

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, September 23, 2008**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 23, 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. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Sandra Graffius, Controller, and John T. Adams, District Attorney, discussed the charges filed against two Berks County constables, Thomas L. Holt and Dennis J. Mulligan for allegedly billing the county for work they did not perform. Controller Graffius thanked the District Attorney for his cooperation in this investigation.
- B. Berks County Agricultural Coordinator Sheila Miller, Roger Bowman, a Berks County sheep farmer and member of Berks Agricultural Resource Network and Tami Hildebrand, President of the Berks Agricultural Resource Network, a non-profit organization that is sponsoring the **Berks County Farm tour** provided highlights of the tour which will include roughly ten farms and is scheduled for Saturday October 11, 2008. Tami Hildebrand, who is also Executive Director of the Agriculture Land Preservation Board announced that **Berks County now leads the nation in numbers of acres preserved for Farm Land** and is listed third in the Nation for the number of farms preserved by state and location easement programs.
- C. **The Berks Green Procurement and Sustainable Practices Policy** draft was presented by Jane Meeks, Chair of Berks Green Team Task Force and Executive Director of Berks Solid Waste Management Authority and Kelly Laubach, Berks County Purchasing Manager.

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

#### **Berks Heim**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Berks Heim private pay per diem rate increase. Jerry Fudeman, Heim Administrator attended the meeting to discuss this requested rate increase.

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$25,151 and 2008 Appropriations in the amount \$456,180 per listing dated September 19, 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 September 19, 2008.

**Court Administration**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing a \$100,000 grant application by the Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) on behalf of the County of Berks with Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government's Innovations in American Government Program. Tim Daley Criminal Justice Program Director presented this grant application approval request, stating that no county match is required.

**District Attorney**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq., as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Berks County, to sign a grant application between the County and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), in the amount of \$21,000 to aid in the purchase of a Crime Scene Vehicle.

**Human Resources**

- A. Human Resource recommendations per list dated September 23, 2008. Assistant HR Director Jennifer Biehn presented the list.

**Solicitor:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of 2007 County taxes for Parcel ID No. 92-4490-06-49-3449 owned by the Borough of Leesport in the amount of \$9.74 including all penalties and interest.
- B. Adopt a resolution ratifying, confirming and approving the execution of Settlement Agreements in regard to employee litigation.
- C. Adopt a resolution authorizing advertising an Ordinance AMENDING AND MODIFYING ORDINANCE NO. 5-04 PROVIDING FOR THE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF THE BERKS COUNTY PARK SYSTEM. Christine Sadler, First Asst. Solicitor explained that this proposed change will address the needs for the current use and activities at the Antietam Park property

**IV. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report (attached.)

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

- A. Commissioner Leinbach reported on a proposed amendment to HB 1258 regarding "spot assessment" that will have a negative impact on farmers and reported that he will provide follow up information for the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

- A. Adopt a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 283-07 dated October 4, 2007 regarding the acquisition and condemnation of easements of the proposed Hay Creek Trail properties. Commissioner Barnhardt proposed to abandon the Hay Creek Trail project. He said he was disappointed but based on the Commissioners' budget meeting discussions it was determined that the funds would be focused on other higher priority projects including the restoration of the Gruber Wagon works and other long term Parks and Recreation infrastructure needs. He reported that the county spent an estimated \$654,000 on the project of which \$266,339 in grant funds will need to be returned to the state. Commissioner Scott also expressed his disappointment and suggested that funds could be used for the improvements to the Schuylkill River Corridor. He also expressed hope that the rail bed might some day be converted back towards rail use for the economic development benefit of those businesses located along the rail corridor in New Morgan Borough.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott presented a letter for the Commissioners agreement to send to the US Environmental Protection Agency requesting an update on the Bally Groundwater Contamination Superfund site Remedial Action Plan.

**Public Comment**

Exeter Supervisor, Michelle Kircher reported that the relocation of the Fegley's Diner project in Exeter Township was delayed due to storm water management planning issues and that the project would need an additional time extension to approved for the Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Commissioners indicated their support for an additional extension and directed Ms. Kircher to request the extension with Ken Pick, Community Development Director.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk