

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 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. He then announced that the Commissioners met in executive session this morning to discuss personnel issues.

### **II. PRESENTATIONS:**

Marita J. Kelly, Local Government Policy Specialist, Commonwealth of PA Department of Community and Economic Development presented the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Berks County Controller's Office

Commissioner Christian Leinbach introduced Cathy Kopicz, as the County's Volunteer Coordinator for Berks County's NACo Prescription Discount Card Program. Cathy introduced her committee and updated the board on the numerous distribution locations as well as the many County Pharmacies that honor this card which on average, has saved citizens without insurance at least 20% on their prescription purchases. The Commissioners thanked Cathy and her committee for taking on this volunteer effort for the County.

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

#### **Budget Department:**

- A. Recommendation to execute Amendment #1, with NORESKO with offices at One Research Drive, Suite 400 C, Westborough, Massachusetts, 01581, for performance of an Investment Grade Energy Audit and preparation of a detailed engineering and economic report in accordance with the requirements of Acts 57/77 and which specifically identifies the energy improvements and operational changes which are recommended to be installed or implemented at the County of Berks as a result of Invitation to Bid 08-12-KL. This amendment shall authorize NORESKO to complete the necessary initial engineering/design effort to replace the boilers currently servicing the County of Berks Courthouse and Service Center, including, but not limited to, the preparation of a Labor and Industry (L&I) submittal package.

**Budget Department continued:**

NORESCO is also authorized to order boilers, boiler equipment, heat exchangers, and other ancillary equipment (collectively "Boiler Equipment") as required to fully install the boilers that will replace those boilers currently servicing the Courthouse and Services Center. The initial engineering/design costs, as well as the boiler, boiler equipment, heat exchanger and ancillary equipment costs (collectively "Boiler Costs") at a cost of \$350,000, which increases the total costs of the contract to \$479,000.

**Chief Clerk**

- A. Adopt a Resolution authorizing execution by Mark C. Scott, Esq. Commissioner Chair for a Grants Network Master License and Service Agreement between the County of Berks and eCivis, Inc. Pasadena CA in the amount of \$7,500 for the period 5/18/09 through 5/17/10. The terms and conditions of said license are subject to approval by the Solicitor's Office.

**Community Development**

- A. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list # 2351 for the Community Development Block Grant Program, DV #615 for the HOME Grant Program and DV #1361 for the Property Rehabilitation Program as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office.

**Emergency Management**

- A. Adopt a Resolution approving an antenna site license agreement between the County of Berks and Comcast of New Mexico/Pennsylvania regarding a tower located in the Borough of Hamburg.

**Mental Health/Mental Retardation**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the acceptance of capitation rates as proposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare in support of the Berks County Health Choices Program for the agreements between the County, Department of Public Welfare and Community Care Behavioral Health for the Agreement year of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Supplemental Resolution and Agreement for the period of January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008.
- C. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Supplemental Resolution and Agreement for the period of July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

**V. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS****Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Resolution to appoint Ernie Miller of Hamburg, PA to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board to replace Dennis Essig whose term expires on 12-31-09. Mr. Essig recently resigned from the Board.
- B. The Commissioner also reminded everyone of the Armed Forces Day Parade this Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Commissioner Barnhardt****Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott reported on his attendance at the Eastern PA EMS Council's MedCom Banquet and noted that the names of 5 individuals, one of which was Craig Brenieser, former Director of Berks County 9-1-1, were honored by being part of MedCom's new dispatch building.

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

Marita J. Kelly, Local Government Policy Specialist, Commonwealth of PA Department of Community and Economic Development then presented information regarding Act 32 of 2008 (*which was enacted as a result of a 2004 report published by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) – a three year study that documented the fragmentation, complexity and inefficiency of the earned income collection system. Under the current EIT system, 560 taxing authorities collect nearly \$1.9 billion in annual revenue for more than 2,900 local taxing jurisdictions. Pennsylvania currently has more taxing jurisdictions levying a local income tax than all other states combined. Due to inefficiencies in this system, it was estimated that as much as \$237 million is lost annually. These are revenues that should be available to municipalities and school districts under current tax rates.*) She explained that the Act requires each County in Pennsylvania by September 15, 2009 to convene a Tax Collection Committee consisting of the County's "EIT Taxing bodies" to elect a chair, vice chair and a secretary for the purpose of establishing a countywide tax collector for the Earned or Personal Income Tax collection purposes.

Roland Van Tongel and George Grant, citizens from District Township made comments regarding the conduct of meetings in their township. Commissioner Scott reflected on the importance of local elections.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk