

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes April 11, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 11, 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Barnhardt was absent. Also present were First Assistant County Solicitor J. Chadwick Schnee, 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

Rick Periandi, President of Crime Alert Berks County, and Scott Light, Vice President of Marketing and owner of A to Z Vacuum, provided the annual update on the current activities of Crime Alert Berks County.

Mr. Periandi reported Crime Alert currently receives 65 to 70 tips per month and generally hits \$40,000 to \$50,000 in total payout in rewards. Mr. Periandi mentioned Crime Alert supports local police departments in Berks County if they have an emergency through the 800# set up, providing the reward money which saves police departments in Berks County from paying the reward. Mr. Periandi reported since Crime Alert's inception in 1998 there have been 700 arrests and over \$500,000 in rewards. District Attorney John Adams presented a \$15,000 check to Crime Alert, adding Crime Alert is the #1 Crime Fighting Organization in the State, and is a great tool for law enforcement. Mr. Adams stated the money for the donation comes from the District Attorney's drug forfeiture fund and is a great use of drug forfeiture money.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 4, 2019 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott to approve the Agenda as presented. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

- 129.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$21,702; 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$6,850; 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$352,670 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$363,478 per listing dated April 8, 2019.
- 130.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated April 11, 2019 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Marguerite Kline to PC013318 Human Resources Manager – Human Resources, effective 4/17/2019. Rate of \$57,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$46,641; Midpoint \$62,188; Maximum \$77,735. Position created by Salary Board on 5/3/2018. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11410.
- 131.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Letter of Agreement with the Reading Downtown Improvement District for sponsorship by the County of the 2019 MidDay Café series.
- 132.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Certificate of Approval for the issuance by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks of tax-exempt obligations regarding the renovation of a building located at 44 East Avenue, Strausstown, Berks County, Pennsylvania for use by the Strausstown Volunteer Fire Company and Community Campus.
Alex Elliker, Esq., counsel for the Strausstown Volunteer Fire Company attended the meeting and reported this financing will be used to renovate the 2nd floor of the Community Center at 44 East Avenue, that will be leased by Penn State Health/St. Joseph Medical Center.
- 133.19 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving execution of Engineering Services Agreement #EA-216575-19 between the County of Berks and Entech Engineering, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, to provide a structural report of the Hiester Mansion, County Welfare Road, and an HVAC Study of the Administration Building at the Berks County Prison at a not to exceed amount of \$25,500.00.
- 134.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Dilworth Paxson LLP, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Special Counsel, to file a Comment with the Federal Communications Commission proceeding in connection with the recovery of certain uncollected and/or unremitted 911 and/or E-911 fees due the County of Berks.

- 135.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Robert J. Patrizio, Jr., Chief Financial Officer for the County of Berks, to bind the County of Berks with respect to participation in the class action case of *Alaska Electrical Pension Fund vs. Bank of America, N.A.*; and further ratifies, confirms and approves the execution by Mr. Patrizio of the Proof of Claim and Release Form regarding the aforesaid class action case.
- 136.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing an increase in Berks Heim private pay per diem room rates as follows:
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|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| Private Room | - | \$405.00/day |
| Semi-Private Room | - | \$374.00/day |
| Rehab Unit Private Room | - | \$415.00/day |
| Rehab Semi-Private Room | - | \$390.00/day |
- All rates are effective July 1, 2019.
- 137.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Douglas Kenwood, Interim Director of Facilities, to provide the required "sign-off" on the Replacement Hobart Dishwasher Drawings for the Berks Heim Dishwasher Project.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated April 9, 2019. 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 April 9, 2019 for week ending April 10, 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

Commissioner Leinbach reported there will not be a Budget/Operations today.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman mentioned the Berks County Parks and Recreation EGGstravaganza event will be held this Saturday, April 13, 2019.

Mr. Seaman reported Commissioner Barnhardt and Warden Quigley are attending the State County Department of Corrections quarterly meeting at SCI Phoenix, and asked to

report that on Thursday, April 25, 2019 there will be a special presentation regarding Go Fly a Kite Day in conjunction with YMCA Healthy Kids Day scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Berks County Youth Recreation Facility.

Mr. Seaman reminded the public Penn State Extension is offering a new workshop May 9, 16 and 23, 2019 called *Exploring the Small Farm Dream*.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott commented on the agenda item regarding the private pay rate at the Berks Heim, that translates to over \$12,000 a month for care, commenting this is a good reason everyone should think about long term care insurance, to plan ahead and have the resources when you need it.

Regarding the Berks Heim, Commissioner Scott stated there has been interest from some individuals to have full disclosure of the process that took place, including submission of expression of interest. Commissioner Scott explained that during the bidding process legally some of that information must be kept private, because it is confidential and proprietary, but now that the process is over, he is not interested in keeping things guarded except what might still be legally expected to be kept private.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach announced tomorrow he will be attending the Annual Berks Heim Volunteer Luncheon, noting the volunteers are one of the things that sets our Nursing Home above and beyond other nursing homes. Commissioner Leinbach stated some of the volunteers have been serving for decades.

Commissioner Leinbach reported the County will continue to work with the UFCW and SEIU and PACHA on legislative solutions regarding funding, and we are close to coming up with legislation that will address the Medicaid Reimbursement rate and the managed care impact.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Leah Henisey, Fleetwood and a SEIU Local 668 union member, presented 529 cards signed by Berks County residents supporting the SEIU union members.

In response, First Assistant County Solicitor Schnee reported negotiations are scheduled for April 15, 2019.

Jesse Royer, Spring Township and a candidate for County Commissioner, commented the sale process has not been as open as it should have been, and releasing the information for the sale of the Heim now is misguided.

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, asked if there was any information resulting from the Bern Township meeting regarding the subdivision around the Berks Heim, and is anyone interested in buying the second parcel that was not part of the Berks Heim parcel. Commissioner Leinbach noted there is nothing new.

Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights, questioned what is the difference in increase in the Berks Heim private pay room rates? Commissioner Leinbach provided the rate information.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk