

Commissioners' Board Meeting July 9, 2009

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, July 9, 2009, at 10:30 A.M. in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor 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 Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, and Assistant County Solicitor Christine Sadler, Esq.

Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Presentation:

Laurel Miller, writer and researcher for the Leinbach Family along with several members of the Leinbach family were in attendance of the meeting to discuss a new book regarding the family's roots in Berks County, which began in 1723 when they settled in the Oley Valley; also mentioned was David Leinbach who served as Berks County Commissioner in 1786.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 30, 2009 Commissioners' Workshop and July 2, 2009 Commissioners' meeting were approved as presented. Commissioner Scott announced that an executive session was held this morning to discuss personnel matters.

Consent Agenda Items

- I. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 188.09 A. Resolution authorizing 2009 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$99,030 per listing dated July 2, 2009.
 - 189.09 B. 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: NORESKO, One Research Drive, Suite 400 C, Westborough, MA 01581. Total Project Cost: \$618,691.00, Total Year One Savings: \$51,933.00.

- 190.09 C. Resolution to approve sending a 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 Gypsy Moth spray program; we have the option to back out at any time.
- 191.09 D. Resolution to approve the two revised Policies—Internet and Email Policy—Revision, and Conduct and Ethics Policy—Revision.
- 192.09 E. Resolution appointing Heather L. Schoener, Blandon, PA to fill an unexpired term on the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board, expiring 3/10/2011. She is completing the term vacated by Robert Showalter, who resigned.
2. 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.
3. Motion to ratify and confirm payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated July 9, 2009, as previously authorized by instructions issued July 9, 2009.
4. 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.

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA presented the weekly Treasurer's report.
2. County Controller Sandy Graffius presented the weekly Controller's report.

Business from the floor:

Commissioner Leinbach announced that, "The current economic crisis has pushed the Berks County Conservation District to a point where it can no longer financially sustain itself. As a result the Berks County Board of Commissioners has decided to terminate their contract with the Berks County Conservation District.

The Conservation District Board recently voted to short the county \$32,000 on its first quarter reimbursement and has no expectation that they will be able to pay their contractual obligations for the balance of the year or beyond. The results will likely cost the County of Berks an additional \$500,000 annually according to our Budget Department.

The Conservation District is equally concerned with the future of the district and has expressed the need to rethink what services they deliver and how they deliver them. They have two historical roles. One is the support of agriculture and second is Erosion and Sediment control. The termination of this contract will allow the Conservation District Board to do what they determine is best in addressing their historic mission.

While these are very tumultuous times we also are confident that the Conservation District will succeed in preserving the core mission of the district and we wish them the very best as they move forward. The Conservation District Board believes it can better deliver the critical Ag and E&S services if unencumbered by the county contract. It is their objective to get back to their core mission. As Commissioners we agree."

Commissioner Leinbach then made a motion to approve Resolution 193.09 which was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted yes to approve.

- 193.09 F. Resolution terminating Resolution 324.05 adopted on September 27, 2005 which adopted a Memorandum of Understanding between the Berks County Conservation District Board of Directors and the Berks County Commissioners regarding the funding and operation of the Conservation District.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk