

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes February 28, 2019**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 10:07 A.M. (due to technical difficulties by BCTV) 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.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of February 21, 2019 Commissioners' Meeting, and the minutes of the February 19, 2019 Special Meetings concerning the Reading Regional Airport Authority and Courts 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, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
  - 74.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$135,000; 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$14,768 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$84,659 per listing dated February 25, 2019.
  - 75.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated February 28, 2019 as follows:
    1. Authorize the appointment of Chad Hienz to PC010171 Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender's Office, effective 3/6/2019. Rate of \$48,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,587; Maximum \$74,483. Replacement for Lynda Vernon who separated. This request meets the criteria for the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.

2. Authorize the promotion of Benjamin Ross from PC012770 Telecommunicator +3 to PC012339 Special Operations & Projects Officer – Department of Emergency Services, effective 2/20/2019. Rate of \$51,600/annually. Salary range Minimum \$45,953; Midpoint \$61,271; Maximum \$76,589. Replacement for Johnathan Fritz who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16020.
  3. Authorize the promotion of Kathryn McCourry from PC012874 Telecommunicator +6 to PC013380 Training/Quality Assurance Officer – Department of Emergency Services, effective 3/6/2019. Rate of \$61,854/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,924; Midpoint \$58,565; Maximum \$73,206. Position created by Salary Board on 1/7/2019. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 51100 – 36010.
  4. Authorize the transfer of Mindy Zweizig from PC011135 Auditor – Controller's Office, to PC011093 Fiscal Manager – Juvenile Probation, effective 3/6/2019. Rate of \$56,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$42,920; Midpoint \$57,227; Maximum \$71,534. Replacement for Debra Showalter who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12020.
  5. Authorize the transfer of Carmen Torres from PC011069 Executive Assistant – Court Administration, to PC013371 Juvenile Court Operations Manager – Juvenile Probation, effective 3/6/2019. Rate of \$52,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$37,597; Midpoint \$50,130; Maximum \$62,662. Replacement for Phyllis Hunsinger who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12020.
  6. Authorize Alan Piper, Planner III – Transportation PC012002 to work out of classification to oversee the County's Bridge Program, effective 2/15/2019. Rate of \$44.51/hour. The working out of classification compensation will cease upon the appointment of a Director of Facilities and Operations. Budget 10000 - 11030.
- 76.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor, to execute the Stipulation between the Wyomissing Area School District, Wyomissing Borough, Berks County Board

of Assessment Appeals, County of Berks and Black Sapphire C Reading 2014 ("owner") for property located at 150 North Park Road, Wyomissing Borough.

- 77.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jessica Martinez, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Children & Youth Services Advisory Board for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2021.
  - 78.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Agreement for Signage Installation, Maintenance and Repair between the County of Berks, American Rivers, Inc., Washington, DC; Berks Nature, Reading, Pennsylvania, and Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc., Shillington, Pennsylvania, granting permission to American Rivers and Berks Nature to install an educational/interpretative sign on County property, contingent upon the removal of the Paper Mill Dam. Said sign will be maintained, and if necessary, replaced by Trout Unlimited.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated February 26, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 7 contracts and referenced the departments.
  3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated February 26, 2019 for week ending February 27, 2019 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

### **Reports**

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams was absent. Deputy Treasurer Linda Weaver submitted the 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 on LERTA, a discussion on positions at the Jail and a debt refinancing proposal. Mr. Seaman reported first there will be a brief discussion on MDJ Office renovations on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Services Center.

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

Ronald Seaman reported next Saturday, March 9, 2019 there will be an Open House and volunteer orientation training at Bingaman Nature Center.

Mr. Seaman announced there is still time to vote in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *What's So Cool About Manufacturing* Contest for Berks and Schuylkill Counties. Voting ends Friday, March 1, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS****Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported last night he attended the award presentations for the Public Library System, and recognized the Library Staff for the great job they do with limited amounts of funding.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported last evening he attended the monthly South Central Transit Authority Meeting, announcing they donated two obsolete buses to the Appalachian CART System, and approved the Summer Bus Pass Program for Reading students.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported tomorrow he will attend the monthly Opioid Coalition Meeting at Alvernia, and announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Balloon Day event will be held March 6, 2019 at the Wyomissing Diner. The event brings awareness to opioid overdose deaths with the proceeds going to Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse to promote opioid awareness.

Commissioner Barnhardt attended the CCAP Behavioral Task Force meeting Monday and discussed the impact on counties of legalizing medical marijuana and the potential of legalizing recreational marijuana, and a united strategy to deal with the issue.

Commissioner Barnhardt stated he does not agree with legalizing marijuana for recreational use, as it needs to be researched and completely vetted before the State moves ahead.

**Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott agrees with Commissioner Barnhardt that marijuana should not be legalized. Commissioner Scott has read numerous articles and reports of the negative impact of marijuana usage on young people, noting it contributes to mental illness, as well as increases the costs on the jail system.

**Commissioner Leinbach**

Commissioner Leinbach recognized Stephanie Shirk, Penn State Extension Berks Client Manager, who announced Penn State is creating and will be posting a new position using State and Federal funds to combat the spotted lanternfly in Berks County.

Commissioner Leinbach reported he will be attending the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. this weekend and early next week, and will be attending a meeting with EPA Officials dealing with new language for Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and workshops and hearings with Congressional delegates.

Commissioner Leinbach also does not support the legalization of marijuana.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, asked if any tours have been scheduled for the Heim. Solicitor Sadler reported the County is in the process of scheduling, but none have been scheduled.

Commissioner Barnhardt again stated he is not supportive of organizing tours of the Heim as he does not support selling the Berks Heim.

Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights, asked since there has been a delay in the sale process and tours, are there any extra steps that will be added. The answer was no.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk