

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, November 18, 2008**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 18, 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., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Commissioner asked for public comment on the agenda items. Chrystal Seitz of the Greater Reading Visitor's Bureau requested the County to continue with its prior year's funding of her agency. Commissioner Scott noted that the projected 2009 budget shows a reduction from the current \$69,000 to \$50,000 but that it is proposed to hold steady until 2012 unlike other non-profits to which the county has provided funds.

### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Peter Edelman, Esq. presenting a financing project by the South Heidelberg Municipal Authority for Alvernia University for construction, renovation and improvement of various capital improvements to the University. A resolution approving this project will be added to the November 20<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting agenda.

#### **B. 2009 Proposed Budget**

The 2009 proposed budget was presented by County Administrator Bill Dennis and Budget Director Bob Patrizio. The proposed budget is available for review in the Commissioners Office, the Budget Office or on the County web site at [www.countyofberks.com](http://www.countyofberks.com) Formal action on the 2009 Berks County budget is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

The Commissioners each thanked and commended the County Administrator, Budget Director and Budget Staff for the professional presentation of the proposed budget as well as the year of work that has gone into its development. They also recognized all the department heads and Elected ROW Offices who accepted the necessary departmental budget cutbacks and yet proceeded with successful departmental reorganizations. Commissioner Barnhardt said this is just the beginning for the county to continue its efforts to redesign county government to be more efficient and effective while provide needed services for our citizens.

Commissioner Leinbach said the budget remains in draft form and changes can still be made prior to adoption. He then commended his colleagues for the commitment to the weekly budget meetings and fiscal responsibility shown by the department heads who are finding ways to do more with less. He said this is just the beginning in that we cannot "right-size" county government in one year. Commissioner Scott said that he has seen improvements to the County's budget process every year in the last twelve and would compare the current process with any County in Pennsylvania.

### **III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

#### **Budget Department:**

- A. Budget Director Bob Patrizio presented the 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$68,143 and 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$294,560 per listing dated November 14, 2008.

#### **Human Resources:**

- A. Jennifer Biehn, HR Director presented the Human Resource Recommendations per list dated November 18, 2008.
- B. Adopt a resolution accepting the three year renewal offer from Capital Blue Cross and Keystone Health Plan Central which lists the 2009, 2010 and 2011 rates for Administrative Services Only (ASO) and guaranteed discounts as provided. Jennifer Biehn explained that the county could expect to save \$400,000 in total but cautioned that the vendor is still in negotiations with the Reading Hospital and that the County has notified the vendor that moving forward without the Reading Hospital is a "deal breaker."

### **V. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- A. Weekly Report- attached

### **VI. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS**

- A. Adopt a resolution to reappoint P. Michael Ehlerman, Wyomissing, PA, to a 4 year term on the Berks County Convention Center Authority Board, ending August 29, 2012.

#### **Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Adopt a resolution reappointing James Mason to the Berks County Planning Commission for a 4 year term ending December 31, 2012. His current term expires on December 31, 2008.

- B. Adopt a resolution reappointing John Bradley, Jr. to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for a 4 year term ending December 31, 2012. His current term expires on December 31, 2008.

**VII. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk