
APPROVED

A meeting of the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners was held on this date in the Public Hearing Room of the Lehigh County Government Center with Brad Osborne presiding as Chairman.

Present: Commissioners Geoff Brace, Thomas Creighton, III, Percy Dougherty, Dan Hartzell, Amanda Holt, David Jones, Sr., Marty Nothstein, Brad Osborne, and Michael Schware.

Others: Valerie Hildebeitel, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Eman Jarrah, Deputy Solicitor; Dan McCarthy, Director of Administration; Rick Molchany, General Services Director; and David Barilla, Clerk to the Board.

Commissioner Osborne welcomed Commissioners Hartzell and Nothstein to the Board of Commissioners.

The Minutes of the Board of Commissioners' meetings held 10/28/15, 12/16/15 and 01/04/16 were approved upon the motion of Commissioners Dougherty and Brace and a unanimous voice vote.

Under Citizens Input, Joe Hilliard, Lehigh County resident, said the Commissioners have an opportunity to change how authorities, boards and commissions operate. He said these are really shadow governments. He said he is recommending that Lehigh and Northampton Counties impose openness on authorities.

Hilliard recommended that the following items be mandated for authorities:

- The posting of its budget on the county's website
- The posting of its most recent audit and check register
- The posting of all contracts, purchase agreements and bargaining agreements
- The posting of all compensated positions with pay and benefits
- The posting of a video of all meetings
- All borrowing requests should require approval by the Board of Commissioners
- All major projects should require Board of Commissioner approval

Hilliard said he firmly opposed the reappointment of Emrich Stellar to the LCA. He said Mr. Stellar is part of the culture of secrecy or shadow government where the public is viewed as a nuisance. He said he will hopefully be providing video excerpts. He said reappointing Mr. Stellar will keep the idea of LCA fiefdom going.

Lynn Donches, Lehigh County resident, read a letter from her husband John Donches regarding the reappointment of Emrich Steller. The letter is attached to the minutes as Exhibit A.

Donches recommended that the Board research whether there is an option to appoint someone else to that position.

Everett Carr, Lehigh County resident, said no Board of Commissioner meeting minutes have been posted to the Lehigh County website since the 10/21/15 Board meeting. He said as a Lehigh County resident he would like to read the minutes within a reasonable timeframe. He said he believes that 30 days should be more than adequate.

Commissioner Osborne said three sets of minutes from 2015 need to be posted online. He said the minutes will be posted in a more timely fashion in 2016.

There was nothing under Chair's Review. There were no Appointments for consideration. There was no Old Business for consideration.

Under New Business,

Retirement Board

Commissioner Holt made the following motion: that Commissioner Creighton is appointed to serve on the Lehigh County Retirement Board per Section 606 of the Lehigh County Home Rule Charter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brace and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ERP Representative

Commissioner Schware made the following motion: that Commissioner Creighton is appointed to serve as the Board of Commissioners' representative on the steering committee for the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holt and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Osborne said minutes from the ERP meetings and project manager reports are online.

Commissioners' Negotiating Team

Commissioner Holt made the following motion: that Commissioners Brace and Dougherty are appointed to serve on the Board of Commissioners' Labor Relations Committee for 2016 per Ordinance 2015-107. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schware and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The clerk announced Resolution 2016-01: Approving a Professional Services Agreement with InHouse Physicians Corporation (sponsored by Commissioner Dougherty); the deputy solicitor provided a summary. This resolution was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on 01/13/16.

Commissioner Dougherty said Lehigh County is self-insured for healthcare. He said therefore, having a healthy workforce is very important to us. He said an RFP was done and InHouse Physicians is the choice. He said the contract came in cheaper than what was budgeted. He said the cost for 2016 is \$145,750 plus lab fees, 2017 is \$163,776 plus lab fees and 2018 is \$168,684 plus lab fees. He said this is to have a

healthy and happy work force. Resolution 2016-01 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Refer to the Resolution Book for County of Lehigh Resolution No. 2016-01.

The clerk announced Bill 2016-02: Approving a Professional Services Agreement with HealthDrive Corporation, T/A HealthDrive Dental Group (sponsored by Commissioner Holt); the deputy solicitor provided a summary. This bill was reviewed by the Cedarbrook Services Committee on 01/13/16. Commissioner Holt said we issued a Request for Proposals and the current provider was determined to be the best option. Resolution 2016-02 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Refer to the Resolution Book for County of Lehigh Resolution No. 2016-02.

The clerk announced Bill 2016-03: A Resolution Accepting the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, Acknowledging the Work of the Lehigh Valley Homeless Veterans Task Force, and Encouraging the Public and Private Sectors to Join in this Effort (sponsored by Commissioners Brace, Hartzell, Nothstein, Osborne, Holt, Jones & Dougherty); the deputy solicitor provided a summary. The clerk said a revised version of this bill has been agreed to by the sponsors. He said the revised version has been distributed to all Commissioners, is available for the press and public this evening and has been placed on the County's website. This bill was reviewed by a joint meeting of the Administrative and Human Services Committees on 01/13/16.

Commissioner Brace said this is a straight forward resolution that we reviewed in committee. He said this is one of those moments when the Commissioners get to speak on a moral imperative. Commissioners Schware and Creighton added their names as sponsors. Resolution 2016-03 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Refer to the Resolution Book for County of Lehigh Resolution No. 2016-03.

The clerk announced Bill 2016-04: Amending Rule 5.13 of the Rules of the Board of Commissioners Regarding Standing Committees (sponsored by Commissioners Brace, Holt & Jones); the deputy solicitor provided a summary. This bill was reviewed by the Intergovernmental & Appointments Committee on 01/13/16.

Commissioner Holt said this was discussed at prior meetings. She said this is consistent with outlines that she shared with the Board. She said the fundamental change is to create a Finance Committee. Commissioner Brace said he was pleased to work with Commissioner Holt. He said it is important to realign at times based on workload. He said he really likes the role of the Finance Committee in this structure.

Commissioner Dougherty said he has a number of problems with the realignment. He said does not think some items fit well together. He said he hoped that this would be discussed at the upcoming Board retreat.

Commissioner Dougherty said he hopes that we don't lose sight that the Capital Plan is a planning tool and is not a financial document. He said he believes that Planning and Development should be together as they once were. He said he believes this is a work in progress and should not be adopted right now.

Commissioners Dougherty and Hartzell moved to table Res. 2016-04. The motion to table was approved by the following vote: Commissioners Brace – no; Creighton – yes; Dougherty – yes; Hartzell – yes; Osborne – no; Holt – no; Jones –yes; Nothstein –yes; and Schware – no. The Chair announced that Res. 2016-04 was tabled.

Commissioner Jones said he supports the principal that this legislation attempts to provide. He said we could have a conversation on the framework at a retreat.

The clerk announced Bill 2016-01: Approving an Agreement with Emerald Data Solutions, Inc. (sponsored by Commissioner Holt); the deputy solicitor provided a summary. This bill was reviewed by the Administrative Committee on 01/13/16.

Commissioner Holt said this contract been discussed at many meetings. She said this is meeting management document software to bring us into the 21st Century.

There was a discussion on why Exhibit A was presented to the Board blank.

Upon the motion of Commissioners Holt and Dougherty and a unanimous voice vote, the \$1,000 NRC (non-recurring charge), the \$12,000 BoardDocs Pro ARC (Annual Recurring Charge), and the County of Lehigh's details as the customer were added to Exhibit A.

The Chair announced the bill's first reading. Second reading, discussion and vote are scheduled for January 27, 2016 in the Public Hearing Room of the Lehigh County Government Center.

There were no Committee Reports or Citizens Input on Committee Reports.

Under Commissioner Announcements, the Board agreed to hold a retreat meeting on 01/30/16 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room. The Board agreed that the Commissioners' will not be seated at the dais for the meeting.

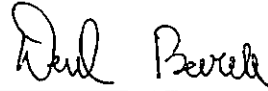
Commissioner Osborne said the next Board meeting will include an update from the Lehigh Valley Zoo.

Under Citizens Input, Joe Hilliard, Lehigh County resident, said he is excited to hear about the formation of a Finance Committee for the Board.

Dan McCarthy said the Strategic Plan Update from Computer Aid can be presented at the Board's pleasure.

Commissioner Holt made the following motion: that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the public portion of this meeting and re-convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. The Board will not come back into public session this evening to take any actions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dougherty and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



David Barilla, Clerk to the Board

Dear Commissioners,

I am sorry I could not be here to say this myself, however if this could be read in my stead, I would appreciate it.

~~Tonight~~ There will be a recommendation to reappoint Emrich Stellar to the LCA board. In short I would like to see someone new appointed to fill his position.

Mr. Stellar is the present Treasurer of the LCA and in that capacity should have a good grasp of the financial impact his decision to lease the Allentown water and sewage facility will have on the rate payers under LCA control. Not long ago the LCA directly defied the desire of the Lehigh County Commissioners and went ahead and bid on this lease. This was a direct affront of the rate payers of the LCA. To lease a system with the outcome of that same system going back into the hands and control of the city of Allentown at the end of the lease term is a very poor fiscal call and did nothing more than save Allentown from a short term pension debacle. In the end Allentown will again own and control a refurbished facility which in the meantime will be repaired and expanded to handle the present and future demands on the LCA system. In my eyes this was a very poor bargain that will only benefit Allentown at the expense of the outlying areas within LCA control.

For this and his arrogance at the way he treats the public at the LCA meetings that I have attended, I believe the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners should deny Mr. Stellar's reappointment to the LCA board and pursue a replacement like you did for Ms. Deana M. Zosky, who by the way is very citizen proactive at these same meetings.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



John Donches
Emmaus