

Commissioners' Board Meeting May 8, 2008

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 8, 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 Leinbach made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt to approve the April 29, 2008 Commissioner workshop minutes and the May 1, 2008 Commissioners meeting minutes, all voted yes to approve.

Consent Agenda Items

Commissioner Barnhardt made a motion to approve both the non-consent and the consent agenda items, Commissioner Leinbach seconded the motion and all voted yes to approve the following:

- 128.08 A. Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$77,750.00 per listing dated May 2, 2008.
- 129.08 B. 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.
- 130.08 C. Resolution authorizing the Human Resource Recommendations per list dated May 6, 2008.
- 131.08 D. Resolution enacting the amendments of the Berks County Human Resource Policy sections 3.6 Employment Process Policy; 15.6 Notary Policy; and revision of 15.4 Fraud and Other Similar Irregularities Policy.

- 132.08 E. 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:
1. Property I.D. 16-5316-10-36-6037, S. 16th Street, Reading; approximately 12.340 acres
 2. Property I.D. 16-5316-40-46-4488, 1700 Highland Street, Reading; approximately .690 acres
 3. Property I.D. 16-5316-40-46-4216, 729 S. 17th Street, Reading; approximately .040 acres
 4. Property I.D. 16-5316-40-36-9531, 1600 Highland Street, Reading; approximately 13.680 acres.

Non-Consent Agenda:

- 133.08 F. Resolution authorizing the ACH (Automated Clearing House) payments from the County General Fund as required by Department of Public Welfare as part of the Berks Heim Nursing Home Assessment Report. The payments will be computed by the Berks Heim business office in accordance with the DPW Regulations as schedules.
2. Motion authorizing a letter of support for a Keystone Innovation Grant by Penn State Berks on behalf of the Five Institutes of Higher Education in Berks County.
 3. 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 May 2, 2008.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA presented the weekly Treasurer's report.
2. Deputy County Controller Mark Hansen presented the weekly Controller's report.

Business from the Floor

Commissioner Barnhardt reported on a recent Parks and Recreation Board meeting where he spoke to representatives of the Lenape Nation of Indians (who want to utilize a county-owned farmhouse located in the County's north campus area in Bern Township and turn it into a tribal center and museum) cautioning them that they should move slowly regarding the use of County Facilities, as no decision to allow the building to be used as a museum has been decided.

Commissioner Scott added that the County needs to guard the use of the property on the North Campus thus assuring expansion area for County Government uses. Commissioner Leinbach agreed and said that while the Lenape Indians played an important part in history, he will not support the Commissioners entering into the museum business. Commissioner Scott added that the best and most efficient way to handle these museum requests is to suggest that they partner with the Berks Historical Society and or the Reading Museum to plan for special, seasonal exhibits in cooperation with those established and experienced organizations.

Commissioner Barnhardt encouraged the board to set a time to decide the future of the Hay Creek Trail project.

Commissioner Scott presented a draft contract to the board representing a proposal from Wheeler Environmental to perform professional consultations and reviews of all permit applications filed in Berks County for \$100 per hour, thus replacing the BEAC (Berks Environmental Advisory Committee) Permit Review Committee. When asked by Commissioner Leinbach, Commissioner Scott reported that the BEAC and the Permit Review Chair, Craig Hafer support this change. Following a conversation regarding the credentials and reputation of Mr. Wheeler, Commissioner Leinbach commended Commissioner Scott on his work for this contract and made a motion to approve the contract, the motion was seconded by Kevin Barnhardt and all voted yes to approve. The board indicated that a separate discussion and possible action will take place at a future board meeting regarding the County's Permit Review Policy adopted in 2005.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk