

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes November 9, 2017

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 9, 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 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.

Presentations

1. Eleisha Morena, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the ESL Program, Director of the Learning Center for Multi-Lingual Students, and Crystal Schilthuis, Assistant Professor, ESL Program, at Reading Area Community College ("RACC") presented information on *Transformational Practice: The Learning Center for Multi-Lingual Students*, as part of RACC's quarterly update. Professor Schilthuis stated the Learning Center is designed for all bi-lingual and multi-lingual students and offers support through all levels of education at RACC, and offers areas for group study, utilization of computers and printers, and tutorial services. Professor Schilthuis shared a success story of a student from Senegal, who was given the tools and confidence to succeed in the Program, and is now enrolled in an undergraduate program at Albright College. In response to Commissioner Barnhardt's question on how the student is evaluated for the Program, Professor Schilthuis stated there are questions on the application that will direct them to the Program.
2. Commissioner Leinbach introduced Warden Janine Quigley to speak about one of the more recent Community Service programs at the Jail. Warden Quigley commented the Community Services Crew typically spends 12 to 15 hours per week at the Berks County Recycling Center, but is also scheduled to assist local municipalities and non-profit organizations. Warden Quigley mentioned she was contacted by Mr. Chris Reed, President of the Board of Trustees of Bern Cemetery Company, inquiring if he could utilize the Community Service Crew from the Jail to assist in a project at Bern Cemetery. Warden Quigley approved the project, and introduced Mike Zellner, Crew Leader of the Community Service Program, who directed and managed the work at the Cemetery. Warden Quigley mentioned Mike Zellner started out as a correctional officer, and is now the Crew Leader for the last 19 years, and who serves as an excellent role model for the inmates. Chris Reed thanked the Warden and Officer Zellner and the Berks County Jail Community Service Crew for excellent work they performed at the Bern

Cemetery. Mr. Reed informed the Cemetery is located not far from the Jail, just off Route 183 in Bern Township. Mr. Reed said the Cemetery is a historic cemetery, dating back to 1736, and the fifth Governor of Pennsylvania, Governor Heister, is buried there. Mr. Reed reported the metal fence around the perimeter of the Cemetery is over 100 years old and needed to be cleaned and restored, and looking for a way to save money, reached out to the Warden asking if the Community Service work crew was available. Mr. Reed commented he was very impressed with the professionalism and hard work ethic of Mr. Zellner and the work crew, who cleaned, sanded, primed and painted the fence, and was here today to show his appreciation by donating a new trimmer and weedwacker to the Community Service Crew.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 2, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Comment on Agenda Items

None

Agenda Items

1. Enactment of County Ordinances:

- 02-2017 A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 02-2014, ESTABLISHING MAXIMUM WEIGHT LIMITS FOR ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, AND OTHER TRACTORS, TRAILERS, AND TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATIONS UPON VARIOUS BRIDGES OWNED AND MAINTAINED BY THE COUNTY; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THE SAME; AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF FINES AND FORFEITURES.
- 03-2017 B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF BERKS, d/b/a BERKS COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY FOR THE PROVISION OF A ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM TO HELP JOB SEEKERS ACCESS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGH THE BERKS COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

2. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott, with a question regarding item C under Facilities. Request granted by Chair Leinbach. Commissioner Scott asked if this was a follow-up to a previous discussion at a Budget Meeting. Mr. Patrizio didn't know, and the question was addressed by Commissioner Leinbach, who commented there weren't two votes to go forward with the full improvements, so this work is a minimal solution to address the collapsing culvert at the bottom of the driveway. Seeing there were no further questions, all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

318.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$73,151 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$2,532 per listing dated November 6, 2017.

319.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated November 9, 2017 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Elizabeth Ernst to PC010124 Assistant Director of Nursing – Berks Heim Nursing Administration, effective 11/15/2017. Rate of \$77,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$60,979; Midpoint \$81,306; Maximum \$101,632. Replacement for Maxine Heller who retired. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33390.

320.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the following insurance renewal applications for Berks County Children and Youth Services d/b/a Partners in Parenting (PIP) for the period commencing January 8, 2018:

1. Social Service and Healthcare Professional Liability Renewal Application
2. Abuse and Molestation Liability Application
3. Commercial Insurance Liability/Umbrella/Excess Section
4. Non-Owned Auto Questionnaire

321.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to electronically provide the PA Department of Transportation with the County's concurrence in awarding the contract for construction on the Schaeffer Road a/k/a Blandon Bridge Replacement Project (County Bridge #53A) to Ryland Construction Company, Inc., 686 Yorktown Road, Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, 17339, in the amount of \$1,144,337.92.

322.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 to the Engineering Services Agreement with Great Valley Consultants, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to provide additional design services pertaining to the repair and resurfacing of select

asphalt parking lots and drives at the Services Annex, 1040 Berks Road, Leesport, Pennsylvania at a not to exceed amount of \$7,630.00.

- 323.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement between the County of Berks and ARRO Consulting, Inc., Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to provide additional design and bidding services for improvements to the Berks County Prison main entrance driveway and the service/staff entrance at a not to exceed amount of \$21,500.00, subject to final review and approval by the County Solicitor.
 - 324.17 Adopt a resolution amending Resolution No. 313.17 authorizing execution of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency State Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant Agreement, revising the grant amount from \$54,406.91 to \$56,406.91.
 - 325.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Timothy J. Steinrock, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Housing Authority for a five (5) year term expiring December 31, 2022.
 - 326.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of John J. Bastek, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disability Advisory Board for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
 - 327.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Patricia C. Giles, Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
 - 328.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Stacey Keppen, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
 - 329.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Malcolm Cole, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
3. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated November 6, 2017. Commissioner Leinbach referenced the departments.

4. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated November 6, 2017 for week ending November 8, 2017 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams was absent. Commissioner Leinbach presented the 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 update on the proposed 2018 County Budget at today's Budget Meeting.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman thanked and congratulated all the individuals who served on Election Day on election boards at their municipalities, adding the number of voters this election was up to 26%, higher than normal for this particular election cycle.

Mr. Seaman thanked the successful candidates at all levels for taking time and effort for running, and congratulated them on their victories.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt echoed Mr. Seaman's comments and thanked the Election Services Department, Solicitor's Office and the runners and rovers.

Commissioner Barnhardt observed the tax referendum question brought out more people attributing to the higher turnout.

Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned this Saturday is Veterans' Day and there are many activities being held Friday and Saturday, and asked everyone to spend a few minutes recognizing those who served.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott commended those who participated in the electoral process and won, and recognized those who lost, their efforts should be applauded.

Commissioner Scott commented the County pension fund recently adopted a new mortality assumption, and when applied, will result in a higher county contribution, but even still, it is 100% funded, and is one of the strongest in Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Scott commented New Jersey just elected a Democratic Governor who wants to make New Jersey a sanctuary State and raise taxes, which in his opinion might have some leaving New Jersey to live in Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Scott mentioned shortly there will be a ceremony in the Services Center Lobby placing a flag drop box. Commissioner Scott reported there previously was a drop

box placed at the Berks County Agriculture Center that was an idea of his Executive Assistant Michelle Kircher when she served briefly in the Office of Veterans Affairs.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach complimented all Election Day workers, recognizing the candidates, winners and losers; it is a major decision and one of the more challenging decisions of one's life.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned the Flag Drop Box Ceremony taking place in the Lobby of the Services Center, is a program put together by NACo and the National Sheriff's Association. There also will be a drop box placed at the Sheriff's satellite office at the Reading Regional Airport; noting the drop boxes are managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned he, Mary Buerer and Dale Derr participated in the Recognition and Pinning Ceremony held last Friday at the Berks Heim, and on Friday morning participated in the Chair of Honor Ceremony at Cabela's, that recognizes POWs and MIAs. Commissioner Leinbach announced there will be the ceremony Saturday morning at 11 at Memorial Park at Reading City Park, and the big event is the Veterans Appreciation Dinner Dance held Saturday at Wilson Senior High School.

Commissioner Leinbach reporting on the Spotted Lanternfly, stated the new quarantine area has more than doubled in geographic size and more than doubled in the number of counties.

Commissioner Leinbach provided a recent analysis of congressional tax reform to Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Scott, and reported he and Budget Director Patrizio participated in a conference call with NACo officials Monday regarding the report.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk