

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes May 3, 2018

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 3, 2018, 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. Commissioner Mark C. Scott arrived after the official vote was recorded. 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.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held April 26, 2018 dealing with personnel, and one held yesterday, May 2, 2018 dealing with personnel and contract negotiations.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 26, 2018 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

121.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$8,025 per listing dated April 30, 2018.

122.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated May 3, 2018 as follows:

1. Authorize a rate increase for Jessica Chernich, PC013009 Seasonal Program Assistant – Parks Department, effective 5/9/2018. Rate of \$9.00/hour. Rate adjustment is reflective of added responsibilities of the daily operations of the Heritage Center, providing guidance and training to other Seasonal tour guides. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 16070.

2. Authorize the appointment of Kara Seawell to PC011926 Office Support IV M/C – Jail System, effective 5/16/2018. Rate of \$34,800/annually. Salary range Minimum \$30,986; Midpoint \$41,314; Maximum \$51,643. Replacement for Elizabeth Merin who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.
 3. Authorize the Hourly Part-time Rate Adjustments as outlined on the attached listing, effective 5/2/2018
- 123.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute County Agreement #204644, End-User License Agreement for EMMA Campaign Financial Reporting Module between Elections USA, Inc., Quakertown, Pennsylvania, and Berks County, for the campaign expense report program for an initial three (3) year term effective May 3, 2018.
- 124.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Utility Agreement 05U326 between the County of Berks and the Metropolitan Edison Company (“Utility”), 2800 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA, required to incorporate the adjustment and relocation of the Utility’s facilities, including those outside of the public right of way, as part of the Dreibelbis Station Covered Wooden Bridge Rehabilitation Project in Windsor and Greenwich Townships, as well as reimbursement to the Utility by the County for construction and installation costs related to the same. The estimated cost of this reimbursement is \$133,931.23.
- 125.18 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christine M. Sadler, Berks County Solicitor, to execute the Professional Legal Services Fee Schedule for the Law Office of Brian Scott Dietrich, P.C., Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, to provide legal services for the purpose of assisting the Berks Heim in obtaining approvals for Medicaid on behalf of residents of the Berks Heim, along with other related matters.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated May 1, 2018. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are eight contracts and referenced the departments.
 3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller’s Office vouchers payable listing dated May 1, 2018 for week ending May 2, 2018 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 J. Patrizio was absent at time of report.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman reported at the Budget/Operations meeting this afternoon, the Commissioners will discuss pager purchases for emergency responders, a follow-up discussion on the Berks Heim, and an update on the Parks capital projects cost and funding.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and as part of the *Stepping Up Initiative*, there will be five separate events being held at various locations throughout the County, culminating on May 31, 2018 at the Commissioners' Board Meeting, where representatives from CCAP will present Jail staff with the Jail Mental Health First Aid Award.

Tomorrow Commissioner Barnhardt will attend the monthly Opioid Meeting at Alvernia University.

Commissioner Barnhardt congratulated his Executive Assistant, Jessica Seidel on reaching her one year anniversary.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott talked about an interesting piece of junk mail he received from an organization upset about Tower Health acquiring the Pottstown Hospital, and the loss of tax revenue to Pottstown and the school district. Commissioner Scott talked about the distinction between for-profits and not-for-profit organizations, and the difficulties facing political entities that rely on property taxes, and in reconciling the two identical operations, where one pays taxes and one doesn't. Commissioner Scott suggested maybe the law needs to change regarding profit and not for profit organizations.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach responded to Commissioner Scott's commenting he believes a solution would be the elimination of property taxes and replace it with a sales tax and earned income tax.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Clerk of Courts James Troutman offered praise and appreciation to the Facilities Staff for a job well done in painting the walls in the hallway on the 4th Floor of the Courthouse.

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, made comments and asked questions in response to Commissioner Scott's comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk