

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, March 4, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 4, 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. The Commissioner then announced that the board would meet in executive session this afternoon to discuss contract negotiations.

II. PRESENTATION

Janice Kingkinger, Veterans Affairs Director, presented an updated Veteran's Transportation Policy. She also announced the need for volunteer drivers, saying that they need a valid drivers' license and insurance coverage as well as a background check to drive the Veterans Van located at the Veterans Affairs Office. She then encouraged volunteers to call Veterans' Affairs at 610-378-5601, X8154 to for more information. Bob Howell, Commander of the Combined Veterans Council attended the meeting saying he would report back to the Commissioners with any feedback he received from his organizations members regarding this policy update.

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$39,978.00 per listing dated February 29, 2008. Budget Director Bob Patrizio presented the report.
- B. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated March 3, 2008. Purchasing Manager Kelly Laubauch presented the list for the Contract Coordinator.

Engineering

- A. Adopt a resolution to Award and Execute Engineering Agreement No. 057008 between the County of Berks and Transystems/Lichtenstein for Buttonwood Street Bridge. County Engineer Bill Westcott explained the agreement to provide engineering services would most likely result in recommendations for repair of the bridge rather than replacement.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director, presented the March 4, 2008 list of Human Resource recommendations.

III. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report which is attached.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Commissioner Leinbach introduced Frank Gilyard and Hilda Letman as members of the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum organization and Sime Bertolet of the Berks County Historical Society to discuss Berks County's first Underground Railroad Tour scheduled from 9 AM to 2PM on April 26th.
- B. Commissioner Leinbach discussed a program called TeamChildren.com located in Audubon, PA. He said this program operates as a non-profit organization that collects, repairs, and distributes low cost refurbished computers to families, schools, and organizations.
- C. Commissioner Leinbach introduced Kim Livingood and Eddie Bates as representatives of Reading Area Community College who discussed the college's work study program. Ms. Livingood explained that this grant funded program provides a paycheck and real working experience for those eligible students. She said that along with all non-profits, the County is eligible to participate in this program.
- D. Commissioner Leinbach presented a list of names proposed for membership on the Green Team Task Force.
- E. Adopt a resolution Re-appointing Robert Ludgate to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a three year term ending 12/31/2010.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Adopt a resolution re-appointing Virginia Miller, Wyomissing, PA, to the Children & Youth Services Advisory Board for a three year term ending 12/31/2010.
- B. Commissioner Barnhardt proposed that the Commissioners consider rescinding Resolution 181.06 regarding the County's distribution of State Liquid Fuels Funds suggesting that the board formalize the intent of reserving these funds for repair and replacement of the County's 62 bridges.

Commissioner Barnhardt continued:

- C. Commissioner Barnhardt proposed that the board formally place a moratorium on new spending and a freeze on current spending for the section two and three of the Natural Land, Farmland and Open Space Conservation Program involving the funding of the Municipal Land Protection Program and the Private Conservation Organization Grants, until an accurate assessment has been performed for the financial needs of the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department. Following that assessment, funds could be earmarked for the County Parks system and any that remain could then be reallocated to this Open Space program allocation.

Larry Lloyd of the Berks Conservancy presented comments on the Conservancy's history of involvement with the County and the Municipalities regarding open space preservation. He also offered the conservancy's services suggesting that the County develop a Greenway Plan Task Force that could evaluate the use of the remaining funds of the Open Space bond issue towards the development of the County Greenway.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott proposed for adoption, a resolution enacting a public comment policy for Commissioners meetings.
- B. Commissioner Scott then presented for discussion a \$4,500 consultation proposal by Liberty Environmental, Inc. to review and comment on the air permit application submitted by Lehigh Cement Company to burn bio-solids at their cement plant in Evansville, Maiden Creek Township, Berks County. The Commissioner discussed a project in Exeter Township where the Township has been considering a proposal that would clean the sludge from its sewage treatment plant and turn it into pellets such as the ones Lehigh Cement is proposing to use, he said that this is not an aggressive effort to hamper their operations, but gain an understanding of the technology the Lehigh Cement Company wishes to use at the Maiden Creek facility.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk