

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes December 14, 2017

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 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.

Presentation - 2018 Berks County Budget

Chief Financial Officer Bob Patrizio presented to the Board for approval the proposed 2018 Berks County Budget, and stated that on November 16, 2017 the proposed County wide Budget was presented to the Board, which included a recommended 4.08% tax increase. Mr. Patrizio reported since that date, his department has continued to review all county budgets and considered more current information and trends in an effort to see if they could find reductions in the \$5.3 million operating deficit and lower that number. Mr. Patrizio was pleased to report they were able to identify some opportunities to reduce costs and operating expenses, some notable revisions were made, and they were able to reduce the recommended tax increase from 4.08% to 3.87%. Mr. Patrizio also presented a brief PowerPoint describing the revisions and calculations. In conclusion, Mr. Patrizio recommended the Board adopt the expenditure budget for the General Fund in the amount of \$230 million and is recommending the Board adopt the all funds expenditure budget inclusive of the 3.87% tax increase, that will allow the County to move forward with a Budget that is balanced from an operating budget perspective, and as a result recommends a millage rate of 7.657 for 2018.

Prior to the vote Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Leinbach submitted letters of conflict to the Chief Clerk, and are made part of the Minutes.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to adopt a resolution approving the 2018 Berks County Budget, and setting the 2018 tax millage at 7.657. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott with an opportunity to comment. Acknowledging a motion made and seconded, Commissioner Leinbach opened the floor to comment.

Commissioner Scott thanked Bob and his staff for a stellar performance in assembling such a detailed and mostly accurate budget. Commissioner Scott believes that the amount of the operating deficit is within the margin of error, and it is important to remember Berks County is a high property tax county, and due to above average management by this Board, the County sits on a substantial financial reserve. Commissioner Scott opposed the increase recommended by Bob, stating it is important to maintain a sense of urgency to certain areas of expenditures, particularly regarding the Prison, suggesting transferring operations to a private entity. In addition, Commissioner Scott objected to

the allocation to the Greater Reading Economic Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce, believing the taxpayers should not subsidize its operations. Commissioner Scott was also concerned about the possible purchase of new election machines. Commissioner Barnhardt commented this is the first tax increase in five years, is lower than inflation, will prevent larger tax increases later and complies with the 10 year management plan. Commissioner Barnhardt will continue to advocate and use the reserve for one time capital, and will reluctantly support the tax increase and will be voting yes.

Commissioner Leinbach asked Bob to clarify what the 3.87% tax increase will support. Mr. Patrizio stated it supports current structural operations, with no new discretionary spending in 2018, and is simply what we need to cover operations next year.

Commissioner Leinbach asked Bob if this budget is passed will it take the pressure off this Board relative to functions at the Prison and Heim. Bob responded no.

Commissioner Leinbach commented he is not a big advocate for property taxes, and doesn't agree with spending down reserves. Right now it is the only method by which counties can raise taxes, and stands reluctantly in support of a 3.87 property tax increase. As there were no further discussions, Commissioner Leinbach asked all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye; Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Leinbach voted yes, with Commissioner Scott voting no. The motion carried to approve the following resolution:

- 373.17 A. Adopt a resolution authorizing adoption of the 2018 Berks County Budget, and further establishing the 2018 Real Estate Tax millage.

Commissioner Leinbach announced there was an Executive Session held yesterday, December 13, 2017 to discuss litigation concerning the Jail, real estate and contract negotiations.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 7, 2017 Commissioners' Board Meeting and the December 12, 2017 Special Meeting were approved as presented.

Agenda Items

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

- 374.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2017 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$217,319 and 2017 Appropriations in the amount of \$56,862 per listing dated December 11, 2017.

- 375.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of

Contracts and Procurement to execute a one (1) year contract as a result of ITB# 17-41-JR, Food Provisions, Produce to be utilized by the Berks County Jail System, Berks Residential Center and Berks Heim as follows:

Bedway Produce
30 Ave E
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Pricing for produce shall be quoted and awarded by the Purchasing Department to one vendor on a weekly basis. Awarded vendors shall submit quotes in accordance with the requirements identified within the ITB listed within their respective agreements, awarded pricing will be firm for all deliveries occurring the following calendar week (Sunday-Saturday). The estimated annual spend for produce for County of Berks facilities is \$334,532.19.

The County reserves the right to extend the contract for two additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties in accordance with the terms of the contract governing the unit prices.

- 376.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute a one (1) year contract as a result of ITB# 17-42-JR, Food Provisions Milk to be utilized by the Berks County Jail, Berks County Residential Center and Berks Heim. In accordance with the agreement, unit prices shall be adjusted monthly based on the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, Area 2 pricing, less quantity discount based on an aggregate delivery total of 1000 quarts as follows:

Clover Farms
3300 Pottsville Pike
PO Box 14627
Reading, PA 19612

Line Items:1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14

Estimated Annual Cost- \$215,484.86*

Based upon historical actuals November 2015-November 2016

The County reserves the right to extend the contract for two additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties in accordance with the terms of the contract governing the unit prices.

- 377.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute as a result of Invitation to Bid # 17-37-KS, (2) – (2) two year agreements for Pest Control Services to be utilized by various County facilities as follows:

Orkin Pest Control

**800 Shoemaker Ave
Shoemakersville, PA 19555**

Estimated Annual Expenditure for Option B and Group E:
\$14,593.00

**Tri-County Termite & Pest Control, Inc.
189 Delaware Avenue
Carneys Point, NJ 08069**

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$1,095.00

The County reserves the right to extend the contract for two (2) additional one (1) year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties in accordance with the unit prices herein.

- 378.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the award and the Director of Contracts and Procurement to execute three (3) agreements as a result of Invitation to Bid #17-24-PB, Institutional Linens for the supply and delivery of institutional linens for Berks Heim, the Jail System and Berks County Residential Center for a period of one (1) year.

Bob Barker Company, Inc.

104 N. Main Street
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

Line Items: 1,2,3,4,10 &12

Estimated Annual Expenditure of \$ 5,811.57

Phoenix Textile Corporation

21 Commerce Drive
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Line Items: 5, 9, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$ 8,788.42

Tabb Textile Co., Inc.

511 Pleasant Drive
Opelika, AL 36801

Line Items: 6, 7, 8, & 11

Estimated Annual Expenditure: \$17,652.20

The County reserves the right to extend the agreements for two additional one-year terms upon mutual agreement of both parties at the unit prices herein.

- 379.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute a letter authorizing Amendment "B" to Reimbursement Agreement 057379, as drafted by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation, which incorporates the anticipated costs for Construction into the overall project encumbrance for the replacement of the Manatawny Bridge, aka the Fisher Mill Road Bridge (County Bridge #58B) in Oley Township. As a result of this Amendment the costs reflected in Exhibit "AAA" and

Paragraph 11 (b.) will be increased from \$902,000 to \$3,902,000. All other terms and conditions in the Agreement and all previous amendments thereto, unless specifically revised by virtue of Amendment "B", remain in full effect.

- 380.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan C. Hunter, Director of Facilities & Operations, to electronically execute Engineering Agreement L00276, as drafted by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation, with Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., 2500 E High Street, Suite #650, Pottstown, PA 19464, required to provide full-time on-site Construction Inspection Services during the replacement of the Fisher Mill Road a/k/a Manatawny Bridge (County Bridge 58B) spanning the Manatawny Creek in Oley Township. The total maximum cost of this Agreement shall not exceed \$221,733.45 without prior approval by the County and by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), where applicable, in the form of a Supplemental Agreement signed by the County and the Consultant. These services span approx. eleven (11) months following the issuance of Notice to Proceed and are funded utilizing Federal, State and County transportation dollars assigned to the project.
- 381.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement #EA-199763-17 between the County of Berks and Entech Engineering, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania, to provide engineering services to evaluate the utilities serving the North Campus and to work with the County to develop a campus Utility Master Plan at a not to exceed amount of \$43,380.00.
- 382.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment #11 to HealthChoices Behavioral Health Agreement No. 4100056426 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through Department of Human Services and the County of Berks, and amends the Program Standards and Requirement to implement state-mandated value based purchasing and revises Appendix 8 pertains to Managed Care Organization Assessment.
- 383.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute as the Owner's Representative, the 2018 Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the Lake Antietam Dam.
- 384.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of John T. Connelly, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Municipal Authority for a five (5) year term ending December 31, 2022.
- 385.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Wayne R.

Weidner, Oley, Pennsylvania, to the Berks County Municipal Authority for a five (5) year term ending December 31, 2022.

- 386.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Douglas R. Myers, Leesport, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Planning Commission to fill the remainder of a four (4) year term which will expire December 31, 2020.
- 387.17 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the 4th quarter FY 2016/2017 (April 1, 2017-June 30, 2017) Medical Assistance Transportation Program Certification Statement.

Commissioner Leinbach noted there are no HR Recommendations or Contracts this week.

2. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated December 12, 2017 for week ending December 13, 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 the Budget Meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission Library and there will be a continuing discussion regarding Ag Land Preservation and the Master Plan.

REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ronald R. Seaman congratulated the fiscal staff for all the work on the Budget.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt reported Exeter Township has agreed to take ownership upon replacement by the County of the Shelbourne Road Bridge, and commended Alan Piper and Ryan Hunter for guiding this through.

Commissioner Barnhardt noted the closing of Bell Alley Soft Pretzels this weekend.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott mentioned he had a call from a constituent regarding the recent discussion by the Board of a proposed additional \$15 fee on mortgages and conveyances to help with the demolition of blighted properties. Commissioner Scott reported there already is funding established as the County has engaged in constructive partnerships with the City over the years in demolishing over 200 houses that posed a risk to public safety.

Commissioner Scott reported on a recent request to the Board of Commissioners from the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority seeking consent for a proposed expansion of the Rolling Hills Landfill in Earl Township.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach mentioned this evening the Berks County Patriots will hold their monthly meeting, and will be honoring veterans.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

The following employees at the Heim attended the meeting to speak about the Heim and asked the Commissioners that Berks Heim remain within the County's control.

- MaryEllen Nussbetal, LPN
- Kathryn Anderson, Exeter Township, RN
- Brianna Savini, Kenhorst, LPN
- Gilbert Ortiz, Exeter Township, Nurse

Commissioner Leinbach assured them the Board is still looking at all options, and has not come to any conclusions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk