

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, July 17, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 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 Vice Chair Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Leinbach was attending the NACo conference in Pittsburgh and did not attend the meeting. Also present were County Solicitor Alan S. Miller, Chief Operating Officer Carl E. 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. Presentation

Judge Thomas Parisi presented a proclamation from Governor Tom Corbett proclaiming July 15-21, 2012 as "Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week" to Berks County Adult Probation Officers and Berks County Juvenile Probation Officers. Also present were members of the Pennsylvania State Office of Probation and Parole. Judge Parisi commented on the many duties and responsibilities of probation and parole officers and recognized their efforts in performing their duties. Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Scott acknowledged and thanked the Probation Officers for all their hard work and dedication.

III. Departmental Reports / Requests:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2012 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$112,779.00 and 2012 Appropriations in the amount **(\$11,420.00)** per listing dated July 13, 2012. Robert Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer, commented that five of the appropriation items are the movement of County general funds needed to supplement the reduction of State budget funds for Adult Probation Grant in Aid program. Mr. Patrizio commented this is just the beginning of fund allocation reduction from the State, and is one of the reasons the County may be looking at a tax increase next year. Commissioner Scott commented that these cuts are related to the Court Budget and that personnel and wages make up a huge percent of the County's budget. Commissioner Scott asked Mr. Patrizio what his thoughts are about the importance of future wage growth for County employees. Mr. Patrizio responded that to be fair to the taxpayers, his recommendation would be to have a 100% all employee wage freeze next year, but that may be impossible to implement due to collective bargaining agreements.

Human Resources

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resource Recommendations per list dated July 17, 2012. Commissioner Barnhardt commented on the one recommendation listed today.

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 July 16, 2012. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that there are 34 contracts listed today and mentioned the departments associated with the Contracts.

Solicitor

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair, to execute the Notice of Filing and the Declaration of Taking, and any and all documents associated with such action, of certain property situate along T-732, Perry Township, Berks County for expansion of the Berne Station Bridge, and further authorize the County Solicitor to file the Declaration of Taking. Commissioner Barnhardt commented this is a small piece of property needed for the bridge expansion project.

MH/DD

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Security Agreement between Greater Reading Mental Health Alliance (GRMHA) and the County of Berks, which is a component of the mortgage documents pertaining to a mortgage loan via Health Choices Reinvestment funds approved by the Commonwealth and provided to GRMHA for the purchase of an office building located at 1234 Penn Avenue, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. Dr. Michalik commented this is standard practice when merging 2 organizations by moving one facility to another. The State allows the expenditure of funds to both expand the program and promote certain goals within the organizations.

Recorder of Deeds

- A. Frederick Sheeler, Recorder of Deeds, presented a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to adopt a universal parcel identification system where all land related documents are filed with a unique number. Mr. Sheeler further commented that this proposed system must be done by an ordinance and would entail a new software system. Mr. Sheeler further commented the fee for certifying documents should be sufficient enough to pay for the new software system. Mr. Sheeler further commented he will meet with his Solicitor, himself and the Assessment Office and the other

departments who are related to this new system to write an ordinance to present to the Board of Commissioners.

IV. Reports of Commissioners

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of the following members to the Berks County Workforce Investment Board for three (3) year terms ending June 30, 2015:

John DeVere
Modesto Fiume
Kristi Gage-Linderman
William Hornberger
Albert Kramer
G. Fred Shaeff, Jr.
Anna Weitz

- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jenny Osborne, Executive Director of the Berks County Assistance Office, to the Berks County Workforce Investment Board for a three (3) year term ending June 30, 2015.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt announced the Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs will be closed next week for the relocation of the office to the BARTA Transportation Center, Cherry Street, Reading. The Office will reopen Monday, July 30, 2012.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Leinbach

V. Citizen Comments from the Floor

Mr. Edward Terrell attended the meeting and stated he last appeared about 2 months ago and spoke to Commissioners about the ongoing violence in the City of Reading. Mr. Terrell commented that since his last appearance there have been several more murders and shootings, and expressed concern for the safety of his grandson who will be returning to Reading from a summer break abroad. Mr. Terrell requested the Commissioners address the problem and requested the assistance of the National Guard to control the violence.

Commissioner Barnhardt advised Mr. Terrell that the Commissioners and the District Attorney frequently in the past offered assistance to the City, and just recently met with the Mayor to offer aid and assistance to the City. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that the County's offer of assistance is out there, and all the City has to do is ask.

Elected Official Comments

Sandy Graffius announced that the Controller's Office will soon be releasing a new report called FUFs (Friendly Understandable Financial Statement) which will be a financial statement to better educate the public on how County dollars are spent.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk