

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, July 22, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 22, 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 and Commissioner Christian Leinbach 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.

Adult Probation

- A. Adopt a resolution approving the execution of a Contract Agreement, by and between the County of Berks (Adult Probation) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Grant In Aid Continuing Program for the Improvement of County Adult Probation Services, FY 2008-2009, in the amount of \$2,917,614. Jim Sweitzer, Assistant Chief Adult Probation Officer attended the meeting to present the grant request. Jim reported that last year's grant award was over \$500,000.

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$177,279 and 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$10,000 per listing dated July 18, 2008 and presented by Administrator Dennis.
- 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 July 21, 2008.

Community Development:

- A. Adopt a resolution approving the enactment of a fee schedule covering the administrative cost of federal and state grant applications on behalf of entities other than the County of Berks. Community Development Director Ken Pick attended to present this proposal.

Community Development continued:

- B. Adopt a resolution accepting a report from the Community Development Office of Berks County establishing a blighted area which will enable Leesport Borough and Ontelaunee Township to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the South Canal Street improvement project. Community Development Director Ken Pick attended to present this proposal.
- C. Adopt a resolution authorizing the County to administer a grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) in the amount of \$1,000,000, and a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the amount of \$850,000, to be used for the Wyomissing Square Project in the Borough of Wyomissing.

Human Resources:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated July 22, 2008 and presented by Jennifer Biehn, Deputy Human Resources Director.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of a contract which will change the County of Berks life insurance carrier from ING ReliaStar to MetLife Insurance Company for basic group term and voluntary term life insurance. There shall be no change in the terms and conditions of the group life insurance plans and the effective date is proposed for 8/1/08 until 12/31/2011. Craig Stott attended the meeting to present the details noted that this change in insurance providers will provide an estimated \$35,000 annual savings.

Mental Health/Mental Retardation

- A. Adopt a resolution approving the Integrated Children's Service Plan for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Dr. Ed Michalik, MH/MR Program Administrator and Sheila Bressler, CASSP Coordinator presented the plan.

II. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report (attached.)

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Resolution to reappoint the following to the Berks County Workforce Investment Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2011:

Nelson A. DeLeon	Chester M. Winters
Kelly L. Edwards	Patricia J. Adamczyk
Joanne M. Judge	Ruth Mathews
John R. Morahan	Karen Rightmire
Gerald A. Nau	Ronald A. Rohrbach
Edward J. Swoyer, Jr.	

And, appoint Robert C. Patrick, Executive Director, Berks County Assistance Office, to the Workforce Investment Board to complete the unexpired term of Gary Rightmire. Mr. Patrick's term will expire June 30, 2009.

- B. Discussion concerning the establishment of 2009 Clean and Green rates. Commissioner Scott opened the discussion and announced that he would like to allow his colleagues to lead the discussion due to his potential conflict in that his farm property is enrolled in the Clean and Green Preferred assessment program. Commissioner Leinbach said he would be in support of freezing the clean and green land value rates back to what was approved with the state valuation process began in 2001. He said an issue exists when only the properties enrolled in the Clean and Green program essentially are reassessed each year while most other properties haven't been reassessed since 1994 during the County-wide reassessment. Commissioner Barnhardt expressed concern over the projected \$195,000 annual loss of revenue if the land value rates are lowered from the current assessment to the 2001 rates. He then suggested freezing the rates at the present value which would allow farmers to avoid the annual reassessment while preventing the county from losing additional tax revenue. Agricultural Coordinator Sheila Miller reminded everyone of the cost to municipalities if these farms were turned over to development. She also reported that the purpose of the state land valuation recommendations was to create accurate land values for those communities entering into the Clean and Green Act for the first time; not to require counties to revalue the land assessment for these enrolled properties each year (which has been the practice in many counties). She ended by suggesting that by freezing the land values, the county should also realize a savings in the Assessment office's annual administrative work to apply those values to the 7,000 plus parcels enrolled in the program.
- C. Resolution authorizing execution of an Agreement between the County of Berks, the Township of Bern and the Agricultural and Horticultural Association of Berks County concerning the 2008 Reading Fair.

Commissioner Leinbach

- A. The Commissioner provided an update on the Berks County Tax Forum scheduled for 7 PM July 28, 2008 at the Ag. Center.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Motion authorizing a letter of support for a DCED Shared Municipal Services Grant on behalf of the recently formed Borough of Sinking Spring Revitalization Committee known as **BOSS 2020 (Borough Of Sinking Spring with 2020 future vision)** for developing an improved and updated transportation and land use plan for the Route 422 Corridor connecting the six communities between the Borough of Sinking Spring and the Borough of Robesonia.

Commissioner Scott

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk