

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes May 7, 2020

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. via Microsoft Teams Live, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Michael S. Rivera in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach was absent. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

Commissioner Barnhardt opened the meeting with a moment of silence for those suffering and who have passed from COVID19, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked BCTV and Information Systems for putting Microsoft Teams Live production together.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 23, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting, the April 30, 2020 Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Meeting and the May 5, 2020 Operations Meeting were approved as presented.

Christine Sadler reported the following Executive Sessions: April 24, 2020 dealing with personnel and union negotiations; April 30, 2020 dealing with personnel and union negotiations and May 5, 2020 dealing with personnel, union negotiations and real estate.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Agenda Items

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

139.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing the following Budget Transfers and Appropriations:

1. 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of 370,899 and 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$6,870 per listing dated April 27, 2020.
2. 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$444,788 and 2020 Appropriations in the amount of \$597,405 per listing dated May 4, 2020.

140.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #20-07-ES, a two (2) year contract for Light Poles, Repair and Replacement. This contract shall be utilized for the emergency replacement of light poles on sections of the West Shore Bypass (Route 422), Penn Avenue, the Warren Street Bypass (Route 12), as well as any other poles that may be identified as property of the County of Berks.

Telco, Inc.
1224 Cross Keys Road
Reading, PA 19605
Estimated Annual Expenditure: 33,070.00

Items	Unit Price
Pole and Lamp Arm	\$1,593.00
Base	\$ 500.00
Labor per pole	\$1,214.00

As per the Invitation to Bid, the County may extend the contract for two additional one-year terms provided the respective vendor agrees to hold the bid pricing fixed and firm.

141.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #20-05-GR a contract for the County Facilities Parking Lot Improvements Project as identified herein:

Construction Masters Services, LLC
150 Gring’s Hill Road
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
 Base Bid Not to Exceed: \$769,299.15
 Alternate-BCRC location - Not to Exceed:\$130,337.50
Total Bid including Alternate - Not to Exceed \$899,636.65

142.2020 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving the designation of First Assistant County J. Chadwick Schnee for the purpose of applying for the CESF funding, and providing necessary information and all other related purposes, and formally designates First Assistant County Solicitor J. Chadwick Schnee as the signing authority on behalf of the County; and further authorizes First Assistant County Solicitor J. Chadwick Schnee to sign and submit any and all documentation on behalf of the County as may be necessary for the purpose of applying for any and all other grants or funding in any way related to the COVID-19 emergency.

- 143.2020 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving execution by Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, of the Direct Referral Agreement between the County of Berks and Gage Personnel to provide customized direct-placement and sourcing services to the Elections Services Department for poll workers.
- 144.2020 Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners hereby amending the Consolidated Plan for 2019-2023 in order to access additional Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding from the CARES Act; and further ratifies, confirms and approves execution by Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, indicating approval by the Board, and provide assurances, certifications, contracts, agreements and supplemental revised data that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development may request in conjunction with the amended 2019 Action Plan and additional funding from the CARES Act.
- 145.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to electronically execute the 901 Recycling Grant Application on behalf of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (Authority). This grant covers 80% of the Authority's education expenses for hazardous waste and electronics.
- 146.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and Hamburg Borough, Perry Township, Shoemakersville Borough, Tilden Township, Upper Bern Township, Upper Tulpehocken Township, Windsor Township and Hamburg Area School District, for the production of a Joint Municipal Comprehensive Plan Update by the County, through the Berks County Planning Commission.
- 147.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Report of County Fee for Local Use Funds (Act 89).
- 148.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Settlement Agreement by and between I-LEAD Charter School-Reading, Inc., the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals, the Reading School District, the City of Reading, Berks County and Reading Downtown Improvement District to resolve all claims against each other in regard to the Assessment Appeal filed by I-LEAD Charter School-Reading, Inc., subject to final review and approval by the County Solicitor's Office.
Ms. Sadler commented the settlement agreement is being finalized, noting the Commissioners have agreed that the funds

allocated to the County will go to DID ("Downtown Improvement District").

- 149.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, setting forth terms and conditions of employment for time period April 15, 2020 to May 31, 2020 regarding incentive pay, including the option to extend the provision of incentive pay beyond May 31.
- 150.2020 Adopt a resolution withdrawing the County's offer to reimburse the Greater Berks Development Fund for half of the moving expenses for the Epler School as set forth in Resolution 441.19 because of the current economic times due to COVID-19.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated May 4, 2020. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are 13 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable for week ending May 5, 2020 and April 28, 2020, and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA, was absent. Commissioner Barnhardt submitted the prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. County Controller Sandy Graffius submitted the Controller's weekly report.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

No report this week.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported Phase 3 Recovery and SET Team will meet this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No report this week.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Rivera

Commissioner Rivera reported the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program was reopened just for agricultural businesses, and there is still an opportunity to apply for loans on the FDA's website.

Commissioner Rivera announced the City of Reading is starting a small business loan program in amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and will be available through June 10, 2020, and to call the City's Economic and Development Office for more information. Commissioner Rivera commented on the article in the Reading Eagle today regarding the County's position on COVID19, and read parts of the letter that were not highlighted in the article. Commissioner Rivera said the County wants to work together with the Governor, while doing what is best for Berks County. The County's goal is to ensure the safety of all residents of Berks County and that our economy stays strong during these trying times.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt echoed Commissioner Rivera's comments, acknowledging the article has met with some positive and negative reactions. Commissioner Barnhardt encouraged everyone to read the entire letter, it's about collaborating with the Administration in Harrisburg to eventually open safely.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he attended a virtual meeting hosted by Commissioner Rivera with Latino leaders Tuesday, and learned a lot about how they are dealing with COVID19 in the Latino community, and commended the Latino leaders and the City Hall for their work.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported there was an anonymous donor who stepped forward to cover the balance of the moving costs for the Epler School. The donation was in memory of the donor's wife who was a schoolteacher.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced there would be an Elections Board Meeting at 11:00 this morning, and again encouraged everyone to submit a mail-in ballot application for an absentee or.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the 2020 Census committee is advocating that the federal government move out the actual deadline for the enumerators until October 31.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported SOS Berks is looking at doing some virtual or Facebook live interaction with the Berks County community.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were 14 comments from the public all dealing with various COVID19 related issues, and the following are responses provided to some of the questions/comments: County Solicitor Sadler responded to Crystal Kowalski's concern regarding inmates at the Jail.

Commissioner Barnhardt responded to Risa Marmontello who asked if Berks County will be sending out mail-in voting applications, by directing Ms. Marmontello to the either the Department of State's website or the County Elections webpage to apply for an application.

Commissioner Barnhardt responded to Joanne Kosloski's comment about using Zoom instead of Microsoft Teams, by advising Ms. Kosloski there is ability for hacking Zoom, and Microsoft Teams has a much more secure platform.

Attached to the Minutes is a complete list of questions/comments that were received.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk