

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, August 7, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at 10:30 A.M. in the thirteenth floor Board Room of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Vice-Chair Thomas W. Gajewski, Sr. called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. Commissioner Judith Schwank was attending the County Commissioners of PA (CCAP) conference in York, PA.

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

II. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition to Barry Rohrbach and Joseph Periando, Board members of Crime Alert Berks County for the "Stop Dumping on Berks" program. The Commissioner also acknowledged and thanked the 41 municipalities that have adopted resolutions supporting the Stop Dumping on Berks County campaign as well as the other 11 that are proposing the same at future meetings.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department:

- A. Motion authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated August 6, 2007. Candy Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

Election Services:

- A. Adopt a resolution approving the execution of a Contract Agreement, by and between the County of Berks and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, HAVA Title II, Section 261, for funds to be used for improving polling place accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The amount of the grant is \$4,572.62. Deborah Olivieri, Director of Election Services, attended the meeting to discuss the grant.

At this time, Commissioner Gajewski recognized several members in the audience who wished to speak about HB 811, regarding voter verifiable paper audit trail.

Election Services continued:

Mark Drabinsky stated that he thinks that the Commissioners should support HR 811, and gave arguments based on information from the August 3, 2007 Reading Eagle recap of the Commissioners meeting.

Deborah Olivieri, Director of Election Services reiterated the length of time for certification by the state, the cost to upgrade the machines or purchase new machines, the cost and time to train the poll workers are the issues in question. Rough estimate of cost is \$3 million and that all of the above could be accomplished if the County chose to proceed, but the timing of this Bill requiring all of that to occur before the 2008 Election is where she feels the objection to this House Bill is focused.

Kathy Ember, president of Kutztown Democrats read a letter from Tom Herman, Chair of Berks County Democratic Party, encouraging the Commissioners to support the bill. She noted that the County Democrats support a voter verifiable paper audit trail.

Dorothy Reilly of Exeter Township complained that with the current system you only see red lights, you never see the actual vote on paper.

Ms. Olivieri restated that there is no issue with the request for a voter verifiable paper audit trail, she explained that the time frame allowed to implement it is what is creating the biggest issue coupled with the fact that no machines that could comply with this proposed Bill have been certified by the Department of State.

Emma Reilly of Exeter Township stated that the Commissioners need to figure out a way to get it done and stop delaying the decision.

Ron Stauffer of Mt. Penn suggested that Ms. Olivieri should consult with Mr. Drabinsky and use his knowledge and expertise. Ms. Olivieri stated that she already agreed to meet with him to discuss his points.

Donna Reed of Reading urged support of HB 811. She said that documentation is paramount and noted her experience with a previous election in which 4 city precincts had problems with lost votes and there was no backup system to verify the lost votes. She stated that as a former elected official, she fully understands the financial burden this change places on the taxpayer, but the trust in the election system is vital.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated August 7, 2007. HR Director Beth Schiepan and HR Generalist Shane Keller presented the recommendations.

Solicitor:

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks, Borough of Wyomissing, Wyomissing Area School District and JMH, Inc. concerning implementation of the Wyomissing Square Abatement Area.
- B. Resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and the Chiefs of Police of Greater Berks County concerning the County's one-time contribution to the Berks County Emergency Response Team.
- 227.07 C. Resolution approving a financing project by the Maxatawny Township Municipal Authority for a project for the benefit of Kutztown University Foundation, Inc. and Kutztown University to refinance outstanding debt of the University used for the various capital improvements at the University. ****Held until Thursday's meeting.****

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution designating the Berks County Industrial Development Authority to receive the State Local Economic Development Assistance funds for the 2007-2008 fiscal year in the amount of \$112,197.00.
- B. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of the State Food Purchase Program Plan of Operation for Berks County for State Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008; the State Purchase Option Request for Waiver, for FY2007 – 2008.

Commissioner Gajewski

Adopt Resolution appointing Carl Brown, Jr., Wyomissing, PA, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board to replace Nicholas Camacho who resigned.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott asked for an update on the Antietam Lake Eminent Domain action. Solicitor Miller reported that the final survey has been completed as required by DCNR, and should be received shortly. The settlement agreement has been sent out to all parties involved. As soon as the agreements are signed, disbursement of funds can happen.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk