

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes October 24, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 24, 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

Ken Lebron, Director of Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs, and Robert Melson, Jr., Veterans Benefits Educator, presented the following names to the Board for consideration for induction into the 2019 Berks County Military Hall of Fame at the 18th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance scheduled Saturday, November 9, 2019 at Wilson Junior High School: Lt. Colonel John Owen Davies, Vietnam Veteran, and 1st Lt. US Airforce Herbert Schneider, World War II Veteran. Mr. Lebron shared a brief history of service and recognitions for each nominee. Mr. Lebron reported to date there have been 61 veterans inducted in the Berks County Military Hall of Fame, and they expect over 650 attendees at the Veterans' Dinner Dance. Mr. Lebron stated the money raised from the event will be donated to the Jarett Yoder Foundation helping over 200 veterans and their families.

Commissioner Barnhardt was honored to accept the recommendations and motioned to approve the nominations of John Owen Davies and Herbert Schneider into the Military Hall of Fame. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott, and all accepted the motion carried to approve the nominations.

Attending to present information about the Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance were Wilson High School Army JROTC Instructor Retired Captain Steven Walter and Muhlenberg High School Air Force JROTC Instructor Retired Colonel Donald Kline, and Cadets from the Wilson High School and Muhlenberg High School JROTC program. The Cadets reported they are involved in all functions of the Dinner Dance and spoke about their individual roles in preparing for the event.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 17, 2019 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held October 22, 2019 dealing with contract negotiations and October 23, 2019 dealing with litigation.

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:

333.19 Adopt a resolution approving the financing by the Berks County Municipal Authority of the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds of a project for the benefit of Alvernia University, declaring that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the people in the area served by Alvernia University for the authority to participate in the financing of the project; authorizing the approval of the project for Federal Internal Revenue Code purposes; and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action.

Peter Edelman, Bond Counsel for the University, commented the University is moving forward with a project to restructure some major long term debt; make improvements to the campus and take the first step in locating a campus in the City. Mr. Edelman stated this financing does not obligate the County or the Authority in any way.

334.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2019 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$125,485 and 2019 Appropriations in the amount of \$220,111 per listing dated October 21, 2019.

335.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated October 24, 2019 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Michele Reinhard to PC011418 Nursing Administrative Secretary – Berks Heim, effective 11/06/2019. Rate of \$18.50/hour. 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 Alison Epting from PC010012 Account Clerk II – Prothonotary Department to PC013353 Fiscal Assistant – Information Systems, effective 11/06/2019. Rate of \$43,600/annually. Salary range Minimum \$33,927; Midpoint \$45,236; Maximum \$56,545. Replacement for Debra Rhein who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11170.

- 336.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Early Intervention Services Report.
- 337.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Certification Statement and Assestation Statement for the Human Services Block Grant Income and Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.
Dr. Ed Michalik, Administrator of the Berks County MH/DD Program, reported these are the standard documents to close out the fiscal year ended June 30, and everything is in order.
- 338.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Louise Swartley, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board to fill the unexpired term of Vicki Kintzer, who resigned; and further authorizing that Louise Swartley be reappointed to a full three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2022.
- 339.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Sandy Graffius, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2021.
- 340.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Nancy Campbell, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Public Library for a five (5) year term, expiring 12/31/2024.
- 341.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Charles Jones, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for a five (5) year term, expiring 12/31/2024.
- 342.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of David Esser, Kempton, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a four (4) year term, expiring 12/31/2023.
- 343.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Maureen (Kelly) Mileski, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals for a four (4) year term, expiring 12/31/2023.
- 344.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Facilities and/or the Assistant Director of Facilities to be the designated signatory agent(s) concerning PennDOT administrative documents and forms pertaining to licensing or other required actions with respect to fleet vehicles, but specifically excluding procurement and contractual procedures, replacing Resolution No. 360-10.

- 345.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Brian A. Gottschall, Director of Berks County Emergency Services, to electronically execute the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant Agreement. The grant is in the amount of \$50,261.55 and is 100% state funded and will be used to carry out the purposes, goals and objectives of SARA, Title III and the Commonwealth's hazardous material safety program.
 - 346.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Commercial Lease Agreement between the Reading Regional Airport Authority and the County of Berks used by the Berks County Sheriff's Department for office space and a photo ID Center for a five (5) year term beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2024.
 - 347.19 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Clerk to advertise enactment of proposed County Ordinance No. 03-2019 reaffirming and ratifying the County's participation in the PCoRP ("Pennsylvania Counties Risk Pool") Program and execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated October 22, 2019. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 3 contracts and referenced the departments.
 3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated October 22, 2019 for week ending October 23, 2019 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams was absent. Deputy Treasurer Linda Weaver 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 reported the Budget/Ops Meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. and there will be discussions regarding a proposal by Terry Brennan on private therapy rooms at the Berks Heim and a follow-up discussion of nurse call station system; the jail driveway and tree removal; a follow-up discussion on the CVS Caremark specialty drug program and a report on an inspection of the Allegheny Aqueduct.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman had no comments

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Reading Eagle, WEEU and WFMZ for reporting on the need of Election Services for poll workers, there was a tremendous turnout, and noted all 1,200 positions are filled. However, Commissioner Barnhardt stated there is still a need for volunteers in the event someone is unable to show up on Election Day.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the American Planners Association held their Annual Conference in Reading early this week and there were over 400 attendees. Commissioner Barnhardt made three presentations regarding the Mt. Penn Preserve, Reading Bridges, and in conjunction with Reading City Council members, talked about how the City and County can work together.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced he will not be present for next week's Meeting, as he will be a moderator at the 2nd Annual Mental Health Conference at the Penn Stater.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott commented he was happy to reappoint Sandy Graffius to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Board.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach reminded everyone this Saturday is the annual King Frost Parade in Hamburg.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, commented on the newspaper article regarding the recent meeting concerning the elimination of property taxes.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk