

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, June 17, 2008**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 17, 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 Kevin Barnhardt and Commissioner Christian Leinbach 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 and announced that the Commissioners held an executive session on Monday June 16, 2008 to discuss personnel matters.

### **II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

#### **Budget Department:**

- A. Budget Director Bob Patrizio presented the 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$125,051 per listing dated June 13, 2008.
- 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 June 16, 2008.

#### **Community Development**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing several changes to the County's Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Shelter Grants Programs. Ken Pick, Community Development Director attended the meeting to present this request.
- B. Ken Pick updated the Commissioners on the RACC Bridge repair project.

#### **Emergency Management:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Performance Grant (EMPG) Agreement in the amount of \$60,260 to cover the expenses for the Emergency Management Coordinator office for the period of October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008.

**Human Resource Director:**

Beth Schiepan Human Resource Director presented the Human Resource list dated June 17, 2008 for approval and followed with a discussion regarding a proposed concept for a four day work week on a trial basis in an attempt to reduce fuel consumption and to increase employee morale. She explained that department heads who choose to allow their employees to use this alternative work schedule would be required to work four 10 hour days in the work week (Wednesday through Tuesday) noting that the 4-day work week does not apply to employees in a 24-hour operation; and during holiday weeks, all employees will have the holiday off and be paid per normal procedure. However, during those weeks, all employees will revert to a typical 8-hour, 5-day schedule for the work week (Wednesday through Tuesday) among other details.

Commissioner Leinbach said that the motivation of this proposal is the \$4.00 per gallon for the cost of gasoline. The Commissioner complemented Beth and Susan Schucker for putting together a well thought out plan.

**III. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly Administrator's report

**Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Commissioner Leinbach introduced Morgan Firestine, Berks County's new Animal Science Educator with Penn State Cooperative Extension replacing Clyde Myers who recently retired.
- B. Commissioner Leinbach reviewed a CCAP report on the PA House State Government Committee hearing held on June 4th regarding a vote-by-mail system which has been implemented in the state of Oregon. He said that he agreed with the objections provided by CCAP particularly the concern for the security of vote with this type of system.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt announced that the county will be providing a type of electronic access to the Web site for public comments regarding the Police Services Study currently underway with PERF (Police Executive Research Forum.)
- B. The Commissioner reminded everyone of a public meeting scheduled for 7 PM on June 26, 2008 in the Lower Alsace Township Office for the purpose of discussing the Master Plan for Antietam Park.
- C. Commissioner Barnhardt said he would be asking the Commissioners to sign a letter of support for House Bill No. 2631 of 2008 to increase the funding level of reimbursement for Juvenile Detention Centers from 50% to a 90% reimbursement for the cost of providing services.

- D. Commissioner Barnhardt reported that Carol De Wolf, Director of the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative of the Natural Lands Trust has offered to sponsor a conference to help develop a priority list of Open Space and Recreation projects that are either located or proposed to be located in the Greater Reading Area in order for a funding plan to be developed and ready to take to Harrisburg. It is anticipated that the conference will be held this September.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott proposed to table the following resolution until such time as the County Solicitor can provide additional research on the authority for the Commissioners to establish the land values relative to the properties enrolled in the County's Clean and Green program.

167.08 Resolution establishing Clean and Green land values.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT TO EMPLOYEE ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

The members of Berks County's Volunteer Council annually provide an expression of appreciation for the hard working Berks County Employees by sponsoring the annual County Ice Cream Social. To kick things off, Berks County Agricultural Coordinator Sheila Miller introduced Gail Switzer, daughter of Marie Switzer and the late Leonard Switzer, Womelsdorf, as the Berks County 2008/2009 Dairy Princess. Gail has served as a Berks County Dairy Ambassador for the past four years. In addition, she is a member of the Western Berks 4-H Dairy Club, Berks County Dairy Beef Club, and Conrad Weiser FFA (Future Farmers of America). She is an active member of the Marion Grange, Stouchsburg, the Berks County Pomona Grange, and the PA State Grange and serves as the 2007-08 PA Grange Youth Ambassador. Joining Miss Switzer was Ellissa Kunkel, Berks County's Li'l Miss Dairy Princess 2008. Miss Kunkel is the daughter of Ethan and Jennifer Kunkel, Kempton.

Following a brief presentation on the Dairy Industry, Miss Switzer and the members of her court served some delicious Way-Har Farms Ice Cream to Berks County Employees on the 13th floor balcony.



There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk