

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, September 21, 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 Gajewski presented a Proclamation on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to Melanie Geiger and David Longacre for Historic Hamburg Heritage Day (September 25, 2004). Melanie stated that this was the 3rd annual Heritage Day held in Hamburg that was described as a day where the business owners of Hamburg have joined together to celebrate the rich heritage of Hamburg and to showcase its downtown business district, filled with more than 100 years of diverse architecture and specialty shops. Both Melanie and David thanked the board for this recognition and invited everyone to attend the numerous activities schedule throughout the day and evening of the 25th.

Robert L. Moore, Esq., David Esser, Robert Showalter and Peter Diebold all members of the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board, presented the Friends of Berks County Parks Fund / Berks County Community Foundation Fund. The Foundation was described as an organization that was created in 2004 following a strategic planning process with the Parks Board, and then partnered with the Berks County Community Foundation to raise funds for the operation and restoration of the Berks County Parks and Recreation facilities. Mr. Moore suggested that these public and private donations could help to provide additional recreational activities held at the Berks County Parks; restoration projects at facilities such as the Gruber Wagon Works and the Union Canal and other park related ventures. The board expressed appreciation to each member of the Parks Board and emphasized to the public the critical component that parks have on our community for its citizens and visitors alike.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution approving PA Department of Transportation plans for housing replacement as last resort for two Berks County property owners. Paul Goida, District Right of Way Administrator, Engineering District 5-0 PA Department of Transportation was present to request a Resolution granting approval for PennDot to proceed with "last resort housing" action for two properties located in Berks County. The first property is affected by the improvement of the intersection of Park Road and State Route 73 in Blandon and the second involves acquisition of property becoming landlocked as a result of bridges being washed out along State Route 82 south of Birdsboro. The State is required to obtain the approval of the County prior to proceeding with eminent domain proceedings on these private properties. Commissioner Gajewski indicated that he was aware of the turning difficulties in that intersection for trucks and that Penn Dot had exhausted all remedies prior to consideration for this taking. Commissioner Schwank said she regularly drives this intersection and described the existing condition as one of a conflict of commercial and industrial traffic. She stated her encouragement to Penn Dot to provide other improvements to this dangerous intersection.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Resolution Authorizing payment of invoices Authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
1. No. 2099-S Emergency Shelter Program
 2. No. 2100 – Community Development Block Grant Program
 3. No. 474 – HOME Grant Program
 4. No. 1229 – Property Rehabilitation Program.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Amendment #2 to the Healthchoices Behavioral Health Agreement No VC1486-01. Ed Michalik, Director of MH/MR described this amendment, which was to approve the 6% Managed Care Organization assessment. He also indicated that it would have no fiscal impact on the County. It was compared to the IGT (Intergovernmental Transfer) Program for Nursing Homes where a draw-down of additional Federal dollars is possible.

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:

Solicitor:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a Lease Agreement between Marvin C. Miller and the County of Berks for office space located at the Matthew Brooke Professional Center, Suite 180, 321 N. Furnace Street, Birdsboro, for District Court 23-3-01.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving a financing by Saint Mary Hospital Authority for Catholic Health Initiatives.

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 budget transfers in the amount of \$135,171 per listing dated September 23, 2004 and budget appropriations in the amount of \$296,832. Commissioner Scott asked Bob Patrizio, Budget Director to discuss the cash flow status for the county. Bob responded by saying that the situation is manageable. Commissioner Schwank added that the County's current financial direction needs to be more of a change in mindset rather than a short-term fix. Commissioner Scott expressed appreciation to the Budget Director for his efforts to date. Commissioner Gajewski also thanked the court system staff and other ROW officers for the spirit of cooperation shown. Controller Graffius thanked her staff and in particular, Fred Fisher, for his efforts in tracking down approximately \$47,000 in refunds after discovering that a vendor was incorrectly charging the county sales tax.

Contract Coordinator:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated, September 17, 2004.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Commissioner Schwank discussed the recent flood mitigation efforts underway and encouraged municipalities to respond to our EMA in order for damage estimate reports to be submitted in a timely fashion to the Federal Government for possible Emergency Funding. Commissioner Scott commended the staff of Emergency Management stating that they were doing an excellent job. Commissioner Gajewski noted that with all the flood damage we experienced, the Antietam dam survived.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.