

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes May 14, 2020

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. via Microsoft Teams Live, 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 Michael S. Rivera in attendance. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

Commissioner Leinbach opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Leinbach reviewed the policy for public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 7, 2020 Commissioners' Board Meeting, May 7, 2020 Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond and May 12, 2020 Operations Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 151.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$915,178; 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$67,379; 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$30,040 and 2020 Appropriations in the amount of \$1,316,060 per listing dated May 11, 2020.
 - 152.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated May 14, 2020 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Nicole Riccio to PC010142 Assistant District Attorney I – District Attorney's Office, effective 05/20/2020. Rate of \$53,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,586; Maximum \$74,483. Replacement for Matthew Thren who separated. This request meets

the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.

2. Authorize the appointment of Rachel Louviaux to PC010143 Assistant District Attorney I – District Attorney's Office, effective 05/20/2020. Rate of \$53,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,586; Maximum \$74,483. Replacement for Brian Boyce who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.

153.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute an agreement as a result of Invitation to Bid # ITB# 20-11-KS, Vehicle Maintenance and Repair for the County of Berks fleet for a two (2) year contract as follows:

Reading Metro Cab LLC
DBA Infina Health
615 Elm Street
Reading, PA 19601

- Estimated Annual Expenditure for Year 1 is \$53,720.71 pursuant to Labor Guide to be Utilized: ALLDATA.

-Estimated Annual Expenditure for Year 2 is \$41, 832.72 pursuant to Labor Guide to be Utilized: ALLDATA.

The County of Berks reserves the right to extend for two additional one year terms at the unit prices herein, upon mutual agreement of both parties.

154.2020 Adopt a resolution amending Resolution No. 56-16 adopted February 25, 2016, by authorizing David Hunter, Executive Director of the Berks County Planning Commission, to execute all Work Orders related to Master Grant Agreement No. 521166 with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the County of Berks, acting through the Berks County Planning Commission, replacing the previous Executive Director, Shannon L. Rossman.

155.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing A. Dennis Adams, Berks County Treasurer, to execute the letter agreement with BB&T, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, extending banking and treasury services, pricing and fee structure services through June 30, 2022.

156.2020 Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners declaring an emergency to exist due to rapid deterioration of a portion of fuel pumps at the Berks County Services Center and Courthouse, thereby requiring immediate replacement of two of the three fuel pumps in order to preclude lack of backup emergency power or fire protection, in order to protect public health and safety; and further accepting the Proposal dated April 24, 2020 from Hafer Petroleum Equipment, Ltd., Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, and authorizes the issuance of a purchase order to perform said emergency services at a not to exceed amount of \$41,289.00.

157.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing a pay increase for poll workers to \$180.00 a day for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated May 11, 2020. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 10 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated May 12, 2020 for week ending May 12, 2020 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA, report was not complete, will submit his report tomorrow. The Report was submitted at 10:24 a.m.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

No report.

Commissioner Leinbach reported there would be a Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Meeting at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No report today.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt reported this afternoon he will be making a request for additional money to support the Berks 2020 Census effort. There is talk in Washington to extend the census to October 31.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the SET committee has been very busy and learning a lot about efficiencies as we go through the COVID Pandemic, and what the County will look like in the future.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Commissioners will participate in a virtual meeting with Governor Wolf tomorrow hosted by CCAP focusing on how the State and counties can work together.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported he has a meeting at noon today with a potential grant firm to assist the County through the grant process with FEMA.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced Election Services is in desperate need of poll workers. We are down about 300 poll workers, and have engaged Gage Personnel to assist the County is finding individuals to work Election Day.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the Coroner is now posting information on individuals who have died from COVID19, by age, race, gender, location and if it was in a nursing home, on his website.

Commissioner Barnhardt was pleased to report the County will be engaging with the BCIU in cooperation with Art Teachers and students in grades 1 – 12 grades to create a new County seal. Commissioner Barnhardt believes it is important to build community spirit, and more information will be forthcoming.

Commissioner Rivera

Commissioner Rivera announced Election Services is also is need of interpreters and if interested in serving please contact Election Services.

Commissioner Rivera reported the County will be offering a small business loan program run through Neighborhood Housing Services. The program should be up and running mid-June or early July and is open to businesses located within the County and outside of the City limits. The City has its' own program, and the since the funds are County funds, it can only be offered to County businesses. Commissioner Rivera reported the loans will be between \$2,500 and \$10,000 at no interest, and if certain criteria are met, up to 50% of the loan is forgivable. There will be no payments for the first two years, then three years to pay off the loan, and \$2.40 million dollars will be available and for businesses not able to participate in any of the federal programs.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach explained in a little more detail the data posted by the Coroner on COVID19 related deaths.

Commissioner Leinbach talked about the Commissioners' press event yesterday, and will continue to press and look for ways the County can help small businesses open safely. It is a challenge for small businesses and for employees trying to plan for the future, and the County will continue to call on the Governor to add sanity to the decisions as to who is open and who is closed.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

There were 14 comments and a number of anonymous comments, and are attached hereto.

Commissioner Leinbach announced we will not read comments that do not have a name and municipality.

Commissioner Barnhardt addressed three comments.

Comment 4. Workers being involved in the reopening process.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented as the SET Team has been interviewing department heads, they were told we want input from the employees as to best practices in order to be more efficient and save money.

Comment 6. Will the Governor Wolf meeting with CCAP be televised? No.

Comment 7. Who will monitor small businesses and customers and safe practices? He asked who is monitoring the big box stores?

Commissioner Barnhardt said the press event next week will include health care professionals, and possibly a future press event with employees and union represented employees.

Commissioner Barnhardt asked that as we go forward with these conversations, he would like them to continue in a civil and respectful way, without all the vitriol comments being thrown around, start caring about each other while we are struggling with this virus.

Commissioner Rivera supported and echoed Commissioner Barnhardt's sentiments; adding we are all in this together and doing our best and let's work together in a respectful way.

Commissioner Leinbach agreed and appreciates Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Rivera's comments.

Commissioner Leinbach is proud how the County has worked with and communicated with our employees.

Commissioner Leinbach reported that due to the Governor's extension of the Stay at Home Order, the County Commissioners are extending the furlough to the end of June and those employees will continue to receive healthcare benefits, and some employees being brought back if needed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk