

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, July 7, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 7, 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 was 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. The Commissioner also announced that 2 executive sessions were held on July 6th and 7th, 2009 for personnel purposes.

II. PRESENTATION

- A. The **Restore Anthony's Mill Bridge Organization** (RAMBO) made a presentation on the closing of Anthony's Mill Bridge in Washington Township. The group would like the commissioners to consider restoring the bridge rather than closing or replacing it. Speaking on behalf of the group was Lynn Gladieux. Dr. W. William Shay, Jason Ganster, and Hank Frecon also had comments. Ms. Gladieux noted that the bridge is historically significant and that replacing it would likely cost more than rehabilitating it. Replacing the bridge would require taking land by eminent domain. According to Facilities Director Robert Carl, PennDOT required that the bridge would be able to handle a minimum of 15 tons. It is currently rated for 3 tons. He said that PennDOT would also likely require upgrades to the road to eliminate a sharp turn on one end and a steep slope on the other end of the current bridge. Mr. Frecon noted that the bridge really doesn't need to meet the 15 ton minimum as there is a nearby alternate route that trucks and heavy vehicles are already using. He also noted that there are several special interest groups that would be opposed to re-routing the current road and creek (which is designated an Exceptional Value stream by the DEP) for a new bridge.
- B. District Attorney John Adams requested that the Commissioners approve a resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and the City of Reading for \$26,873, which is 20% of the grant awarded to the City from the Edward Byrne Justice Grant. This will be used to help fund the DA Drug Task Force. Commissioner Barnhardt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted yes to approve **Resolution 187.09** as noted above.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**Budget Department**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2009 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$99,030 per listing dated July 2, 2009. Deputy Budget Director Kim Grinage presented the list.
- B. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated July 2, 2009.
- C. Recommendation to award and the Purchasing Manager execute as a result of Invitation to Bid #08-12-KL, a fifteen year guaranteed energy services agreement for the purpose of installing certain energy saving equipment and providing other services designed to save energy for the County's property and buildings, Included within is Energy Conservation Measure (ECM) one which shall include supply and installation of Courthouse boilers, boiler equipment and other ancillary equipment. The award shall be made to the following vendor: NORESCO, One Research Drive, Suite 400 C, Westborough, MA 01581. Total Project Cost: \$618,691.00, Total Year One Savings: \$51,933.00.

Community Development

- A. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list # 2360 for the Community Development Block Grant Program, and DV #1366 for the Property Rehabilitation Program as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office.

Conservation District

- A. Request for approval to send letter of intent from the County Commissioners to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) by 15 July 2009. The letter is to let DCNR know we are considering a 2010 spray program; we have the option to back out at any time. Bob Hopkins will attend the meeting to give an update on the gypsy moth infestation in the county.

Human Resources

- A. Resolution to approve the two revised Policies—Internet and Email Policy—Revision, and Conduct and Ethics Policy—Revision.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS**Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Commissioner Leinbach noted that he is concerned about where both our country and state are going. He said that we need to be concerned. Call and write to your legislators not to sacrifice our childrens' futures. He also remarked that he is proud to work with two fiscally conservative fellow commissioners and because of that, our County is in better shape than many others.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt reminded the audience of the Police Executive Research Forum meetings next week, Tuesday, July 14th. The first meeting at 6 PM is for local elected officials and chiefs of police. The deadline to RSVP is 5 PM, Wednesday, July 8th. The second meeting is at 7 PM and is for the public and media, and will also be broadcast live on BCTV. The results of the study will be provided to the police chiefs and heads of the FOP at the close of the 6 PM meeting and will be posted on the county website the next morning.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt a Resolution appointing Heather L. Schoener, Blandon, PA to a 4 year term on the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board, expiring 3/10/2011. She is completing the term vacated by Robert Showalter, who resigned.

V. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Recorder of Deeds Fred Sheeler reported that real estate transfers in June were at the highest level in 14 months. There was a 73% increase over the last few months. A 23% increase in e-commerce is reported, mostly sales of copies directly from the website. He also noted that 25% of recordings are now handled electronically.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally O'Reilly, Assistant to the Chief Clerk