

Commissioners' Board Meeting February 7, 2008

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 7, 2008, at 10:30 A.M. in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor 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 the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq., and County Administrator William E. Dennis.

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Barnhardt made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach to approve the January 29, 2007 Commissioner Workshop minutes and the January 31, Commissioners meeting minutes, all voted yes to approve.

Consent Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 40.08 A. Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement (subject to final review by the County Solicitor) between the County of Berks and T-Mobile USA, Inc. to vacate radio spectrum licensed to the County in return for payment from T-Mobile for the design and implementation of a replacement point-to-point microwave radio system for the County of Berks Radio System.
 - 41.08 B. Resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$689,218, and 2008 Appropriations in the amount of \$30,000 per listing dated February 1, 2008.
 - 42.08 C. Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement between the Berks County Children and Youth Services and the Berks County Court of Common Pleas for the provision of court-appointed counsel to indigent parents. The terms of the agreement are from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.
 - 43.08 D. Resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute a three (3) yr. grant agreement for Time Limited Family Reunification Funds providing \$215,000 per year beginning FY 2008 (July 1).

- 44.08 E. Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement for the review of the Cabot Supermetals Air Quality Plant-wide Applicability Limit (PAL) Permit, as proposed on Liberty proposal No. P080026 in an amount not to exceed \$4,600. * ***Cabot discussion below***
- 45.08 F. Resolution reappointing John T. Connelly to a 5 year term on the Berks County Municipal Authority, ending 1/2/2013.
- 46.08 G. Resolution appointing Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt to serve as a county representative to the Hamburg TIF Committee
- 47.08 H. Resolution appointing Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach to serve on the Berks County 4H Development Board

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA presented the weekly Treasurer's report.
2. County Controller Sandy Graffius presented the weekly Controller's report.

* ***Cabot discussion*** – Commissioner Leinbach said that he felt it was important to obtain information from all sides of any issue in order to make an informed decision. He reported that he spoke with the Regional Air Quality Manager with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and with Tim Knapp at Cabot Supermetals and with Craig Hafer from the Berks Environmental Advisory Council (BEAC) and reflected on what he believed to be the importance of bringing things to the public view. He then said that he would be very concerned with any firm operating in the county that would be reluctant to do the same.

Commissioner Scott then read a letter from Cabot Supermetals that among other points urged the board to allow the PADEP to provide the environmental oversight in place of the County's expenditure of funds for additional environmental consultants.

Commissioner Barnhardt said he agreed with the need for an open process and to allow the BEAC to provide the first review in these environmental projects, but cautioned that not every piece of correspondence may be intended for public discourse.

Tim Knapp, Environmental Manager with the Cabot Corporation described their 2004 Air Quality permit application as one that intended to provide flexibility to the facility with the ups and downs of the economy and by example stated that they were only operating at 50% at the current time. He said that Cabot makes continuous environmental improvements in the facility and the permit application provides lower permit limitations than what is permitted in the facilities existing permits.

Commissioner Scott agreed with obtaining all necessary information and supported moving forward with the Liberty Environmental contract saying that the expenditure of \$4,600 would provide a complimentary set of eyes for the PADEP. He then assured Mr. Knapp that the County recognized Cabot Supermetals as a premier employer for the Boyertown community and has no desire to aggressively inhibit their operation

Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Barnhardt reported on a grant application with the Department of Community Development through the Shared Municipal Services Grant program whereby the county may be able to obtain 50% funding for the Countywide Police Services Study. He reported that the District Attorney is willing to submit the grant application on behalf of the county noting that if awarded the funds are projected to be \$48,492 and are anticipated to be awarded on April 15, 2008. Following the award of the funds, he suggested that the County proceed with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) proposal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:28 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk