

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes December 13, 2012

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 13, 2012, at 10:00 A.M. in the Boardroom, 13th floor, 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, and announced there was an Executive Session December 11, 2012 to discuss union negotiations.

Presentation

Kimberly A. Grinage, Deputy Director of Budget and Finance, presented the final 2013 Berks County Budget for adoption.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 6, 2012 Commissioners' Board Meeting was approved as presented.

Consent Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to accept and approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda as well as the Contract Agreements/Amendments and the Controller's Office vouchers. Commissioner Scott seconded said motion, with the exception of voting NO to Resolution 417.12 for reasons articulated in previous meetings, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below.

417.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing adoption of the 2013 County of Berks Budget, and further establishing the 2013 Real Estate Tax millage at 7.372 mills.

418.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2012 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$17,420.00 and 2012 Appropriations in the amount of \$124,200.00 per listing dated December 10, 2012.

419.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated December 13, 2012 as follows:

1. Authorize salary increase for Nicole L. Slackway,

- PC011160 Judicial Administrative Assistant – Court Administration, effective 1/2/2013. Rate of \$43,859/annually. Salary budgeted \$41,644/annually. Salary range Minimum \$31,715; Midpoint \$42,286; Maximum \$52,858. The requested salary increase is based on the Judicial Administrative Assistant compensation structure approved by Salary Board on 8/19/2008. Budget 10000 – 11600.
2. Authorize the promotion of Sarah E. Blair, PC011165 Judicial Coordinator to PC011151 Judicial Administrative Assistant – Court Administration, effective 12/19/2012. Rate of \$39,297/annually. Salary budgeted \$45,211/annually. Salary range Minimum \$31,715; Midpoint \$42,286; Maximum \$52,858. Replacement for Leonard O. Greth who transferred. This request was reviewed and has met the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
 3. Authorize the transfer for Ian T. Mogel, PC011163 Temporary Judicial Coordinator to PC011165 Judicial Coordinator – Court Administration, effective 12/19/2012. Rate of \$29,440/annually plus a stipend in the amount of \$850. Salary range Minimum \$29,440; Midpoint \$39,253; Maximum \$49,066. The stipend is for additional duties and responsibilities associated with the Dependency Court module of CPCMS. Replacement for Sarah E. Blair who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 - 11600.
 4. Authorize the continued utilization of a temporary agency to fill the Part-time Vendor Coordinator position - Facilities, effective 1/1/2013. Rate not to exceed \$15.00/hr. Position will provide vendor support during ongoing building renovations/projects. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease on or before 12/31/2013. This request was reviewed and meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 - 11030.
 5. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for the Purchasing Department, effective 12/14/2012. Rate not to exceed \$26.00/hr. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when the Buyer position is filled. This request was reviewed and meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11180.
 6. Authorize the appointment of Debra Dee Bradford to

PC010802 Deputy Director of Human Resources – Human Resources, effective 12/17/12. Rate of \$69,000/annually. Salary budgeted \$65,277/annually. Salary range Minimum \$52,181; Midpoint \$69,574; Maximum \$86,968. Replacement for Shane Keller who separated. This request was reviewed and has met the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11410.

- 420.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the 2013 JABG #24008 (Juvenile Accountability Block Grant) Application by and between the County of Berks (Chief Public Defender) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding in the amount of \$11,661.00 (Federal Funds - \$10,495.00; Local Matching Funds - \$1,166.00) covering the period 4/1/2013 to 3/31/2014.
- 421.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the 2013 JABG #23985 (Juvenile Accountability Block Grant) Application by and between the County of Berks (District Attorney) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding in the amount of \$11,660.00 (Federal Funds - \$10,494.00; Local Matching Funds \$1,166.00) covering the project period 4/1/2013 to 3/31/2014.
- 422.12 Adopt a resolution making permanent the Installment Payment Agreement Program originally authorized by Resolution No. 186-10, offered by the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau to allow Berks County Property owners to enter into installment payment agreements for delinquent taxes. Socrates Georgeadis, Solicitor for the Treasurer and Tax Claim Bureau, commented that these programs provide assistance to County taxpayers who have difficulty paying their taxes due to the bad economy. Mr. Georgeadis reported these programs work well and requested the Commissioners make this Program permanent. Commissioner Leinbach commented that the benefit to the County is the County receives its tax monies and the individual is able to keep his home.
- 423.12 Adopt a resolution extending the expiration date set forth in Resolution No. 357-11 adopted November 17, 2011 which extends the discharge period of certain delinquent real estate taxes for extenuating circumstances as set forth in Section 503.1 of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, for additional one (1) year period expiring December 31, 2013. All other terms and conditions of Resolution No. 357-11 remain in full force and effect.

