

**Commissioners' Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 6, 2004**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 10:30 AM 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 Judith L. Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioner Tom Gajewski, Commissioner Mark Scott, Solicitor Alan S. Miller and Acting Chief Clerk William E. Dennis present.

Commissioner Schwank acknowledged the attendance of a number of students as part of Youth Day. The students were there to shadow assigned County officials and employees. Commissioner Schwank followed with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On motion by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski, the minutes of the April 27 and April 29, 2004 Commissioners' meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Schwank called upon Sheriff Barry Jozwiak who remembered with those present the career of Deputy Sheriff Ronald A. Szurgot who had recently passed away. Deputy Szurgot received the Outstanding Officer of the Year award in 1992 and his last duties were in coordination with the Domestic Relations Office. Sheriff Jozwiak described Deputy Szurgot as being very well liked and missed by all. Commissioner Gajewski agreed that Deputy Szurgot was a very caring individual, helping immigrants become citizens and being very active in the Polish community.

On motion by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski, the following proclamations were approved:

1. Adopt Proclamation regarding *Older Americans Month*, recognizing the citizens of the County of Berks who are celebrating their golden years as a vital part of our community. Barbara Coffin, Executive Director—Office of Aging, Nancy Lemmerhart, Public Relations Coordinator—Office of Aging, and Martha Sitler, Director of Services—Berks County Senior Citizens' Counsel, to be in attendance.
2. Adopt Proclamation regarding *Youth Day*, May 6, 2004.

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Schwank and Solicitor Miller introduced as part of the consent agenda Ordinance 03-04, an ordinance providing a guarantee of the proposed airport bond issue. Commissioner Gajewski advised that he would vote for the ordinance, however, there were several points he wished to make. The first point was finding that the presentation of the request was handled in a very sloppy way. The guarantee, in the course

of the discussions, had gone from \$8.4 million, to \$10.3 million, to finally \$9.75 million. He had also asked for some additional information to flow from the airport to monitor the success of this project. The Commissioner also wanted to note that the uses of the bond are to retire existing debt, to match federal grant money, to make FAA required improvements to the airport, to provide for improvements to the sewage treatment plant to service the airport, Bern Township and the new St. Joseph's Hospital, to provide a debt reserve fund which will be self liquidated and for the cost of issuance of the bond. He continued by saying that the airport's ability to repay will be largely dependent upon the planned expansion of the airport's industrial park and, to that end, he had asked the Greater Berks Development Fund to help the airport with this project. They have agreed to meet and determine how they can assist. Commissioner Gajewski concluded by calling on all economic development agencies to assist, knowing that the Airport Authority will have to work hard to make the project a success. Commissioner Scott stated his support of the ordinance and the proposed bond amount. Commissioner Schwank stated her support seeing the opportunity of the area as one of a high tech corridor.

1. Adopt Resolutions:

- 235-04 A. Establishing the Berks County Environmental Advisory Council, adopting bylaws and providing an effective date. Commissioner Scott voiced his opposition to this proposal citing ample opportunity for problems. He stated his belief that a dedicated, focused Commissioners meeting with existing board would achieve the same objective and better manage the limited resources available. Commissioner Gajewski asserted that everyone is a caretaker of the environment especially for future generations. He countered Commissioner Scott's concerns over managing funds by saying that all expenses would have to be brought before the Commissioners. He believes that the effort is worth the try and that if it doesn't work, the Council would be disbanded. Commissioner Schwank saw the existing framework very limited in scope. She views the proposal as an opportunity to take a broad approach to issues. The Commissioner stated that there are many positives to the approach but there could be downsides as well. She concluded by saying that the success of this endeavor depends on leadership and she would pledge her time to see what was needed to make this effort a success. Mr. Craig Hafer was present and stated his support of establishment of the Council.
- 236-04 B. Authorizing the execution of the Contracts for Plumbing Construction, Package #2, at the Fire Training Center, Live Training Prop, to S&L Mechanical, Inc., with an office located at 154 Franklin Street, West Reading, Pennsylvania 19611 in the amount \$48,500.00.

- 237-04 C. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 11/09/02 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$10.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 19049).
  - 238-04 D. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 12/02/02 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$10.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 19049).
  - 239-04 E. Authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a female child born 5/8/85, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 5/8/04 through 5/25/04 in the form of Foster Care (Agency Provided) from Berks County Children and Youth Services Foster Care at the per diem rate of \$19.50 to allow for completion of high school.
  - 240-04 F. Authorizing 2004 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$18,219.00 per listing dated April 30, 2004.
  - 241-04 G. Authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated April 30, 2004.
  - 242-04 H. Authorizing approval of a Note to be issued by the Williamsport Municipal Authority in connection with the Firetree Ltd. Project, and further to conduct a public hearing concerning the issuance of such Note.
2. Change Order Requests for the renovation of the INS facilities, in the total amount of \$6,946.74:
- a. Change Order Request No. G-2, General Construction; Amount \$2,386.74. Remove door F11 and construct fire rated separation.
  - b. Change Order Request No. P-1, Plumbing Construction; Amount \$4,560.00. Replace two non-functioning water valves.
3. Obtain Commissioner Approval for Unauthorized Purchases. Controller Graffius and Mr. Dennis advised that periodically they would be bringing a list of unauthorized purchases to be approved by the Commissioners. These stem from departments not following established purchasing procedures. Both advised that efforts were underway to control the amount of

unauthorized purchases, so it was not anticipated that many such requests would come before the Board.

4. Authorize extension of utilization of temporary agency for Office Support II - Aging, for an additional 3 months (until approximately 8/6/04). Rate of \$15.00/hr. Services are necessary due to implementation of the mandated statewide client data system. Budget 01-315.

The County Controller and County Treasurer presented their weekly reports.

**Agenda Items for Discussion**

1. Adopt Resolution authorizing the County of Berks (Berks County Affordable Housing Trust Fund) to provide \$8,500.00 in matching funds to the City of Reading for the Vacant Property Inventory Demonstration Project; and \$10,000.00 for the Downtown Revitalization Plan. Commissioner Scott moved to table the request for \$10,000 for the Downtown Revitalization Plan citing that he had not received information in order to review and make a decision. Commissioner Gajewski concurred and seconded the motion.

On motion by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski, the proclamations, the "Consent Agenda", and the request for \$8,500 for the Vacant Property Inventory Demonstration Project was moved for approval. Commissioner Scott advised that he would not vote in favor of Item "A" (Berks County Environmental Advisory Council), but would vote in favor of all other consent items. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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William E. Dennis, Acting Chief Clerk