

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting August 6, 2009**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 6, 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 Kevin Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Christian Leinbach in attendance. Also present were the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, and County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq. Commissioner Chair Mark C. Scott did not attend the meeting.

Commissioner Barnhardt opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Commissioner also reported that an Executive Session was held on August 5<sup>th</sup> for personnel purposes.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 28, 2009 Commissioners' Workshop and July 30, 2009 Commissioners' meeting were approved as presented.

### **Consent and Non Consent Agenda Items**

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
  - 217.09 A. Resolution authorizing 2009 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$125,000 per listing dated July 31, 2009.
  - 218.09 B. Resolution authorizing 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.
  - 219.09 C. Resolution authorizing 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 in a total amount of \$2,000.

- 220.09 D. 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 12<sup>th</sup> floor computer server room. Cost is not to exceed \$20,900.
  - 221.09 E. Resolution to approve Sheriff's Department Travel Card Usage Policy designed 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.
  - 222.09 F. Resolution authorizing execution and submission of Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) final report for the fiscal year 2008-2009.
  - 223.09 G. Resolution authorizing execution and submission of the Human Services Development Fund Certification Statement for the fiscal year 2008-2009.
  - 224.09 H. Resolution authorizing execution of a lease agreement between the County of Berks and Earthrise Enterprises, Inc. for the Multi-Purpose Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Services Center for the operation of a limited menu snack shop.
  - 225.09 I. 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.
  - 226.09 J. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated August 6, 2009.
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 31, 2009.
  3. Motion to ratify and confirm payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated August 6, 2009, as previously authorized by instructions issued August 6, 2009.
  4. 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.

Reports

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

Commissioner Leinbach expressed great disappointment and frustration regarding the 1% County Sales Tax being discussed by the State Legislators. This tax reform proposal was supported by Commissioner Leinbach as it was originally designed, to allow counties the option to levy a sales tax and/or earned income tax to offset property taxes. This piece of legislation then changed to allow the county and municipalities to impose the sales tax and use only a portion of the revenue for property tax relief which Commissioner Leinbach adamantly opposed. He said that the legislation has continued to morph into a piece of legislation that now extends to school districts, municipalities and counties and only a fraction of the revenue would be used to offset property taxes. What began as a good tax reform measure which would provide property tax relief would now serve as a new funding source and more taxes for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Both Commissioners Leinbach and Barnhardt agreed that this current change in the tax reform legislation, if approved, would enable the state to pass a balanced budget on the backs of the local elected officials who would be forced to raise taxes to pay for state mandated programs and services. Commissioner Barnhardt said that the plan he originally supported included a property tax reduction and a collaborative efforts allocation to support mergers and improved efficiencies in government and now that it has been torn apart and doesn't look anything like the original bill and he couldn't support it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk