

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting August 28, 2008**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 28, 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.

Commissioner Scott announced that two executive sessions were held on August 25<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup> for personnel matters and real estate negotiations.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Barnhardt made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach to approve the August 19, 2008 Commissioner workshop minutes and the August 21, 2008 Commissioners meeting minutes, 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:
  - 235.08 A. Resolution approving the execution of a Grant Agreement commencing 1/1/09 to 12/31/10 for Victim/Witness Assistance funds in the amount of \$400,522 between the County of Berks and the PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.)
  - 236.08 B. Human Resource recommendations per list dated August 26, 2008.
  - 237.08 C. Resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Chair of the Berks County Board of Commissioners to sign the Amended Title V Grant Program for the fiscal year 2008-2009.
  - 238.08 D. Resolution authorizing flying the POW/MIA flag over all County facilities.\* Prior to the vote Commissioner Leinbach apologized to his colleagues for "blindsiding" them at Tuesday's meeting and for the comment to his fellow Commissioner's Assistant. He said that he has the utmost respect for his fellow commissioners and is passionate about this issue and still feels it's the right thing to do, but not the way he in which he pursued it the issue.

Commissioner Barnhardt repeated his words from the Tuesday meeting at which he said that he in no way wished his comments regarding the days to fly the POW/MIA flag to be construed as disrespect for Veterans. He said he would support the Veterans' request and in addition would like to challenge them to continue this effort and go out and meet with township and borough officials as well as state and federal legislators to really make this a Berks County grassroots effort to have the POW/MIA flag flown every day the American Flag flies on all government buildings. Commissioner Scott said he never had any issue about flying the flag and he reflected on some personal thoughts about the design of the flag itself, his father's opinion and then saying that due to the requests from the Berks County Veterans he would agree to the flying of the flag every day the American Flag is flown on County Buildings.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated August 25, 2008.

### **Reports**

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA presented the weekly Treasurer's report.
2. County Controller Sandy Graffius presented the weekly Controller's report.

### **Non-Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, and all voted unanimously to approve the item listed below:

- 239.08 E. Resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair of the Berks County Board of Commissioners, to sign a letter of agreement with Reinsel, Kuntz and Leshner and to execute a contract or their services not to exceed \$3,600 for auditing grant projects for the Community Development Department.

### **Public Comment:**

The Commissioners were thanked by Clerk of Courts, Jim Troutman, Cecelia Zuber, resident from Reading; Larry Cohen, Diane Price and others for their vote on the POW/MIA Issue. Mr. Cohen expressed appreciation for some more recent actions taken by Commissioner Barnhardt in forming a Veterans Task Force to comprehensively plan appropriate Veterans memorial projects in the County.

**Public Comment continued:**

Commissioner Scott invited the various veterans groups to return to a future televised Commissioners' meeting to continue to educate the public on the POW/MIA issue. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk