

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2008**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 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. Commissioner Christian Leinbach was attending a seminar. 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**

2008 Community Development Contest - Ken Pick, Berks County Community Development Director brought the names of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) contest entrants for his department's public awareness campaign designed to highlight the Berks County projects funded with CDBG funds. Commissioner Scott drew the first two names and Commissioner Barnhardt drew the next two of the following winners:

**First Prize** – Two season tickets to the Reading Royals Hockey Team – Wendy Miller of Boyertown

**Second Prize** – Two season tickets to the Reading Phillies Baseball Team – Allen Hummel of Reading

**Third Prize** – Two season tickets to the Reading Railers Basketball Team – Mike Reinert of Oley

**Fourth Prize** - \$200 event gift certificate to the Sovereign Center - Cindy Reppert of Wyomissing

### **III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

#### **Adult Probation**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution and the submission of an Intermediate Punishment plan in accordance with Act 200-41 to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency pursuant to the 2008-2009 grant funding cycle.

**Agricultural Coordinator:**

- A. Ag. Coordinator Sheila Miller provided a report of her activities and introduced Diana Heffner, President of the Kempton Fair who discussed the details of the fair to be held during the week of June 10-14, 2008; Mrs. Miller announced that in addition to the Kempton Fair other fairs include the 154 year old Reading Fair running from August 4-9, the 103 year old Kutztown Fair running from August 11-16, and finally Oley Valley Community Fair from September 18-20. She said that Pennsylvania is home to 117 county and community fairs with an estimated 6 million people attending these events each summer noting that these fairs are a social and education hub for the farm community and a place where the non-farm neighbors can learn more about agriculture while having fun.
- B. Mrs. Miller then introduced Kutztown University's professor emeritus, Robert Ensminger who presented Commissioner Scott with his book entitled, The Pennsylvania Barn Book and talked about the upcoming National Barn Conference on June 5-7 at Kutztown University. For more information on the conference, go to [www.pahistoricbarns.org](http://www.pahistoricbarns.org). Mrs. Miller said that this will be the first time the conference will be held in Berks County.

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$83,000 per listing dated May 15, 2008.
- 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 May 9, 2008.

**Community Development:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Ken Pick, Community Development Director to execute an agreement and application for \$1,000,000 in funding from the PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RCAP) Act 83 of 2006 for redevelopment of the Wyomissing Square in the Borough of Wyomissing. Ken Pick explained that this project involves the property including the former Rockwell Industrial site and the current VIVA Bistro and is slated to include apartments, a hotel and retail space.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement for the County of Berks to participate in the Borough of Hamburg's Grand Street Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Project and to allocate 100% of the county's share of the Tax Increment to the Authority for the TIF District. Commissioner Barnhardt who serves on the TIF committee representing the County, asked about the funding proposal by Hamburg School District and was informed that the school district has asked for an 80/20 split in the tax increment, taking 20% of the incremental tax increase and providing 80% of the school districts tax incremental increase towards the project.

Mr. Pick indicated that by taking this action it may increase the project payment scheduled to 20 years.

**Court Administrator:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the opening of a checking account at National Penn Bank for the sole purpose of depositing electronic monitoring fees from adult probationers/parolees, to pay other costs associated with the electronic monitoring program and to refund prepaid amounts to adult probationers/parolees and further to authorize transfer \$78,332.59 from the County General fund to such account.

**Election Services:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing an Amended Grant Agreement between the County of Berks and the Department of State, Commonwealth of PA, Bureau of Commissioners, Elections and legislation to receive an additional \$148,261.80 from the HAVA (Help America to Vote Act) funds. Debbie Olivieri, Director of Elections presented the grant amendment request.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. The Human Resource Recommendation list dated May 13, 2008 was presented by the County Administrator.

**Mental Health/Mental Retardation Administrator:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing acceptance of capitation rates as proposed by the PA Department of Public Welfare for the Berks County Health Choices program. Dr. Ed Michalik attended the meeting.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the 2009/2012 Mental Health/Mental Retardation Health Plan.

**Office of Aging:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq., as Chairman of the Board, to execute the revised FY2007/08 Aging Block Grant Application in the amount of \$7,816,662. Commissioner Scott announced that our Office of Aging Director, Barb Coffin was recently honored with the 2008 Centro Hispano Amigo Award, recognizing her commitment to the Reading/Berks Latino senior community, through her long and strong relationship with Casa De La Amistad Senior Center which celebrates its 20th anniversary.

**Recorder of Deeds report**

- A. Fred Sheeler, Berks County Recorder of Deeds presented the Commissioners with a report on the deed and mortgage activity in Berks County from 2003 to the present indicating the economic downturn of the real estate market. The report will be attached to the minutes.

**Solicitor:**

- A. Resolution authorizing advertisement of Ordinance No. 1 for the purpose of the County entering into an intergovernmental agreement for the purpose of joining other municipalities as a member of the Berks County Emergency Response Team (BCERT).

**IV. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report which is attached to these minutes.

**V. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

- A. Adopt a resolution naming a representative of a 1st class Township to serve on the RATS (Reading Area Transportation Study) Coordinating Committee.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt made a motion to support the request of the Conservation District for the Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited's grant application to the PA Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener program for the restoration of the stream banks in the Tulpehocken Creek in Marion Township. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion and it was approved.
- B. Commissioner Barnhardt referred to correspondence he had received regarding the authenticity of organizations claiming to be affiliated with the Lenape Indian tribe and whether these organizations are certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Commissioner Scott**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk