

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, January 22, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 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 Christian Leinbach in attendance. Also present were County Administrator William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt did not attend the meeting.

Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and also asked that we remember former Commissioner Vernon K. Shaffer, who passed away this past weekend.

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Ag Land Preservation

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq., Commissioner, Chair, and Sandy Graffius, County Controller, to execute certification of appropriation funding for 2008 in the amount of \$5,126,957.00 for the purchase of Agricultural Easements under Act 43 –the Agricultural Area Security Law, as amended. The total funding amount requested is comprised of \$5 million from the line of credit approved on December 20, 2005 by the Commissioners, as well as the interest collected from the Clean and Green Rollback Tax Penalties and donations to the ACE Program in 2007.

Line of Credit Funding:	\$5,000,000.00
Interest Collected from 2007 Clean and Green Rollback Tax Penalties:	\$ 126,321.00
Agland Restricted: Donations and Plate Sales:	\$ 636.00
Total:	\$ 5,126,957.00

- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Dr. Robert Ziegenfus to be reappointed Chairman of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for the term of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$125,281 and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$815,534 and 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$6,480 and 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$273,940 per listing dated January 18, 2008. Budget Director Bob Patrizio presented the request.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director, presented the January 22, 2008 list of Human Resource recommendations.

Solid Waste Authority

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a Recycling Services Agreement between the County of Berks and the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) concerning the implementation and administration of County recycling programs. SWA Executive Director Jane Meeks presented the agreement and discussed the County's Recycling program goals for 2008.
- B. Ms. Meeks also announced that the Household Hazardous Waste Collection date is April 5th at St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church on Route 562 in Exeter Township; and the electronics collection dates are April 18 and 19th at the same location. She then responded to a question that incandescent light bulbs as well as other electronic waste can be taken to the Western Berks Landfill at anytime during their normal operating hours.

III. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report which is attached to these minutes.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the termination of certain interest rate management agreements previously executed with respect to its general obligation bonds, Series of 1998 and Series of 1999 and General Obligation Variable Rate Demand Bonds, Series of 2002. Peter Edelman, Esq. of Stevens & Lee attended the meeting to answer questions. He reported that the fee to S&Lutions and Stevens and Lee associated with the above transactions will be \$10,000.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the County of Berks to execute the Family Center/Fatherhood Renewal Application 2008/2009. Allocations requested are Family Center--\$110,397 and Fatherhood Initiative--\$30,600. Judith Blimline, Deputy Director of Berks Community Action Program presented the application and discussed the two programs.

Commissioner Leinbach made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and all voted yes to approve the following resolution:

- 19.08 C. Resolution authorizing the execution of a consulting contract based upon the recommendation of the Berks County Environmental Advisory Council Applications Review Committee with Ambient Air Quality Services, Inc. (AAQS) to review an air quality permit application submitted to the DEP by Exide Technologies in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.

Commissioner Leinbach

- A. Commissioner Leinbach expressed his thanks to the Olivet Boys and Girls Clubs for their Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, which was sponsored by Sovereign Bank. He said that Ramona Turpin of Sovereign Bank led the walk through the city, and participated in the ceremony.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Adopt a resolution appointing Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt to serve as the Commissioner Director for the Berks County MH/MR Advisory Board for a one year term.
- B. Adopt a resolution re-appointing Dr. Raymond J. Hubbard, Wyomissing, PA, to the Berks County MH/MR Advisory Board for a three year term ending 12/31/2010.
- C. Adopt a resolution re-appointing Eileen Kastura, Wyomissing Hills, PA, to the Berks County Redevelopment Authority for a five year term ending 12/31/2012.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt a resolution re-appointing Lawrence Greene, Reading, PA to the Berks Area Reading Transportation Authority Board for a five year term ending 12/31/2012.
- B. Commissioner Scott offered a heartfelt eulogy about Commissioner Vernon K. Shaffer, whom he considered a good friend as well as an icon in Berks County Government. Commissioner Scott said that Commissioner Shaffer led an interesting and colorful life. Commissioner Shaffer served for 24 years as a County Commissioner after having served in both World War II and the Korean Conflict as a fighter pilot. The Commissioner said that "he was a true war hero and will be missed."

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

Mr. John Zerr of Geigertown read a statement regarding a long standing dispute he has been waging regarding surveying and boundaries of his property which borders French Creek State Park.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk