

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, October 28, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 28, 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, and Solicitor Alan Miller Esq. Chief Clerk Terry Styer did not attend the meeting.

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

II. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Jon Scott of Berks Economic Partnership announced that the BEP was awarded accreditation from their International organization, consisting of over 4600 economic development organizations. Of those 4600, only 22 have obtained this benchmark. Mervin Heller, Chairman of the BEP board, thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.
- B. While Mr. Heller was at the microphone, Commissioner Scott spoke with him about the lawsuit that the city filed to block the sale of the non-aviation land at the Reading Airport. Commissioner Leinbach made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and approved by all to intervene in the lawsuit.
- C. Carey Kaucher, Special Events Coordinator, presented the Commissioners with a certificate and check for \$250, for the County's 3rd place finish in the County Commissioners of PA "Biggest Loser" competition. 176 employees participated, losing 1,516 lbs over the 10 week period.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$52,000 and 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$19,165 per listing dated October 24, 2008. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.

Human Resources

- A. Human Resource recommendations per list dated October 28, 2008. HR Director Jennifer Biehn presented the list.

Planning

- A. Adopt a Resolution to execute an Act 167 Grant Agreement between the County of Berks and the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for Phase 1—Watershed Stormwater Management Plan Grant for French Creek, Little Schuylkill, Perkiomen Creek, Manatawny Creek, Swatara Creek and update of Tulpehocken Creek Watersheds of Berks County.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of the Agreement to Utilize Premises with The Tulpehocken Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc., for use of property situate on approximately 3.68 acres located at 2083 Tulpehocken Road, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania.

III. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report, attached.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

- A. Adopt a resolution appointing Caernarvon Township Police Chief Paul Stolz, Morgantown, PA to the 9-1-1 Center Advisory Board as the representative from the Berks County Chiefs of Police Association to replace Kutztown Police Chief Theodore (Randy) Cole, who is retiring. There is no defined term limit to this appointment.

Commissioner Leinbach

- A. Discussion on barn roof repairs for the Berks County Prison barn. Warden George Wagner was unable attend the meeting for additional information; however, Commissioner Leinbach gave an overview of the project. The Warden would like to pay for this out of Commissary funds and use prisoners for all of the work with the exception of installation of the new metal roof.
- B. Reappointment of Peter D. Diebolt, Mohnton, PA to the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Diebolt's term expired March 10, 2005. This is a 4-year appointment ending March 10, 2009.
- C. Appointment of Justin H. Istenes, Reading, PA to the Parks and Recreation Board to replace Brian S. Craze whose term expired on March 10, 2008. This is a 4-year appointment ending March 10, 2012.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Scott

V. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

- A. Jim Eppenstein of Laureldale addressed the board with a follow up report of environmental testing that was done at his home. The testing showed extremely high levels of heavy metals. He noted that several neighbors either have, or have died from various forms of cancer, all at relatively young ages. Commissioner Scott noted that the Cancer Cluster Study requested by the previous board, which was done on a confidential basis so as not to bias anyone against the homeowners, showed elevated levels of Cadmium and Arsenic at and around the Exide site. DEP/EPA chose to focus on lead only, which is not a carcinogen. He expressed his frustration at the excuses and roadblocks by the EPA and DEP. It was suggested that Mr. Eppenstein should contact Community Development about assistance in lead paint removal from his home, and that he should have the cadmium removed from his basement. Commissioner Scott thanked Mr. Eppenstein for coming forward, and noted that now that he has, confidentiality is no longer an issue and perhaps the Reading Eagle would be interested in a story, which may help in getting the EPA and DEP involved again.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally O'Reilly, Assistant to the Chief Clerk