

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, November 30, 2010**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 30, 2010 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 Interim Chief Operations Officer, Ken Borkey.

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

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Berks Heim

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing a private pay per diem rate increase from \$275.00 per day to \$285.00 per day effective January 1, 2011 at Berks Heim.

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2010 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$19,421,135.00 and 2010 Appropriations in the amount \$1,741,085.00 per listing dated November 24, 2010.

Community Development

- A. Motion to ratify and confirm payments set forth on disbursement voucher list dated November 23, 2010 for the Community Development Programs as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office:

DV# 2486-S – Emergency Shelter Program	\$22,929.64
DV# 2487 – Community Development Block Grant Program	\$50,571.00
DV# 654 – HOME Grant Program	\$35,266.00

Department of Emergency Services

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Brian A. Gottschall, Director of the Department of Emergency Services, to be the designated signatory authority and to execute all required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Department of Emergency Services continued

- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq., as Chairman of the Board to execute a letter to the Bureau of Financial Management and Support Services of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency acknowledging an increase in the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Training grant funds to \$29,243.00 for Federal Fiscal Year 2010.

Human Resources

- A. Human Resource recommendations per list dated November 30, 2010.

Human Services

- A. Adopt a resolution to ratify and confirm the execution of TEFAP Inventory–Reimbursement Request Form for the period (July, August, September) 4th Quarter FFY 2009-2010 and ARRA-TEFAP Report in the amount of \$29,032.54 for distributing 241,937.8 pounds of food at \$.12 per pound, and further authorizes Margaret Bianca, Executive Director, Greater Berks Food Bank to apply for the funds on behalf of Berks County.

Mental Health / Mental Retardation

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted to approve the following:

- 346.10 A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the Federal Fiscal Year 2011/2012 MH/MR Program Plan for Mental Retardation Services.

Public Defender / District Attorney

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the FY 2010 JABG #22124 (Juvenile Accountability Block Grant) Application by and between the County of Berks (Chief Public Defender) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding in the amount of \$24,309.00 (Federal Funds - \$21,878.00; Local Matching Funds - \$2,431.00) covering the project period 4/1/2011 to 3/31/2012.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the FY JABG #22136 (Juvenile Accountability Block Grant) Application by and between the County of Berks (District Attorney) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding in the amount of \$24,309.00 (Federal Funds - \$21,878.00; Local Matching Funds \$2,431.00) covering the project period 4/1/2011 to 3/31/2012.

Purchasing

- A. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated November 29, 2010.

Controller

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, and all voted to approve the following:

- A. Controller's Office voucher listing dated November 23, 2010, as previously authorized by instructions issued November 23, 2010.
- B. Controller Sandy Graffius presented a weekly report for the week ending November 23, 2010.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt announced the resignation of Chris Lessig, Director of Parks and Recreation. He stated Chris will be missed and commended the job he did as Director. He announced that Cathy Wegener will be the Interim Director of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Barnhardt provided information that BARTA will run buses on Sundays during the holiday season.

Commissioner Barnhardt also clarified information that was recently reported in the *Reading Eagle*. He stated the county conducted a study to determine the costs the county would incur if they were asked to take over the city-owned parks. There was discussion about the county taking over evidence-based detective work from the City of Reading; however, that is currently on hold based upon the number of police officers the City is able to keep at this time. An update was provided on the county-wide radio system. The bond amount is \$42.5 million and the county did negotiate with the vendor that the vendor would offer loans for the cost of the project. Also, it was discussed that a discount rate would be given for purchasing radios in bulk amounts.

Commissioner Leinbach

A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the following reappointments to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board:

- Robert Ludgate, Reading, PA, for a three year term ending December 31, 2013.
- David Phillips, Mohrsville, PA, for a three year term ending December 31, 2013.

Commissioner Leinbach provided information regarding economic concerns in Europe and China, in addition to information about the United States government printing money to help pay back bonds.

Commissioner Leinbach also reported that the county saved \$2 million on the county-wide radio system project due to the county's bond rating.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott discussed equity issues among the municipalities in Berks County. He provided information from a Wall Street Journal article pertaining to cutting and raising taxes and what each option does to economic development.

Commissioner Scott also discussed working capital in the budget process and his thoughts that it can help prevent a tax increase.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:01A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaitlin P. Daley, Interim Chief Clerk