

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2011**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 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, in attendance. Commissioner Barnhardt was not in attendance. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., Interim Chief Operations Officer Kenneth C. Borkey, Jr., and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and announced that the board met in executive session on Monday, April 4, 2011 to discuss personnel matters.

II. PRESENTATION

Dale Derr, Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, presented information on National County Government Month, which is focusing on Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families. Mr. Derr commented that there are approximately 32,177 military veterans living in Berks County. Mr. Derr further advised the public there will be an informational event April 14, 2011 at the Agricultural Center to inform veterans and their families of various programs available to them.

Capt. Sam Johnson, President of Keystone Wounded Warriors, made a presentation on the Second Annual Reading 5K Wounded Warrior Run/Walk which will be held May 1, 2011. Capt. Johnson further commented that the last weekend in April will hold numerous events dedicated to Veterans. Capt. Johnson stated that Wounded Warriors services all branches of the military service men and women wounded after September 11th.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2010 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$2,725,416.00, 2011 Budget Transfer in the amount of \$245,509.00 and 2011 Appropriations in the amount \$60,821.00 per listing dated April 1, 2011.

Human Resources

- A. **110-11** Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resource Recommendations per list dated April 5, 2011. Commissioner Leinbach motioned to approve, which was seconded by Commissioner Scott. Vote was unanimous.

- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Schedule of Excess Loss Coverage for AAIC (American Alternative Insurance Corporation) for policy period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

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 April 4, 2011.

Emergency Services

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of an AIA Contract between the County of Berks and Consolidated Engineers, Leesport, Pennsylvania, to provide engineering and architectural services for the 19th Floor Equipment Room Expansion and Cooling of the Berks County Courthouse at a not to exceed amount of \$10,900.00.

Facilities

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of an Independent Contractor Agreement between the County of Berks and The Quandel Group, Inc., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to develop budgets for various upgrades to the Security and Infrastructure at the Berks County Jail at a not to exceed amount of \$22,575.00.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the State-Only Permit Application No. 06-05067 to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Quality Control, for the operation of the boiler plant located at the North Campus.

Planning Commission

- A. Adopt a resolution approving the easement funding up to \$1,000.00 per acre for Pike Township in order to complete the purchase process of eight (8) easements under the Berks County Natural Land, Farmland and Open Space Conservation Program Part Two: Municipal Land Protection Program as listed:
 - 1. Lang
 - 2. Dietrich
 - 3. Gorrin/Fetterolf
 - 4. Weller (Rolling Rock Building Stone)
 - 5. Pike Township Sportsman Association
 - 6. Reider
 - 7. F. Blank
 - 8. D. Blank

Mr. Gore, a Supervisor from Pike Township, commented that these easements total approximately 392 acres in Pike Township, and that most are contiguous to other parcel accepted in the Open Space program. He thanked the Commissioners for approving this funding request.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach announced today was Commissioner Barnhardt's birthday. Commissioner Barnhardt is in Harrisburg attending Senator-Elect Judy Schwank's, swearing-in ceremony, and offered his congratulations on her accomplishment.

Commissioner Leinbach further commented that CCAP is making mandate relief a high priority and cited the following:

1. Legislation allowing the County to abolish the office of jury commissioner.
2. SB 834 – Bonding and insurance requirements for County officers.
3. SB 281 – legislation amending bidding limits. It is currently anything over \$10,000.
4. Extend discussion and study the prevailing minimum wage requirement for capital construction project.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott offered comments on benefits of investing and saving early for retirement.

Office of Aging

Julia Goheen, foster grandparent program director, attended the meeting and commented on the impact the elimination of federal funding to the Foster Grandparent program would be. It fills a great need in the community and provides small incomes to already struggling elderly. The Foster Grandparent program has been in existence since 1981 and if the budget is approved, the program will cease. They have written letters to Senator Casey and Senator Toomey and Representatives Gerlach and Pitts.

Maria Diodato, also attended the meeting and expressed her concern of the drastic cuts and the effect they will have on all seniors in the County and asked the public to sign Petitions urging legislators not to cut funding for these services.

Nevin Hallacher, Lori Barr and Donna Morganti attended the meeting and spoke of various issues they are facing with CYS. Ms. Morganti spoke on behalf of a grandmother and the difficulty she is facing trying to adopt her grandchild.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk