

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, April 1, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 1, 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 Kevin Barnhardt in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. Commissioner Christian Leinbach did not attend the meeting as he was attending the County Commissioners of Pennsylvania Spring Conference.

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

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$75,000 per listing dated March 28, 2008. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, 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 28, 2008.

Emergency Management Agency

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$3,160.00, as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to be used toward hazardous materials planning.
- B. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$8,764.00 as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to conduct training activities.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director, presented the April 1, 2008 list of Human Resource recommendations.

Mental Health/Mental Retardation

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Supplemental Resolution and Agreement for the period of July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. Dr. Ed Michalik attended the meeting to discuss these agreements.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of a lease agreement between the County of Berks and Directlink Realty L.P. effective July 1, 2008 for premises located at 2561 Bernville Road, Reading, PA, for the purpose of relocating the Berks County Emergency Management Agency and Berks County 911 operations.

V. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented a map and floor plan of the Directlink building proposed for the relocation of the Emergency Management Agency and Countywide Communications departments. He said that the expected timeframe for these departments to move is July through August of 2008 with a final transition of the 9-1-1 center in September. He indicated that this 10 year lease would not commence until the move in date and that the annual operating budget for 2008 was \$369,000. Commissioner Scott expressed appreciation for Mr. Albert Boscov, who heads up the Direct Link Partnership, for their cooperation and lease terms saying that this facility and all it will be able to provide represents a bargain for the county.

Administrator Dennis also reported that the City of Reading is interested in taking over the Local Redevelopment Authority for the Naval Marine Reserve Center and that a draft letter to the Office of Economic Adjustment is proposed for approval by the Commissioners. It was explained that the current parties that have filed a notice of interest in the facility, namely Berks Women in Crisis and Mary's Shelter, will remain part of the program as will a grant agreement from the Department of Defense which is proposed to provide funds for a professional consultant to facilitate the city with this project.

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

- A. Adopt a resolution to appoint Mitchell R. Darcourt to the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals to replace Anthony Carabello for a four year term ending 12/31/2011.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that the Graffiti Abatement program recently undertaken by the County is already working with officials in Kutztown.
- B. The Commissioner also expressed appreciation for Deb Olivieri and her staff in the Election Services department for the extra efforts, hard work and overtime required to ensure that all the additional and last minute voter registration applications for this Presidential Primary Election were entered on time.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott responded to a recent editorial in the Reading Eagle that offered "suggestions" to the Commissioners regarding the process for acquiring the Hay Creek Trail. He asked First Assistant Solicitor Christine Sadler to acknowledge that the County's acquisition process already incorporates all of those suggestions such as attempts that have been made to relocate the trail for property owners adversely affected by it; Atty. Sadler explained that the abandoned Rail Right of Way has already been surveyed and made part of an agreement between the County and PennDot, so any change in the location outside of that area will require more surveying and additional cost, but where it has been deemed necessary to reduce the impact on an abutting property owner, the county has agreed to do so. Another comment surrounded litter and vandalism, which according to Atty. Sadler appeared to be at a minimum during the recent tour conducted by the county. She also noted that upon ownership of the easement by the county, access to the trail will be controlled and active patrols will reduce the littering. The final suggestion offered by the editorial was to purchase easements rather than acquiring title for the property. Atty. Sadler said that the county's only intent was to purchase easements even if the decision is made to proceed with eminent domain, those proceedings will be for the taking of an easement.

Commissioner Barnhardt reviewed a letter from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural resources that supported the county's endeavors in the Hay Creek Trail acquisition. He also stated that abutting property owner's property value has historically shown to increase in value when located nearby publicly owned trails. He ended by saying that he will need additional information and research before decided to move in the condemnation process.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk