

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 24, 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, and Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt in attendance. Also present were First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Esq., and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

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

II. PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt presented a Certificate of Recognition to Marilyn Miller, a RACC student, recently awarded top honor of 2011 New Century Scholar as part of Phi Theta Kappa's All-Pennsylvania Academic Team.

Frederick Sheeler, Berks County Recorder of Deeds and Dale Derr, Director of Veterans Affairs, made a presentation on the services the Recorder of Deeds Office provides to military veterans, and to announce Memorial Day events honoring the veterans. Mr. Sheeler reminded Berks County veterans that the Recorder of Deeds records discharge papers, and that these documents are necessary when applying for veteran benefits. Mr. Derr commented that this past Saturday, May 20, 2011 the 63rd Annual Armed Forces Parade was held in West Reading and Wyomissing. Mr. Derr also announced that almost all municipalities will be holding Memorial Day Parades and activities honoring Veterans who have died in battle protecting our freedoms. There are more than 38,000 individuals buried in Berks County cemeteries and memorial parks, including the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Spanish American War and World Wars I and II. Commissioner Scott commented that in reference to the Reading Eagle article a few weeks ago concerning the Cemetery in Exeter Township, it contains bodies of 2 Revolutionary War soldiers. Dan Esterly and Jacob Heckler. Commissioner Scott commented that under the County Code, counties are charged with maintaining veterans' graves. The Commissioners will direct the Solicitor to communicate with the owners of the cemetery. Mr. Sheeler mentioned there are private organizations that could assist in upkeep of these graves. Mr. Derr commented that the Veterans Affairs Department assists with replacement of grave stone heads.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**Budget Department**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2011 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$86,169.00 and 2011 Appropriations in the amount \$250,708.00 per listing dated May 20, 2011.

Human Resources

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resource Recommendations per listing dated May 24, 2011.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the County of Berks and SEIU Healthcare PA effective January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2015. Shane Keller, Deputy Human Resource Director, commented this contract is for the nurses at Berks Heim.

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 May 23, 2011.

Juvenile Probation Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Project Modification Request for the *Working with Victims of Juvenile Offenders* grant through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for another year ending June 30, 2012 in the amount of \$60,784.00. This grant assists the Juvenile Probation Department in recouping a portion of the salaries of the two probation officers assigned to the Victim-Witness unit.

Mental Health/Mental Retardation

- A. **157.11** Adopt a resolution approving the Mental Health Plan for Fiscal Year 2012/2013 as required by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Welfare. Ed Michalik requested the Board vote and approve the Plan today. On motion of Kevin Barnhardt and seconded by Christian Leinbach, and all voted unanimously to approve this item today.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt commented on Walk/Bike Berks which was held last Friday, May 20, 2011. It was a rainy ride, but he was pleased to be part of the group. Commissioner Barnhardt also commented on the Armed Forces Parade held Saturday, May 21, 2011. It was well organized, and was proud to have participated in the Parade.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach commented that he had met with Pennsylvania Transportation Secretary Walker and discussed the challenges of funding for transportation projects. The high gas taxes are not enough to cover costs of repair of our bridges and roadways. Commissioner Leinbach mentioned that Secretary Walker discussed the possible formation of a task force to look into State based alternatives in raising dollars for transportation costs. Commissioner Leinbach also commented that he agreed to meet with legislative delegates and the business community to discuss 222 North and the West Shore By-Pass.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott was privileged to participate in the Reading Area Transportation Study meeting held at BARTA Offices. He is astounded to have learned of the magnitude of funds required to repair and maintain the bridges and roadways in the Commonwealth.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Anita Burkhardt attended the meeting and stated she can no longer gain access to her property by car. DeTurck's Bridge is now closed, as is the Kutztown Borough Bridge, making her property landlocked. Ms. Burkhardt asked the Commissioners for relief in accessing her property. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that the County will be meeting with Kutztown Borough officials June 7, 2011 to discuss the granting of an easement to the County, and will keep Ms. Burkhardt advised of the progress.

Donna Morganti, Lynne A. Williams, Ph.D., Kenneth and MaryJane Bryfogle and Lori Barr attended the meeting. Donna Morganti read a letter from 2 sisters involved in a BCCYS case, and advised the Board that she brought a psychologist and the grandparents of the children to attend the meeting to offer their comments. Lynne A. Williams, Ph.D., submitted a report to the Board outlining her interaction in this case. Kenneth and MaryJane Bryfogle, maternal grandparents of the children expressed their concerns about the way the children were removed. The Commissioners replied that they do and continue to investigate these situations. First Assistant Solicitor Christine M. Sadler offered to meet with the group after the meeting in an effort to address their concerns. Lori Barr commented on a Citizens Review Panel conference she attended last month and advised the Commissioners that Congress enacted a law in 1996 authorizing the

creation of this Panel. Commissioner Barnhardt asked Ms. Barr if Pennsylvania has any Panels organized. Ms. Barr stated there are three to her knowledge.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:39 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk