

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, April 10, 2012**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 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 Chair Christian Y. Leinbach called the meeting to order with Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

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

II. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Commissioner Leinbach commented that this LERTA Ordinance will be enacted Thursday, April 19, 2012, and has previously been approved by the Township of Bethel and the Tulpehocken School District, and establishes tax exemptions from property tax for certain deteriorated industrial, commercial or other business property located in Bethel Township.
- B. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of Berks County Solid Waste Authority, provided a power point update on the 2012 Spring Waste Collection events including household hazardous waste, pharmaceuticals, tires and electronics and paper shredding events. Ms. Meeks introduced Terry Maenza, of PA American Water, one of the sponsors of the pharmaceutical collection. Mr. Maenza emphasized the importance of keeping unused and expired medications out of the water system. Commissioner Leinbach commented that Ms. Meeks has been a leader in this area for many years, and her approach is good for the environment and taxpayers.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Human Resources

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resource Recommendations per listing dated April 10, 2012. Commissioner Leinbach commented on the one item listed.

Berks Connections / Pretrial Services

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute an agreement between the County of Berks and Berks Connections/Pretrial Services for \$11,934.00 as part of the PCCD Sub grant No. 23350 for a term beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Nicolle Schnovel attended the meeting and commented that this agreement will be included as part of

the Grant submission by the Adult Probation Department to PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency) for the Intermediate Punishment Program. The funds will be allocated to pay a portion of the salary of their staff member who works with this Program.

Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the JAG (Justice Assistance Grant) Local Jurisdiction Waiver to be attached to the PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency) Grant Application to be filed by Berks Counseling Center for a two (2) year grant of up to \$200,000.00 to implement the Mental Health and Justice Housing Initiative which will increase re-entry opportunities for county correctional inmates who have serious mental illness. There is no County match required. Frances Malley, Executive Director of Berks Counseling Center, who is submitting the Grant, attended the meeting and commented that Berks Counseling has been providing behavioral, housing, health and outpatient services to Berks County for 20 years. The grant monies would provide services to inmates that are released from the County Jail and are in need of housing. Commissioner Leinbach commented that this action in no way encumbers the County for any future funding when the funding goes away. Dr. Ed Michalik commented that based on a review by his department Berks County Counseling Center is a long-standing provider of mental health services, and there is no other County agency providing these services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt to move this project forward today so that the grant application can be submitted today or tomorrow. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to adopt **Resolution No. 114-12** authorizing execution of the Waiver.

Emergency Services

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Easement Agreement with the Borough of Kutztown, regarding the Berks County Emergency Response Radio Project-Kutztown Tower Site.

Adult Probation

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of an Agreement between the County of Berks, Adult Probation Department, and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole for the Supervision Fund I.D. No.: 06-12/17-CP Grant for the period July 1, 2102 through June 30, 2017, which will return to the County the pecuniary amount of funds equal to the County supervision fees received by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Revenue from the County. John Scolastico, Assistant Chief Adult Probation Officer, attended the meeting and commented that the first grant application is for fees and funds returned in lieu of salaries and the second grant application is for 50% of supervision fees returned to the Adult Probation Office.

- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of an Agreement between the County of Berks, Adult Probation Department, and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole for Grant-In-Aid Funds I.D. No.: 06-12/17-CP for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017. Said funds provide additional probation staff for pre-sentence investigations and for improved probation supervision and programs.
- C. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the revised Grant-In-Aid reports from FY 2005 through FY 2011. The revision is due to an error in calculations in the original reports. Brendan Harker, Director of Court Programs & Development, attended the meeting and commented that Adult Probation was contacted earlier in the year of the error in calculations in the report and have made the necessary adjustments.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnhardt – No comment

Commissioner Scott – No Comment

Commissioner Leinbach – No comment

V. CITIZEN COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Before the start of the public comment, Commissioner Leinbach referenced Resolution No. 73-08 and read the rules and time allocation for public comment by the speakers.

Karen Feridun of Berks Gas Truth attended the meeting and commented on the Gas Impact Fee Ordinance the County enacted March 29, 2012. Ms. Feridun provided to the Board a packet of information showing their research and concerns regarding drilling for Marcellus and Utica shale in Berks County.

Donna Morganti, Janine Galiyano and Lori Barr attended the meeting. Donna Morganti and Janine Galiyano commented on issues they are experiencing with Berks County Children and Youth Services and Kids First. Lori Barr requested Commissioner Scott review his comments he made last week regarding investments and the Hess case. Commissioner Scott briefly addressed Ms. Barr's questions.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk