

Commissioners' Board Meeting December 21, 2010

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, 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, 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 Kenneth C. Borkey, Jr.

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

Presentation

Cheryl Auchenbach, Planner with the Berks County Planning Commission, Ann Yost, and Anne Toole, both of YSM presented information on and made recommendations for the Final Master Plan for Antietam Lake Park for the Board of Commissioners to review. The plan includes seven phases, the first of which begins in the spring of 2011.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 14, 2010 Commissioners' Workshop, the December 16, 2010 Commissioners' meeting, and the December 16, 2010 Special Commissioners' Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below provided the discussed amendments are made to the letter referenced in Resolution 389.10:

381.0 A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2010 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$61,127.00 and 2010 Appropriations in the amount \$3,868.00 per listing dated December 17, 2010.

382.10 B. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated December 21, 2010.

Berks County Human Resource Director Jennifer Biehn presented information on the Recommendations.

- 383.10 C. Adopt a resolution authorizing a Commercial Lease Agreement between Reading Regional Airport and the County of Berks and the Berks County Sheriff's Department for 240 square feet of office space located at the Airport. This lease is for a term of month to month commencing January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011.

Berks County Sheriff Eric Weaknecht presented information regarding the lease with the Reading Regional Airport.

- 384.10 D. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness for 2008 County taxes for the following properties owned by the Borough of Kutztown, including all penalties and interest:

1. N. Laurel Street (PIN #55-5444-20-80-6734-001)
2. 135 N. Kemp Road (PIN #55-5454-00-03-9562)
3. N. Laurel Street (PIN #55-5444-20-80-3380-001)
4. Alex Court (PIN #55-5444-00-82-7507)

- 385.10 E. Resolution extending the terms of Resolution 186-10 concerning delinquent real estate tax payments due to expire on December 31, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

Commissioner Leinbach praised Nelson Long, Treasurer, Stacy Phile, Tax Claim Manager, and Socrates Georgeadis, Solicitor for the Treasurer's Office for their work on this project and its success.

- 386.10 F. Adopt a resolution authorizing the following appointment to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees:

- Korie L. Sandridge, Sinking Spring, PA, for the term ending June 30, 2011. This is a replacement for James Gilmartin who resigned.

- 387.10 G. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Berks County Board of Commissioners to approve the sharing of a lien position on certain property owned by the Greater Berks Development Fund and located at 6th and Penn Streets, Reading, Pennsylvania, and authorizing other necessary and appropriate action.

Michael Vind, Managing Director of Financial Solutions, presented information on this resolution.

- 388.10 H. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution and distribution of an Access Agreement Letter for potential sites concerning the expansion of the County's public safety radio system.
- 389.10 I. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of a letter to Governor-Elect Tom Corbett pledging the County's support for the Route 222 North Project.

Fred Levering, Chairman of the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Transportation Committee and Randy Swan, Chairman of the Berks Economic Partnership's 222 North Task Force were present to voice their support for this project and to stress that they feel it is an extremely important project.

Commissioner Leinbach voiced his support for this project as well; however, he does not want to see it take an excessively long time. He also stated his concern about the source of future funding. Commissioner Leinbach feels that this project is a worthwhile use of taxpayers' money.

Commissioner Barnhardt stated that the amount of money the county is pledging is not enough to complete the project, but it is a starting point. However, he feels it does not diminish the importance of repairing the 422 West Shore Bypass.

Commissioner Scott voiced concerns with the funding of this project, stating that it will have less value when it is actually needed. Commissioner Scott feels that many people view the repairs to the 422 West Shore Bypass as a more important project given the current safety concerns of traveling that section of road. He is concerned that for counties to pledge money for a project, wealthier communities may see road improvements quicker than other communities regardless of the priority of the project. Commissioner Scott proposed including in the letter a timeline for engineering and construction deadlines in addition to stating this is a public safety issue.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to amend the letter to state that engineering must be completed by 2018, construction must begin by 2020, and the project is addressing a public safety concern.

2. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated December 17, 2010.

3. Motion to authorize payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated December 21, 2010.
4. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list dated December 21, 2010 for the Community Development Programs as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office:

DV# 2495 – Community Development Block Grant Program	\$240,122.11
DV# 2492-R – ARRA Funds – CDBG-R	\$11,652.51
DV# 2491-S – Emergency Shelter Program	\$4,356.24
DV# 655 – HOME Grant Program	\$28,053.34
DV# 2493 – HPRP	\$17,808.72
DV# 2494-PA-HPRP	\$21,933.84

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

Reports of Commissioners

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt provided an update on BARTA ridership. The Sunday routes during the holiday season are up 24% from 2009. Ridership on the Wernersville, East Penn, and Temple routes has increased since 2009.

Commissioner Barnhardt remarked on the recent replacement of lights atop the Berks County Courthouse by the county Facilities Department. The lights correspond to the day's weather forecast, but had not been operational for some time. Yellow lights represent stormy weather and green lights represent fair weather.

Commissioner Barnhardt also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked all of the county employees for their hard work and also thanked his colleagues for their support.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach wished his colleagues and all county employees a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He encouraged everyone to make an attempt to help those less fortunate especially during this time of year.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He remarked that today is the Winter Solstice and that a lunar eclipse occurred the night before.

Public Comment/Business From the Floor

Prothonotary Marianne Sutton wished everyone Happy and Safe Holidays.

Controller Sandy Graffius reported on a fraudulent check for \$100,000.00 that someone tried to cash from a county bank account. Staff in the Controller's Office caught the problem through a joint program with National Penn Bank which prevented the check from being cashed.

Steven Pinkney, Judy Vaughn, Nevin Hallacher, and Donna Morganti of Families United for Family Preservation commented on alleged violations of laws and rights by Berks County Children and Youth Services. They raised concerns with the amount of children Guardian ad Litemas represent and expressed their feelings that more Guardian ad Litemas are needed in Berks County. Mr. Hallacher presented documents relating to his case with Children and Youth and he also presented meeting minutes from the September 23, 2010 and October 21, 2010 Children and Youth Advisory Board Meetings which he referenced during today's Commissioners' Meeting.

Randy Swan, Chairman of Berks Economic Partnership's Route 222 North Task Force, stressed his feeling that road projects such as Route 222 North, Route 222 South, and Route 422 West are extremely important and he feels the letter of support for Route 222 North will speak volumes to Governor-Elect Tom Corbett as well as PennDot.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaitlin P. Daley, Interim Chief Clerk