

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 14, 2004**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 14, 2004, at 10:30 AM, in the thirteenth floor Board Room 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 Thomas Gajewski and Commissioner Mark L. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor, Alan Miller, Esq. and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

***II. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:***

Commissioner Schwank presented a Proclamation for the Schuylkill Valley Community Library's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Day.

***III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$204,730 for the express purpose of funding BARTA's eligible expenses for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.
- B. Adopt Resolution appointing John Rothenberger, CFO Clover Farms Dairy Company, 3300 Pottsville Pike, Reading PA 19605 to the Berks County Workforce Investment Board to fill the unexpired term of John W. Kaisoglus whose term expires June 30, 2006

***Commissioner Schwank***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing an Agreement between Owner and Architect AIA Document B151-1997, by and between the County of Berks and the Architect (Synergetics Architects, Partnership) to provide a Feasibility Study for the County of Berks Adaptive Recreation Center for a Not to Exceed fee of \$7,500 Cost Containment approved the project on 9/8/04. Bill Semmel, Parks Director, attended the meeting and explained the purpose of this study.
- B. Motion to approve Recommendations of the Berks County Open Space and Recreation Advisory Council for 2005 Open Space and Recreation Grants. Shannon Rossman, Planner from the Berks County Planning Commissioner informed the board that an additional request for funds was submitted to the Planning Commission from the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area requesting funds for the Thun Trail Project in Berks County.

Shannon Rossman presentation continued:

She indicated that this \$100,000 funding request was not part of the grant application process and that it had arrived after the closing date for submissions. She said that the request was for \$100,000 towards the Thun Trail project, which would enable them to acquire additional funds, which were contingent upon the County's contribution. Shannon suggested that if the board were to approve the Committee's current list of grant fund recipients totaling \$89,900 out of a \$100,000 line item in the 2004 budget, then the remaining funds (\$11,000) in this line item could then be considered for this new project. Commissioner Schwank commended the Parks Advisory Committee for the time and effort put into this evaluation process for grant applications. Both Commissioners Gajewski and Schwank suggested that the Schuylkill River organization submit a grant application similar to the previous applicants which would give the Commissioners the same information such as how the funds would be used towards the project in total, following that request Shannon should report back to the Commissioners with additional information. Commissioner Scott then commented on each project:

1. Berks County Conservancy – He expressed his support for the \$19,000 proposed for the acquisition of a conservation easement for the Neversink Mountain property since the property may ultimately be returned to County for ownership.
2. Union Township – \$25,000 for the Township's Master Site Plan – no objection
3. Amity Township - \$15,000 for playground facility construction; Commissioner Scott suggested that we should carefully scrutinize applications in townships of this size to determine whether the township is using developer's impact fees towards the park land. His comment was intended to encourage all communities to invoke all tools available to them before requesting funds from the County.
4. Northern Berks Recreation Commission - \$15,000 for Soccer Field Construction – no comment
5. Womelsdorf Borough - \$15,000 for the construction of Basketball court and tot lot in the borough park. The Commissioner suggested that this project might have been eligible for CDBG funds. Shannon responded by stating that this land was donated to the borough by a developer. She also indicated that the county's grant application process does require the municipality to describe other methods of funding that may or may not be available to them.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt Resolution Authorizing execution of Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in the allocated amount not to exceed \$225,000 for the Borough of Robesonia to replace the superstructure of the bridge on Meadow Avenue that is contingent upon a commitment of funding for \$50,000 from the Borough.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Resolution authorizing reappointing Robert Bagenstose to the Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse, term to expire February 1, 2007.

**IV. OTHER REQUESTS:****Solicitor:**

- A. Resolution approving the financing by the Saint Mary Hospital Authority for Catholic Health Initiatives for improvements to certain facilities operated by St. Joseph Medical Center and to conduct a public hearing concerning such project. Solicitor Alan Miller explained that the purpose of this public hearing and authorizing resolution is to meet the mandatory requirements of the Internal Revenue Code by allowing public comments on this proposed tax exempt financing project. The approval for the financing is needed from the County Commissioners because this proposed tax-exempt bond financing project involves a Hospital Facility located in Berks County. The Hospital Financing Authority on behalf of the Saint Joseph's Hospital is required to adhere to this process and obtain county approval in order for the hospital to acquire lower cost, tax exempt financing to build a 120 bed "state of the art" diagnostic facility along the intersection of Rts 183 and Rt. #222. He explained further that the approval of this financing project would in no way involve any financial obligation or financial guarantee from the County. He said the hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, at the scheduled Commissioners meeting. Bucky Closser of Curtin & Heefner, counsel to the Saint Mary Hospital Authority, and Pat Richards, CFO of St. Joseph Medical Center was present to answer questions. Commissioner Gajeswski suggested that asking the County for approval at this late stage in the project is "backwards." He indicated that he had additional questions to be resolved prior to his voting favorably on this request.

**Budget Director:**

- A. Resolution authorizing 2004 budget Transfers in the amount of \$175,900 per listing dated September 10, 2004.

**Contract Coordinator:**

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated, September 10, 2004

**Purchasing Director:**

- A. Motion to award a contract as a result of Request for Proposal #04-10-RC, a contract for a stability and flood analysis of Antietam Dam to Schnabel Engineering with an office at 501 East Gay Street, West Chester, PA, 19380 at their cost proposal of \$74,990; Renee Carpenter was present to describe this contract and reminded the board that according to Berks County Resolution 148.04 the county intended to use Growing Greener funds to pay for this study. Commissioner Scott expressed his concern that the County fund this study and inadvertently absolve the city from its commitment to continue negotiating for the sale of this property with the County.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Commissioner Scott noted that the report on the County's Workers Compensation claims was down significantly with savings noted.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.