

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, September 9, 2008**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 9, 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, Esq. called the meeting to order with Commissioner Christian Leinbach, and Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, First Assistant Solicitor Christine Sadler, and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

Christopher Neidert, Chief of Exeter Police Department, Dr. Edward Michalik, Berks County MH/MR Administrator, Brian Hiester, Chief of Cumru Police Dept and Chairman of the Berks County Emergency Response Team (BCERT,) and Officer Wayne Moreland of Muhlenberg Township Police Department and the BCERT Tactical Team Leader provided an update on the BCERT.

Dennis Louwarse, Executive Director /CEO of BARTA Park and Ride provided the Commissioners with an update of initiatives and plans for commuters in Berks County including the five park and ride sites more fully detailed on the BARTA web site at [www.bartabus.com](http://www.bartabus.com).

#### **Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$55,547.00 prepared by Budget Director Bob Patrizio.
- 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 September 8, 2008.

#### **Court Administration:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution a lease agreement between the County of Berks and Victor and Keldia Cabrera for Magisterial District Court 23-1-03 for a 10-year term commencing on January 1, 2009 and terminating on December 31, 2018 at a rate of \$12.50 sq. ft. with a 3% annual increase for 3,339 sq. feet of office space. Also included is a one time payment of \$8,200.00 for the cost and installation of a HVAC system for said premises. Commissioner Barnhardt questioned this 10 year lease payment schedule and suggested that more comparative analyses between this 10 year lease vs. purchase of a building should be considered. It was agreed to proceed with the analysis and delay the decision on this lease for two weeks.

*Human Services*

- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution and submission of Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) Service Plan for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

**II. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Bill Dennis (report attached)

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

Commissioner Barnhardt credited Controller Sandy Graffius for the idea to utilize the old Berks Heim building for the storage and cataloging of used books in preparation for the **American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Friends of Berks County Libraries Book Bonanza** which helps to raise funds for the Berks County Library System. Joan Cook, AAUW Member and Chairman of the Berks Book Bonanza, Linda Baer, and President of the Friends of Berks County Public Libraries, Tracee Yawger, children's librarian at the Spring Township library and Julie Reinhart, Berks County Library System Administrator all thanked the Commissioners for their consideration. At this time Commissioner Barnhardt made a motion to approve the following resolution, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted yes to approve.

- 245.08 A. Resolution authorizing an agreement between the County of Berks and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to provide approximately 4,000 square feet of space at the Old Berks Heim building for the collection, sorting and storage of the books used in the annual Book Bonanza Sale benefiting the Berks County Public Libraries. This arrangement will be for a period of either one (1) year or until such a time when separate accommodations can be secured.

*Commissioner Scott*

- A. Commissioner Scott reported that the County's official protest documents have been filed with the federal Surface Transportation Board in opposition to the proposed abandonment of an 8.5-mile short line railroad known as the Colebrookdale Spur.

**Commissioner Scott continued:**

- B. Commissioner Scott discussed the request from the Berks County Tourist Bureau for the Commissioners to consider expanding the hotel tax from the current foot print of a 15 mile radius from Reading. He cited several reasons including the current economic climate for announcing his opposition to any expansion of this tax at this time. Both Commissioners Barnhardt and Leinbach agreed with this position and Commissioner Leinbach offered a written statement outlining his position which will be attached to the minutes.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk