

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, May 20, 2008**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 20, 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, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. County Administrator, William E. Dennis was not in attendance.

Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$11,900 and 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$30,834 per listing dated May 16, 2008 as presented by Robert Patrizio, Budget Director.
- 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 16, 2008.

**Emergency Management**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Hazardous Materials Response Fund Application and Agreement for the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. Commissioner Barnhardt asked for more information on whether this involves a county match and was told that detailed information will be provided for the Thursday meeting.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Beth Schiepan, H.R. Director provided information on the Human Resource Recommendations per list dated May 20, 2008.

**Solicitor**

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of a Settlement Agreement and Release regarding County litigation. The Solicitor reported that this agreement did not involve any County funds.

**III. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

In the Administrator's absence, Commissioner Scott reviewed his monthly report

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

- A. Richard S. Kauffman, County Extension Director gave a presentation on the Tax Reform Education Workshop prepared in cooperation with Penn State and the County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP) explaining that the session was intended to be an informational meeting to educate and engage discussion with the citizens interested in learning about taxation and various tax reform proposals as well as attempting to find out how they think local taxes could be made more fair. He said that while Berks County's Legislators were welcome to attend, the meeting is not intended to promote any type of current legislative proposals on tax reform. He said that the structure of the meeting is proposed to involve a panel of three elected officials representing Berks County, one school board member and one borough or township elected official and a facilitator to conduct the meeting. Commissioner Leinbach said he would have a motion for the Commissioners to vote on for the Thursday meeting.
- B. Commissioner Leinbach provided the board with proposed changes to the Veteran's Van Policy and the Flag Holder Policy for a vote at the Thursday meeting
- C. Commissioner Leinbach proposing that the County purchase POW/MIA (Prisoner of War / Missing in Action) flags for display on all County facilities. Commissioner Scott asked if the proposal would mirror the Federal Policy on MIA flag displays on certain holidays and was told by Commissioner Leinbach that the intent was that the flags would be displayed every day.
- D. Commissioner Leinbach asked for a discussion on the proposal to change or eliminate the Berks County Environmental Advisory Committee (BCEAC) Applications Policy without getting input from the BCEAC members. Three of the four committee members (Michelle Kirchner, Glenn Knoblauch and John Ravert) were present to discuss this process (Craig Hafer, the fourth member was not present.) Glenn Knoblauch, Planning Commission Director and Applications Review Committee member said he would support dissolving the committee as they only met two times in 2007 anyway. He would also suggest that the consultant work with the BCEAC together with the Commissioners regarding input and suggestions for the review of environmental permit applications and issues. Commissioner Leinbach said he was in favor of disbanding the committee if this process would allow the Planning Commission, Conservation District and the BCEAC to continue to weigh in on environmental issues.

Commissioner Scott said that this change should serve to make the process less bureaucratic and more scientific and that he would have a proposed resolution to that effect for Thursday's meeting. He agreed that the process would continue to permit any Commissioner, Department Head or BCEAC member to contact Mr. Wheeler regarding any next step in environmental review projects.

- E. Commissioner Leinbach noted that Mr. Ed Cone, adjoining property owner of the proposed Hay Creek Trail, cited a section of the County Green Way plan which refers to "twice the amount of recommended recreation areas" for the region where the proposed trail is located; therefore, he questioned the need for the Hay Creek Trail.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt thanked Brandy Neider, Director of Intake, Caseworker, Katie Adam and Caseworker Brandon Clinton of the Berks Children and Youth Agency for allowing him to observe their activities during a normal workday and helping him to understand the Children and Youth programs and requirements.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chair to execute the Annual Supplemental Agreement No. 520651-I between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the County of Berks for reimbursement up to \$372,445.00 for transportation planning activities to be performed by the Berks County Planning Commission staff in accordance with the FY 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program. Glenn Knoblauch, Planning Commission Director explained that this grant helps to fund the County's three transportation planners and the Long Range Transportation Plan.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk