

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 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 Chair Mark C. Scott called the meeting to order with Commissioner Christian Leinbach, and Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then asked for any public comments on the agenda items; Hearing none, the following departmental reports were presented:

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Agricultural Coordinator

Sheila Miller presented her monthly report which will be attached to these minutes.

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$13,370 and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$262,939 per listing dated January 11, 2008. Assistant Budget Director Kim Grinage presented the report.
- B. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq. as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Purchasing Department, per attached listing dated January 11, 2008. Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator, presented the list of contracts.

Conservation District

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Agreement No. FPM 08-01/02/03 with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of PA and further to authorize payment of the invoice for the 2008 Gypsy Moth Suppression program. John Ravert, Conservation District Manager attended the meeting to update the public on the 2008 program which proposes to spray 3,106 acres and will be funded by the property owners who requested that they be part of the 2008 program.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director, presented the January 14, 2008 list of Human Resource recommendations.

Human Services

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair of the Board, to execute TEFAP Inventory – Reimbursement Request Form for the period (October, November, and December) FFY 2007-2008, in the amount of \$6,921.98 for distributing 62,927.07 pounds of food at \$.11 per pound and to authorize Margaret Bianca, Executive Director, Greater Berks Food Bank for apply for the funds on behalf of Berks County.

Treasurer

- A. Resolution authorizing Berks County Treasurer to make twelve monthly retirement fund (ARC) contributions to the Berks County Retirement Fund estimated total \$6,325,000 to the end of December 2008.

V. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report and asked Bob Hardner to provide the board with an update of the financial management package and the recommendations for a vendor. Bob Hardner, ERP Project Manager and Interim IS Director, informed the board the committee will begin final contract negotiations with Oracle Corporation. He informed the board that the Oracle product had a stronger overall functionality specifically in the areas of general ledger/chart of accounts, grants and projects and procurement. He added that the selection committee also felt that Oracle provides the county with a longer term solution taking us beyond 10 years and positioning us to provide eGovernment capabilities. He then said that the cost of the Oracle solution is \$7.5M over 10 years, while Lawson was \$1.5M less over a 10 year horizon.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing rescinding of Resolution 354-07 concerning the allocation of \$625,000 to the RiverPlace Development Corp. Commissioner Barnhardt expressed concerns for the process, not the concept, of this Amphitheater project. He pointed to the many unanswered questions regarding ownership and long term maintenance costs; the difficult budget demands in the future for the County; the fact that the County's extensive Parks and Recreation Greenway plan doesn't address this proposal as a projected plan or community need causes him to support rescinding the financial commitment for this project as it is currently presented. Commissioner Leinbach agreed and added that a more clearly defined strategy and prioritization of Economic Development plans for the Community need to be considered.

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS CONTINUED:

He felt this was a responsible decision that was not intended to be a negative reflection on the concept of an Amphitheater project. Commissioner Scott agreed by adding that projects need to fit as a component part of a multi-municipal improvement plan that could possibly include the Main Street projects, the Tourism Bureau, RiverPlace Development Corporation and the Convention Center Authority

COMMISSIONER LEINBACH

- A. Adopt a resolution re-appointing James Adams, Reading, PA to the Berks County Industrial Development Authority for a five year term ending 12/31/2012. Commissioner Leinbach said that in the interest of full disclosure, Mr. Adams was his former employer at West Lawn Graphic. He then committed that it will be his practice to not make politically motivated appointments. He said his appointments will be made with consultation and recommendations from the various board's department head or executive director.

COMMISSIONER BARNHARDT

- A. Resolution to appoint Maureen (Kelly) Mileski to the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals for a four year term, replacing Arthur White, whose term expired. Ms. Mileski's term will end 12/31/2011.
- B. Commissioner Barnhardt requested a discussion for the \$87,452 proposal by the Police Executive research Forum (PERF) for a county wide police services evaluation. Commissioner Leinbach stated his support to move ahead and form a task force with a facilitator in an attempt to assure buy-in by the local law enforcement community before any additional steps are taken. Commissioner Scott discussed the previous two years of meetings with the local law enforcement task force that he believed resulted in this proposal. He said that he believes this study is warranted and should include taking inventory of existing services and offering possible alternatives including possible legislation that would permit counties to implement those alternatives. He said he would support proceeding with the study as a second step and allow the third step to be the establishment of a new task force to evaluate the results and or recommendations of the study. Commissioner Barnhardt said he was aware that we are limited by statute on certain consolidation initiatives but this study may provide the legislators with the information to proceed with that possible legislative change.

COMMISSIONER SCOTT

- A. Adopt a resolution to appoint Lloyd Hopkins, Oley, PA, to a 4 year term on the Berks County Planning Commission Board to replace David Thun, whose term expired in 2005. Mr. Hopkins' term will expire on 12/31/2009. Commissioner Scott expressed his appreciation for Mr. Thun's 10 years of dedication with the County Planning Commission as he oversaw the development and completion of the Vision 20/20 Comprehensive Plan as well as his dedication to farmland preservation.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk