

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 9, 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 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.

Presentations

1. Diane Price, Chair of the Berks County Armed Forces Day Parade, announced the 71st annual Armed Forces Day Parade will be held Saturday, May 18, 2019 in the Boroughs of Wyomissing and West Reading. The U.S. Marine Corps will be the featured branch of the military, and the American Legion-Valley Forge Military Academy will be recognized for celebrating its 100 Anniversary. Ms. Price mentioned the Cadet on this year's poster is a Reading High School ROTC Officer; noting Reading High's ROTC Program is the oldest and largest in the United States.

2. In recognition of *Mental Health Awareness Month*, Dr. Edward Michalik, Administrator of the MH/DD Program for Berks County, Lauren Heydt, Healthy Transitions Program Manager, and Sheila Bressler, CASSP Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint on the SAMHSA Healthy Transitions Grant program. Dr. Michalik reported this grant is focused on youth and young adults ages 16 to 25 who have serious mental health conditions or are at risk for developing a serious mental health condition and is for the community at large. Sheila Bressler, who wrote the grant, and Lauren Heydt, who has guided the program for the last five years, reported Berks County has received over \$1.1 million over the five-year grant period with no County match. Ms. Bressler noted there was a gap in assistance for this age group, emphasizing this age group is a critical time to identify individuals with mental health issues. Ms. Bressler stated the grant has provided an opportunity to build an infrastructure, a "local laboratory" to "try out" new ideas and share the knowledge across the state and nation. Additionally, through the grant funds they were able to increase awareness about mental health at six public events and provide training to providers and community groups. The Commissioners presented Certificates of Appreciation to Ms. Bressler and Ms. Heydt.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 22, 2019 Special Commissioners' Meeting and the April 25, 2019 Commissioners' Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held yesterday, May 8, 2019 dealing with personnel, litigation, real estate and security.

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:

158.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2018 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$733,432; 2018 Appropriations in the amount of \$(109,154); 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$89,020 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$1,733,891 per listing May dated May 6, 2019.

159.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated May 9, 2019 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Cole Bauer to PC013020 Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender's Office, effective 5/15/2019. Rate of \$48,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,587; Maximum \$74,483. Replacement for Zachary Smith who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
2. Authorize a salary increase for Christina Wood, PC012989 CAD Administrative Officer – Department of Emergency Services, effective 5/1/2019. Rate of \$62,054/annually. Salary range Minimum \$46,375; Midpoint \$61,834; Maximum \$77,292. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 51100 – 36010.

- 160.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #19-05-GR a contract for the Swamp Creek Bridge (40C) Demolition Project as identified herein:
- Construction Masters Services, LLC**
150 Gring's Hill Road
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
Total Bid Not to Exceed Amount: \$369,235.25
- 161.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Automobile Theft/Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Intergovernmental Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Police ("PSP") and Berks County for participation by Berks County in the Municipal Automobile Theft/Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Task Force Program for a one (1) year term effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, as authorized by Berks County Ordinance No. 02-2016; and further authorizes the reimbursement of certain county expenses by the PSP from the Automobile Theft Prevention Trust Fund.
- 162.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing John Adams, Berks County District Attorney, to execute the Internship Agreement between Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania ("University") and the Berks County District Attorney's Office for a five (5) year term for the provision of an unpaid internship position for the District Attorney's Office.
- 163.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Nonexclusive Video Sharing License Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Transportation ("PennDOT") and the County of Berks, to allow access and use by the County of Berks of traffic camera feeds deemed beneficial by PennDOT, for the efficient and safe operation of Pennsylvania highway systems by local public safety agencies and other third party entities considered vital and essential by PennDOT.
- 164.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Berks, as authorized by Berks County Ordinance No. 02-2013, to provide programming and full custody residential services to technical parole violators under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for a three (3) year term effective upon final execution of the Agreement.

- 165.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Courtenay Dillard, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board of Directors to fill the remainder of a three (3) year term which will expire February 1, 2022.
- 166.19 Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners ("Board") opposing the changes being made to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program ("MATP") involving a transition to a statewide or regional full-risk brokerage system by the State Legislature and the Department of Human Services; and further authorizing execution of a letter in opposition to said changes by the Board to regional legislative Representatives and State Senators.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated May 7, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 39 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated May 7, 2019 for week ending May 8, 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

Robert Patrizio reported the meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and there be a presentation on a study by CGL regarding the Jail and the criminal justice system.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Board for supporting the resolution opposing changes being made by the State to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program to hold back on implementing to the new program. Commissioner Barnhardt stated it will have a negative impact on BARTA and SCTA, including a decline in quality care service, shared ride service and a loss of jobs.

Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned in addition to Mental Health Awareness Month, we also recognize Stepping Up Month, and noted all the programs, presentations and educational opportunities that have been offered to date in April and May.

Commissioner Scott

Referring to the Healthy Transitions presentation and the mental health issues affecting youth and young adults, Commissioner Scott commented on the impending legalization of marijuana and how marijuana impacts the brain, and how it can be harmful to youth and young adults. Commissioner Scott noted how on one hand the State through funding is treating and trying to prevent mental health issues in youth and young adults, but on the other is exacerbating the problem through the impending legalization of marijuana. Commissioner Scott commented on the soon to be released Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") report, noting in the past the County has used CDBG funds for economic development projects. Commissioner Scott would like to have a policy discussion with Ken Pick, Executive Director of the Berks County Redevelopment Authority, to discuss the possibility of using the funds for demolition of blighted properties in the City of Reading, or to offset County contributions to the Council on Chemical Abuse.

Commissioner Leinbach

Responding to Commissioner Scott's comments on CDBG matter, Commissioner Leinbach mentioned Ken Pick is waiting for the City to finish their housing plan before submitting the CDBG Report to the Commissioners, and Mr. Pick is available to discuss Commissioner Scott's suggestion for use of CDBG funds.

Commissioner Leinbach reported last Wednesday he attended the 50th Anniversary of CareerLink, and on Thursday, May 2, 2019 participated in a listening session at the Berks Heim with state officials and members of the UFCW and SEIU regarding what needs to happen regarding Medicaid Reimbursement rates for county nursing homes.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned this morning he and Commissioner Barnhardt attended the Annual Tri-County Red Cross Heroes Awards Breakfast.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Sandy Graffius, County Controller, reported she along with the County Commissioners and County Treasurer attended the 8th Annual Centenarian Luncheon yesterday held at the Inn at Reading.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, reported on research she is doing regarding truancy matters in District Justice Court system.

Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights, commented on Ms. Kowalski's findings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk