

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, May 27, 2008**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 27, 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.

### **Ag. Land Preservation:**

- A. Tami Hildebrand, Executive Director of Berks County Ag Land Preservation Board, requested approval of a \$200,000 grant agreement that was forwarded by PA Representative David Kessler, who was unable to attend the meeting. She explained that Representative Kessler allocated these grant funds from The Economic Advancement Program of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. The funds will enable the County to draw down additional State Farmland Preservation funds by using these grant funds in place of general funds as the required match. She projected that this would provide an additional \$600,000 for farmland preservation.

### **Budget Department**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$278,800 per listing dated May 23, 2008. Budget Director Bob Patrizio 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 23, 2008.

### **Human Resource Director**

- A. Human Resource Director Beth Schiepan presented the Human Resource Recommendation list dated May 27, 2008

### **Office of Aging**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq., as Chairman of the Board, to execute the Aging Waiver Grant program in the amount of \$938,365.

**II. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report, attached.

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

- A. George Wagner, President of The Agricultural & Horticultural Association of Berks County, which hosts the Reading Fair, reported on the letter received from Bern Township Supervisors, notifying them that racing would no longer be permitted at the fair. He reported that he has been consulting an attorney and would be scheduling a hearing with the Township Zoning Hearing Board to appeal this decision since the Fair Association has been running this program for the last four years. The Commissioners have agreed to send a letter to the Bern Township Supervisors asking them to rescind this decision until after this year's fair, at which time they would meet to discuss future events at the fairgrounds.
  
- B. Adopt a resolution to authorize the purchase of POW/MIA flags to be flown in 11 locations on County property. Commissioner Leinbach announced that Sovereign Bank was willing to cover the cost of the flags estimated to be \$1012.00. A discussion followed regarding whether to hang the flags daily with the American Flag as proposed by Commissioner Leinbach or to follow the federal protocol which requires that the MIA/POW Flag be flown on Federal Buildings on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day only as proposed by Commissioner Barnhardt in saying that "repetition loses impact." Commissioner Barnhardt also discussed the contact he has had with an organization known as Hometown Heroes who were requesting that the County hang banners memorializing veterans lost in the Iraq war. He said that he will be proposing a Veteran's Task Force for the purpose of evaluating that along with other requests such as grave markers, a veterans' memorial location and perhaps recognition for the National Day of Remembrance, to help the County determine a more encompassing way to recognize our fallen veterans. Commissioner Scott said he agreed with his ideas and with applying the federal flag standards to the MIA/POW flags.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt reported on his attendance at the last Hamburg TIF meeting and explained that the Hamburg School District will remain at their committed rate of 80/20% for the TIF payment. He indicated that the Hamburg Borough Council will be holding a public hearing in June and we'll know more following that meeting regarding the Borough's decision.
- B. Commissioner Barnhardt also said that the County IT department is proposing some improvements to the County's WAN (Wide Area Network) and that the JNET and CODY programs will not be affected (contrary to recent rumors.)

**Commissioner Scott****Public Comment:**

Mr. and Mrs. Falcone from Rockland Township requested that the Commissioners attend a rally in Harrisburg to support HB 1275 the School Property Tax Elimination Act of 2007 and that the Commissioners adopt a resolution support this legislation.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk