

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 12, 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 and Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt in attendance. Also present were County Administrator William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

Commissioner Scott announced that the board held two executive sessions regarding personnel matters on Friday February 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday February 11, 2008.

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$19,146.00 and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$35,795.00 per listing dated February 8, 2008. Budget Director Bob Patrizio presented the report.
- B. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated February 11, 2008.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Jennifer Biehn, Assistant Human Resource Director, presented the February 12, 2008 list of Human Resource recommendations.
- B. Warden Wagner attended the meeting to discuss a request previously denied by the Cost Containment Committee for the hiring of a long term temporary replacement for the Director of Maintenance at the Prison who has been deployed to Iraq, expected return is July 2008.

Parks

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

- 48.08 A. Resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq. as Chairman of the Board, to execute an agreement between the County of Berks and the Pennsylvania Tourism Signing Trust, for signage to advertise the Berks County Heritage Center along Route 222 North.

**II. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

**III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Commissioner Leinbach presented correspondence from two third party tax collectors. Sue Kissling, Director of Tax Claim, and Adam Krafczek, Tax Claim Solicitor attended the meeting to discuss these private collection vendors and the fees charged to delinquent taxpayers in municipalities who contract for their services. She then provided the Commissioners with a cost comparison between the fees charged by the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau and one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party collectors. A long discussion took place with Director Kissling making the board aware of some pending legislation and ending with an agreement that an evaluation is needed for the County's delinquent tax claim fees. It was suggested that this review be overseen by Administrator Dennis, Budget Director Robert Patrizio and Treasurer Nelson Long.
- B. It was decided to sign a letter of support for the Berks County Pandemic Preparedness Advisory Council to formulate a countywide, collaborative and multidisciplinary pandemic planning effort.
- C. Adopt a resolution authorizing the exoneration of local Tax Collectors for unpaid 2007 Berks County Property Taxes in the total amount of \$3,466,615.05 representing 7242 unpaid accounts per listing dated February 7, 2008 and forward to Tax Claim Bureau for collection of same.
- D. Adopt a resolution expressing support for improvements to Rt. #222 from Reading to Interstate 78.
- E. Approve sending a letter of support for House Bill 2127 which moves state funding for county-operated Child Protective Services and Juvenile Justice Programs from a reimbursement arrangement to a quarterly advance payment system. George Kovarie, Director of Berks Children and Youth Services provided detailed information regarding this proposed legislation. The Commissioners agreed to send the letter.

**Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Charles Haddad, President of the Board of Directors of Building a Better Boyertown presented a request for a letter of support for the Boyertown Streetscape Program's funding request of \$1,750,000 from the Fiscal Year 2009 Federal Appropriations Bill. Commissioner Leinbach made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt and all voted yes to approve sending this letter to Congressman Jim Gerlach.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

- A. Update on RACC Bridge—Commissioner Barnhardt met with Dr. Anna Weitz, President of Reading Area Community College, and learned that along with the County's commitment of \$100,000 (from a Department of Community and Economic Development Grant) for the bridge repairs, Our City Reading has agreed to provide \$25,000, and the RACC Board of Trustees will cover any amount over \$125,000. He announced a meeting next week to which all Commissioners are invited to attend.
- B. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at noon in the Commissioners Board Room between the County and the Borough of West Reading to try to come to terms with ownership and a plan of action for the Parkview Road Bridge.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt a resolution to appoint President Judge Jeffrey L. Schmehl to the Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MH/MR) Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of retired Judge Arthur E. Grim, who resigned. Judge Schmehl's term will end December 31, 2009.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk