

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 19, 2017**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 19, 2017, 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt was absent. 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**

Dale Derr, Director of Berks County Veterans Affairs, attended the meeting today to present the list of following four nominees for induction to the 2017 Berks County Military Hall of Fame, along with their accomplishments and gallantry exhibited in combat. They are U.S. Army Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class John Dunston of West Lawn, for his gallantry in combat during the Vietnam War; Private First Class Merlin Oswald of Lyons Station, earned a Bronze Star medal for heroism during WWII operations in Europe; Captain Barry Seidel of Oley, for having earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device during the Vietnam War; and U.S. Navy Veteran Raymond Shugar of Reading, for Silent Service for heroism on the high seas during the Korean War. Commissioner Scott motioned to approve the aforementioned four individuals for induction to the 2017 Berks County Military Hall of Fame. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Derr mentioned these four servicemen will be inducted at the Berks County Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance Saturday, November 11, 2017.

Michael Dietrich, Colonel (Retired), Advisor of the JROTC Program at Wilson High School, introduced Cadet Lieutenant Colonel John Conlen, Cadet Major Caedon Strohmayer, and Cadet Major Keith Njiugana, student members of the Wilson High School JROTC, who presented information on the annual Berks County Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance to be held November 11, 2017 at Wilson High School. Col. Dietrich mentioned this is the largest event of its kind in the United States, and reported there are currently 115 cadets enrolled in the ROTC program, and there were over 100 events the cadets were involved in this year to date.

Cadet Major Njiugana, a senior and in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of participation, presented a brief overview of the work and planning that goes into the Dinner Dance, stating it takes over 4,000 man hours of preparation.

Cadet Major Strohmayer, a senior and in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of participation, reported they raised over \$30,000 and proceeds will be donated to the Opportunity House.

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel John Conlen, is in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of participation, and reported the JRTOC participates in activities on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, as well as organize, plan and execute the Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance.

Liz Graybill, Veterans Making a Difference, presented information on the new, recently opened Paul R. Gordon Veteran's Social Center at the Hope Rescue Mission located at 6<sup>th</sup> and Green Street in the City of Reading. Ms. Graybill stated the mission of the Center is to serve all veterans, and the last Saturday of the month there is a Veterans only food pantry. Ms. Graybill welcomed the community to get involved by preparing and serving breakfast or dinner to veterans.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 5, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

283.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$126,497 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$24,736 per listing dated October 16, 2017.

284.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated October 19, 2017 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Jessica Weaknecht to Interim Director of Human Resources – Human Resources, effective 10/5/2017. Rate of \$72,142/annually. The working out of classification compensation will cease upon the appointment of a Director of Human Resources. Salary range Minimum \$56,564; Midpoint \$75,418; Maximum \$94,273. Replacement for Arnel Wetzel who separated. Budget 10000 – 11140.
2. Authorize the promotion of Kaitlin Daley from PC013270 Certified Legal Intern to Assistant District Attorney I – District Attorney's Office, effective 10/6/2017. Rate of \$48,549/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,586; Maximum \$74,483. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.

3. Authorize the promotion of Raymond Baker from PC013274 Certified Legal Intern to Assistant District Attorney I – District Attorney's Office, effective 10/6/2017. Rate of \$46,500/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,690; Midpoint \$59,586; Maximum \$74,483. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11580.
- 285.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the renewal Contract with Delta Dental Service for a two (2) year term effective January 1, 2018 and terminating December 31, 2019.
- 286.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute a letter to McCormick Taylor, 600 Eagleview Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Exton, Pennsylvania, 19341 granting an extension of time for completion of Construction Inspection services pertaining to the Blandon Bridge (County Bridge #53A) replacement project until December 31, 2018. This extension is intended to allow for the completion of the required services during construction as well as all post-construction closeout activities.
- 287.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Drawings Authorizing Acquisition of Right-Of-Way as prepared by professional engineers with HAKS Engineers, PC, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, pertaining to parcels of land affected by the Hartz Mill Bridge (#38A) Superstructure Replacement Project in Caernarvon Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.
- 288.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the CWEL Agreement between the County of Berks, the University of Pittsburgh, of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, and Lindsey Taylor Knott, Wernersville, Pennsylvania, a Berks County Children & Youth Services employee, to participate in a graduate level social work program as outlined in Title IV-B, Part 1 of the Commonwealth's Child and Family Services Plan.
- 289.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Joinder Agreement to the Guardian RFID Master System Agreement between Guardian RFID and Berks County for participation in the Guardian RFID System ("Risk Control Program") at the Jail. The Guardian RFID System provides software, hardware and support service to deliver a wide range of inmate management, monitoring and tracking solutions.

- 290.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Clerk to advertise enactment of Berks County Ordinance No. 02-2017 to amend Berks County Ordinance No. 02-2014 by updating the gross weight limits on County owned bridges per recommendation of the County's Bridge Engineer, McCormick Taylor.
- 291.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the 2020 Census Local Update of Addresses Registration Form.  
Michael Golembiewski, Planner III-Transportation Modeler, Berks County Planning Commission, commented that under the U.S. Constitution a census is mandated every 10 years, and the Government is getting ready for the 2020 Census.  
Mr. Golembiewski explained the County has already provided the Census Bureau with addresses they require, but this particular form is seeking more detailed information than the County can provide, and that information would be maintained or compiled by the local municipalities.
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 17, 2017. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 9 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated October 17, 2017 for week ending October 18, 2017 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 Deputy Controller Ronald Rutkowski.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Robert J. Patrizio reported there will be an IT Strategy and administrative changes discussion, and a presentation by Kevin Murphy, President of the Berks County Community Foundation.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

None.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott reserved his comments for next week's meeting to allow more time for the audience members who attended to speak on behalf of the Berks Heim.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach reported yesterday he was in Harrisburg to attend a hearing on the Spotted Lanternfly. Commissioner Leinbach announced there will also be another meeting next Tuesday at the Berks County Agricultural Center. Commissioner Leinbach remarked this is a multi-county infestation and has the potential to cause very serious economic and ecological disaster to the communities.

Commissioner Leinbach announced he was at a NACo conference last week and shared that some of the discussion was relative to some of the issues happening here regarding the Berks Heim. Commissioner Leinbach commented he had a conversation with Larry Johnson, a County Commissioner from DeKalb County, Georgia, that went through a similar process with their nursing home, and asked Commissioner Johnson if he would share any information with Berks County. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned after he has received the information he will share it with his colleagues.

Commissioner Leinbach again assured the audience and public that the Commissioners have not yet brought in any type of consultants and are continuing to look at all avenues before any decision about the Berks Heim is made.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Berks County Recorder of Deed Frederick Sheeler reported that he attended the mid-year Recorder of Deeds meeting yesterday and there was a discussion on a study just released by the Legislative and Budget Committee regarding a recommendation for a flat fee. Mr. Sheeler will provide more information as it becomes available.

Attending this week to offer their comments and opinions on the possibility of selling the Berks Heim were members of the nursing staff, members of the Berks Heim Volunteer Board and relatives of some of the residents.

Speaking on behalf of the nurses, Mary Ellen Nussbeutel and Tracy Beebe read from prepared statements, commenting that the quality of care residents receive is the top concern of the nursing staff at the Berks Heim and asked the Commissioners to sit down with them to come up with ways to save money.

Robin Miller Shilling's mother is a resident, and spoke in support of keeping the Berks Heim and hopes the Board will find a way to make it work, and asked them to consider the choice they are making.

Speaking on behalf of the Volunteer Board, Doris Evans, read from a prepared statement, speaking about the problems of Medicaid reimbursement rates and urged the Commissioners to keep one of the County's finest jewels.

John Pantarelli's mother is a resident and visits her every day. Mr. Pantarelli praised the nursing staff for the quality of care they provide and asked the Commissioners to explore all options before deciding to sell.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk