

Phase 3 Recovery and Beyond Minutes May 14, 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 Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt, Commissioner Michael S. Rivera, Executive Assistants Mary Buerer, Jessica Blausler and Barbara Lopez, Chief Administration Officer Ronald R. Seaman, County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Human Resources Director Jessica Weaknecht, Assistant Human Resources Director Kristin Scheffler and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk. Also attending were, County Controller Sandy Graffius, Recorder of Deeds Mary Kozak, Prothonotary Jonathan J.D. DelCollo, Chief Information Officer Justin Loose, Heather Berger, Application Specialist & Trainer and Producer, Lori Schneider, Implementation Specialist, and Tim Smith, Enterprise Manager.

SET Report –

Commissioner Barnhardt reported the SET Team is meeting weekly meetings on Wednesday, and this week the team reviewed Department of Emergency Services, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, met with Commissioner Leinbach and his Executive Assistant Mary Buerer, Children & Youth Services, CareerLink and Purchasing. This morning SET met with the Solicitor, and will meet later this week with Library Services and Commissioner Rivera and his Executive Assistant Barbara Lopez. J.D. DelCollo met with Prothonotary, Clerk of Courts, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds and the Sheriff.

Tracy Barlet met with the Law Library, Court Reporters, APO, JPO, Domestic Relations, the MDJ System, Court Administration and Interpreters.

The SET Team is compiling a high level list of items where this county becomes more efficient and ultimately saves vital tax dollars; some are short term and require little effort for implementation.

Commissioner Barnhardt said everyone was asked to reevaluate what they have done in the past or have been asked to do, and to look forward on what we could do make us a better county.

Sub-Committee Reports –

Commissioner Leinbach reported Team A began their meetings last week and have met with Election Services, Redevelopment Authority, Parks, Budget, Aging and Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities, Penn State Extension, Purchasing Department, the Agriculture Department, Airport Authority, Children & Youth Services, Public Defender, the Jail and the Berks County Industrial Development Authority.

Commissioner Leinbach observed that all the groups indicated the discussions and questions were worthwhile.

Commissioner Leinbach will start weekly meetings next week to follow up with additional questions that were asked of them.

Team A will also be meeting with the President Judge next week.

Commissioner Rivera reported on Friday Team B met with IS, GIS, Human Resources, BCRC and Facilities, and must still meet with the Department of Emergency Services and Commissioner Barnhardt and his Executive Assistant Jessica Blauser and Commissioner Leinbach and his Executive Assistant Mary Buerer.

Commissioner Rivera reported his Executive Assistant Barbara Lopez is compiling reports from those meetings.

Mr. Seaman commented he is finding the departments are very eager in responding to the questions being asked and put a great deal of thought in responding, and it was enlightening to hear some of the suggestions and thoughts put forth.

Actions and Next Steps –

None

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Commissioner Barnhardt reported the 2020 Census committee has built up a budget of \$20,000 through the Albright Center for Excellence in Local Government, and Ken Pick will fund through CDBG if we need it if the deadline is extended to December.

Commissioner Barnhardt asked if the Commissioners can submit questions before the call with CCAP tomorrow? Commissioner Leinbach was not sure if questions could be submitted prior to the start of the call.

Commissioner Barnhardt reported Empire is beginning excavation at the Heritage Center, making an access road available for the move of the School.

Commissioner Barnhardt, Jessica Blauser and Brian Gottschall were on a call earlier with Witt O'Brien, a firm out of Washington, D.C., that offers grant support for counties.

Berks County is expecting an engagement proposal and PowerPoint presentation. In addition to FEMA funds and CARES Act funds, the firm advised there are many more funding opportunities available to counties.

Brian agrees there is a lot of money available that will benefit not only the County but Berks County community, small business, municipalities and school districts, and is smart investment and worth looking at more closely.

There were no public comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:21 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk