

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, May 6, 2008**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 6, 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.

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$77,750.00 per listing dated May 2, 2008. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.
- 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 May 2, 2008.

**9-1-1 Countywide Communications:**

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement between the Commonwealth of PA, PA State Police and the County of Berks to compensate the County in the amount of \$19,000 to cover the costs related to the discontinuance of the use of the Co-Sharing Radio and Microwave Facilities identified as Path 23, L04-1L02 Port Clinton Remote to Reading Remote and the early termination of the microwave service and for subsequent comparable replacement costs of these facilities which the county agrees to vacate by May 31, 2008.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Beth Schiepan, HR Director presented the Human Resource recommendations list dated May 6, 2008.
- B. Sue Schucker, HR Generalist, presented the proposed Employment Process Policy, Notary Policy, and revision of Fraud and Other Similar Irregularities Policy for Commissioners to consider for Thursdays' meeting.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness, including any interest and penalties for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2008 to the Berks County Conservancy for the following properties situate at or about Neversink Mountain, City of Reading:
- a) Property I.D. 16-5316-10-36-6037, S. 16th Street, Reading; approximately 12.340 acres
  - b) Property I.D. 16-5316-40-46-4488, 1700 Highland Street, Reading; approximately .690 acres
  - c) Property I.D. 16-5316-40-46-4216, 729 S. 17th Street, Reading; approximately .040 acres
  - d) Property I.D. 16-5316-40-36-9531, 1600 Highland Street, Reading; approximately 13.680 acres

**III. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report, attached.

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

- A. Commissioner Leinbach asked Craig Breneiser, Director of 9-1-1 to give a brief update to the commissioners on the status of the alert-paging project. Following his presentation, the Commissioners agreed to provide whatever support it takes for Mr. Breneiser to bring this project to completion.
- B. Commissioner Leinbach reported that he would be testifying in Harrisburg before the Senate Finance Committee to support **Senate Bills No. 1247 and 1258 of House Bills No. 1438 and 1439** that if voted into law will restrict the ability of School Districts and Municipalities to file assessment appeals for individual properties based on recent sale prices. If passed, the law would state that claims could be made only when a property is subdivided or physical improvements to the properties are made. He said these proposed bills would provide the legislation necessary to amend a little used 1940 law that permits School Districts and Municipalities to reassess individual properties for a higher assessment when the sale of a property is significantly higher than that property's assessed valuation. He referred to the Lammers who attended the March 25, 2008 Commissioners' Workshop Meeting with regard to this action being taken by the Kutztown School District. He indicated that the Lammers will be accompanying him for the testimony.

**Commissioner Leinbach continued:**

Commissioner Scott made some suggestions for better clarification of the language in these bills asking whether the law could be written to provide some assistance to tax payers who've previously been reassessed by this provision in recent years. He also indicated interest in refunding the portion of the county real estate taxes that property owners similar to the Lammers were forced to pay with this unfair process undertaken by school districts. Solicitor Miller was asked to look into the legality and ramifications of the Commissioners taking action on Commissioner Scott's suggestion.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

**Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott reported that he spoke with the former owner of the East Penn Railway saying that he will be proposing a letter regarding the abandonment of this railroad and existing bridges.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk