Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2020

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 25, 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 Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 18, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting, the June 18, 2020 Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Meeting and the June 23, 2020 Operations Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items
None.

The platforms and rules for participation by the public in the Microsoft Teams Live Commissioners' Meeting were presented.

Agenda Items

1. Enactment of County Ordinance:

   02-2020 An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 01-06 that authorized the Board Of Commissioners of the County of Berks to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to establish The Berks County Uniform Construction Code Board Of Appeals in cooperation with participating municipalities within the County.

2. A motion was made by Commissioner Rivera to approve the Agenda a presented. Said motion seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

   207.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of $230,596 and 2020 Appropriations in the amount of $282,345 per listing dated June 22, 2020.

208.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated June 25, 2020 as follows:

1. Authorize the temporary promotion of Kurt Katzenmoyer from PC010003 Assistant Chief Deputy Coroner to PC010243 Acting Chief Deputy Coroner, Coroner's Department, effective 7/1/2020. Rate of $62,800/annually. Salary range Minimum $46,685; Midpoint $62,247; Maximum $77,809. Replacement for Jonn Hollenbach who will serve as Acting Coroner due to the retirement of Dennis J. Hess. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11520.

2. Authorize the promotion of Debra Detweiler from PC013006 Part-time Deputy Investigator to PC010003 Full-time Assistant Chief Deputy Coroner – Coroner's Department, effective 06/24/2020. Rate of $57,091/annually. Salary range Minimum $44,460; Midpoint $59,280; Maximum $74,099. Replacement for Kurt Katzenmoyer who was temporarily promoted as Acting Chief Deputy Coroner. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11520.

209.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute a contract for a two-year term as a result of the Request for Proposal #20-14-CN for Employment, Advancement and Retention Network (EARN) Services as follows:

Educational Data Systems, Inc.
15300 Commerce Drive North, Suite 200
Dearborn, MI 48120
Total Annual Not to Exceed : **$998,226**

- Year 2 amount is subject to readjustment and will be based upon the funds available and allocated for these services.

The County of Berks reserves the right upon mutual agreement of both parties to extend the agreement for an additional one-year term in accordance with the terms of the contract.

210.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #19-46-GR three contracts for the Agricultural Center Exterior Renovations Project as identified herein:

General Construction
Uhrig Construction, Inc.
1700 North Fifth Street
Reading, PA 19601

Total Base Bid Not to Exceed Amount: $169,000.00
Alternate Deduct - Entry Drive Modifications: ($30,000.00)
Allowance #GC-1– 40 Hours of General Skilled Labor: ($2,600.00) – *This amount shall be deducted by change order if the corresponding work is not required by the conditions actual conditions encountered.*
Unit Price – Cutting Patching Concrete Slabs-on-Grade: $18.00 per square foot
Total Bid, including Alternate Deduct, Not to Exceed Amount for General Construction: $139,000.00

Plumbing
Shannon A. Smith, Inc.
420 South Cherry Street
Myerstown, PA 17067
Unit Price – Trench Excavation with Approved Materials: $200.00 per cubic yard
Unit Price – Trench Rock Excavation: $500.00 per cubic yard
Total Bid Not to Exceed Amount for Plumbing Construction: $25,202.00

Electrical
Shannon A. Smith, Inc.
420 South Cherry Street
Myerstown, PA 17067
Total Base Bid Not to Exceed Amount: $213,825.00
Alternate Deduct – Entry Drive Modifications: ($4,575.00)
Allowance – #EC-1-24 Hours of Journeyman Electrician Labor: ($2,133.12) - *This amount shall be deducted by change order if the corresponding work is not required by the conditions actual conditions encountered.*
Unit Price – Trench Excavation with Approved Materials: $85.00 per cubic yard
Unit Price – Trench Rock Excavation: $500.00 per cubic yard
Total Bid, including Alternate Deduct, Not to Exceed Amount for Electrical Construction: $209,250.00

211.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute Amendment No. 4 to License Agreement with the University of Pittsburgh of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education ("University") for use by the University of the Berks County Children and Youth Services Training Room on the 9th Floor of the Berks County Services Center for a one (1) year term beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

212.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the Amendment to County Application for GEMS Program Funds for the Department of State for reimbursement of the new voting equipment in the amount of $65,670.

213.2020 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, execution of Motorola Solutions Change Order No. 1-MOT80989 dated June 17, 2020 to add ten (10) full VESTA positions to Side B for the VESTA 9-1-1 system, including all hardware, software, implementation, project management, software support and onsite maintenance, and a heads-up display replacing IP phones in the amount of $498,311.04.

214.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing and directing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, and Ronald R. Seaman, as Chief Administrative Officer, to take any and all actions necessary in the application for and administration of the CARES Funding Grant in the amount of $38,034,840.00, under Contract No. C000073969, being administrated by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and further resolving that the electronic signing of both the application and grant agreement contract by the aforesaid officials be hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.
Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned the County's application was approved yesterday and will hopefully be executing the contract today.

215.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Berks County Workforce Development Board, PA CareerLink® Berks County One-Stop Partners and the County of Berks regarding the operation and management of the PA CareerLink® Berks County program providing local oversight of workforce programming in Berks County for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

216.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding Operating Budget and Infrastructure Funding Agreement between the Berks County Workforce Development Board, PA CareerLink® Berks County One-Stop Partners and the County of Berks regarding the operation and management of the PA CareerLink® Berks County program providing local oversight of workforce programming in Berks County for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

217.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Berks County Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant agreement through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in the amount of $213,286 to support Berks County's law enforcement efforts to respond to the COVID-19. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned there will be another grant in the fall. This initial grant will be used for PPE and protective barriers in the courtrooms.

218.2020 Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners ("Board") declaring the continuation of the Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the County of Berks issued March 12, 2020, due to COVID-19; and further declaring all provisions of the March 12, 2020 Declaration of Disaster Emergency continue to remain in full force and effect until December 31, 2020, unless amended by vote of a majority of the Board.
Commissioner Barnhardt commented this coincides with the approval of spending CARES Act funding.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated June 23, 2020.
Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are 25 contracts and referenced the departments.

3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable for week ending June 24, 2020 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.

3. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt
A presentation was made on the CARES Act funding yesterday at the Commissioners' Weekly Update, and the Community Needs Assessment Survey will go online Monday on the County's website, and there will also be an FAQ page added soon.

Commissioner Barnhardt will be participating in a Center for **Excellence** in **Local Government** (CELG) virtual meeting tomorrow with local municipal leaders to discuss the application process for PPE reimbursement through FEMA.
Work on Census 2020 continues to move forward.
Commissioner Barnhardt reported the overall response to contact tracing has been well received. There are currently 41 tracers, 12 part-time tracers and 30 volunteers.
Commissioner Barnhardt noted training is on hold for now, but there are plans to train Kutztown University students in the fall.

Commissioner Rivera
Commissioner Rivera announced tomorrow Berks County goes Green and reminded everyone we must continue to do our part to stop the spread and asked all businesses to continue to follow CDC guidelines.
Commissioner Rivera reminded anyone having trouble paying rent due to COVID-19 there will be several programs available beginning next week, and information will be posted on DoYourPartBerks website, and a list is currently being compiled of what programs will be available.
Commissioner Rivera reported the Small Business Loan Program is being converted to a Small Business Grant Program, and because of the financial hardship on businesses, these funds will not have to be paid back. More information will be made available tomorrow on DoYourPartBerks website.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS
None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR
There were 15 comments read by Jessica Blauser, Executive Assistant to Commissioner Barnhardt, and are attached hereto.

Commissioner Rivera responded to the following comments:
Library – The County understands the importance of the part the Library System plays in our community and thanked the Library for its service.
Tower Health Detox Center – Commissioner Rivera reported COCA reached out to Pennsylvania Adult/Teen Challenge to see if they could take over the role of Tower Health, and is pleased to report Pennsylvania Adult/Teen Challenge will take on that role and has the capacity.
Black Lives Matter – Commissioner Rivera recognizes there is systematic racism, and it must be addressed on a personal level. Commissioner Rivera commented the County is looking at what can be done regarding policy so everyone is treated equitably.
Wearing masks/going green – Commissioner Rivera reiterate his comments made earlier in the meeting.
Claudia Strauss – Information Systems will look into this issue.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk

Source	Type	Identity	Timestamp	Content
Moderator	Announcement	Heather Berger (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	6/25/2020 13:41	Public comment will be accepted through the Q&A function. Please include your first name, last name and municipality. Any comments without name and municipality will not be considered. Each citizen can submit one comment that is no more than 3 minutes per comment. The meeting comment period is limited to 30 minutes in total. Please be concise. Comments will be read during the meeting and should not be considered to be interactive dialog with the Commissioners. Any Commissioner response to public comment will be done at the discretion of
Attendee	Question	Stephanie Williams, Greenwich Township (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:01	Good morning, Commissioners. As District Consultant for the Reading Library District, serving all residents of Berks County, I express my gratitude for your continued support of the Berks County Public Library System and its 19 member libraries. As you know, the pandemic created several challenges for businesses and nonprofit organizations. Our public libraries adapted to continue providing services while our buildings were closed. Libraries expanded wi-fi access in our parking lots, adjusted in-person programming for online delivery, and reallocated funding to meet the surge in demand for digital content. 1,584 new users accessed our digital platform, Overdrive, to download e-books and e-audiobooks in the past three months alone. Digital content borrowed in Overdrive increased dramatically by 53%, compared to the same time period in 2019. The Reading Library District invested several thousand dollars to provide this year's Summer Quest program on a digital platform. This enables us to continue our work to reduce the "summer slide" that our children experience while out of school. Libraries will continue to be trusted community partners as we all navigate the new normal. Thank you again for your ongoing support, Stephanie Williams.
Attendee	Question	Liz Cates Bern Twp (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:03	How often are residents and employees at the Berks Family Detention Center tested for Covid?
Attendee	Question	William Bellows, Wyomssing (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:04	Gentlemen, the Movement for Black Lives is sweeping the nation as Americans are finally recognizing the harm done by centuries of systemic racism, including overfunded policing and chronic disinvestment in Black communities. I would like to hear your personal reflections on what you are learning about this subject and how you plan to respond.
Attendee	Question	Dr Neha Majmudar, Lower Heidelberg (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:05	Where are we with contact tracing? You hired a firm but what has that firm set up? If that firm finds that multiple employees from a business test positive, what are the next steps now that we are in the green? Will that business close? Will the business have to do a deep cleaning? What are the guidelines?
Attendee	Question	Christopher Ellis, Reading (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:05	The Shut Down Berks Coalition has learned that one of the families detained in Leesport was unjustly deported. The legal folks intervened and they're currently being held in TX, but they say they'd rather be deported than return to Berks. Three Black Haitian families remain at the center. When will you shut down the center and repurpose it into something of benefit to our community?
Attendee	Question	Jane Palmer, Wyomissing (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:06	Tower Health, one of the largest employers in Berks County and our single most important source for healthcare, has just announced layoffs of at least 1,000 people -- the same people who have put their lives on the line caring for us in the pandemic -- at the same time their top management continues to rake in huge salaries. They've also closed the drug and alcohol center at a time when people are most vulnerable and most in need of those services. What will you do to ensure that Tower Health contributes to the financial well being of our community through Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)?
Attendee	Question	Joanne Kosloski, South Heidelberg Township (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:07	If a customer refuses to wear a mask in a business and refuses to leave,or if workers in business places do not have masks worn properly,will there be county-level enforcement to ensure customers,workers and business owners are safe from a potentially dangerous situation?

Source	Type	Identity	Timestamp	Content
Attendee	Question	Jim Beidler, Bern Township (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:08	Pennsylvania has already suffered 6,399 coronavirus deaths; Berks counts 347. But Pennsylvania is now just one of three states, along with Montana and Hawaii, to witness a downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases for more than 42 days. Much of the credit for this achievement must go to Governor Wolf, whose restrictions you and many of your counterparts across the state sought to overturn. Instead of cooperation with the Governor's guidelines, you gave us fancy posters and nonsensical statements, and as a result we still have no shared understanding of how to behave. Now that we're on the brink of going "green," will your specific guidelines to the people of Berks County including wearing masks in all businesses? Why or why not? What other guidelines will there be?
Attendee	Question	Claudia Strauss, Berkshire Heights (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:09	It's been my understanding that individuals are afforded 3 minutes each to during the public comments section of the meeting. Perhaps you are not aware that people's comments are cut off when trying to submit in writing under the new process. I timed my comments before submitting them—reading them aloud—slowly--to make sure I didn't go overtime—and my comments came out at only 2 minutes. And then they didn't fit; the submittal section forced cuts of an entire paragraph and a sentence from another paragraph, so the time permitted was even less than 2 minutes! Please look into this and see whether the submittal space can be adjusted to permit for the usual 3 minutes per person. And in the meantime, please advise all of us how the algorithm is functioning—if it's a word count, we
Attendee	Question	Lou Spencer (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:09	Commissioner Rivera. You stood out on the Penn Street bridge with a hand-lettered sign reading BLM. If we assume it means what it says -- that you believe Black Lives Matter -- then what steps will you be taking to disinvest in policing and invest in Black (and Brown) communities AND shut down the detention center where several Black families are still locked up? We expect your words to mean something.
Attendee	Question	David Delnegro, Wyomissing (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:21	Commissioners, Thank you for your leadership in getting us to Green and the Small Business Grant program. COVID has seemed to wax and wane around the country, how do you plan to protect our citizens and businesses should we backstep considering a second full scale shutdown may cause irreperable damage? Thank you,
Attendee	Question	Saeed Ahmed (wyomissing) (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:22	Do you have anything you could say about this question: Are 911 dispatchers going through any training to better tailor responses to calls that don't require a police presence? Thank you
Attendee	Question	From Facebook (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:23	Nick Dengler Nick Dengler Kutztown- Question- What are the commissioners doing in regards to protecting us residents from unconstitutional contract tracing?
Attendee	Question	Saeed Ahmed (wyomissing) (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:23	Saeed Ahmed asking on behalf of Melvia Ahmed (wyomissing). If there is a spike of COVID19 in Berks, what educational or other measures are you planning to ensure people know that masks are important (to protect themselves and others), and guidance on social distancing?

Source	Type	Identity	Timestamp	Content
Attendee	Question	Jess Royer, Spring Township (Unverified)	6/25/2020 14:32	It's great that Berks County and most of our surrounding area are entering the green phase. Early in the crisis, Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine set the necessary tone and example to get us through Coronavirus as quickly as possible, and I thank them and all the citizens and businesses that have taken the appropriate steps. It's important now that we remember the strain on all our lives this has been, but not get complacent. Nationally, Coronavirus cases have plateaued, rather than showing the steep decline that we need, and locally we've seen how detrimental Lebanon County's approach has been, as they will be the only PA county not moving to green. Moving forward, Berks County absolutely needs to create a Health Department. Having a unified county-run department is the best way to track cases and trends here in Berks. Writing for PA Post, Anthony Orozco showed the need for a county health department by highlighting the lack of data on COVID-19 cases among minority communities. A county
Moderator	Announcement	Heather Berger (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	6/25/2020 14:37	Thank you for our questions and comments. This Q&A is closed as the public comments have been addressed.