

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, April 15, 2008**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 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.

### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

Gavin Biebuyck of Liberty Environmental Consultants Inc. presented the Berks County Air Monitoring Website which he described as the result of an effort between the County, Kutztown University Foundation and the **Pennsylvania Institute for Children's Environmental Health** (The Institute). He reported this web site differs dramatically from other air monitoring web sites and thanks to the web designers and technicians at the Reading Eagle (the site host) it is simple to navigate and contains easily understood information regarding air quality in the County as well as access to the DEP monitoring sites in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Mr. Biebuyck said that the web site displays real time results of air monitoring equipment installed by the Institute in Kutztown and the DEP site installed at the Reading Airport. He said that the web site for the Air Quality information is [www.Picehair.org](http://www.Picehair.org) and the web site address for the Institute is [www.Piceh.org](http://www.Piceh.org). In response to questions from the commissioners about other County locations for air monitoring, Mr. Biebuyck responded by saying that the Institute hopes to purchase mobile air monitoring equipment which may be better able remove certain areas of the County from the Non-attainment status. Craig Hafer, President of the Institute suggested that the majority of the air pollution is not generated in Berks County but is migrating from other areas of the region. Gavin Biebuyck suggested that coal fired power plants in the Ohio Valley contribute most of the pollution in the Northeastern United States and this region captures it due to its topography and meteorological conditions.

### **Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$96,962 and 2008 Appropriations in the amount of **(\$143,268)** per listing dated April 11, 2008. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.

**Budget Department continued:**

- B. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq. as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator Candace Noll, per attached listing dated April 14, 2008.
- C. Kelly Laubach Purchasing Manager presented the request for a resolution for recommendation to award, as a result of Invitation to Bid #07-07-MB, a contract for repair and reconstruction of various sections of stone masonry wall along Skyline Drive on Mt. Penn within the City of Reading, Alsace and Lower Alsace Townships.

The award shall be made to the following vendor;

Professional Construction Contractors  
 4220 Myriah Court  
 Bethlehem, PA 18020  
**\$234,780.00**

	Linear Feet	Unit Cost	Award Total	County Appropriation of Liquid Fuels	City/Municipal Contribution	Pagoda Skyline Contribution	Contribution Total
Alsace Township	223	\$ 172.00	\$ 38,356.00	\$ 19,460.00	\$ 19,000.00		\$ 38,460.00
City of Reading	320	\$ 172.00	\$ 55,040.00	\$ 20,090.00	\$ 34,950.00		\$ 55,040.00
Lower Alsace Township	822	\$ 172.00	\$ 141,384.00	\$ 116,550.00		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 141,550.00
	1365		\$ 234,780.00	\$ 156,100.00	\$ 53,950.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 235,050.00

As approved by the respective city/municipality in conjunction with the project manager additions to the linear footage can be made in accordance with the Invitation to Bid. All such additions shall be billed at the linear foot rate herein.

**Community Development:**

- A. Adopt a banking resolution to establish a new bank account for the Community Development Rehabilitation Escrow account.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated April 15, 2008, were presented by Shane Keller, HR Generalist.

**Solicitor**

- A. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Alfred Crump, Esq. as special counsel to the County of Berks to handle Children and Youth Services legal matters on an as needed basis for \$175 per hour as directed by the Solicitor's Office.

**IV. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report, attached.

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

- A. Commissioner Leinbach said he would draft a letter of support for the Berks County Emergency Response Team to solicit funds from local businesses.
- B. Commissioner Leinbach reported on a recent tour of the Antietam Lake property he took with Councilwoman Hinnershitz and Councilman Sterner and suggested that the funds considered for the Hay Creek Trail could be redirected towards this wonderful County owned open space park.
- C. Commissioner Leinbach reported that the Commissioners have received requests for the installation of Prisoner of War flags to be hung on County Buildings.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt reported on recent Jail Reform Legislation in House Bills 4, 5, 6 & 7 which he suggested will help the Community Re-entry program and thanked Representative Tom Caltagirone for his leadership on these bills.
- B. Commissioner Barnhardt suggested that the Commissioners formalize the internal decision to dispense with the ceremonial presentation of Proclamations and Certificates of Recognition at the Commissioners business meetings but to continue the practice of presenting them at gatherings when and where appropriate, the other Commissioners agreed.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott asked the County Controller to continue with regular audits of certain landfills that have escalator clauses in the County settlement agreements, to determine if the County is receiving its entire portion of the tipping fees.
- B. Commissioner Scott said that he agreed with Commissioner Leinbach that the Antietam Lake property is a jewel and worthy of improvements but the Hay Creek Trail offers a different kind of recreation as a linear park and the Hay Creek property's location will serve a more rural population rather than Antietam which connects to the City of Reading.

***VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR***

Mary Ann Ciarlone, resident of Reading strongly urged the Commissioners to avoid any development of a local Human Relations Commission. She then related a lengthy and costly experience she had with a false claim filed against her that went before the Reading Human Relations Commissioner and ended up in Federal Court before she was able to have the charges dropped.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk