

Commissioners' Board Meeting December 16, 2010

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 16, 2010, at 10:30 A.M. in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor 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., and Interim Chief Operations Officer Ken Borkey.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 7, 2010 Commissioners' Workshop and December 9, 2010 Commissioners' meetings were approved as presented.

2011 BERKS COUNTY BUDGET

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt and seconded by Commissioner Leinbach to approve the 2011 Berks County Budget and the 2011 Tax Millage as currently proposed at 6.935 mills.

Prior to the vote each Commissioner provided to the Interim Chief Clerk their letters of conflict noting their individual abstentions from portions of the 2011 Budget (conflict letters are attached to these minutes). Following those disclosures all voted yes to approve the 2011 Budget and Real Estate Tax Millage.

- 369.10 A. Resolution authorizing adoption of the 2011 County of Berks Budget and further establish that the 2011 Real Estate Tax millage will remain at 6.935 mills.

Consent and Non Consent Agenda Items

2. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt , seconded by Commissioner Leinbach and all voted to approve the items listed below with the following exceptions:

Commissioner Scott voted no to Item #6 in Resolution #371.10, Commissioner Leinbach voted no to Resolution #372.10, and all voted yes to Resolution #378.10
Items #1 and 2 only

- 370.10 B. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2010 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$234,652.00 and 2010 Appropriations in the amount \$1,292,685.00 per listing dated December 10, 2010.
- 371.10 C. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated December 14, 2010.
- 372.10 D. Adopt a resolution to approve revisions to the County of Berks Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Policy.
- 373.10 E. Resolution authorizing the execution of Amendment #1 of the grant agreement between the County of Berks and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a Keystone Historic Preservation Grant. This amendment extends the ending date of the contract from January 31, 2011 to January 31, 2012.
- 374.10 F. Resolution authorizing Mark C. Scott, Chair of the Berks County Board of Commissioners to sign the "Grant Recipient's Release, Grant Recipient's Assignment of Refunds, Rebates, and Credits, and WIA Grant Closeout Tax Certification" for the WIA Grant for Berks County Employment and Training Office on behalf of the applicant for Contract Number 015098911 which was part of federal stimulus funding to fund the summer youth employment program and subsidized employment for adults.
- 375.10 G. Adopt a resolution authorizing the County of Berks to participate in the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) Program for County property taxes concerning commercial properties located within the City of Reading effective January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 with the understanding that the City will accept and approve all applications to, and otherwise administer, the LERTA Program. The Berks County Board of Commissioners may review the County's participation in the LERTA Program at the end of the first year and opt out of further participation in the LERTA Program with the understanding that any commercial property in the LERTA Program prior to December 31, 2012 or prior termination of the County's participation pursuant to this resolution shall be entitled to the ten (10) year exemption schedule outlined in the LERTA Program.

- 376.10 H. Adopt a resolution authorizing the following reappointment to the Berks County Mental Health / Mental Retardation Advisory Board:
- Raymond J. Hubbard, Wyomissing, PA, to a three year term ending December 31, 2013.
- 377.10 I. Adopt a resolution authorizing the following reappointment to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board:
- Victoria Kintzer, Sinking Spring, PA, to a three year term ending December 31, 2013.
- 378.10 J. Items # 1 and 2 of the Revised Human Resource Recommendations per list dated December 16, 2010.
- 379.10 K. Adopt a resolution authorizing the following appointment to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board:
- Randy Haag, Bethel Township, PA, to a three year term ending December 31, 2012. This is a replacement for Ernie Miller who resigned effective December 31, 2010.
3. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated December 13, 2010.
4. Motion to ratify and confirm payments set forth on Controller's Office vouchers listing dated December 16, 2010.
5. Motion to approve payments set forth on disbursement voucher list dated December 14, 2010 for the Community Development Programs as administered by the Berks County Community Development Office:
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| DV# 2488 – Community Development Block Grant Program | \$18,401.94 |
| DV# 2489-R – ARRA Funds – CDBG-R | \$14,772.69 |
| DV# 2490-PA-HPRP | \$229.35 |

Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA submitted a prepared weekly Treasurer's report.
2. The Controller's weekly report was presented by County Controller Sandy Graffius.

Citizen Comment/Business From The Floor

Commissioner Leinbach congratulated Kathy Monroe, who was appointed as the Executive Director of the Berks County Office of Aging. Kathy was previously the Deputy Director of the Office of Aging.

A discussion took place regarding Items 3 and 4 of the Human Resource Recommendations per list dated December 16, 2010. Item 3 is a recommendation to authorize 2011 Management/Confidential Merit Salary Increases. Item 4 would authorize approval of 3.00% budgetary allotment for 2011 Management/Confidential annual salary increases for all Court Appointed Departments, including Judges' Personal Staff, Treasurer's Office, Clerk of Courts, and Prothonotary. Jennifer Biehn, Director of Human Resources, explained the increase scale for departments who opt in to the Merit Based System and the scale for departments who opt out of this system. President Judge Jeffrey Schmehl, who opted out, stated that he is satisfied with the scale for 2011. Prothonotary Marianne Sutton and Register of Wills Larry Medaglia both raised concerns about issues with raises for Management/Confidential employees as opposed to guaranteed raises for union members. Mr. Medaglia stated he only opted into the system so his employees would not suffer. Clerk of Courts James Troutman stated the Row Officers have a statutory right to hire, fire, and supervise their own employees without input from the Board of Commissioners or Human Resources. Commissioner Scott expressed concern with 3% increases in salaries when there is no inflation. He believes raises should be more in line with the economy. Commissioner Scott stated that he would like to see a scale that awards a 2.50% increase for an overall Good evaluation, 2.75% for Very Good, and 3.25% for Outstanding. Commissioner Barnhardt and Commissioner Scott expressed the need to scale back the raises going forward. Commissioner Leinbach stated he believes the county has been tough when negotiating with unions and that needs to continue. He also stated that he believes in the Merit Based system and thinks evaluations are meaningful and beneficial to employees. The Board of Commissioners stated that negotiating is a time-consuming process, but that unions should not drive the process. Marianne Sutton and Larry Medaglia, despite their concerns, did state that they are satisfied with the increase scale for 2011.

Prior to voting on these items, Commissioner Barnhardt provided to the Interim Chief Clerk his letter of conflict with regard to voting on Management/Confidential pay raises pertaining to Judicial Staff. This letter is attached to these minutes.

6. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnhardt, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach to approve the item listed below. Commissioner Scott voted no to Items #3 and 4 of Resolution #378.10.

378.10 J. Items # 3 and 4 of the Revised Human Resource Recommendations per list dated December 16, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaitlin P. Daley, Interim Chief Clerk