

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, June 23, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 23, 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 1st Assistant Solicitor Christine Sadler, 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. PRESENTATIONS

Craig Hafer, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Institute for Children's Environmental Health (PICEH), and Gavin Biebuyck, President of Liberty Environmental, provided a "State of the Air" report which was the result of ongoing achievements by PICEH with funding provided by a Commissioners' Grant from the County's Environmental Defense Fund. The Grant was for air quality monitoring initiatives in Berks County some of which they reported are now being modeled by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq. as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated June 22, 2009. Commissioner Leinbach commended Commissioner Barnhardt and his Executive Assistant Ryan Hunter for taking the lead on the fleet management project.

Community Development / Facilities:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Berks County Community Development Director to apply for \$2,973,200 from the US Department of Energy's - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program for three specific energy conservation measures proposed for the reduction of energy costs in county buildings and facilities. Ken Pick, Community Development Director and Robert Carl, Facilities Director presented details of this application for funding of the three projects.

Community Development / Facilities continued:

- B. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list # 2358 for the Community Development Block Grant Program, DV #618 for the HOME Grant Program, DV #1365 for the Property Rehabilitation Program and DV #2357-S for the Emergency Shelter Program as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office.

Juvenile Probation:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of a grant application and agreement between the County of Berks, Juvenile Probation Office and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for the Delinquency Competency Development Grant program in the amount of \$3,726.00 with no county match required. Bob Williams Chief JPO attended the meeting to discuss this program request.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

- A. Commissioner Leinbach reported that he and Budget Director Bob Patrizio, along with County Treasurer Nelson Long, worked together to draft language for this proposed Resolution to the General Assembly, to adopt County Pension Reform that would specifically change the funding requirements for County Pension plans from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan, among other specific changes. It was also noted that any legislation to change the current pension law would only apply to new County employees; that employees enrolled in the County's Defined Benefit plan would not see any changes to their plan. Bob Patrizio pointed to the projected \$12.8 million ARC (Annual Required Contribution) that the County is required to pay for 2009 to fund the current pension plan and projected this amount to increase for a number of years until when and if the investment market begins to turn around. Commissioner Leinbach reported that several counties across the Commonwealth have failed to make their required ARC payments.
- B. Authorize execution of the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and Adopt an Acre, Inc. concerning the preservation of farmland easements. Commissioner Leinbach made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, and all voted yes to approve **Resolution 169.09**, as noted above.
- C. Adopt a resolution to authorize EHD to enter into agreement with the County Commissioners Association of PA and their COBALT insurance program to provide property, casualty and professional lines insurance protection for the County of Berks. Note: This insurance package is 12% under the expiring premium with broader protection in certain areas.
- D. Authorize execution by Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair, of the Declaration of Covenants for the Keystone Grant Project – Gruber Wagon Works project.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Adopt a resolution to reappoint Nancy Snyder to a 6 year term on the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees, expiring 6/30/2015.
- B. Adopt a resolution to reappoint Victor Yarnell to a 6 year term on the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees, expiring 6/30/2015.
- C. Adopt a resolution to appoint Michael Toledo to a 6 year term on the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees, expiring 6/30/2015.
- D. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that a draft report of the police study has been received from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and that the PERF representatives will be holding two meetings to discuss the results on July 14th. The first meeting at 6 PM will be by invitation for an executive briefing for police chiefs and municipal officials; the second meeting will follow for the general public and the media at 7 pm and will also be broadcast live on BCTV. He said that these meetings will be held at the Schmidt Technology Center at Reading Area Community College. Final versions of the study will be distributed to police chiefs and top officials of each municipality at the conclusion of the meetings and will be posted to the County web site shortly thereafter. He said that PERF will also be conducting meetings with municipalities based on the 5 regions of the Municipal Partnership and at the conclusion of those meetings proposed for September; the Commissioners plan to reactivate the Police Study Task Force to review the results of these discussions and to provide recommendations to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Scott

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk