

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 25, 2011**

***I. CALL TO ORDER:***

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 25, 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 Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., Interim Chief Operations Officer Kenneth C. Borkey, Jr., and Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk.

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

***II. PRESENTATION***

Berks County Sheriff Eric Weaknecht and Chief Deputy Sheriff Damore of the Berks County Sheriff's Department presented Project Lifesaver. Chief Deputy Damore explained that Project Lifesaver is an electronic tracking program used to assist in locating people with Alzheimer's disease, Autism Spectrum Disorder and other cognitive disorders who wander from home or become lost. He gave a brief demonstration of the wrist and tracking equipment. There was also a demonstration using the canine tracking system. The Commissioners thanked the Sheriff for his presentation and hopes the public takes advantage of this valuable program.

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

***Budget Department***

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2010 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$178,950.00, 2010 Budget Appropriations in the amount of \$4,870.00, 2011 Budget Transfers in the amount \$71,300.00 and 2011 Budget Appropriations in the amount of \$269,873.00 per listing dated January 24, 2011. Chief Financial Officer Robert Patrizio commented that \$200,000.00 of the 2011 Budget Appropriations is for the March 15 Special Election, and will be reimbursed by the State.

***Community Development***

- A. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher lists dated January 25, 2011 for the Community Development Programs as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office:

Disbursement Voucher #2499 – CDBG

\$ 6,082.42

Disbursement Voucher #2500 – HPRP	\$15,852.74
Disbursement Voucher #2501 - PA HPRP	\$20,760.54
Disbursement Voucher #1397 - CD Rehab Escrow	\$ 4,019.92
Disbursement Voucher #656 - HOME	\$ 3,349.50

### **Human Resources**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Human Resource Recommendations per list dated January 25, 2011.

### **Purchasing**

- A. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per revised listing dated January 24, 2011.

### **District Attorney**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution by Commissioner Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair, of the SAVIN (Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification system) Maintenance and Service Agreement between the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute and Berks County.

### **Facilities**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing Ryan Hunter, Director of Facilities and Operations, to execute Capital Project Change Orders per attached listing dated January 21, 2011.

### **Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution by Commissioner Mark C. Scott, Esq., Chair, and Sandy Graffius, County Controller, of the Certification of County Funds for 2011 Program Year in the amount of \$1,082,456.00 for the purpose of purchasing agricultural conservation easements, pursuant to the Agricultural Security Law, as amended, and provided there are no major changes in available State funding.

## **IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **Discussion by the Board**

A discussion was held by the Board on the Lehigh Cement Air Permit Application. Lehigh Cement maintains a large quarry located in Evansville, Maiden creek Township. Gavin Biebuyck of Liberty Environmental, Inc., the County's consultant hired to review this matter, has drafted a comment response letter to PA DEP concerning Lehigh Cement's Air Quality Permit Application for Plant-Wide

Applicability Limits. Commissioner Scott offered a brief overview of the comments. Commissioner Leinbach spoke of his concerns and questions on the comment response letter to be submitted to DEP. He stressed that the role of the County is to make sure that any entity that emits pollutants does not impair the health and safety of Berks County residents.

**Commissioner Barnhardt**

Commissioner Barnhardt commented on the Public Safety Radio System project scheduled to be implemented sometime in 2013. He spoke to Attorney Jill Nagy concerning the complex issues surrounding this project and believes there is some miscommunication between the Borough of Kutztown and Maxatawny Township. All parties are working on an amicable solution. We are looking for suitable acreage for tower space and land use in Lower Alsace, and will be meeting with Township officials next Friday.

Commissioner Barnhardt also announced the County has received the resignation of Julie Rinehart, Berks County Library System Administrator, and congratulated her on 20 years of dedicated service to the County. He praised her for her strong leadership and professionalism. It has been an honor to serve with her and he has learned a great deal working with her.

**Commissioner Leinbach**

Commissioner Leinbach thanked and congratulated Julie Rinehart for her 20 years of service to the County of Berks and the Berks County Library System, and mentioned through her hard work and dedication the Library System has expanded to many municipalities of the County.

**Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott joined in congratulating Julie Rinehart for her many years of service to the County and wishes her good luck in retirement. She has been a strong advocate for the Library System and will be difficult to replace.

**VI. CTIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Frederick Sheeler, Berks County Recorder of Deeds informed the Commissioners that he will be presenting his annual report of the state of real estate transfers. He thanked Commissioner Scott for his concern for the environment and keeping it clean.

James Troutman, Berks County Clerk of Courts, made a few comments regarding the Lehigh Cement matter and how very difficult it is to navigate through the comment process, particularly regarding the purchase of NOx allowance.

Donna Morganti, Judy Vaughn, Lori Barr, Steven Pinckney, Nevin Hallacher, and Lizzette Fedena, members of Families United for Family Preservation, were present to comment about the foster parent process in Berks County Children and Youth Services and children in Kinship Care. The Commissioners responded that the proper procedure if they have complaints is to contact the Department of Public Welfare. Commissioner Scott offered telephone numbers of the appropriate individuals at the State office. Ms. Morganti, Ms. Barr, Mr. Pinckney and Mr. Hallacher presented documents relating to their concerns.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk