

Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Minutes

May 7, 2020

Pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public the Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond meeting was held via Microsoft Teams Live at 1:00 p.m..

Participating were Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt, Commissioner Michael S. Rivera, Chief Administration Officer Ronald R. Seaman, County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Human Resources Director Jessica Weaknecht, and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk. Also attending were Executive Assistants Mary Buerer, Jessica Blauser and Barbara Lopez, Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio, Deputy Director of Budget and Finance Laura Jones, Chief Information Officer Justin Loose, Heather Berger, Application Specialist & Trainer and Producer, Lori Schneider, Implementation Specialist, and Tim Smith, Enterprise Manager. Commissioner Leinbach was absent.

Commissioner Rivera opened the meeting and briefly explained the purpose of Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond and introduced the County officials who are on the team.

SET Report –

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the SET team met informally last Wednesday with Debbie Olivieri and Justin Loose to work on virtual interpreters for the June 2 Primary Election. Commissioner Barnhardt reported SET's first official meeting was held yesterday and consisted of himself, Berks County Prothonotary Jonathan J.D. DelCollo, Tracy Barlet, Courts, Jessica Blauser, Court Administrator Steve Weber, Justin Loose and Bob Patrizio. Commissioner Barnhardt reported they also met later in the afternoon to confirm the roll out process of virtual interpreters for the June 2 Primary. The team believes it is going to be efficient and cost saving, and possibly expand to the General Election.

The SET team also talked about their goals versus Phase 3. Commissioner Barnhardt's team will focus on department heads, Tracy Barlet's team will focus on the Courts and J.D.'s team will focus on Row Officers. SET will meet every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and will report on their findings regarding efficiency and savings at the Phase 3 Recovery Meeting.

Commissioner Barnhardt said SET will reach out to other counties and states and inquire what technologies and ideas they are finding to be efficient and cost savings.

Sub-Committee Reports –

Commissioner Rivera talked about some of the questions Team A and B are asking department heads and County authorities, and asking what they perceive the County will look like as we proceed through this pandemic in the short, mid and long term periods. Commissioner Rivera reported had eight meetings yesterday, five or six on Friday and a few next week.

Commissioner Rivera noted many department heads commented how well the use of technology is going for their departments; some departments were clear on their direction, while others must wait what the next few months bring.

Commissioner Rivera mentioned one of the authorities he met with was Berks County Solid Waste, and Jane Meeks reported they will be installing a fence around the Recycling Center to control access, in order to open the Recycling Center as soon as possible.

Commissioner Rivera reported CareerLink and Workforce Development are actually much busier because of the high unemployment due to COVID19.

Mary Buerer reported Team A has also been meeting with department heads, who similarly are waiting to see what the next few months will look like, and will dictate what they have to do or will do.

Other departments, like Elections Services, Aging and MH/DD focus is the same except much more challenging, and are doing business a little differently.

Ms. Buerer reported the entire Budget Department is working remotely, but not at full staff, and are accomplishing their projects and reports as required.

Team A has 8 interviews tomorrow and will finish next week.

Actions and Next Steps –

None.

There were no public comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk