

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 12, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 12, 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.

PRESENTATION

The month of September is set aside to recognize National Recovery Month. Yvonne Stroman, Community Programs Specialist of Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse ("COCA") thanked the Commissioners for all their efforts and dedication in providing funding for programs and activities offered by COCA. Ms. Stroman noted attendance at the meeting this year is down because many individuals are working, going to school or attending DUI Court. Ms. Stroman introduced members of the recovery community from Berks Counseling Center-The Bridge House, Camp Joy, YMCA and Easy Does It who spoke about their road to recovery. They all were very thankful and grateful for the financial support the County provides allowing them to improve their lives and contribute and give back to their community.

Stanley J. Papademetriou, Executive Director of COCA, thanked the Board for over-giving in terms of match then what is required. Mr. Papademetriou commented the infrastructure COCA has been able to put in place because of the funding the County gives, truly believes has saved lives in Berks County; shows recovery is possible and lifts the cloud of shame.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held yesterday, September 11, 2019 regarding litigation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 5, 2019 Commissioners' Board 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 Scott, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 292.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$83,800 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$3,208,294 per listing dated September 9, 2019'
 - 293.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 12, 2019 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Brian Kulp to PC012984 Law Clerk I – Court Administration, effective 09/18/2019. Rate of \$49,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,078; Midpoint \$53,438; Maximum \$66,797. Replacement for Michael Mulvey who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 2. Authorize the appointment of Ashley Esposito to PC013142 Assistant County Solicitor – Solicitor's Office, effective 09/25/2019. Rate of \$48,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,078; Midpoint \$53,437; Maximum \$66,796. Replacement for James Gallagher who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11020.
 3. Authorize the transfer of Jennifer Smeltzer from PC012169 RN Staff Nurse to PC011636 Nursing Supervisor – Berks Heim, effective 09/18/2019. Rate of \$73,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$53,556; Midpoint \$71,408; Maximum \$89,260. Replacement for Kelly Robb who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33090.
 - 294.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Josephine Torres-Boykins, Reading, 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.
 - 295.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Addendum to Lease Agreement between the Robert J. Marrella and John Reshetar, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, and the County of Berks for premise situate at 1150 Muhlenberg Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, consisting of 2,540 square feet of office space to be used by Magisterial District Court 23-1-02 (Carissa Johnson) for a five (5) term beginning January 1, 2020.

- 296.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute a Right-of-Way to Met-Ed for access to approximately 14 feet along County Welfare Road, Bern Township, for replacement of an existing pole, installation of a new pole and installation of three new regulators on the cross braces between the poles.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated September 10, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are three contracts and referenced the departments.
 3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 10, 2019 for week ending September 11, 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 Budget/Ops Meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and there will be a Facility Condition Assessment Presentation by Entech Engineering; a discussion on three major software projects; a discussion of the McCormick Taylor Bridge Maintenance Services Agreement, and Commissioner Barnhardt is seeking a one-time funding request on behalf of the Mt. Penn Preserve.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman announced the Berks County Conservation District will hold their annual Bite of Berks Scholarship Fundraiser Monday, September 23, 2019 at the Berks County Agricultural Center from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt reported yesterday he attended the 2nd Annual Employer Hiring Persons With Disabilities Symposium at the Crowne Plaza sponsored by the Workforce Development Board and Goodwill Industries. Commissioner Barnhardt noted there were many employers there and it was great to see so many individuals with tremendous skill sets and anxious to work.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported new voting system demonstrations will take place at the following locations and dates. Today from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at DeeDee's Restaurant in Shoemakersville, Saturday at the Berks Heim Fest, September 17, 2019 at the Alvernia University Student Center and next Thursday through Friday at the Oley Fair.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the agenda is set for the Epler's School meeting Monday, September 16, 2019 at the Heritage Center for the potential future of Epler's School. Commissioner Barnhardt reported they do have preliminary numbers and are waiting for some additional numbers regarding the cost to move the School and reported we can now eliminate the possibility of moving it to the Air Museum. The goal is to actually utilize the School for educational purposes and apply for historical status.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott read a portion of an article that appeared in the September 9, 2019 Wall Street Journal written by South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem regarding the legalization of industrial hemp. Commissioner Scott noted the Governor has twice vetoed measures to legalize industrial hemp and read the letter explaining why the Governor does not support legalization.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach noted yesterday was the 18th Anniversary of 9/11 and talked about the documentary that appeared on the History Channel last night "Inside Air Force One".

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, commented on Right to Know Requests she has been filing and receiving, noting the date of the records appears on the page and asked if she could receive the report on that date, when they are created.

President Judge Parisi requested an Executive Session regarding a personnel matter. Commissioner Scott asked if the Board will need to take any public action as a result or can the Commissioners' Meeting be adjourned then go into Execution Session. Judge Parisi advised formal action would not be necessary today but hopefully next week.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk