

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 9, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 2011 at 10:30 A.M. in the 13th 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 First Assistant County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler 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 August 1 and August 2, 2011 to conduct interviews for certain County positions.

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2011 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,612,225.00 and 2011 Appropriations in the amount \$112.00 per listing dated August 5, 2011. Beth Evans, Manager of Budget, commented that most of the budget transfers were for Health Choices and the small appropriation was for the CYS Gift fund.

Human Resources

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated August 9, 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 August 5, 2011.

Emergency Services

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution by Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair, of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement between PEMA and Berks County in the award amount of \$84,064.00 in order to advance the goals and objectives of the 2011 Emergency Management Performance Grant program.

- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a Contract between the County of Berks and Pyramid Network Services, LLC, 6519 Towpath Road, East Syracuse, New York, 13057, for construction of (17) raw land and (3) collocation communication tower sites at a price not to exceed \$11,476,728.64. Brian Gottschall commented that all sites have not yet been acquired. There are some leases that have been signed, some in abeyance and some in negotiation. The County is not sure what the aggregate will be, because we are building these towers at 20 different locations throughout the County and that alone will generate numerous change orders, which will affect the contract amount. Each tower site has unique characteristics. Mr. Gottschall explained that in order to protect the County from cost overruns, an exhaustive list of unit prices will be included in the contract. Pyramid was one of 5 vendors who responded to the Request for Proposal. It was a competitive evaluation process. Pyramid was selected for their pricing, experience and willingness to adapt to the terms and conditions the County required in the contract. Commissioner Scott questioned whether this is considered a professional service. Mr. Gottschall commented no it is not. This was a competitive procurement process. Commissioner Barnhardt questioned on the end user of this project, and the status of the purchase of radios. Mr. Gottschall commented they are meeting with every emergency user of the County to develop a budgetary needs assessment before the issue of ordering the radios can take place. The Commissioners and Mr. Gottschall also discussed the pros and cons of a lease buy/back option of the antenna site properties.

Human Services

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Human Services Development Fund Certification Statement submitted to Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution by Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair, of the 2010-2011 State Food Purchase Program – Expense and Data Report as requested by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Food Distribution.

Children and Youth Services

- A. Adopt a resolution of the Berks County Board of Commissioners endorsing the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators, Inc. (PCYA) Position Statement for PCYA Priorities and Mandate Relief adopted by PCYA June 24, 2011. George Kovarie, Executive Director of BCCYS, attended the meeting and explained why the Commissioners should endorse the statements. These statements were developed from the CCAP Human Services Committee. There are an alarming number of transmittals of new services involving child welfare. It is more than the systems can absorb. What these policies do is delineate in rank order priorities for child welfare intervention. In establishing those priorities they set safety of the child as number one, Court Ordered and other legislatively mandated services number

two and any of the other activities the State is requiring us to perform as three. Commission Leinbach made a motion to adopt the resolution today and submit to the PCYA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt. All voted yes. Mr. Kovarie also brought up from the floor a request of the Board of Commissioners for a resolution authorizing execution of the Assurance of Compliance form for submission of FY 2012-2013 Needs Based Plan and Budget. The Board directed Mr. Kovarie to see the Chief Clerk to work out the listing.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt commented on the article that appeared in the Reading Eagle this morning about his appearance yesterday at the Reading Fair and his participation in the walk a cow event. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that unfortunately he did not repeat as winner of the competition this year being dethroned by Representative Mike Tobash, but he enjoyed the event and had fun.

Commissioner Leinbach

No comments today.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott commented he visited New Hampshire last week and spoke to numerous property owners about taxes. He explained that New Hampshire does not have a sales tax or income tax, only property taxes but they are very substantial. The State legislator in New Hampshire is also huge, but they are not paid.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk