

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting March 27, 2008**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 27, 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 March 18, 2008 Commissioner workshop minutes and the March 20, 2008 Commissioners meeting minutes, all voted yes to approve.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

- I. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
  - 91.08 A. Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$11,298,120 per listing dated March 20, 2008.
  - 92.08 B. Resolution authorizing execution of a grant agreement and payment requisition on behalf of the Court of Common Pleas, Berks County with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for \$80,000 grant to fund the Graffiti Abatement Program for a three year period beginning in July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.
  - 93.08 C. Resolution approving the 2009-2011 Allocation Policy for the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program, and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funds.
  - 94.08 D. Resolution authorizing the District Attorney's office to apply for the Domestic Violence (STOP) Grant, in the amount of \$92,927, for the period of 7/1/08 to 6/30/09.
  - 95.08 E. Resolution to execute Amendment No. 3 of HAVA Title II, Section 261, Fiscal Year 2008 Grant award, in the amount of \$6,276.09. These funds are being used to improve polling place accessibility.

- 96.08 F. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated March 25, 2008.
- 97.08 G. Resolution to appoint Tony J. Sacco, Wyomissing, PA to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for a 4 year term ending 12/31/2010, replacing Ruth Baker, whose term expired.
2. 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 20, 2007.
3. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach with all voting yes to include Part Time employees into the County's Employee Recognition program receptions and eligible to receive the Five Year Pin awards.

### **Reports**

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA presented the weekly Treasurer's report.
2. Mark Hanson, Chief Deputy Controller presented the weekly Controller's report for County Controller Sandy Graffius.

### **Business from the floor**

Commissioner Scott asked Duane Rashlich to attend the meeting for additional discussion on the Act 319 Clean and Green property assessments and the rates per acre used in setting those assessments. Rates per acre for preferentially assessed land are developed by the Penn. Department of Agriculture assisted by Penn State University. Mr. Rashlich explained that by statute, the Assessor acting under the direction of the County Board of Assessment Appeals is responsible for implementing those rates. He stated the Assessment Board Solicitor has interpreted the term Assessor to mean the Board of Assessment. He stated that he is acting under the direction of his Assessment Board who by law has the responsibility of processing all applications for preferential assessments and to administer the program. He explained that if the Berks County Grange members had received information from other counties regarding this process, it was possible that those counties were of a 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> class where the Board of Commissioners actually serves as the Board of Assessment Appeals. It was further discussed that the board of Assessment Appeals holds public meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month at 9:30 AM. At the boards monthly meeting they will adopt the Clean & Green rates per acre following the receipt of information from the Penn Dept. of Agriculture; and those meetings usually occur during August or September. The meetings are in June or July, not Aug or Sept as I had stated

Commissioner Leinbach provided the board with copies of House Bill 1438 and House Bill 1439 which he explained deals with the issue faced by the Lammers in Kutztown and discussed at the Tuesday March 25, Commissioners Workshop meeting.

Commissioner Scott announced that the board held two executive sessions, one on March 24<sup>th</sup> for personnel discussions and one of March 25<sup>th</sup> for real estate negotiations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk