPC has the capabilities to provide the necessary legal support and human resource assistance to the Courts in the absence of County assistance.

Ms. St. Joseph stated yes, the AOPC can provide this support and assistance, noting it already does in other counties.

Seeing there was general consensus there needs to be clarification on what the County's role should be, legal ramifications and how funding plays into the process, the Board of Commissioners asked Mr. Connell and Ms. Weaknecht to work up a plan and report back to the Board in four to six weeks.

There was no other official business transacted.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk