

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, November 29, 2011**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 29, 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 Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order with Commissioner Christian Leinbach in attendance, and announced Commissioner Mark C. Scott is out of town and will not be attending the meeting today. Also present were County Solicitor Alan S. Miller and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

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

**II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Department**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2011 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,068,929.00 and 2011 Appropriations in the amount (\$385,742.00) per listing dated November 22, 2011.

**Human Resources**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resources Recommendations per listing dated November 29, 2011. Commissioner Barnhardt commented on the two items listed today.

**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 November 28, 2011. Commissioner Barnhardt briefly read the contract list.

**Solicitor**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2010 and 2011 County taxes, including any penalty and interest for 2026 Hampden Boulevard (PIN 17531818410676), Reading, which is owned by the Reading School District.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2011 County taxes, including any penalty and interest for 412 Pansy Street (PIN 18530666732516), Reading, which is owned by the Reading School District.

- C. Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2011 County taxes, including any penalty and interest for 447 County Line Road (PIN 38539714443567), Colebrookdale Township, which is owned by Grace Independent Baptist Church, Gilbertsville; and further authorizes the refund of \$3,656.41 representing the 2011 County taxes paid by Grace Independent Baptist Church. Commissioner Leinbach questioned how common is it to refund taxes. Solicitor Miller replied not very common. Usually taxes are not paid. Commissioner Leinbach thanked Grace Independent Baptist Church for doing it the right way.
- D. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Administrative Services Only Group Contract with Capital BlueCross and Capital Advantage Insurance Company for the Preferred Provider Organization Plan (PPO).
- E. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the Administrative Services Only Group Contract with Keystone Health Plan Central for the Health Maintenance Organization Plan (HMO).

### **Facilities**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Facilities and Operations to execute Change Order No. 3 to QEI Construction Group, LLC, in the amount of \$180,404.89 for the Antietam Dam Rehabilitation Project, and further extends the contract completion time by thirty-nine (39) calendar days. Commissioner Barnhardt commented that this change order is to close out and clean up the contract. Commissioner Barnhardt further commented that the Dam work is complete and the road was opened mid-October.

### **Berks Heim**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing a private pay per diem rate increase from \$285.00 per day to \$300.00 per day effective January 1, 2012 at Berks Heim. The pharmaceutical drug cost, physician service co-pay and non-covered therapy services will be billed separately. Bob Patrizio, CFO, commented this increase was recommended by the consultant, CHR and is standard operating procedure.

### **Parks**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Clare Adams, Director of Berks County Parks and Recreation Department, to execute the Share Use Path Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for the Reber's Bridge Road. Clare Adams commented this is part of the improvement program to prevent any further accidents or incidents from occurring at this area.

**Emergency Management Services**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment No. 1 of AIA Contract dated January 13, 2011 between the County of Berks and Reynolds Construction Management, Inc. for additional procurement related and preconstruction phase services in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Public Safety Radio System Project.

**Mental Health/Mental Retardation**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of Amendment #1 to the HealthChoices Behavioral Health Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Berks County effective January 1, 2012. The Amendment provides for an overview of the genesis and structure of the HealthChoices Program. Dr. Edward Michalik attended the meeting and commented the main change reduces the cap amount of money the County may retain from 4% to 3%.

**III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS****Commissioner Barnhardt**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Karen A. Miller, Bernville, Pennsylvania, 19506 to the Berks County Office of Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2013, replacing Magda Graciano, whose term will expire December 31, 2011.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Barry Miller, Bernville, Pennsylvania, 19506 to the Berks County Office of Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2013, replacing Yohalna Jimenez, whose term will expire December 31, 2011.

Commissioner Barnhardt commented that he attended the BARTA meeting yesterday and reported that work on the interior of the Franklin Street Station has begun. Commissioner Barnhardt further commented that BARTA has started Sunday Holiday bus service to and from various shopping areas in Berks County, and mentioned for the public the six routes provided.

**Commissioner Leinbach**

Commissioner Leinbach commented on the editorial in the Reading Eagle last week which recommended the County Commissioners consider a \$10.00 per person rebate as a result of the unreserved fund balance. Commissioner Leinbach pointed out the cost involved in such process, and would hope most taxpayers would not want the Board to incur such costs. Bob Patrizio, CFO, offered further explanation of the unreserved fund balance, and the negative implications a rebate would have on the County budget. Mr. Patrizio stated there are misconceptions associated with the unreserved fund balance.

Commissioner Leinbach also commented on the fall CCAP conference he attended last week and stated the number one issue of the Human Services Committee was the unfunded mandates placed on Children and Youth Services by DPW. Commissioner Leinbach complimented Bob Patrizio and George Kovarie for their efforts in compiling information that was introduced to CCAP. Commissioner Leinbach also stated that

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the appointment of Karen F. Minnich, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Office of Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2013.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the reappointment of Janice Fetrow-Stewart, Reading, Pennsylvania to the Berks County Office of Aging Advisory Council for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2013.

**IV. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Diane Price, an employee of the U.S. Postal Service, attended the meeting with six co-workers, and addressed the Board regarding the proposal of the U.S. Postal service to consolidate postal services in Reading to Harrisburg. Ms. Price explained to the Commissioners and the viewing audience the negative implications on mail service this would have on the Berks County area. Ms. Price gave the audience an address to write to offering support and the reasons why this service should remain in Reading. Also making brief comments were postal workers Bob Moyer and John Biehl, who both commented on the impact this proposal would have on the Berks County economy and the families. Ms. Price asked the Commissioners for their support. The Commissioners agreed to send a letter to the U.S. Postal Service endorsing supporting their position.

Berks County Recorder of Deeds Frederick Sheeler reminded veterans to record their military discharge papers. This service is offered free of charged by the Recorder. Mr. Sheeler further advised the Commissioners that digitization of his office is almost complete and as a result he will have a large amount of unused office space. Mr. Sheeler offered to give up have of that to the Sheriff's Office, who he understands is tight on space. The Commissioners will look into and thanked Mr. Sheeler.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:32 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk