

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 19, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 19, 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 Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach was absent due to his required attendance at a Court Hearing. 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.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced there were two Executive Sessions held Thursday, September 12, 2019. The first was held immediately following the Commissioners' Meeting dealing with personnel, and one held in the afternoon dealing with litigation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 12, 2019 Commissioners' Board Meeting and September 12, 2019 Budget/Operations Meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott to approve the Agenda with a request to comment on an Agenda item. Motion to comment granted by the Vice Chair.

Commissioner Scott stated he would be a no vote to Item No. 299.19 B. Commissioner Scott explained he was away when this was discussed at an Executive Session, and upon discussions with some members of the judiciary, was informed this individual was the subject of certain allegations that occurred about 14 years ago and was disciplined for it. Commissioner Scott believes in redemption and he will not support this resolution as currently written but would agree to amend it.

Commissioner Barnhardt stated he procedurally will not agree to the amendment, and because Commissioner Leinbach was unable to attend the meeting, Item No. 299.19 B failed to pass and was pulled from the Agenda for further consideration.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to approve the Agenda as presented with the exception of deleting Item 299.19 B. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and the motion carried.

- 297.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$2,077,164 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$94,345 per listing dated September 16, 2019.
- 298.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated September 19, 2019 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Marisol Lebron to PC011418 Nursing Administrative Secretary – Berks Heim, effective 10/02/2019. Rate of \$34,807/annually. Salary range Minimum \$27,358; Midpoint \$36,477; Maximum \$45,596. Replacement for Linda Bloom who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33390.
 2. Authorize the transfer of Laura Schlegel from PC011141 Interstate Manager to PC013314 Order Establishment Manager – Domestic Relations, effective 09/18/2019. Rate of \$70,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,677; Midpoint \$59,569; Maximum \$74,462. Replacement for Jaime Trupp who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 24000 – 26280.
 3. Authorize the promotion of Kelsey Glass from PC010581 County Caseworker II to PC010654 County Caseworker Supervisor I – Children and Youth Services, effective 10/02/2019. Rate of \$54,740/annually. Salary range Minimum \$ 43,747; Midpoint \$58,329; Maximum \$72,912. Replacement for Timothy Siminski who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 22000 - 23200.
 4. Authorize the salary adjustment for Cindy Milian, PC013124 County Caseworker Supervisor I – Children and Youth Services, effective 10/02/2019. Rate of \$54,740/annually. Salary range Minimum \$43,747; Midpoint \$58,329; Maximum \$72,912. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 22000 – 23200.
- 299.19 *Adopt a resolution approving and recognizing the 1620 Rights of the Courts to hire, fire and supervise its employees. The Courts have decided to authorize the appointment of Michael Hollinger to PC011262 Law Clerk I-Court Administration, effective 9/25/2019. Rate of \$53,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,078; Midpoint \$53,438; Maximum \$66,797.

Replacement for Zanna Leiendecker who separated. Budget 10000-11600. The County has notified the Courts that the County does not support this hiring and objects to the hiring of this individual. It is the County's opinion that hiring this individual creates a potential future liability. The Courts have chosen to hire this individual despite the concerns raised by the County.

**Due to lack of support, this item was pulled from the Agenda.*

- 300.19 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving execution by Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to a letter of support from the Berks County Board of Commissioners to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the CCAP Website Hosting and Design Modernization Project: Web Application for web program and related services to local government entities.
- 301.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, execution of the Renewal Quotation for the Volunteer Accident Insurance Policy effective October 1, 2019.
- 302.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, execution of a letter authorizing Amendment "C" to Reimbursement Agreement 057379, as drafted by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, which redistributes the costs for various project phases as indicated in Exhibit "AAAA" with no change in the total project cost related to the replacement of the Manatawny Bridge, aka the Fisher Mill Road Bridge (County Bridge #58B) in Oley Township. All other terms and conditions in the Agreement and all previous amendments thereto, unless specifically revised by virtue of Amendment "C", remain in full effect.
- 303.19 Adopt a resolution of the Board of Commissioners approving the Next Generation Farmer Loan Program to provide financing in the total amount of \$534,000 for Christopher G. and Erin L. Orben, for property located at 379 Dunkel's Church Road, Kutztown, Greenwich Township, Berks County; and further authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Approval of Applicable Elected Representative form and the letter of approval to Christopher G. and Erin L. Orben. The Next Generation Farmer Loan Program provides financing to eligible next generation farmers to purchase land and other capital intensive assets to begin their agriculture enterprise through the Berks County Industrial Development Authority and the Greater Berks Development and the Central and Western Chester County Industrial Development Authority. The approval by Berks

County shall not in any way pledge or obligate the credit or taxing power of the County of Berks, nor shall the County of Berks be liable for the payment of the principal of or interest on any obligation issued by the Central and Western Chester County Industrial Development Authority.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated September 17, 2019. Commissioner Barnhardt reported there are 5 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated September 17, 2019 for week ending September 18, 2019 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA, was absent. Linda Weaver, Deputy Treasurer, submitted the 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 was absent.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman reported that due to lack of a quorum, the Budget/Operations Meeting will be cancelled today. Mr. Seaman reported there is an ongoing trial involving the County that requires the attendance of a majority of the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt reported there will be voting system demonstrations this weekend at the Oley Fair and next Thursday at St. Paul's UCC Church in Amity Township.

Commissioner Barnhardt commended WFMZ and the Reading Eagle for their coverage of Epler's School, and reported the next meeting will be held October 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berks County Heritage Center.

Commissioner Scott commented he appreciates Commissioner Barnhardt's efforts in helping to save the school, but he is not willing and will not support any financial assistance in this effort.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported at last night's South Central Transit Authority meeting the Board discussed the Reading Summer Student Program and stated a survey will be

sent to the students, and depending on the results, there is a possibility of expanding the service next year.

Commissioner Barnhardt also reported the Denver Shuttle ridership numbers have gone up, and the Board will discuss the possibility of expanding the service to Berks County.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott reported because the County is involved in a very high profile court case over the next few weeks, the Commissioners will be out of the office a great deal of the day, and some meetings will start late or could be cancelled altogether.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Donna Reed, City of Reading, asked the Commissioners to do all they can to save Epler's School. Ms. Reed suggested contacting the Greater Berks Development Fund and work with them.

Carol Riley, Reading, asked if she could be given the chance to serve on the Reading School District Board.

Evelyn Morrison, Reading, stated she has been talking to a few individuals who have had accidents getting on and off BARTA buses and have experienced very little assistance from the bus company on the procedure for reporting the accident. Ms. Morrison reported she checked online and could not find a policy or no way to report an incident. Commissioner Barnhardt offered to contact BARTA and pass the information on to Ms. Morrison.

Mr. Morrison talked about some issues she is having with a Right to Know request she filed for Voter Election Service documents, specifically the 5 day and 30 day response time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk