

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes November 30, 2017

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, November 30, 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 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

Michael Malinowski, Vice President/Branch Manager, EH&D Insurance, Wyomissing, remarked EH&D administers the 2018 Tax Collector Bonding Program on behalf of the County, and is a CCAP program ("County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania"). Mr. Malinowski reported EH&D will begin notification to all the elected tax collectors asking them to contact EH&D to secure their appropriate bonding before taking office. Mr. Malinowski stated this is a four (4) year pre-paid program and provides a significant discount to the taxpayers.

Mr. Malinowski also asked the Commissioners to allow EH&D to post Frequently Asked Questions on the County website that would help the tax collectors in completing their applications. Commissioner Leinbach, on behalf of the Board, approved the request and asked Mr. Malinowski to work with Ron Seaman to implement the process.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 16, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

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

346.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$4,035,093 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$4,043,002 per listing dated November 27, 2017.

347.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the PCoRP Application and the 2018-2019 PCoRP Renewal Payment Options for the June 1, 2018 renewals.

- 348.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Robert Patrizio, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, to bind Public Officials Crime Policy Coverage effective January 1, 2018.
- 349.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated November 30, 2017 as follows:
1. Authorize the promotion of Valerie Genslinger from PC012884 Conference Officer III to Fiscal and Docketing Manager – Domestic Relations Department, effective 11/29/2017. Rate of \$58,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$42,920; Midpoint \$57,227; Maximum \$71,534. Replacement for Jaime Martin who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 24000 – 26280.
- 350.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the letter of authorization to Verizon Pennsylvania, LLC, (“Verizon”) Reading, Pennsylvania, consenting to the installation, operation and maintenance by Verizon of cable and other equipment at the Berks County Agricultural Center (“Center”), Bern Township, to provide communications services to tenants and other occupants at the Center.
- 351.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Addendum to Lease Agreement between Kotsakis Family Limited Partnership, Wernersville, Pennsylvania and the County of Berks for lease of office space located at the Westgate Shoppes, Wernersville used by Magisterial District Court 23-1-01 (Ann Young) for a one (1) year terms beginning May 1, 2018 at a monthly rent of \$4,780.37.
- 352.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Mary Edwards, Kutztown, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Public Libraries for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 353.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Deborah L. Noel, Ed.D., Morgantown, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Public Libraries for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2020. Dr. Noel is replacing Judy Schwambach, who is stepping down.
- 354.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Linda Groff, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Office of Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019.

- 355.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Dr. Kolin Good, West Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Office of Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019.
- 356.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Sandy Graffius, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Office of Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term expiring December 31, 2019. Ms. Graffius is replacing Karen Fattore who is stepping down.
- 357.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Jonathan Encarnacion, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 358.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Veronica S. Seitzinger, Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board for a three (3) year term expiring December 31, 2020.
- 359.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Clerk to advertise enactment of proposed County Ordinance No. 04-2017 authorizing execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) Establishing PREA Hotline (“Agreement”) between the County of Berks (“County”) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Corrections (“DOC”) that establishes a mechanism for individuals to report allegations of sexual abuses occurring at county correctional facilities. This new IGA replaces the Intergovernmental Agreement previously authorized by County Ordinance No. 04-2014, and provides more efficient and reliable service, and the responsibility for receiving such calls will be transferred to the Bureau of Community Corrections’ Management Operations Center.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated November 28, 2017. Commissioner Leinbach reported there are 12 contracts and referenced the departments.
3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller’s Office vouchers payable listing dated November 28, 2017 for week ending November 29, 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 County Controller Sandy Graffius.

REPORT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Robert J. Patrizio reported at today's Budget Meeting the District Attorney and Human Resources will discuss a request by the District Attorney for pay increases; the annual Bond Compliance and SWAP Update by Financial Advisor Michael Vind, and a separate presentation by Michael Vind, Stevens & Lee, and a presentation by the Director of Aging and MH/DD on performance based senior center funding

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

No comment.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt announced there would be an Election Board Meeting today at 11:00 A.M. to identify the accumulated write-in votes from the November 7th Election.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott reported the Board has received a surprising amount of emails in response to the recent presentation of the proposed 2018 Budget and proposed 4.08% tax increase, and noted that 4% is the lowest of the tax increases that has been proposed since he has been in office. Commissioner Scott commented the emails reveal the extent to which the public understands county government, but they do not seem to comprehend the County must operate within the statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the emails, observing there seems to be a disconnect among the public in understanding how county government is funded and how state and federal governments are funded. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned the County relies on property taxes, and property taxes do not follow the economy.

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned there was a meeting held here yesterday with Auditor General DePasquale, State Representative Mark Gillen and the leadership team from Berks County Children & Youth Services, along with representatives from COCA and Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities. Commissioner Leinbach commented it was an eye opening experience for the Auditor General and Representative Gillen as they discussed issues impacting Children & Youth Services and the financial impact on the County, as well as other proposed changes that could cost Berks County and other counties significant dollars.

Commissioner Leinbach announced that next week Earthrise Enterprises, Inc. will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Commissioner Leinbach reported on Monday he will be in State College and will be one of the speakers for the Stepping Up Initiative, as well as Commissioner Barnhardt, who will be speaking in the afternoon.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Crystal Kowalski, Wyomissing, attended the meeting to again ask the Commissioners to examine their consciences and not privatize the Prison or the Heim.

Kathryn Anderson, Exeter Township, and a RN at Berks Heim, reported to the Commissioners that since her appearance at the November 2nd Commissioners' Meeting, she has reached out to several local representatives regarding Medicaid reimbursements, and to date has only had one response. Ms. Anderson also asked a number of questions regarding the dollars going to the general fund for the Heim, and if the money could be managed differently, and how the proposed tax increase would change based on if the Board decides to sell or not sell the Heim.

Mr. Patrizio advised Ms. Anderson the proposed 4.08% tax increase is needed just to balance the 2018 Budget.

Commissioner Barnhardt responded that he appreciates her coming to the Meeting to ask questions and get the facts.

Commissioner Leinbach continues to believe the non-profit option the most viable option on the Berks Heim future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk