

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 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. He also announced that the board held 2 executive sessions on January 27th and February 2nd for personnel issues.

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$364,969 per listing dated January 30, 2009. Budget Director Bob Patrizio presented the list of transfers.

Community Development

- A. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list CDBG #2337, Emergency Shelter #2338-S, Rehab Escrow #1354, and HOME #606 dated 1/30/09 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 February 3, 2009. Human Resource Director Jennifer Biehn presented the recommendation for approval.

Parks:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement between the County of Berks and the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission for a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$90,000 for the restoration of the Gruber Wagon Works. Bill Semmel, Director of Berks County Parks and Recreation Department presented this agreement for approval and then introduced Barry L. Kauffman, Executive Director for the Society for the Preservation of the Gruber Wagon Works. Mr. Kauffman attended the meeting to present a check in the amount of \$18,738 towards this preservation effort.

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 a Wall Street Journal article provided to him by Commissioner Scott regarding the Federal Government's proposed stimulus package.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. John Ravert, Conservation District Manager attended the meeting to discuss the proposed Berks County Association of Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs) by explaining that he attended a meeting called by Commissioner Barnhardt who first proposed that the Berks County Environmental Advisory Council with its two remaining members be put on hold, and an Association of Municipal EAC's be formed with the Conservation District Manager as the project coordinator. John Ravert then presented the board with a report summary extracted from the Inventory of Natural Areas of Berks County which was developed by the County Conservation District back in 1991. Copies of the inventory were sent to all county municipalities in the hopes that through appropriate land use regulations, these natural areas would be protected from destruction. He also pointed to a paragraph in that report that called for the formation of Municipal Environmental Advisory Councils. He noted that the first meeting of this new Association is planned for March 4th at 7 PM at the Ag Center, with subsequent meetings being held quarterly on the first Thursday of the last month of each quarter.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott also provided comments on the Federal Government stimulus plan.
- B. Commissioner Scott commended the anonymous person who reported environmental issues, including workplace exposure to chemicals within the Exide Technologies Inc. Hyde Park Smelter Plant. An investigation of those complaints by the PA Department of EP resulted in \$102,000 in fines for Exide.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk