

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 12, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 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 called the meeting to order with Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt and Commissioner Christian Leinbach attendance. Also present were County Solicitor Alan S. Miller 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

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Richard E. Fehling introduced the 5 Ukrainian Judges who are visiting the United States through the Open World Program, and placed Flags representing the United States and the Ukraine on the Commissioners' table. Judge Fehling commented that this is the first visit to the United States for four of the five Judges, and gave a brief description of the judicial positions they hold in the Ukraine. Judge Fehling explained the Judges are observing a wide range of judicial and legal processes and procedures of the United States legal system. Judge Fehling also added the Judges visited various Row offices including the Clerk of Courts, Prothonotary and Court Administration. The Commissioners welcomed the Judges, and Commissioner Leinbach welcomed the Judges them in Slovak by saying 'welcome and enjoy your stay'.

Sheila Miller, Berks County Agricultural Coordinator, presented a power point of the Bountiful Berks Program. Ms. Miller introduced the new trademark logo titled Berks Agricultural Resource Network or more simply known as BARN, which was created and designed by Nate Renninger, a 2010 Conrad Weiser and Berks Career and Technology graduate. This new logo is currently on display in Redner's Markets and Shurfine grocery stores in Berks County. Ms. Miller commented their licensee list is growing and looks forward to adding more Berks County farmers, restaurants and retailers to her list. Ms. Miller introduced Eric White of Redner's to discuss how Redner's is using the logo. Mr. White said it is his pleasure to support the farmers who support Redner's. The logo is available to local Berks County farmers and very visible to the consumer. Also introduced was Berks County Sheep farmer Roger Bowman, who complimented and commended the Bountiful Berks Program. He is a strong supporter and helps promote the program at every opportunity. Mr. Bowman also commented that the logo is placed in sticker form on egg cartons, yarn tags and sample yarn cards available to his consumers. Mr. Bowman further commented that this program is important for 3 reasons; 1) buying local products for freshness; 2) support of the local community, and 3) environmentally friendly to the area. Commissioner Barnhardt commented he is pleased with the efforts of Sheila Miller and the

people who support this Program and encouraged the community to buy local when available. Commissioner Leinbach also thanked Sheila Miller and commented this presentation today is the core reason why her position exists, to find local farmers and businesses to promote and grow agricultural industry in Berks County. Commissioner Leinbach further commented on the rise of organic products in the grocery stores, and questions where it comes from. That is why buying local is much more valuable to the community, including food safety. Commissioner Leinbach commented that he made a commitment to Sheila Miller that if we were able to get this program off the ground, he would push for additional support. Commissioner Leinbach proposed three things: 1) Asked the local media contact Ms. Miller or the Commissioners with a commitment to promote the Program to local residents; 2) the County needs to put budget dollars into this Program to keep it growing, and 3) talk about additional support for Sheila Miller because of the tremendous financial benefit to our community and the health of the community. Ms. Miller commented she would like to expand the brochure and has been in contact with the Reading Eagle and the local restaurants. Ms. Miller further stated that other counties are looking to Berks as a model for their programs. Ms. Miller recognized Yolga Arias, her summer intern.

Diane Price, Berks County Armed Forces Advisory Committee Chairperson and U.S. Army Veteran, presented certificates to the Board of Commissioners for their support of the Armed Forces Day Parade held Saturday, May 21, 2011. It was the 63rd annual parade and the oldest Veteran's Parade in the United States. Ms. Price further offered certificates to the Sheriff for special traffic control and also to Sandy Graffius for participation. Ms. Price stated next year's parade will be held Saturday, May 19, 2012.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Commissioner Scott mentioned for the benefit of the Ukrainian Judges that the Board adheres to the Open Meeting Law or Sunshine Law and explained in brief the rules and procedures they will follow today.

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2011 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$35,000.00 per listing dated July 8, 2011. Commissioner Scott commented there is a single item relating to BCCYS.

Human Resources

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated July 12, 2011. Susan Schucker, Interim Human Resources Director, commented there is a single item relating to Berks County Office of Aging.

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 July 11, 2011. Commissioner Scott commented there is one contract for D&E Systems, Inc., n/k/a Windstream D&E Systems, Inc. regarding service for a tower site.

District Attorney

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution by the Board of Commissioners of the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks, the Berks County District Attorney's Office and the City of Reading in regard to the allocation of funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$18,613.00 to be applied toward the costs associated with overtime to detectives, investigative expenses and training related to crash reconstruction, and overtime for officers to carry out approximately 5 Operation Nightlight Details, and such other projects as the District Attorney deems appropriate.

Solicitor

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2009 County taxes including any penalty and interest for Bingaman Road (Parcel Nos. 23-5318-04-90-9906 and 23-5318-04-90-9826) Lower Alsace Township owned by the County of Berks. Alan Miller, County Solicitor, commented that these parcels were donated to the County and this is now an administrative matter to clean up the file. Solicitor Miller further commented that this property is contiguous to Antietam Lake Park.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt commented that he attended City Council last evening to follow up discussions on the Mt. Penn Fire Tower/Radio site. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that Council voted 5-0 to approve the lease with Berks County for a radio tower on the Mt. Penn site which is owned by the City. Commissioner Barnhardt commented it is the most important tower site in the Emergency Radio Tower project, and commended Brian Gottschall, the legal team and Carl Geffken for putting this all together and for making his job easier.

Commissioner Barnhardt announced that today is a special day for him and his Assistant Katie Daley; it is their one year anniversary and thanked Katie for her hard work, dedication and support.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the recent Truancy meeting held this morning at the Berks Agricultural Center. In attendance were a number of school district representatives, BCCYS staff, Juvenile Probation Office, BCIU, United Way, members of the medical profession representing school nurses, Magisterial District Justices, Courts, representatives of Albright College and Mary Young, of the Reading Eagle. Commissioner Leinbach also commented they are forming several subcommittees to address school district truancy issues regarding gathering of data and mission/vision statements. Reports will be submitted on September 12, 2011 @7:30 a.m. This is a County wide effort and he is confident they will be able to address truancy issues by focusing on the following four areas: 1) elementary school, 2) middle school; 3) high school; and 4) remediation, which are individuals out of school but still at risk. The subcommittee will be led by Judge Lash and Tim Daley, Court representative.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Jermaine Edwards of Reading, Pennsylvania, to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees for a six (6) year term ending June 30, 2017, replacing J. Carlton Godlove, II, who resigned. Commissioner Scott thanked Mr. Godlove for his service and commitment to the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees.

Commissioner Scott commented on the County's effort to preserve farmland and commended the County for being 3rd in the Nation, and has preserved approximately 67,000 acres of farmland to date.

Commissioner Scott inquired of Solicitor Alan Miller about a letter the Board received from the Solicitor of Douglass Township concerning Winding Bridge Road. Why is the Township hesitating to make repairs to the bridge? Solicitor Miller responded that typically the municipality makes the repairs, but Solicitor Miller is in discussion with the Township Solicitor to resolve the issue. Commissioner Scott commented for the Ukrainian Judges that the County owns approximately 60 bridges within the County.

Comments from the Floor

Ukrainian Judge Anatoily Polyanskyy asked the the cost is to repair 1 kilometer of road in Pennsylvania. The Commissioners estimated \$70 to \$80 million. Judge Polyanskyy also asked if we grow wheat in Berks County and how much. Sheila Miller responded yes and commented that we grow winter wheat and is not able to give an estimate of the yield.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk