

Commissioners' Board Meeting October 9, 2008

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 2, 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 Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer and County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq. County Administrator William E. Dennis was not in attendance.

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 that was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach to approve the September 30, 2008 Commissioners' workshop minutes and the October 2, 2008 Commissioners' meeting minutes, all voted yes to approve.

Consent Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 267.08 A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$195,872 per listing dated October 3, 2008.

 - 268.08 B. Human Resource recommendations per list dated October 7, 2008. **Commissioner Leinbach asked if the proposed new hire on the list of recommendations met the criteria requirements established in the recently adopted Hiring Freeze Policy. Jennifer Biehn, Interim HR Director, described the IS Department's recently approved reorganization plan as evidence that this hire would meet the terms of the new policy. Commissioner Scott said that he supports a continuation of those requests that were in process before the freeze, be permitted to proceed since most have followed reorganization plans and therefore met the terms of the hiring freeze policy. Commissioner Barnhardt pointed to the IS department's very recent reorganization approval as having met the criteria.

Commissioner Leinbach responded by saying that he respectfully disagreed with his colleagues suggesting that each appointment should be preceded by the required background information determining that the new hire meet the Hiring Freeze Policy criteria regardless to where they were in the process prior to the freeze.

- 269.08 C. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2007 County taxes for the following parcels owned by Ontelaunee Township:
1. PIN #68540006490287/35 in the amount of \$459.31, which includes all penalties and interest.
 2. PIN #68540012957113 in the amount of \$316.82, which includes all penalties and interest.
- 270.08 D. Resolution authorizing the joint appointment of Denise J. Commings, West Reading, to the Berks County Housing Authority for the balance of the term left vacant by the resignation of Christopher Winters. This term will expire on December 31, 2008
- 271.08 E. Resolution to ratify and confirm a grant application in the amount of \$31,185 (\$13,690 from DCED and \$17,495 County match of in-kind services) and to authorize Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair, to execute a letter of acceptance with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's 2008 Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program to be used to update rural joint comprehensive plans.
- 272.08 F. Resolution to ratify and confirm a grant application in the amount of \$29,633 (\$12,916 from DCED and \$16,717 County match of in-kind services) and to authorize Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair, to execute a letter of acceptance with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's 2008 Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program to be used to update rural joint comprehensive plans.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated October 3, 2008.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA presented the weekly Treasurer's report.
2. Deputy County Controller Mark Hanson presented the Controller's report for the prior two weeks.

Commissioners Comments:

The Commissioners then congratulated Jennifer Biehn who has been appointed to the position of Human Resource Director for the County of Berks. The Commissioners said they have reviewed many qualified candidates prior to selecting her noting that the vote was unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk