

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, March 27, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. in the 13th floor Boardroom of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach was in Harrisburg attending a CCAP meeting. Also present were County Solicitor Alan S. Miller, Chief Operations Officer Carl Geffken and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

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

II. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Barry Rohrbach, President of Crime Alert Berks County, attended the Commissioners' Workshop Meeting and updated the Commissioners on the various activities and accomplishments of Crime Alert this past year. Mr. Rohrbach introduced District Attorney John Adams, who presented a check in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the District Attorney's forfeiture fund account to Crime Alert. Mr. Adams commented the money comes from money seized from drug arrests. Mr. Adams further commented he hopes this donation provides encouragement to other groups and organizations to contribute. Mr. Rohrbach introduced Guido Puccini and Hamid Chaudry, Crime Alert Board members, who both thanked the District Attorney and Commissioners for their support of Crime Alert. Mr. Puccini commented that Crime Alert Berks is the most successful crime alert program in Pennsylvania.

- B. Dale Derr, Director of Veteran Affairs, attended the meeting and announced that March 30, 2012 will be observed as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day". Mr. Derr further commented that the official observance of "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" will be held at Reading City Park. Commissioner Barnhardt read a Proclamation on behalf of the County of Berks to the Vietnam Veterans. Mr. Derr introduced Mr. Bernie Bingham, President of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 131, Berks County, who read a prepared statement reflecting and highlighting the treatment Vietnam Veterans received on their return home. Mr. Bingham further commented that the veterans began forming groups around the country to demand answers on issues such as exposure to Agent Orange, post traumatic stress disorder and suicide, and also to receive the recognition they deserve. Mr. Bingham commented that the veterans should be thanked and honored all year round, not just special days. That gesture makes them feel welcomed home and appreciated.

- C. Solicitor Alan S. Miller presented for enactment an Ordinance of the County Commissioners of the County of Berks, Pennsylvania, levying an Impact Fee on the unconventional gas wells established in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Miller commented that this Ordinance will be formally enacted Thursday, March 29, 2012, and was discussed at a previous Commissioners' Meeting. Mr. Miller further commented that in his opinion it is timely to enact this Ordinance at this point in time and there seems to be no down side for the County, and will keep the Board apprised if there is any change in his opinion. Commissioner Scott commented that he is respectively disagreeing with the Solicitor and most likely the majority of the Board. Commissioner Scott commented that CCAP has provided literature which questions the authority to enact this ordinance. Commissioner Scott read some of the communication from CCAP. Commissioner Scott further offered comments for his opinion to not vote for the Ordinance.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2011 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$20,000.00, 2012 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,869,171.00 and 2012 Appropriations in the amount \$19,524.00 per listing dated March 23, 2012. Robert Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer, commented on the budget transfers and appropriations listed for this week.

Human Resources

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated March 27, 2012. Arnel Wetzel, Director of Human Resources, commented on the recommendations, and highlighted that one is for the hiring of the Library System Administrator.

Purchasing

- A. Motion authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated March 23, 2012. Commissioner Barnhardt reviewed the Contracts listed today.

Solicitor

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the County Solicitor to advertise an ordinance concerning the approval by the County of Berks a LERTA (Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act) program for purposes of establishing tax exemptions from property tax for certain deteriorated industrial, commercial or other business properties in Bethel Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Alan Miller commented that he met with Tom McKeon regarding this LERTA program. Mr. Miller further commented that we usually wait for the School Board and Township as a lead for

participation in the program. Mr. McKeon commented that Bethel Township has conducted a public hearing in accordance with the law and adopted an Ordinance, and that the Tulpehocken School District has adopted a Resolution. Mr. McKeon commented the primary reason for the LERTA program is to be able to compete for economic development for jobs and tax base at Berks Park 78.

Facilities

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution and submission of the Drawings in regard to the Acquisition of Right-of Way, as prepared by professional engineers Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc., pertaining to parcels of land affected by the Berne Station Bridge Replacement Project in Perry and Tilden Townships, Berks County, Pennsylvania, to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Solid Waste Authority

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Application for Reimbursement for a County Recycling Coordinator to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management, for reimbursement of 50% of the salary, benefits and expenses paid to the Berks County Recycling Coordinator, to be in the estimated amount of \$45,000.00. Jane Meeks, Berks County Solid Waste Director, commented that the next recycling program will be coming up April 21, 2012.

Parks & Recreation

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Grant Agreement Signature Page for Phase 4-Antietam Lake Park at an estimated project cost of \$872,374.00. This is a 50/50 grant. The County will provide a match of \$436,187.00. Clare Adams, Director of the Park Department, attended the meeting and commented that Phase 4 will consist of three important projects. The center piece of the project is the Bingaman farmhouse restoration formally the Reading Nature Center. This will be the focal point of the Park. The second part is the completion of the trail section in the North Creek Valley and the third part is the demolition of the caretaker's house, which was recommend in the Master Plan.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt commented that on behalf of the Committee on County Criminal Justice System Best Practices for the 21st Century, the County has received the County Jail Best Practices Award for 2012 in the large county category. The award will be given at the CCAP Spring Conference Closing today.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Leinbach

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk