

Commissioners' Board Meeting May 15, 2008

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 15, 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 Barnhardt made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2008 Commissioners' Workshop, the May 7, 2008 Special Commissioners' meeting, and May 8, 2008 Commissioners' meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted yes to approve.

Consent Agenda Items

- I. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 134.08 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
 - 135.08 B. Resolution authorizing 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$83,000 per listing dated May 15, 2008.
 - 136.08 C. 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.
 - 137.08 D. 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.

- 138.08 E. 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.
- 139.08 F. 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.
- 140.08 G. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated May 13, 2008.
- 141.08 H. Resolution authorizing acceptance of capitation rates as proposed by the PA Department of Public Welfare for the Berks County Health Choices program.
- 142.08 I. Resolution authorizing the execution of the 2009/2012 Mental Health/Mental Retardation Health Plan.
- 143.08 J. 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.
- 144.08 K. 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).
- 145.08 L. Resolution appointing a representative of a 1st class Township to serve on the Reading Area Transportation Study Coordinating Committee (RATS) Commissioner Barnhardt made a motion to amend this resolution to appoint Mike Malinowski from Muhlenberg Township, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted yes to amend this resolution
2. 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 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.
Citizen Comment / Business from the Floor

Commissioners Leinbach and Barnhardt reported on the status of several pending State House and Senate bills.

Lorna Oswalt, AFSME Local #462 Steward spoke for the other representatives from Career Link including Karen Deitrich Schwartz, Maggie Ortego and Cheryl Breedy who attended the meeting to express concern to the Commissioners over the consideration for privatization study for the Career Link Office. Ms. Oswalt said that the Berks Career Link office is one of the premier job centers in the state and asked the Commissioners to look into other options for the County.

Commissioner Leinbach said there is no study underway as the Commissioners are still awaiting a recommendation from the WIB (Workforce Investment Board.) He asked Jennifer Biehn from Human Resources to contact Career Link Administrator, Ed McCann prior to the meeting and she reported that Mr. McCann said the WIB will look at a proposal that he will be preparing and that they hope to set the date for a special public meeting to discuss his findings sometime at the end of this month. Commissioner Leinbach expressed understanding for the concern for the employees attending the meeting, but he reassured them that no decisions have been made, and no formal discussions have taken place with regard to any privatizing of this office. He said that when and if that happens, it will be a very public process.

Commissioner Barnhardt said that this idea was brought up as a result of the loss of over \$300,000 in Federal funds and was never about the lack of quality employees working at the Career Link.

Commissioner Scott said the County will have the choice to find ways to maintain some level of service at a lower cost or reduce services and that layoffs may be inevitable.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk