

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, May 5, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 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 1st Assistant Solicitor Christine Sadler, 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

Peter Edelman, Esq. presented a request for approval of a financing project by the Berks County Municipal Authority to finance a project for the Reading Hospital and Medical Center and the Highlands at Wyomissing.

Crime Alert Berks County President and Founder Barry Rohrbach, along with Treasurer Joe Periandi, and Board Member Eric White of Redner's Markets provided an update for the 11th year of the program noting that a total of 340 arrests have been made since Crime Alert's inception with nearly \$161,000 being paid out in rewards. District Attorney John Adams stated that he and his office fully support Crime Alert Berks County. Mr. Rohrbach noted that ideally, he would like every citizen of Berks County to donate one dollar to Crime Alert. Donations can be sent to PO Box 6786, Wyomissing, PA 19610. Tips can be phoned in to 1-877-373-9913 or on their website: www.alertberks.org.

Elections Director Deborah Olivieri reported the readiness of her office for the May 19th Municipal Primary Election. She indicated that this election will include the Special Election for the 124th District State Representative replacing David Argall. She also reported that 21 western Berks precincts will be dropping off materials and results after the polls close at the Agricultural Center instead of the Services Center. She said that if this trial goes well, the procedure may continue and possibly expand.

Diane Price and Jan Kinginger, both members of the Armed Forces Day Parade Committee, promoted the Armed Forces Day Parade scheduled on May 16th. The route will follow Penn Avenue and Penn Street from 8th Avenue in Wyomissing to 8th Street in Reading. They said that this year's parade is the 61st Berks County Armed Forces Day Parade, the oldest in the US, and will be honoring Vietnam Veterans. Also noted was that the 326th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Unit will be filming and photographing the parade.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS:**Budget Department**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2009 Appropriations in the amount \$31,000 per listing dated May 4, 2009. 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 May 4, 2009.

Community Development

- A. Adopt a Resolution to amend the FFY2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to eliminate \$45,000 allocated to Hereford Township and the funds be allocated to contingencies; and to amend the 2008 Action Plan to allocate funds from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), authorized under Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- B. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list # 2350 for the Community Development Block Grant Program, DV #614 for the HOME Grant Program and DV #1360 for the Property Rehabilitation Program as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office.

Department of Emergency Services:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$25,944.00 as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to be used toward hazardous materials planning and training activities.

Human Resources

- A. Human Resource recommendations per list dated May 5, 2009.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS**Commissioner Leinbach**

- A. Commissioner Leinbach noted that this is National County Government Week. The theme this year is "Greening Our Future." He encouraged all to listen to Feedback with Mike Faust on WEEU on Wednesday, May 6th from 9 AM to Noon for more information about what the County is doing to "green our future."

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Commissioner Barnhardt noted that the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Study is nearing completion. He is still trying to obtain information from Brecknock Township and Laureldale Borough; others have acknowledged that they are working on the survey and will submit them shortly. He said that PERF expects to have the results to the Commissioners by May 29th.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott reported that he has received, and shared with his colleagues, a proposal from ReL Tek, a leasing agent for railroad properties, who is interested in taking over the leasing work for the Colebrookdale Spur.

V. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

- A. Recorder of Deeds Fred Sheeler reported that April's real estate transfers were up—at the highest point since June 2008.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk