

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, April 17, 2012**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 17, 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 in attendance. Also present were First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Esq., County Solicitor Alan S. Miller, and Kaitlin P. Daley, Deputy Chief Clerk. Commissioner Mark C. Scott, Esq. was absent.

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

### **II. PRESENTATION**

A discussion was held with regard to the status of the Berks County Community Foundation's Task Force Report on the state of the libraries in Berks County. Kevin Murphy, President of the Berks County Community Foundation, Karen Rightmire, Executive Director of the Wyomissing Foundation, and Dr. Thomas F. Flynn, President of Alvernia University asked the Commissioners what the status of the report is. The Commissioners stated that the results of the report were discussed at a Budget Meeting shortly after it was released. The Berks County Library Board was tasked with reviewing it and providing feedback. There is a meeting scheduled for June 28, 2012 with the County Library Board and the new Berks County Library Systems Administrator, Denise Sticha to discuss the report. Ms. Rightmire, Mr. Murphy, and Dr. Flynn reiterated that the report is a living document and is not the only solution and they are open to other suggestions. The concerns the Commissioners have with the report's findings is that it looks like a bailout of the Reading Public Library and it has a significant financial impact on the County. The County has concerns with Reading Public Library continuing as the District Center due to the fact the County Library System does a significant amount of the District Center functions. Everyone was in agreement that something drastic needs to happen soon in order for libraries to succeed. The Task Force committee reinforced that they are here to help. Also attending the meeting on behalf of the Task Force Committee: Heidi Williamson, Paul Roedel, and Carolyn Holleran.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:****Budget Department**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2011 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$11,278,009.00, 2011 Appropriations in the amount of \$400,000.00, 2012 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$11,706,773.00 and 2012 Appropriations in the amount of \$150,426.00 per listing dated April 13, 2012. Bob Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer, commented on a few of the items. Many of the items are related to separating the accounts of the Youth Detention Center and the ICE Family Shelter Program for better accounting purposes.

**Human Resources**

- A. Human Resource recommendations per list dated April 17, 2012. There are two items on the list for salary increases for Executive Assistants to the Commissioners. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that he is not supportive of the recommendations. He stated it has nothing to do with the individuals in the positions, but he does not feel that the job duties of these positions have changed. He stated that all Management/Confidential employees received a 3% increase this year and this is not a compression issue either. Additionally, he explained that he cannot support a salary increase when 42 positions were eliminated in the past year and 48 layoffs are occurring due to the closing of the Youth Detention Center. Commissioner Leinbach stated he is supportive of the salary increases because he feels the job duties have changed since the Chief Clerk position has been reduced to a part-time position. He states because of that, these positions have picked up additional duties.

**Emergency Services**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, State Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant Agreement with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$64,676.88.00 from the Hazardous Material Response Fund (HMRF) for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 to support the requirements of SARA, Title II and the Commonwealth's hazardous material safety program.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Access Easement between the County of Berks and the Berks County Redevelopment Authority (Klopp Easement) in regard the Berks County Emergency Response Radio Project-Bethel Site.

**Human Services**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Grant Application documents for the Child Care Subsidy Program with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for FY 2012/2013 in the amount of \$16,787,815.00.

**Election Services**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Distribution of HAVA Interest-1 Supplemental Budget form moving \$77,355.40 originally budgeted for *Improving Administration of Federal Elections* to be used for *Improving Voting Systems*.

**Solicitor**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and both voted to approved the item listed below.

- 121.12** A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Juvenile Detention Center Closing and Separation Agreement.

Alan S. Miller, Esq., County Solicitor, brought this item up from the floor to be voted on today. Arnel Wetzal, Jr., Human Resources Director, stated that this is the agreement that needs to be signed by the County and the AFSCME officials.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS****Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt does not feel the County should just put money into the Library issue, but should be working together with the Library Boards and the Task Force Committee.

**Commissioner Scott****Commissioner Leinbach**

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the recent passing of two local, influential individuals, Henry Bohn, Jr. and James Gallen. Commissioner Leinbach remarked that Mr. Bohn was a wonderful person and longtime active associate member of the Berks County Conservation District. He was a farmer and 30 years Berks County District Representative at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. James Gallen was a former representative of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislative District of State House of Representatives. Commissioner Leinbach remarked that Mr. Gallen's passing is the end of an era and he was the last of a

breed. Commissioner Leinbach extended his prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of both men.

Fred Sheeler made a comment about the article regarding mortgage foreclosures that was printed in today's Reading Eagle. He stated that deed recordings have increased and foreclosure filings have decreased compared with this time last year. Mr. Sheeler also noted that the article is deceiving because it discusses the newly created Mortgage Foreclosure Program which requires people to have been foreclosed on in order to participate in the program.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:23 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Kaitlin P. Daley, Deputy Chief Clerk