

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, March 3, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 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, Esq. 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 an executive session was held Monday, March 2, 2009 for personnel purposes.

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$134,500., 2009 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$13,503, and 2009 Appropriations in the amount \$38,000 per listing dated February 27, 2009. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.

Community Development

- A. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list # 608 dated March 3, 2009 for the Community Development Block Grant Program, and voucher # 2341 for the HOME Grant Program as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office.

Emergency Services:

- A. Adopt a resolution approving the Berks County E9-1-1 Wireless Certification and further authorizing Wanda Keener, 9-1-1 Coordinator to submit an application to the PA Emergency Management Agency for funding.

Human Resources

- A. Human Resource recommendations per list dated March 3, 2009. HR Director Jennifer Biehn presented the list.

Green Team Task Force:

- A. Request approval for Green Procurement / IS policy. Green Team Chair Jane Meeks and Purchasing Manager Kelly Laubach gave an overview of the draft document which they described as being more guidelines rather than a countywide policy. They explained that all major policy shifts towards the purchase of "green" products will continue to be decided by the Commissioners.

III. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented the Veterans Affairs Office Policies and Procedures document which proposes to permit Berks County Veterans Groups to make Veterans activity related photo copies at the Veterans Affairs Office for \$.05 per copy. Mstr Sgt. (Ret) Larry Cohen read from a prepared statement opposing the policy. He noted that this policy would be beneficial to only a few select veterans groups, not veterans as a whole, and that veterans may end up waiting for their needed services at the office while staff is busy making copies. He suggested that a better solution might be to have the groups submit their information to the VA office who would then prepare a newsletter to be sent to all veterans groups highlighting all groups' events. Commissioner Scott thanked Mr. Cohen for his remarks and noted that he sees this policy as a compromise from a prior practice. Commissioner Barnhardt noted that he will follow up with the Veteran's Task Force on the newsletter idea.

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report (attached.) Mr. Dennis also spoke of the upcoming 2010 Census. He noted that each uncounted person results in \$1000 of lost revenue for the county, therefore it is extremely important for Berks to have an accurate count. All of the 2000 census committee members have committed to help with the 2010 census. Community Development Director Ken Pick has indicated that there is Stimulus money available to aid in this effort.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS**Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Commissioner Leinbach reported that Mayor McMahon has stated that the City funding for the Reading City Libraries will not be available after 2009. Commissioner Leinbach suggested holding a meeting between the County Library Board and the City of Reading Library Board possibly facilitated by Administrator Bill Dennis and/or Business Analyst Dean Smith to ensure a free and open discussion on ways those organizations could work together and hopefully discover financial and operational efficiencies.
- B. Resolution to reappoint Gloria Seifrit from Reading, PA, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board of Directors for a 3 year term ending February 1, 2012.

Commissioner Leinbach continued:

- C. Resolution to appoint Ryan A. Breisch from Temple, PA, to the Reading Public Library Board for a 5 year term ending on December 31, 2013. Mr. Breisch is replacing Frank Schnee, whose term expired.
- D. Resolution to reappoint Betty J. McDonough from Bernville, PA, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board of Directors for a 3 year term ending February 1, 2012.
- E. Resolution to reappoint Joan M. Lewis from Sinking Spring, PA, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board of Directors for a 3 year term ending February 1, 2012.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt reminded the audience that two public meetings have been scheduled to gather input from the public regarding the County policing study with PERF (Police Executive Research Forum). He said that they will be held on March 10th at 6:30 PM in the Fleetwood High School auditorium and on March 12th at 6:30 PM in the County Services Center auditorium.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott said that a Proclamation declaring March as Mental Retardation Awareness Month has been signed by the board.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk