

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 3, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 3, 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 19, 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:
 - 304.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$453,330 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$536,457 per listing dated September 3, 2019.
 - 305.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated October 3, 2019 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Lynne Beust to PC011264 Law Clerk I – Court Administration, effective 10/02/2019. Rate of \$53,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$40,078; Midpoint \$53,438; Maximum \$66,797. Replacement for Andrew Walls who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.

2. Authorize the appointment of David Dague to PC013354 Enterprise Support Technician – Information Systems, effective 10/09/2019. Rate of \$47,150/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,292; Midpoint \$59,057; Maximum \$73,821. Replacement for Kris Gring who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.
 3. Authorize a Working Out of Class Lump Sum amount for Kaylee Weaver PC013341 Fiscal Officer – Facilities and Operations Department. Amount of \$528.90. This working out of classification provided coverage until the appointment of a Fiscal Operations Manager. Replacement for Taylor Trump who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11030.
 4. Authorize a Working Out of Class Lump Sum amount for Stacy Feltenberger PC012937 Human Resources Coordinator – Berks Heim Human Resources Department. Amount of \$1,077.60. This working out of classification provided coverage until the appointment of a Human Resources Manager. Replacement for Joanna Baittinger who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11410.
- 306.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #19-21-GR, two (2) contracts for the CRC Elevator Modernization Project as identified herein:
- Dolan Construction, Inc.**
401 South 13th Street
Reading, PA 19602
**General Construction: Total Bid Not to Exceed
Amount: \$173,500.00**
- H.B. Frazer Company – Pennsylvania**
3 Morgan Drive
Reading, PA 19608
**Electrical Contractor: Total Bid Not to Exceed
Amount: \$30,976.00**
- 307.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Clyde A.B. Myers, Bernville, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2022.

- 308.19 Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, execution of a letter to BARTA/SCTA providing notice of the County's intent to exercise its option to renew the Lease Agreement between BARTA and the County of Berks for an additional three (3) year period beginning January 1, 2020, for office space currently being used by the Berks County Veterans Affairs Department.
- 309.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute a letter to Mr. Todd Peterson, President of the Birdsboro Community Memorial Center Board, providing the required notice of the County's intent not to renew the Usage and Maintenance Agreement Contract that will expire April 30, 2020.
- 310.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Brian A. Gottschall, Director of Berks County Emergency Services, to electronically execute the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement. This is a 50/50 match. The federal grant is in the amount of \$109,297.77 and will be used to enhance and sustain the County's all-hazards emergency management capabilities.
- 311.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement No. EA-222297-19 between the County of Berks and Entech Engineering, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, to provide engineering services to design, bid and build a project for the Berks County Central Heating Plant at the North Campus at the not to exceed amount of \$24,900.00.
- 312.19 Agreement No. EA-222592-19 between the County of Berks and Entech Engineering, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, to provide engineering and architectural services to design, bid and build a project to install natural gas fired steam boilers in a new building at the Berks Heim and remove the Berks Heim from the North Campus central steam system at a not to exceed amount of \$279,700.00.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated October 1, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 12 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated October 1, 2019 for week ending October 2, 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. today. There will be a review of the 2020/2024 Capital Plan; a continued discussion regarding a 2020 budget request from the County Librarian; an HR discussion regarding proposed changes to healthcare benefits and Mr. Patrizio's annual report of bond compliance.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman reported the following events are taking place throughout October at various Berks County Parks locations: Sunday, October 6, 2019, the 38th Annual Heritage Festival will take place at the Berks County Heritage Center from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 12, 2019, an Outdoor Cooking 101 Program at the Angora Fruit Farm; October 20, 2019, a Monster Mash from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Gring's Mill Park, and on October 20, 2019, a Poe's Unhappy Hour from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Gring's Mill Barn.

Mr. Seaman mentioned the Berks County Agriculture Department in conjunction with Penn State Extension Service will conduct a series of noon time webinars emphasizing Hemp production. The next webinar is scheduled October 14, 2019.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt reported there will be new voting system demonstration tomorrow at the Farm Bureau Annual Dinner, and in Election Services Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported that as a member of the Career Pathways Committee run by the BCIU, yesterday he spoke to the Freshman Class at Daniel Boone High School about careers in government.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott announced that on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, he received a Law Enforcement Sponsor 2019 Certificate from Crime Alert Berks County for the County's generosity and support of Crime Alert Berks County.

Commissioner Scott talked about the recent article that appeared in the Reading Eagle dealing with the shortage of affordable housing in Berks County in regard to the future opening of the new medical school. Commissioner Scott questioned with such a good economy, why hasn't the housing market also rebounded. Commissioner Scott believes it is because of high property taxes in Berks County and lack of transportation.

Commissioner Leinbach

No comments today.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Joe Rudderow, Maiden creek Township Supervisor, commented on a letter the Township received from the Berks County Department of Emergency Services advising the Township of a 7% increase in its emergency communication services, noting it is the same increase as 2019. Mr. Rudderow stated the increase to Maiden creek Township taxpayers would be \$109,377.25. Mr. Rudderow believes the County 911 service and the cost is an obligation the County should provide to taxpayers and should not be borne by local municipalities.

Roger Thomas, New Ringgold, Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Leinbach stated for the record, under the law, and because Mr. Thomas is not a Berks County resident and taxpayer, he normally would not have the right to speak, at a Commissioners' Meeting, but will allow Mr. Thomas three minutes to comment.

Mr. Thomas commented he is concerned about the low pay jurors in Pennsylvania are compensated, and asked the Commissioners to provide Representative Rob Kauffman, House Judiciary Committee Chair, with information on Berks County's jury compensation experience.

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, questioned what the motivation is for taking Berks Heim off the North Campus steam system.

Commissioner Leinbach responded for financial reasons, and the current system is extremely inefficient.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk