

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 2011**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 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 First Assistant Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Esq., and Interim Chief Operations Officer Kenneth C. Borkey, Jr.

Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. PRESENTATION:

- A. Peter T. Edelman, Esq. of Stevens and Lee and Tom McKeon, Executive Director of the Berks County Industrial Development Authority 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.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2010 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$206,512.00, 2010 Appropriations in the amount of \$185,100.00, 2011 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$4,443,762.00 and 2011 Appropriations in the amount of \$3,868.00 per listing dated December 30, 2010. Bob Patrizio, Chief Financial Officer, explained the Budget Transfers and Appropriations that are listed.

Children and Youth Services

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Esq., as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to execute the Social Service and Healthcare Professional Liability Renewal Application for Children and Youth Parent Trainers and Recruiters.

Community Development

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the FFY 2010 Community Development Block Grant Program be amended to allocate \$20,000.00 to the Borough of Laureldale for the demolition of a blighted commercial building located at 3412 Montclare Street. The project's completion date is 12/31/2010. Further, authorize the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program be amended to eliminate \$200,000.00 from Service, Access, Management and the funds be re-allocated to Family Promise of Berks County, Inc. for eligible activities. Ken Pick, Director of Community Development, presented information on these two projects.

Department of Emergency Services

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of an Amendment to Lease between the County of Berks and Easy Does It, Inc. to facilitate implementation of the County's public safety radio system.

Facilities

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of Engineering Services Agreement No. 120618 between the County of Berks and Buchart Horn, Inc. to provide an initial site characterization of the Stonecliffe Recreation Area at a not to exceed amount of \$12,800.00.

Human Resources

- A. Human Resource recommendations per list dated January 4, 2011. Commissioner Barnhardt noted that the HR Recommendations list Maryjo Gibson as the new Chief Clerk and he thanked her for accepting the job.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a revised renewal agreement of the health plan between Capital Blue Cross and the County of Berks which lowers the rates previously authorized in the renewal agreement signed on November 18, 2010. Jennifer Biehn, Director of Human Resources, was present to provide information on the Capital Blue Cross agreement.

Purchasing

- A. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated January 3, 2011.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted to approve the following:

- 01.11 A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Liberty Environmental, Inc. to provide comments on the Plantwide Applicability Limit Air Quality Permit Application for Lehigh Cement's Evansville Plant in Maiden Creek Township. The estimated cost to perform the proposed scope of work is \$4,200.00 to provide comments on the application and \$3,500.00 to conduct a Dispersion Modeling Analysis.

Commissioner Barnhardt

Commissioner Barnhardt read a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections commending Warden George Wagner and his staff at the Berks County Jail System for achieving 100% compliance with regulations on their 2010 annual state inspection.

Commissioner Barnhardt also remarked on Senator Michael A. O'Pake's funeral service. He stated that all Elected Officials should strive to carry on Senator O'Pake's ideals and virtues in order to be better officials.

Commissioner Leinbach

Commissioner Leinbach congratulated Maryjo Gibson on being appointed the new Chief Clerk of Berks County. He also thanked Interim Chief Clerk Katie Daley for taking on the job duties after the departure of former Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer. He noted that changing the position to part-time instead of full-time will save money.

Commissioner Leinbach also remarked on Senator O'Pake's death. He recalled that he and Senator O'Pake did not always agree politically; however, it was never personal. Commissioner Leinbach remarked that the Senator was passionate about work and community and he thanked him for the examples he set.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott also recalled his fond memories of Senator O'Pake throughout the years. He stated the Senator had a great sense of humor and will be missed.

Commissioner Scott congratulated Maryjo Gibson on being named the new Chief Clerk. He stated that Maryjo brings a wealth of experience to the position. Commissioner Scott commented on the fact that Maryjo was one of the first people he met when he began working in the Solicitor's Office for current President Judge Jeffrey Schmehl.

CITIZEN COMMENT / BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Steven Pinckney, Nevin Hallacher, Lori Barr, Judy Vaughn, and Donna Morganti, members of Families United for Family Preservation, were present to voice their concerns about the screening process for foster parents. They also raised issues with the number of children in Kinship Care. The Commissioners and George Kovarie, Executive Director of Children and Youth Services, responded by explaining that the proper procedure to have foster parents investigated is to contact the Department of Public Welfare. Mr. Kovarie did state that numerous background checks are conducted on potential foster parents prior to children being placed in their care.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaitlin P. Daley, Interim Chief Clerk