

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, April 29, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 29, 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.

II. PRESENTATION

Barry Kauffman, Executive Director of the Society for the Preservation of the Gruber Wagon Works presented a check to the County in the amount of \$17,681 to be used towards the preservation of the Gruber Wagon Works. In addition to the presentation, Cathy Wegener, Superintendent of Interpretive Services, Berks County Parks and Recreation Dept. (BCPRD) requested enactment of the following Resolution, to allow the BCPRD to apply for a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant with the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission for \$100,000 in matching funds. This will provide the funding necessary to continue with Phase II of the project with John Milner Associates and the Keast & Hood Engineering Company. Their services will include design for all engineering, architectural, landscape and mechanical systems, as well as the preparation of all construction and bidding documents required to move into the actual construction phase of the restoration. Commissioner Leinbach made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, and approved by all to adopt the following:

- 120.08 A. Resolution to authorize the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department (BCPRD) to apply for a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for \$100,000 in matching funds, for Phase II of the preservation of the Gruber Wagon Works.

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$5,700, and 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$21,635 per listing dated April 25, 2008. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.
- B. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq. as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator Candace Noll, per attached listing dated April 28, 2008.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Beth Schiepan, HR Director presented the Human Resource recommendations list dated April 29, 2008.
- B. Sue Schucker, HR Generalist, presented a proposal for a RACC work/study program. Students would work up to 15 hours per week in a County department. She reported that this would be a part of the student's financial aid package and would be of no cost to the county.

III. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report, attached.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Commissioner Leinbach discussed the letter received from Bill Green, Councilman-At-Large, City Council of Philadelphia and for other Pennsylvania Counties to consider resolutions to eliminate funding of court systems from future County budgets. He cited a 20 year old decision of Pa Supreme Court which suggests that the funding of Pennsylvania's unified judicial system is in violation of the constitution yet the Counties across the commonwealth still bear the financial burden. The Commissioner then read an e-mail from President Judge Schmehl asked that the County go slow in this issue as it has the potential for crippling the court system
- B. Commissioner Leinbach discussed Board Appointments for the Airport Authority for the expired terms of Mike Setley and Ike Matza. Commissioner Scott suggested adding Mike Setley's reappointment to the Thursday meeting agenda.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Commissioner Leinbach made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, and approved by all to approve the following:
 - 121.08 B. Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement between the County of Berks and The Commonwealth of PA Department of Community and Economic Development under the Shared Municipal Services Program in the amount of \$48,500 for the PERF (Police Executive Research Forum) Policing Study of Berks County. The terms of the agreement are from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

Commissioner Barnhardt continued:

- B. Greg Galtere of the United Way of the Boyertown Area was present to discuss Boyertown's "No Place for Hate Day" Event on May 6, 2008.
- C. Adopt a resolution appointing Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt to the Berks County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) for a one year term ending 12/31/2008.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott noted that he met with BCTV, for whom he is a Board Member. He said that they have made known their desire for increased funding, which he said should go through the budget process. County Administrator Dennis noted that their request would be reviewed as there has been no increase in funding to BCTV for a number of years.
- B. Commissioner Scott also noted that he would like to schedule a special meeting of the pension board to discuss an alternative to the current way of funding the county pension fund.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk