

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes February 27, 2020**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 27, 2020, 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 Michael S. Rivera 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**

Lucine Sihelnik, President of the Berks Agricultural Resource Network ("B.A.R.N.") presented a PowerPoint of B.A.R.N.'s 2019 Annual Report. Ms. Sihelnik shared BARN's vision and mission to cultivate opportunities for farmers, business and the community and collaborate, educate and strengthen agriculture in Berks County and southeastern Pennsylvania. Ms. Sihelnik said they have a full and strong Board of Directors, consisting of 15 members. Ms. Sihelnik commented this is her third and last year as President. The Board will reorganize next month, and Mark Weber will be the new President.

Ms. Sihelnik stated BARN's 2019 Action Plan (Areas of Focus) is to strengthen B.A.R.N.'s operations, marketing, expanding on Bountiful Berks, education and continue to grow its membership. Ms. Sihelnik acknowledged BARN's partnerships, that include the Berks County Department of Agriculture, whose support is very important.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of February 20, 2020 Commissioners' Board Meeting and February 20, 2020 Budget/Operations Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held this morning to discuss personnel and contract negotiations.

### **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 Rivera, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

- 82.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$186,540; 2019 Appropriations in the negative amount of \$(20,576); 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,233,377 and 2020 Appropriations in the amount of \$230,840 per listing dated February 24, 2020.
- 83.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated February 27, 2020 as follows:
1. Authorize salary adjustments for various Department Heads effective 3/4/2020.
- 84.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair to execute the Local Agency Grant Agreement for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program between the County of Berks, on Berks County Area Agency on Aging, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, to allow for the Office of Aging to continue the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. The Office of Aging receives up to \$3,250 annually to distribute to eligible Berks County seniors.
- 85.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Reimbursement Grant Agreement Supplement for Federal Aid Projects (R15050003-6) between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the County of Berks for the Peach Street Bridge Replacement Project, County Bridge 10B, Kutztown Borough. This Supplement increases project costs by the provision of funding for the final design, utility relocation, and right-of-way acquisition phases, as shown on Exhibit "A03" of the Agreement Supplement as well as revises other provisions of the Agreement to meet current standards. This Resolution supersedes Berks County Resolution 39-2020 dated January 23, 2020.
- 86.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Board of Commissioners to execute a letter of support and JAG Local Jurisdiction Waiver on behalf of Berks Connections/Pretrial Services to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) for an application for funding through the current PCCD Byrne Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) under Goal I, Objective 6: Promote the implementation of reentry programs and practices, to provide a workforce development program for individuals receiving mental health and drug and alcohol services from Service Access Management (SAM) and Treatment Access Services Center (TASC).

- 87.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute any and all documents in the matter captioned *County of Berks v. Delaware County Solid Waste Authority*, No. 2018-08958-CT.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated February 24, 2020. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 4 contracts and referenced the departments.
  3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated February 25, 2020 for week ending February 26, 2020 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 was absent for his report.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Ronald R. Seaman reported Budget/Ops will begin at 2:00 p.m. and there will be a discussion on Agricultural Center leases and an update on the Youth Recreational Fields. Mr. Seaman reminded everyone that voting is open until tomorrow afternoon for the *What's So Cool About Manufacturing – Berks Schuylkill 2020* contest, and the awards will be handed out next Tuesday evening, March 3, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Reading.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

#### **Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt had no comments at this time.

#### **Commissioner Rivera**

Commissioner Rivera reported he toured Helping Harvest, formerly the Reading/Berks Food Bank, where Senator Toomey was holding a press conference to discuss the Food Donation Improvement Act.

Commissioner Rivera announced today is his wife's birthday and wished her Happy Birthday.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach reported he and Commissioner Rivera will be attending the National Association of Counties 2020 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. this weekend through next Tuesday, March 3, where he will be attending meetings and events and hearing from U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt and U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson. Commissioner Leinbach stated the Key Note speaker will be Colonel William Powel, but he has recently learned President Trump will also speak Tuesday during the General Session.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS**

County Controller Sandy Graffius introduced Derek Gerhart, a new Internal Auditor.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, thanked the Commissioners, and especially Commissioner Barnhardt for recommending pausing the jail project.

Jerry Geleff, Exeter Township, asked the Board of Commissioners for help in enacting the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance. A number of counties in the country, including Bradford County, have already passed similar ordinances and resolutions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk