

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes July 23, 2020

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 23, 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 announced there are two opportunities to comment; one at the beginning on a specific Agenda Item and at the end of the meeting at Public Comment; one comment per person, and must provide name and municipality.

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

Commissioner Leinbach announced there were three Executive Sessions held July 20, 2020 dealing with personnel and union negotiations; July 21, 2020 dealing with personnel and union negotiations and July 22, 2020 dealing with personnel, litigation, union negotiations, real estate and security.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 16, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting, the July 16, 2020 Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Meeting and the July 21, 2020 Operations Meeting were approved as presented.

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 Rivera, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 241.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2020 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$87,184 and 2020 Appropriations in the amount of \$773,681 per listing dated July 20, 2020.

- 242.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated July 23, 2020 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Andrew Scott to Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender's Office, effective 08/12/2020. Rate of \$53,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,587; Maximum \$74,483. Replacement for Anna LaMano who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
 2. Authorize the salary adjustment for Jill Koharcheck PC013257 Paralegal – Solicitor's Office, effective 07/01/2020. Rate of \$46,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$34,445; Midpoint \$45,927; Maximum \$57,409. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11020.
 3. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for a Senior Governmental Accountant – Office of the Controller, effective 07/23/2019. Rate not to exceed \$37.00/hour. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when a candidate is hired to fill the Senior Governmental Accountant position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11120.
- 243.2020 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Berks County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams to open a new PLIGIT account for the \$38,034,840.00 in CARES Act Grant funds at the rate of .36%.
- 244.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Agreement SAP #4100086555 between the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and Berks County to develop and implement a comprehensive plan of addiction services relative to substance use and problem gambling disorders. The Agreement is in effect for a five (5) year period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025.
- 245.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency ("PCCD") for the County Intermediate Punishment Programs for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 in the total amount of \$410,000.

- 246.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with Tower Health on behalf of its entities and providers concerning guidance and advice provided by Tower Health members of the Berks County Government COVID-19 Healthcare Advisory Panel.
- 247.2020 Adopt a resolution revising the Right to Know Policy and Procedure dated January 1, 2009; and further appointing Jill Koharcheck as Berks County Open Records Officer, effective July 23, 2020.
- 248.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the 2020-2025 Title IV-D Cooperative Agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (“DHS”), the Domestic Relations Section (“DRS”) of the Court of Common Pleas and the County Commissioner of Berks County for the administration and performance of the Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program and to ensure the securing of financial and medical support for minor children.
- 249.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution the Plan and Budget Amendment Certification Statement for County Children & Youth Social Services Programs for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. The amendment is necessary because of increase expense in Institutional Placements for JPO assuming the 10% variance to budget threshold allowed by the State.
- 250.2020 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to electronically execute the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification to the Department of Justice and U.S. Treasury Department reporting the federal drug forfeiture money received and spent by the District Attorney’s Office for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated July 21, 2020. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 16 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller’s Office vouchers payable listing dated July 21, 2020 for week ending July 21, 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.

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

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Reading Eagle for the timely article on contact tracing. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are now 347 contacts in the data base, 34 (7%) have refused, and 81 new contacts were tested this past week.

Witt O'Briens had a session with the BCIU this week and directed them to the proper function for applying for FEMA funds and CARES Act funding.

Commissioner Barnhardt will provide a report of the Saving and Efficiency Team's (SET) findings and recommendations setting forth how the County will look at improving technology and other efficiencies in the short and long term.

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked everyone who participated in the Everyone Counts Census 2020 event held in the City this past Tuesday. They were able to capture 300 people who did not fill out a Census form.

Commissioner Rivera

Reported the Small Business Restart Grant deadline has been extended from July 17, 2020, and is still open.

The Rebuild Berks initiative is focusing on Education and Training; Shop Local; Connect Local and Funding through grants.

Commissioner Leinbach

Congratulated the Colebrookdale Railroad who has received the NACo 2020 Achievement Award for Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation - Colebrookdale RR Connect Communities & Two Major Counties thru Tourism.

Commissioner Leinbach shared his screen showing the latest dashboard numbers from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR - Public comments are attached hereto.

Comment regarding rental assistance. Commissioner Rivera said there are rental and mortgage assistance programs available, and directed the individual to the DoYourPartBerks website for more information.

Comment regarding data. Commissioner Leinbach responded there is detailed data available on the Pennsylvania Department of Health's website under COVID-19 Data for Pennsylvania.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk