

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 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, Esq. called the meeting to order with Commissioner Christian Leinbach, and Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt in attendance. Also present were 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.

II. PRESENTATION:

Mark E. Zimmer, Esq., Chairman of the Berks County Bar Association's Law Day Committee, promoted a Law Day Celebration which is being held from Noon-1:30 PM on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at the Reading Crowne Hotel.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2009 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$6,890 and 2009 Appropriations in the amount \$12,940 per listing dated April 17, 2009. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.
- B. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq. as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator Candace Noll, per attached listing dated April 17, 2009.
- C. Recommendation to award and execute as a result of Invitation to Bid # 09-03R-AO a one year contract for the Transport of Voting Machines for Election Services as identified herein.

**Hughs Relocation
2655 Moravian Ave
Allentown, PA 18103**

Budget Dept (con't)

Item No.	Service Requested	Quantity	Per Election Total Price	Total Annual Price
1	Transport Berks County voting machines and ancillary equipment from storage area to election sites, and from election sites to storage area.	2 times per year	\$ 15,120.00	\$ 30,240.00
		Estimated Emergency Deliveries	Cost per Delivery	Estimate for Unscheduled Deliveries
2	Unscheduled Emergency Deliveries on Election day.	6	\$ 90.00	\$ 540.00
		Estimated Number of Machines	Cost per Transport of each Machine	Estimate for Special Election Deliveries
3	Special Election Deliveries – price is per machine, from storage area to election sites and from election sites to storage area	12	\$ 40.00	\$ 480.00
TOTAL BID				\$ 31,260.00

As per the Invitation to Bid, the County may extend the contract for two additional one-year terms provided the respective vendor agrees to hold the bid pricing fixed and firm.

Community Development

- A. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list #2348 for the Community Development Block Grant Program, DV #612 for the HOME Grant Program and DV #2349-S for the Emergency Shelter Grant Program as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office.

Human Resources

- A. Human Resource recommendations per list dated April 21, 2009.

Solicitor

- A. Adopt a resolution establishing signatory authority for the Purchasing Manager.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

- A. Adopt a resolution to ratify and confirm and authorize Commissioner Chair Mark C. Scott, Esq. to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Berks and PA Department of Transportation in order for the County to register as a Department business partner thereby being permitted electronic access to the “dotGrants” system.

Commissioner Leinbach

- A. Adopt a resolution appointing Veronica S. Seitzinger of Reading, PA to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Council for a three year term ending December 31, 2011.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt noted that he has received a previous study from Mohnton and forwarded it to the Police Executive Research Forum. He spoke to the Mayor of Laureldale, who indicated that the borough is willing to complete their survey, to assist in the completion of the study of County Police Services
- B. The Commissioner also reported that a draft ordinance has been sent from Bern Township to the Reading Fair Board, regarding racing and also expanding the number of days annually during which the Fair organization is permitted to hold events.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt a Resolution re-appointing Mark Braun to a 3 year term on the Children and Youth Advisory Board, expiring December 31, 2011.

V. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

- A. **Carl Ramich**, President of the Retired Dana Retirement Group, as well as several other retirees' organizations, attended the meeting on behalf of the American Association of Manufacturers and the United Steelworkers, asking the Commissioners to pass a Resolution committing to saving manufacturing jobs in PA by using American Labor and Steel when utilizing the Tax Payer funded Stimulus dollars for any county projects.

Commissioner Scott suggested that if other countries with the United States engage in what he described as protectionism will be repeating what many scholars believed made the Great Depression of the 1930's become worse. He suggested that many of the top US manufacturers who are very competitive on a global scale would be severely affected by global protectionist policies and could potentially threaten dislocation of the market place and be the cause for more layoffs in those industries. He ended by saying that there is an argument both for and against a resolution such as this one but it was important to have both sides of the story told and that historically protectionism has worked against global prosperity and today we are more of a global economy than in the 1920's.

Commissioner Leinbach said that of his own personal choices he always tries to “buy American.” He then pointed to several local manufacturers in Berks County who are succeeding despite this economy. He said that while we should all encourage people to “buy American” there is a big difference between encouraging people and legislating people to “buy American” and that by legislating the “buy American” process, it takes away some of the competition that helps the successful companies to improve and continue. The Commissioner added that the role for government is not to create an artificial marketplace requiring people to “buy American”; government should be working to help make sure that our business communities can be competitive in a global economy by providing assurances that they are not over taxed.

Commissioner Barnhardt stated, “ Several projects including the prison expansion will include local contractors and local suppliers and construction managers; we have undertaken an Investment Grade Audit to potentially proceed with an Energy Savings Contract that could be as much as \$12 - 14 million dollars for projects such as an improved boiler plant and other energy savings improvements of which the County hoped to use the \$2.9 million of Federal Stimulus dollars to help defray that cost. The balance of that will be local labor contracted out by the successful ESCO firm. The Commissioner was contacted by local labor contractors who have expressed a desire to be part of this project and he encouraged their participation in the bid process in what he hoped will end up being local labor and materials however, the County cannot by law restrict to local Berks County companies.”

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk