

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 6, 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. Peter T. Edelman, Esq. presented a request for adoption of an Ordinance authorizing the renewal of a Guarantee Agreement for a Line of Credit by the Berks County Industrial Development Authority with Fulton Bank.
- B. Lisa Siciliano, Family Court Administrator, and Denny Lorah, President of the Berks County Parrothead Club, presented a brief overview of the Safe Haven Supervised Visitation Program and upcoming fundraising event called Cabin Fever Festival scheduled for Sunday January 25, 2009 at the Reading County Club Ballroom from 1 PM to 6 PM.
- C. Ellen Horan, President & CEO of the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and Industry discussed the Chamber's achievement of receiving 5-star status, one of only three Business Chambers in PA and one of 43 in the United States to receive it.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Community Development**

- A. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted yes to approve and confirm payments set forth on disbursement voucher list #605 dated 1/6/09 for the Community Development Block Grant Program, the HOME Grant Program and the Property Rehabilitation Program as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office.

**Human Resources:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated January 6, 2009 was presented by Human Resources Director Jennifer Biehn.
- B. Jennifer Biehn requested adoption of a resolution authorizing the execution of a 1 year/12 month Contract Renewal between the County of Berks and Symetra Financial, Bellevue, WA 98004, commencing January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

**Solicitor**

- A. Solicitor Miller presented a resolution which would authorize the execution of a Municipal Improvements Agreement between the Township of Bern and the County of Berks allowing the County to make certain improvements to the Gruber Wagon Works site.

**III. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report to the Commissioners (attached to the minutes)

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Commissioner Leinbach**

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt a resolution reappointing Jonathan Encarnacion, Reading, PA to a three year term ending 12/31/2011 on the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation (MH/MR) Advisory Board.

Commissioner Scott continued:

- B. Commissioner Scott asked 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Solicitor Christine Sadler to provide a report of a recent grievance arbitration hearing between the County and Teamsters Union. She described, in general terms, the time involved in defending what the board agreed was very appropriate disciplinary action taken against an employee at the prison. This was deemed to be unacceptable actions by this bargaining unit member. She said that with all the meetings, hearings and testimony required to defend the County's action, the costs so far, and not including staff time, amounted to over \$3000 which was split between the County and the Union. Commissioner Scott wanted the citizens to be aware that the number of these grievance arbitrations has nearly doubled in recent years thereby creating what he described as more unnecessary expenses to the taxpayer which he feels could be avoided with more cooperation from the Union representatives.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk