

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes November 20, 2014

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 20, 2014, 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 Solicitor Alan Miller, 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 13, 2014 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

1. Enactment of Ordinance 09-2014

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS CREATING A
BLIGHTED PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE, TO BE KNOWN AS
THE "BERKS COUNTY BLIGHTED PROPERTY REVIEW
COMMITTEE," AND ALLOWING FOR THE ACQUISITION AND
DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS**

Kenneth L. Pick, Executive Director of the Berks County Redevelopment Authority, presented a Power Point that provided details of what is considered a blighted property and explained the process townships and boroughs will follow when they are notified of a blighted property. Mr. Pick commented this Ordinance creates a review committee for the boroughs and townships and is based on other county ordinances, which appear to be very effective. Mr. Pick stated the City of Reading has a successful Blighted Property Committee. Commissioner Leinbach commented that the word blight worries a lot of people who become concerned when government takes on this kind of power and that it might be abused. Mr. Pick responded there are a series of steps involved before it gets referred to the Review Committee. Commissioner Barnhardt asked if the property owner would have the right to appeal and Mr. Pick answered yes.

Chris Gant, a City of Reading resident, commented he would like to see the Reading Blighted Committee be part of the Berks County Blighted Committee.

2. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 359.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2014 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$320,238.00 and 2014 Appropriations in the amount of \$480,327.00 per listing dated November 14, 2014.
 - 360.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated November 20, 2014 as follows:
 1. Authorize the appointment of Amanda Carroll to PC011066 Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer – Commissioners, effective 12/3/2014. Rate of \$42,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$45,100/annually. Salary range Minimum \$31,713; Midpoint \$42,285; Maximum \$52,856. Replacement for Karen Barsoum who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11010.
 2. Authorize the appointment of Carla Arias to PC010168 Assistant Public Defender I – Public Defender’s Office, effective 12/3/2014. Rate of \$44,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$41,227; Midpoint \$54,969; Maximum \$68,711. Replacement for Sarah Black who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
 3. Authorize the promotion of Christopher Muvdi from PC010171 Assistant Public Defender I to PC010176 Assistant Public Defender II – Public Defender’s Office, effective 12/17/2014. Rate of \$46,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,486; Midpoint \$59,314; Maximum \$74,143. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
 4. Authorize the promotion of Julianne Oliver from PC010170 Assistant Public Defender I to PC010175 Assistant Public Defender II – Public Defender’s Office, effective 12/17/2014. Rate of \$46,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$44,486; Midpoint \$59,314; Maximum \$74,143. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.
 5. Authorize the promotion of Eric Taylor from PC010174 Assistant Public Defender II to PC010181 Assistant Public Defender III – Public Defender’s Office, effective 12/17/2014. Rate of \$51,000/annually. Salary range

Minimum \$48,945; Midpoint \$65,259; Maximum \$81,574. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11570.

6. Authorize the transfer of Lauren Shirey from PC012198 Program Assistant – Parks Department to PC011828 Office Support III M/C – Jail System, effective 11/19/2014. Rate of \$31,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$31,767/annually. Salary range Minimum \$26,923; Midpoint \$35,897; Maximum \$44,871. Replacement for Elizabeth Merin who was promoted. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.

- 361.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid # 14-33-MB a contract for the Services Annex 4th Floor & Miscellaneous Fit-Out, Option One - Completion of Punch List February 28, 2015 as identified herein:

Purcell Construction Company

560 N. 5th Street / P.O. Box 188

Denver, PA 17517

General Construction Total Cost: \$352,900.00

JBM Mechanical, Inc.

3273 Gun Club Rd.

Nazareth, PA 18064

Mechanical Construction Total Cost: \$190,000.00

JBM Mechanical, Inc.

3273 Gun Club Rd.

Nazareth, PA 18064

Plumbing Construction Total Cost: \$65,000.00

MBR Construction Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 14775

Reading, PA 19612

Electrical Construction Total Cost: \$119,300.00

Total Construction Cost for Option One: \$727,200.00

- 362.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a Lease Agreement between the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks and the County of Berks for 2,400 square feet of office space known as Suite #2, 100 Schaeffer Street Boyertown, Pennsylvania to be used as judicial office and District Court 23-3-02. Solicitor Alan Miller commented for the record he is in

the process of finalizing the Lease Agreement and hopes to have it ready later this afternoon or tomorrow.

- 363.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Mary Edwards, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Public Libraries Board for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2017. This is a replacement for Ruth Perkins whose term expired.
- 364.14 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Judy Schwambach, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Public Libraries Board for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2017. This is a replacement for Robert Jones whose term expired.
3. Motion authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated November 18, 2014. Commissioner Leinbach reported there were 13 contracts and referenced the departments.
4. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated November 18, 2014 for week ending November 19, 2014 and the payment of electronic transfers and employee payroll, and the vouchers payable listing dated November 25, 2016 for the week ending November 26, 2014 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Reports

1. County Treasurer A. Dennis Adams, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by William T. Consugar, CPA Manager of Accounting & Financial Reporting.

REPORTS OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. Carl E. Geffken was absent.
2. Robert J. Patrizio was absent.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt had no additional comments.

Commissioner Scott commented on the recent Commonwealth Court decision regarding the Gogleworks Apartment Assessment Appeal and thought it was the appropriate way for the County to handle this matter by letting the Courts decide. Commissioner Scott commented he is concerned the decision does not address all exemptions for a mixed use property and feels these units, which were advertised as luxury apartments, should not be

exempt. Commissioner Leinbach commented it is important to note that a great problem for the City of Reading and the Brandywine School District is the lack of taxable properties and agrees that it is better for the Court to make these decisions.

Commissioner Leinbach commented that next week he will be attending the County Commissioner Association of Pennsylvania Fall Conference and will be attending the following workshops; the Affordable Care Act Strategy and Compliance; Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation; Dealing with Distressed Municipalities in Your County; How to Run a County Nursing Home Like a Business and 911-Where We Are, Where We Want To Be and How to Get There. Commissioner Leinbach announced there will not be a Commissioners Meeting next week because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Berks County Clerk of Courts James P. Troutman asked for clarification on Item No. 361.14, what is the Services Annex? Commissioner Barnhardt responded it is the Residential Center at the old Berks Heim.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk