

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes September 9, 2021**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. via Microsoft Teams Live, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach and Commissioner Michael S. Rivera in attendance. Also present were Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor, Ronald R. Seaman, Chief Administrative Officer and Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk.

Commissioner Barnhardt opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **Berks County Covid-19 Data Report –**

Brian Gottschall, Director of Berks Department of Emergency Services, and lead on the Berks County COVID-19 Leadership Team

Case count started to round over a bit, but it will be days/weeks before we can determine if the round over continues or if we will continue to see an elevation of cases. Positivity rate is back up to around the 30% positivity. We continue to see a small increase in our hospital numbers. COVID death rate was reported to be flat in previous reports but they have been going up in the last few weeks. Continue to visit the Do Your Part website for up-to-date information [www.doyourpartberks.com](http://www.doyourpartberks.com)

### **CO-COUNTY WELLNESS UPDATE** – Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt

The report for August 18<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup> for contact tracing was 380 new contacts and we were successful in reaching 267 for a 70.2% of success rate overseeing people who needed contract trace.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of August 19, 2021 Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

### **Agenda Items**

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

301.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing 2021 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$243,977 and 2021 Appropriations in the amount of \$2,269,623 per listing dated September 2, 2021.

- 302.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations dated September 9, 2021 as follows:
1. Authorize the appointment of Ann-Marie Loose to PC012327 Social Worker – Berks Heim - Social Services, effective 9/22/2021. Rate of \$42,000/annually. Salary range Minimum \$33,744; Midpoint \$44,991; Maximum \$56,239. Replacement for Patricia Margrave who separated. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 30000 – 33140.
  2. Authorize the appointment of Jodie Wilson to PC011171 Judicial Coordinator – Courts, effective 9/10/2021. Rate of \$41,561.64/annually. Salary range Minimum \$31,912; Midpoint \$42,550; Maximum \$53,187. Replacement for Kristen Schlottman who transferred. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 11600.
  3. Authorize the utilization of a temporary agency for an Account Clerk II – Jail Systems, effective 9/15/2021. Rate not to exceed \$28.03/hour. Utilization of the temporary agency will cease when a candidate is hired to fill the Account Clerk II position. This request meets the criteria of the Hiring Policy. Budget 10000 – 12090.
- 303.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Carmen Torres as Berks County Open Records Officer, effective September 1, 2021.
- 304.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair to execute Lease Agreement between Berks County Nonprofit Development Corporation and County of Berks, for office space utilized by Magisterial District Justice Steven Chieffo, 574 Oley Road, Oley, Pennsylvania for a 20 year term expiring on December 31, 2043.
- 305.2021 Adopt a resolution to ratify, confirm and approve renewal of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for Child Advocacy Centers Subgrant 36169. The funds will cover a portion of the Director's salary and benefits, along with operating expenses to maintain the recording equipment and daily operations.
- 306.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair to execute The Nationwide Indexed Principal Protection (NW-

IPP) as an option for employees. A group fixed indexed annuity for retirement plans that tracks the performance of the S&P 500.

- 307.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the County Assurance of Financial Commitment and Participation for Children and Youth Services Needs Based Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.
- 308.2021 Adopt a resolution authorizing Kevin S. Barnhardt, Vice Chair, to execute the Agreement for Professional Services between the County of Berks and Susan Karnes Quirits, Esquire, Birdsboro, Pennsylvania to provide legal services as Court appointed parent's counsel for clients requiring representation in proceedings involving the Berks County Children and Youth Services Agency for a one-year term expiring August 31, 2022. The Agreement may be extended for additional terms upon agreement of all parties.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator per listing dated September 7, 2021.
3. Motion authorizing payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers payable listing dated August 26, 2021 and September 2, 2021, 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 Grazyna Nykiel, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Controller.

### **REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Ronald R. Seaman – Nothing to report

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Rivera – Penn Street Market is still open every Thursday until the end of September between 12-2 PM. Reminded everyone that September is National Suicide Prevention month and spoke of resources available to anyone who is in need. Attended the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Santander Arena and Performing Arts Center along with Commissioner Barnhardt. The Arena has been an important part of the community vitality in the City of Reading. Visit the Santander Arena website for upcoming events.

Congratulated Brian Gottschall, Director of Department of Emergency Services who was awarded the BCIU 2021 Outstanding Community Partner Award and will be recognized during their Board of Directors meeting next Thursday.

Also congratulated Oliver Arthur for being named 2021 Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants during a ceremony in Hershey.

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, there will be an event at the City Park Bandshell to commemorate 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup> and all those who lost their lives that day.

Commissioner Rivera mentioned he was at an event in Hamburg about two weeks prior and saw Frank Stiller, walking 573 miles from Washington D.C to New York City. He started on August 1st and will reach NYC by September 11th. Frank started the Tunnel to Towers Foundation in remembrance of his brother, who was an NYC firefighter. Commissioner Rivera reminded everyone of the importance of not forgetting what happened on September 11th and discussing what it represents with the younger generation.

Commissioner Leinbach – Encouraged everyone to remember the events of September 11th. We will never forget the vivid images of that tragic day in history. He reflected on the feeling of unity and solidarity that followed September 11th and wished he could bring that feeling back, but we need to do it together.

Commissioner Barnhardt – Echoed the sentiments of his colleagues regarding September 11th. On Saturday, if you cannot make it to the City of Reading Bandshell, find your own way to remember the events that occurred on September 11th.

Gave a breakdown on the Board of Elections meeting agenda. Reminded everyone the following Commissioners' Meeting will take place at the Wyomissing Public Library at 7:00 PM. In December, the On The Road meeting will take place at the Muhlenberg Township building.

September is also National Recovery month, and you can visit [www.cocaberks.org](http://www.cocaberks.org). Also, reminded everyone to take the surveys on [www.imagineberks.org](http://www.imagineberks.org) as we would like to hear from everyone.

Announced that the Epler's One Room Schoolhouse is hosting their 2nd annual pulled pork fundraising dinner, Thursday, October 14th, from 3-6 PM. If you purchase a dinner, they can be picked up at the Berks County Heritage Center at Epler's One room school.

Q& A Questions were read (See attached)

Christine indicated that she dismissed a comment that was not a comment, but it was a message indicating they were experiencing technical difficulties.

Commissioner Barnhardt deferred the election question to the Board of Elections meeting for a better response.

Commissioner Leinbach indicated that we did not move ahead with the audit with the Constables due to severe concerns on the cost. Christine Sadler, Solicitor, indicated that based on discussions with the outside audit companies, we were not going to get the results we thought we were going to get by looking at the data set. Commissioner Leinbach indicated that the data is dispersed, and it is hard to collect it from many different sources.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS**

No comments

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

No Comments

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk