

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes November 19, 2015

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 19, 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 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

Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio provided a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed 2016 County Budget. Mr. Patrizio reported the budget process starts in January at weekly Budget meetings, and on May 1 the formal budget kick-off meeting was held with Elected Officials and Department Heads, setting forth the goals and objections of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Patrizio was happy to report that for the third year in a row, he can recommend no property tax increase for the 2016 Budget, leaving the tax millage at 7.372. Mr. Patrizio provided in-depth analysis of the County's proposed \$473.2 million spending plan, pointing out there are no new, unfunded discretionary programs and the goal was for zero new positions, but due to the new law and mandates arising out of the Sandusky case, 8 new positions for Children and Youth Services; 5 for CYS and 2 County detectives. Mr. Patrizio stressed that without growth in the tax base, and if the County continues on this current spending direction, future tax increases are likely.

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked Bob and his staff for all their hard work stating we are faced with challenging times with many more challenges ahead, but he is pleased with his efforts to modernize County facilities. Commissioner Barnhardt commented he is also pleased to see overtime cut, and he supports providing funds to the various economic groups that help improve economic growth in the County.

Commissioner Scott spoke of the challenges in budgeting where the tax base grows faster than the spending, and that is a big challenge facing the County. Commissioner Scott agreed paying down of the debt has given the County an above market rate of return acknowledging this concept was first brought forth by County Treasurer Dennis Adams. Commissioner Scott announced he would vote for the budget, although there are some items he disagrees with and won't be voting for such as the contribution of approximately \$700,000.00 to Greater Reading Economic Partnership. Commissioner Scott feels that is too much, and further pointed out the proposed merger of GREP and the Greater Berks Development Fund. Commissioner Scott thanked Bob and his staff for all the work they do in preparing and presenting the Budget and it is a very good Budget.

Commissioner Leinbach thanked Bob and his staff for presenting the Budget in a timely fashion, adding it is largely an educated guess at this point since we do not know what the

State Budget will hold for Berks County. Commissioner Leinbach commented we must continue to be vigilant, constantly work to be fiscally sound, and what we present today is something we are focused on and will continue to be focused on. Commissioner Leinbach commented the Cadillac tax continues to be an issue debated in Washington. Commissioner Leinbach reported both Democrats and Republicans support the elimination of just the Cadillac tax, and if it isn't eliminated, it will create a tax burden on the taxpayers. Commissioner Leinbach commented that property tax continues to be an important issue and he is a strong proponent of property tax elimination. Commissioner Leinbach stated going forward he will look for opportunities for revenue and legitimate alternatives and better ways to do things.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 12, 2015 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held Tuesday, November 17, 2015 dealing with litigation.

Agenda Items

1. Commissioner Scott commented that due to length of the budget presentation and it appearing that the Agenda items are routine in nature, he motioned to approve the Agenda as presented including the Controller's Office voucher payable sheets. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:

324.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2015 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,080,782.00 and 2015 Appropriations in the amount of \$3,496.00 per listing dated November 17, 2015.

325.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated November 19, 2015 as follows:

1. Authorize the appointment of Toshira Copeland to PC011633 Part-time RN Supervisor – Berks Heim Nursing, effective 11/18/2015. Rate of \$31.97/hour (\$13,300/annually). Replacement for Christopher Reinbold who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33090.
2. Authorize the transfer of Sherry Kapustka, PC012152 RN Charge Nurse to PC011638 RN Supervisor – Berks Heim Nursing, effective 12/2/2015. Rate of \$66,506/annually. Salary range Minimum \$49,406; Midpoint \$65,875; Maximum \$82,343. Replacement for Mary Leonardo who separated. This request meets the

criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33090.

3. Authorize the transfer of Linda Mertz, PC012161 RN Staff Nurse to PC012780 Part-time RN Supervisor – Berks Heim Nursing, effective 12/9/2015. Rate of \$31.97/hour (\$39,898/annually). Replacement for Susan Sorrentino who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 53000 – 33090.
 4. Authorize the promotion of Jeffrey Wertz from PC012884 Conference Officer III to PC011130 Intake Manager – Domestic Relations, effective 12/2/2015. Rate of \$62,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$37,973; Midpoint \$50,631; Maximum \$63,289. Replacement for Marianna Giuffre who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 24000 – 26280.
- 326.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the renewal Contract with Delta Dental Service for a one (1) year term effective January 1, 2016 and terminating December 31, 2016.
- 327.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts & Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #15-22-KO, a contract for the Community Re-Entry Center Re-Roofing Project as identified herein:
Ram Siding Co., Inc.
1140 Ben Franklin Highway East
Douglasville, PA 19518
Total Contract Amount: \$133,872.00
Base Bid Amount: \$127,578.00
Alternate 1 (Two additional lightning rod legs and connections): \$ 6,294.00
- 328.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Lease Agreement for Farmland at Berks County Welfare Tract between the County of Berks and Michael D. Braucher, Mohrsville, Pennsylvania for a five (5) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 329.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Lease Agreement between the County of Berks and Earthrise Enterprises, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania for leasing of 1,887 square feet of space on the 2nd Floor of the Berks County Services Center for the operation of a Snack Shop.
- 330.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Addendum to the Recycling

Services Agreement between the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (“BCSWA”) and the County of Berks which grants an additional 1.22 acres of land and storage space to the BSCWA due to the increase of recyclables and number of Berks County residents using the Center.

- 331.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Berks County Planning Commission staff to apply for grants with the Small Systems Source Water Protection Program offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Through this grant program small community water systems can obtain a free source water protection plan that will help to prevent pollution to their drinking water supply.
- 332.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations to execute Change Order No. 01 to Agreement No. 15-06-MB, J.P.S. Construction Co, Inc. for the Services Center Plaza Repairs project in the amount of \$17,768.00. This Change Order is to furnish additional labor and materials for supplemental repairs to 540 sq. ft. of the waterproofing system beneath the recently removed concrete slab located at the upper northwestern plaza. Repair or replacement of any flashings that may have been compromised during concrete removal is included in this price.
- 333.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Larry Cohen, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2017.
- 334.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Barry Miller, Bernville, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2017.
- 335.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Karen Miller, Bernville, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2017.
- 336.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Maureen Mileski, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals for a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
- 337.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Randall Swan, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Regional Airport Authority for a five (5) year term expiring February 13, 2021.

- 338.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Paul Prutzman, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Regional Airport Authority for a five (5) year term expiring December 31, 2020. This is a replacement for Dr. Ron Miller.
- 339.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Gwen Didden, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Housing Authority for a five (5) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 340.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Peter F. Schuchman, Jr., Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Public Libraries Board for a term expiring December 31, 2016. This is a replacement for John W. Smith.
- 341.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of John Cleek, Shillington, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals for a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
- 342.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Brian Boyer, Douglassville, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Conservation District Board of Directors as a Public Director for a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
- 343.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Larry Gelsinger, Wernersville, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Conservation District Board of Directors as a Farmer Director for a four (4) year term expiring December 31, 2019. This is a replacement for Mark Wolfskill who resigned.
- 344.15 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Joseph Rosenbaum, Douglassville, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Conservation District Board of Directors as a Farmer Director for a term expiring December 31, 2018 and fills the remaining term of T. John Bicksler, who resigned.
2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated November 17, 2015 for week ending November 18, 2015 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll; and since there are no meetings scheduled November 26, 2015 and December 3, 2015, the Board also authorized payment for Controller's Office voucher payables for the week ending November 25, 2015 and the week ending December 2, 2015.

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.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken
2. Robert J. Patrizio reported the Commissioners will receive an update on the proposed 2016 Budget to be presented on December 17, 2015.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt wished everyone a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Scott commented he heard on the news this morning that United Health Care, the one of the Nation's largest health care provider is considering exiting the exchange due to low enrollment and other risk factors. Commissioner Scott commented if there are no providers available to provide the services under the Act then there likely would be not Act to follow.

Commissioner Leinbach commented that yesterday he was privileged to call into WEEU along with Barry Rohrbach and Denny Lorah of Crime Alert Berks County to announce a very exciting event titled "Stars and Promises" to be held December 9, 2015 at the Doubletree Hotel with a special appearance by Peter Mayer, and will support Crime Alert and the Blue Ribbon Campaign.

Commissioner Leinbach provided an update on an important issue NACo has been working on at the Federal level concerning a Transportation Bill that has passed the House and Senate and is now in Conference Committee. Commissioner Leinbach commented this issue is important to Berks County because about 50% - 55% of Berks County's transportation projects are funded by the Federal government. Commissioner Leinbach suggested if you have interest in this Bill please reach out to your Pennsylvania delegation.

Commissioner Leinbach wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk