

Commissioners' Board Meeting
Thursday, October 28, 2004

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 28, 2004 at 7:00 PM in the Library of the Kutztown High School, 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 Scott in attendance. Also present were the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, Asst. Solicitor Christine Sadler, and County Administrator, William E. Dennis.

Following a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance Commissioner Schwank asked the Treasurer and Controller and the remaining board members and staff to introduce themselves to the audience. Following that, Commissioner Schwank introduced the Principal of Kutztown High School, Eric Erb who thanked the board for bringing Commissioners' meeting to his school. He spoke briefly about the laptop program the school successfully implemented which enabled them to acquire 637 lap top computers for their students.

The Commissioners' Meeting Minutes for the October 19, 2004 Commissioners' Workshop Meeting as well as the October 21, 2004 Commissioners' Meeting were approved as published with a motion made by Commissioner Scott seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve.

Commissioner Gajewski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted yes to approve the following Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda

1. Authorizing consent agenda items:
 - 434.04 A. Adopt Resolution authorizing County Treasurer and Controller to transfer funds from the Bond Fund to the General Fund.
 - 435.04 B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Chair of the Board, to execute The Emergency Food Assistance Program – TEFAP (Inventory – Reimbursement Request Form for the Fourth Quarter (July, Aug & Sept) FFY 2003-2004, in the amount of \$8,963.57 for distributing 89,635.68 pounds of food at \$.10 per pound and to authorize Margaret Bianca, Executive Director, Greater Berks Food Bank for apply for the funds on behalf of Berks County.
 - 436.04 C. Adopt Resolution to authorizing the County to become a member of the CCAP (County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania) UC (Unemployment Compensation) Trust.
 - 437.04 D. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 budget transfers in the amount of \$34,719 and Appropriations in the amount of \$88,673 as per listing dated October 22, 2004.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated, October 22, 2004.
3. Motion to correct Resolution 419-04 to state amount of \$52,057 for the Tobacco Bridge Grant Agreement approved at the 10/14/04 Commissioners' meeting.

Reports

Controller Graffius presented her weekly report and Treasurer Nelson Long presented the Treasurer's report. Following this presentation both the Controller and Treasurer explained the responsibilities of their office to the students.

Student Question and Answer session

Commissioners Schwank then opened the meeting to questions from the students. A discussion followed regarding the Election Process including the responsibility of the Election Board.

Commissioner Scott expressed his thoughts that this election is a major national concern. He felt that the results from the County's 180 precincts might not be clear for 4 or 5 days following the election. He expressed strong interest in assuring the 25 "problematic" registrations were properly investigated before the election to assure our citizens of a fair election process. Commissioner Gajewski discussed the numbers of newly registered voters in Berks County and described the overwhelming task of processing the more than 60,000 applications in our Election Services office being preferable to a lack of interest by our citizens. He then commended the staff in the Election Services office along with the County Administrator and the many employees and volunteers for assuring that the challenges that the County faced with this Election were successfully met. Commissioner Schwank stated that there will most likely be long lines at the polling places and she was getting numerous calls from the major national parties asking what the County is doing to assure that every vote is counted. She stated that the results for the Presidential may not be known for some time after the election, but the results from most of the local elections for the Senate and Congress would be known that day. Christine Sadler, Asst. County Solicitor explained the State SURE system and the safeguards that are in place to detect and prevent fraud from ever occurring on Election Day. In answering a question from the audience, she stated that the penalty for committing a fraudulent voter act is anything from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Following the discussion, Scott Wails and Cheryl Auchenbach presented the Berks 2004 Greenway Plan and responded to the Students questions and took their suggestions. In addition to the presentation, the students were requested to fill out a parks needs survey.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.