- 424.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of the 2011 County property taxes, including penalties and interest, for 300 Lyman Avenue (PIN 95-4338-18-40-8297), Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania owned by Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church.
- 425.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of the 2012 County property taxes, including penalties and interest, for 144 S. Walnut Street (PIN 31-5344-14-34-9532), Birdsboro, owned by Abundant Life Assembly of God Church.
- 426.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the First Amendment to the Stormwater Improvements and Maintenance Agreement between the Township of Ontelaunee and the County of Berks with Cambridge Lee's acknowledgement, to provide for posting of cash escrow in lieu of a letter of credit for the costs of the improvements to the tower site location at Cambridge Lee regarding the Berks County Emergency Radio Project.
- 427.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Utility Agreement 05U161, as drafted by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation, between the County of Berks and the Metropolitan Edison Company (Met Ed), 2800 Pottsville Pike, Reading, PA, required to compensate the Utility for costs incurred due to the adjustment and relocation of the Utility's facilities outside of the public right of way as part of the Berne Station Bridge Replacement Project in Perry and Tilden Townships. The estimated cost of this reimbursement is \$6,618.13.
- 428.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute Supplemental Engineering Agreement 057008-B, as drafted by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, between the County of Berks and TranSystems, 1717 Arch Street, Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19103 authorizing revisions to certain contract clauses and provisions and providing for, under Part II (Final Design), additional work and effort by sub-consultants in furtherance of traffic control plan preparation and intersection analyses for the Buttonwood Street Bridge rehabilitation project.
- 429.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan D. Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to execute Change Order GC-03 to Purcell Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$14,600.00 for the ICE/ERO Fitout Project.
- 430.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Chair, to execute the Project Modification Request for Subgrant No. DA-ST-23316 by and between the County of Berks (Adult Probation) and the Pennsylvania Commission on

Crime and Delinquency with respect to funding in the amount of \$245,352.00 for "Phase II-Restrictive Intermediate Punishment (RIP)-Level 3 & 4" covering the period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

- 431.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Veronica S. Seltzinger, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board for a term expiring December 31, 2014.
 - 432.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Tina Marie DeLong, Shillington, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Public Libraries Board for a three (3) year term expiring June 2, 2015.
 - 433.12 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Michael Setley, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania to the Reading Regional Airport Authority for a five (5) year term expiring January 1, 2018.
2. Motion authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated December 10, 2012.
 3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated December 11, 2012 for the week ending December 12, 2012.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Robert Hoffmaster, representing Steelworkers Union 6996-10 who work at the Exide plant in Laureldale, many of whom were in attendance, addressed the Board regarding the proposed closing of the Exide Plant in Laureldale. Mr. Hoffmaster explained their concerns of losing their jobs due to bad management by Exide officials. The Commissioners advised Mr. Hoffmaster that regardless of who eventually takes over the plant, they will have to abide by the stricter standards set forth in the EHB Order. The Commissioners stated again it was not the County's intent to close the plant, but to protect the residents and the environment.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt thanked the Budget Office staff for the work they did in preparing the Budget, as well as the Department Heads and Elected officials. Commissioner Barnhardt further commented that raising taxes was one of the most difficult decisions he has to make so far as Commissioner. Commissioner Barnhardt offered his reasons for supporting a tax increase at this time.

Commissioner Scott commented that although he voted no, this is one of the more high profile decisions the Board has had to make, and there are good arguments pro and con for each Commissioner's decision. Commissioner Scott acknowledged the thoroughness of which Commissioner Barnhardt addressed some of the specific issues in the budget and his reasons for voting for a tax increase.

Commissioner Leinbach thanked the Budget team, Department Heads and Row Officers and everyone involved in the budget process. Commissioner Leinbach commented this Board has worked very hard with the Budget Team to look at cuts in the budget. Commissioner Leinbach commented the Board will continue to look for ways to do the job of government in the most efficient way possible.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Controller Graffius thanked Mary Young for the article on FUFSS and reported the program has been very successful so far.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk