

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes August 8, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 8, 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 and Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Chief Clerk Ronald R. Seaman.

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

Commissioner Leinbach reported that an Executive Session was held on August 7, 2019 and the topics of discussion were Litigation and Personnel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 1, 2019 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on specific agenda items.

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:

Budget Department

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 255.19 | Adopt a resolution authorizing 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$768,577 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$2,056,586 per listing dated August 6, 2019. |
|--------|--|

Human Resources

256.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated August 8, 2019 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Sabrina Gross to PC012683 Senior Governmental Accountant – Office of the Controller, effective 08/14/2019. Rate of \$50,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,057; Midpoint \$58,742; Maximum \$73,428. Replacement for Michael Oppenheimer who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11120.
2. Authorize the transfer of Kelly Robb from PC011636 Nursing Supervisor to PC011009 Director of Staff Development – Berks Heim, effective 08/21/2019. Rate of \$72,402/annually. Salary range Minimum \$51,302; Midpoint \$68,403; Maximum \$85,504. Replacement for Ruth Somers who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33330.

Purchasing

257.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute, two contracts as a result of ITB# 19-18-KS, Waste Water Treatment Plant Chemicals & Supplies for a period of one (1) year for the Waste Water Treatment Plants as identified herein:

JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc.
1765 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236
Estimated Annual Expenditure - \$5,524.83

Line #	Item Description / Qty	UOM	Unit Price
18	Chlorine – Chlorine Liquefied Gas Under Pressure – 150 lb. cylinders	Pound	\$ 2.1666

George S. Coyne Chemical Co., Inc.
3015 State Road
Croyton, PA 19021
Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$4,429.65

Line #	Item Description / Qty	UOM	Unit Price
17	Sodium Bisulfite – 150 lb. cylinders	Pound	2.545
20	Polymer – Zetag© 8160	Bag	\$ 273.6998

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

Adult Probation

- 258.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 to the 2018-2020 County Intermediate Punishment Grant through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency approved March 29, 2018. The purpose of this grant modification is to move money between budget categories to pay for Saturday drug testing for treatment court participants. This modification does not change the amount of the grant..

Commissioners

- 259.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Brian A. Gottschall, Director of Emergency Services, to electronically execute the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Radiation Emergency Response Fund Grant Agreement.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator as set forth on attached listing dated August 6, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there were a total of 9 contracts – 1 with Area Agency on Aging; 1 with Career Link; 3 with Children and Youth Services; 1 with Human Resources; 1 with Information Systems; 1 with Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; and 1 with Parks and Recreation.
3. Motion to ratify and confirm payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated August 6, 2019 for week ending August 7, 2019, and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, County Treasurer, presented his weekly prepared Treasurer's Report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller, Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In the absence of Robert Patrizio, CFO, Ron Seaman, CAO, reported that there will not be a Budget/Operations Meeting this afternoon.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ron Seaman, CAO, had no comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported that the Annual CCAP Conference, this year hosted by Berks County, ended yesterday. He referenced some of the recommended actions taken by the assemblage with respect to some of the current Election Reform Initiatives proposed by the Legislature. He also noted a breakout session conducted by Shannon Rossman, Executive Director, Berks County Planning Commission, Paul Janssen, Director of the Center for Excellence in Government, and Lee Olsen, Principle, Olsen Architects, which he moderated. Ms. Rossman spoke on Municipal Consolidations, Mr. Janssen on the Center and Mr. Olsen on the Mount Penn Preserve. The session was well received by the attendees.

He next spoke about the many calls he's received requesting assistance from the County in preserving the Epler's Schoolhouse, located at the intersection of Van Reed and Leisz's Bridge Roads near the Reading Airport in Bern Township. The building currently is part of the parcel owned by the Greater Berks Development Fund that will eventually become part of the Bern Township Industrial Park and is slated for demolition. Commissioner Barnhardt indicated that Ed Swoyer, Executive Director of Greater Berks Development Fund, has indicated a willingness to work with the County in saving the structure and therefore he requested that this be listed as part of the Budget/Ops Meeting Agenda for the meeting to be held on Thursday, August 15th.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott referenced a recent *Wall Street Journal* article concerning the underperformance of pension fund portfolios with respect to their projected rate of return. This is especially true in light of the restrictive types of investments available to public pension funds and the generally low rate of return on Bonds. In the case of the County Pension Fund, Bonds comprise approximately 25 % of the fund portfolio. Continued underperformance will require an even higher rate of return from other investments, which seems unlikely to occur, thus requiring a greater contribution of County Funds to ensure the fund's solvency.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach also noted the calls he received relative to assistance in efforts to save the Epler's School structure from being demolished and agreed to discuss options at the August 15th Budget/Ops Meeting.

He also noted the CCAP Annual Conference and remarked on the many positive comments received from other County Officials in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach extended a special "Thank you," to Mary Buerer, his Executive Assistant, for serving as liaison between the County and CCAP for most of the preceding year, and also to Christine Sadler, County Solicitor, for her efforts in securing items for the gift baskets and County hand-outs for attendees. He ended by commenting on the excellent presentation on working with diverse groups given by the keynote speaker, Kelly McDonald.

Lastly, he invited everyone to a presentation of "Die Fledermaus" by the Berks Opera Company this Friday, August 16th, at St. Ignatius Loyola. Without tipping his hand, Commissioner Leinbach noted that local musician, Dave Kline and himself will take part in one scene of the production.

Before proceeding with moving to comments from the Row Officers, Solicitor Sadler stated that she wanted to recognize that she was assisted in obtaining the gift items for the Conference by Beverly Levan, Solicitor's Office Paralegal, and Kay Leisey, Executive Assistant to the CAO and to thank them for their hard efforts in making this a success.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Leinbach then asked for comment from any of the Row Officers. County Controller, Sandy Graffius indicated that on August 14th, she and her Chief Auditor, Oliver Arthur, would be travelling to York County for a presentation on the use of Debit Cards for payment of Jurors and other such expenditures.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Leinbach then asked for comments from the floor, when Crystal Kowalski commented on her continuing frustration in attempting to obtain data on individuals incarcerated for their inability to post collateral for summary offenses.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald R. Seaman, Deputy Chief Clerk