

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, August 4, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 4, 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. The Commissioner also announced that Executive Sessions were held on August 3rd and 4th for personnel matters including interviews with Chief Operations Officer candidates.

II. PRESENTATION

Armed Forces Day Parade Committee Chair Diane Price presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Board of Commissioners and to the Berks County Sheriff's Department for their assistance with the 61st Annual Parade, noting the success of its new route from Wyomissing, through West Reading and into downtown Reading.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the 2009 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$125,000 per listing dated July 31, 2009 and presented by Ed Kowalski, Sr. Financial Analyst, Budget Department.
- 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 31, 2009.

Community Development

- A. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list # 2364 for the Community Development Block Grant Program, and DV #1370 for the Property Rehabilitation Program as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office.

Facilities

- A. Resolution authorizing the execution of an American Institute of Architects (AIA) Agreement between the County of Berks and David M. Kleckner Architects, P.C., 18 Catherine Street, Shillington, Pennsylvania, to provide architectural services for the renovations at the former Berks Heim building for relocation of the Berks County Coroner's Office in a lump sum amount of \$17,000.
- B. Resolution authorizing the execution of a Engineering Services Agreement between the County of Berks and Ludgate Engineering Corporation, Lincoln Corporate Center, 10 Vanguard Drive, Suite 90, Reading, Pennsylvania, to provide engineering services for the Gring's Mill Bridge and Dam Inspection project for a total amount of \$2,000.
- C. Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement between the County of Berks and RPA Associates, Inc., to provide engineering and construction management services to modify the 12th floor computer server room. Cost is not to exceed \$20,900.

Human Resources

- A. Adopt a resolution approving Sheriff's Department Travel Card Usage Policy proposed for eligible travel related expenses while conducting out of county extradition services and/or for the procurement of airline tickets exclusively for extradition related flights.

Human Services

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution and submission of Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) final report for the fiscal year 2008-2009.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution and submission of the Human Services Development Fund Certification Statement for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing the execution of a lease agreement between the County of Berks and Earthrise Enterprises, Inc. for the Multi-Purpose Room on the 2nd Floor of the Services Center for the operation of a limited menu snack shop.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

- A. Resolution authorizing the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau to extend the payment period for past due taxes for a period not in excess of twelve months in the case of a taxpayer's severe hardship, extenuating circumstances or serious physical illness or injury.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach reported on discussions he participated in while attending the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual conference. He expressed concern and predicted that due to the current state of the economy, 2010 will be a very tough year financially for municipalities across the country.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhart reminded everyone that tonight was **National Night Out** across the country and encouraged everyone to be part of their neighborhood's effort to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, get to know their neighborhood Police professionals and help to strengthen the neighborhood spirit.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott asked Sheriff Weaknecht to discuss this year's number of Sheriff's Office evictions and Sheriff Sales compared to 2008. The Sheriff reported that evictions this year are up over 200% and the Real Estate Tax sales have increased by 25%. He then reported that his office plans to provide an informational flyer in future foreclosure notices designed to provide foreclosure prevention guidance to property owners. He also discussed plans for a forum in the fall in which he plans to include lenders and other real estate professionals intending to help provide education and assistance to citizens who are hoping to avoid the foreclosure process. Commissioner Scott encouraged the Sheriff to include Ken Pick, Community Development Director to participate and provide information on the Homeless Prevention Program.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:07AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk