

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 15, 2015**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 15, 2015, at 10:00 A.M. in the Boardroom on the 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 First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. Geffken and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson.

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

### **Presentation**

Sandy Graffius, Berks County Controller, Carl E. Geffken, Chief Operating Officer, and Robert Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer presented information on the impact the State Budget impasse is having on the County, the County Budget and its Providers. Commissioner Leinbach commented the reason for the presentation today is to inform the public of the seriousness of the continuing budget battle between the leadership in the Pennsylvania State legislature and the Governor's Office and will focus on the impact it is having on those who receive Federal and State dollars. Also attending to comment on the impact of the impasse were seven Providers of social services.

Ms. Graffius reported at the end of June, and in order to keep the books straight, her office entered the bills in the month they are to be paid and then manually put the process on hold until the State passes their budget. Ms. Graffius commented she has compiled a 3 page list of service providers that are not being paid, not including BCCYS, totaling \$1,412,000.00.

Mr. Patrizio reported the impact on the County cash flow since August is \$6.4 million lower than has been forecasted. Mr. Patrizio commented it is unconscionable that the State at the minimum has not passed a continuing resolution to pass through Federal money that is just sitting in Harrisburg, and is due the County for agencies and departments such as BCCYS, Adult and Juvenile Probation and Domestic Relations. Mr. Patrizio strongly encouraged the Board to reach out to our Federal legislators asking them to put pressure on the State to release the Federal funds.

Mr. Vogel, Executive Director of COCA (Council on Chemical Abuse) commented this is the third time in a decade where the State has not passed a budget and it angers him the legislators don't seem to care the impact the impasse is having on the recipients of social services.

Also speaking on behalf of some of the County's social service Providers were Nan Haver, SAM (Service Access Management); Mary Kay Bernosky, BWIC (Berks Women

in Crisis); Michael Toledo, Hispanic Center; Jody Wagner, Prospectus Berco; Kevin Snyder, Bethany Children's Home and Cheryl Guthier, Community Prevention Partnership. All the Providers remarked they have not received any Federal or State funds since July, but continue to provide their services. Most of the providers commented they have had to extend or request lines of credit, which means they will have to pay interest that wasn't budgeted.

The Commissioners agreed to send letters to the State legislators and the Governor urging them to pass a resolution releasing Federal funds that are due Berks County and to resolve the Budget impasse.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 8, 2015 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### Agenda Items

1. Commissioner Scott commented in light of the hour and following this very interesting presentation, and it appearing the items listed on the Agenda are routine in nature, he motioned to approve the Agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

282.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$46,805.00 and 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$24,801.00 per listing dated October 13, 2015.

283.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated October 15, 2015 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Karissa Rodriguez to PC010141 Assistant District Attorney I – District Attorney's Office, effective 10/28/2015. Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$41,227; Midpoint \$54,969; Maximum \$68,711. Replacement for Todd Mays who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.
2. Authorize the appointment of Alexander Yatron to PC013145 Temporary Assistant District Attorney I – District Attorney's Office, effective 10/28/2015. Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$41,227; Midpoint \$54,969; Maximum \$68,711. New position created by Salary Board on 9/17/2015. Temporary position will provide coverage during an employee's extended leave of absence. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.

3. Authorize the appointment of Dorn Reppert to PC013024 Facility Manager – Jail System, effective 10/21/2015. Rate of \$65,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$45,679; Midpoint \$60,905; Maximum \$76,131. New position created by Salary Board on 6/19/2014. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.

- 284.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #15-13-KO a contract for the Elevator Project as identified herein:

**Reading Elevator Service, Inc.**

636 S. 7th Street

Reading, PA 19602

**General Construction & Elevator – Services Center Building & Courthouse**

**Total Contract Amount: \$4,136,715.00**

Base Bid Amount:	\$3,649,557.00
Alternate 1 – Expedite Schedule (SCB #1 & #2)	\$80,102.00
Alternate 2 – Expedite Schedule (SCB#7)	\$28,369.00
Alternate 7 – Replace Existing Ceiling (SCB #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, & 9) (\$7,000/car)	\$56,000.00
Alternate 8 – Additional (3) Yrs. Maintenance	\$294,221.20
Alternate 9 – Remote Monitoring	\$28,465.80

**Reading Elevator Service, Inc.**

636 S. 7th Street

Reading, PA 19602

**General Construction & Elevator – Annex**

**Total Contract Amount: \$485,502.61**

Base Bid Amount:	\$443,662.00
Alternate 1 – Replace Existing Cab Shells	\$20,429.00
Alternate 2 – Additional (3) Yrs. Maintenance	\$21,411.61

**Shannon A. Smith, Inc.**

420 South Cherry Street

Myerstown, PA 17067

**Electrical – Services Center Building & Courthouse**

**Total Contract Amount: \$211,000.00**

Base Bid Amount:	\$211,000.00
Alternate 1-Expedite Schedule (SCB #1 & #2)	no change
Alternate 2 – Expedite Schedule (SCB #7)	no change

**Shannon A. Smith, Inc.**  
**420 South Cherry Street**  
**Myerstown, PA 17067**  
**Electrical – Annex**  
**Total Contract Amount: \$35,350.00**  
 Base Bid Amount: \$35,350.00

**Blanks Energy Management, Inc.**  
**1835 Pear Street**  
**Reading, PA 19601**  
**Mechanical – Services Center Building & Courthouse**  
**Total Contract Amount: \$120,000.00**  
 Base Bid Amount: \$120,000.00  
 Alternate 1 – Expedite Schedule (SCB #1 & #2) no change  
 Alternate 2 – Expedite Schedule (SCB #7) no change

- 285.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing and granting tax forgiveness of the 2012 and 2013 County taxes, including penalties and interest for the following parcels of land along Hill Road in Maiden creek Township, owned by Corrido Development:

61-542006395046; 61-542006386445; 61-542006385550;  
 61-542006386626; 61-542006386783; 61-542006387850;  
 61-542006388819; 61-542006398051; 61-542006397181;  
 61-542006395245; 61-542006391187; 61-542006390193;  
 61-542006390034; 61-542006289976; 61-542006288874;  
 61-542006288716; 61-542006287659; 61-542006286692;  
 61-542006286571; 61-542006288574; 61-542006289583;  
 61-542006380582; 61-542006381572; 61-542006382572;  
 61-542006383563; 61-542006384576; 61-542006380703;  
 61-542006381701; 61-542006382702; 61-542006382785;  
 61-542006383767; 61-542006384831; 61-542006385815;  
 61-542006385971; 61-542006396001; 61-542006394021;  
 61-542006383948; 61-542006382965; 61-542006382900;  
 61-542006381823; 61-542006380693

Maiden creek Township and the Fleetwood School District have forgiven 2012 and 2013 Township and School property taxes. This action is at the request of Maiden creek Township.

2. Motion authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated October 13, 2015.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated October 13, 2015 for week ending October 14, 2015 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

**Reports**

1. The prepared weekly Treasurer's report was presented by Commissioner Leinbach.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

**REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

1. Carl E. Geffken had no additional comments.
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive a request from Berks County Pre-Trial Services for a continuation of funding for 2016; a new funding request from PSU Agricultural Extension and continuing discussion on the preliminary 2016 Budget.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Barnhardt had no additional comments.

Commissioner Scott had no additional comments.

Commissioner Leinbach commented yesterday he participated in a press announcement at the Community Foundation launching a new organization called "Consider It", and is a program to bring civil discourse to divisive public issues. The Program will be Co-Chaired by Commissioner Leinbach and State Senator Judith Schwank and the Board will be a mix of conservative, liberal and independent members.

Commissioner Leinbach reported that last week a Federal Appeals Court struck down the rules nationwide on Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), but expects the opinion to be appealed to the U S Supreme Court.

Commissioner Leinbach reported the legislation to appeal the Cadillac Tax is gaining steam in the U.S. House and Senate, commenting even Hillary Clinton has come out in favor to eliminate the Cadillac Tax.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Berks County Clerk of Courts James Troutman suggested when the Commissioners send a letter and lobby the County's State legislators, a letter must also be sent to the Governor. The Commissioners agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk