

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 16, 2004, at 10:45 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 Certificate of Recognition to the Kutztown Fraternal Order of Eagles in honor of their 100th Anniversary and a Certificate of Recognition to the Kutztown Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary for their 50th anniversary. Accepting the certificates were Paul Moser, Lisa Kutz, Kathy Kennish, Ellen Overcast and Judy Fix.

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition to John Ulrich for his service to the community as a Reading City Councilman as well as a member of the Reading Water Authority. The Certificate stated that Mr. Ulrich is known for his generosity, caring and compassion and has been a familiar sight throughout the County serving food he has donated to numerous causes. It also states that "Big John" is currently joining with St. Marks UCC to supply pretzels to our troops in Iraq. Mr. Ulrich thanked the board for the recognition.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution to approve the 10-year Municipal Waste Management Plan revision for Berks County. Brian Clements, Chairman of the Berks Solid Waste Authority and Doug Rauch, Esq. Solicitor for the Authority presented the plan revision, which was the result of a request for proposals sent by the Solid Waste Authority and awarded to Gannet Fleming. Mr. Clements explained that the County is required by state statute to plan for the County's waste disposal needs and designate disposal sources for capacity for the next 10 years. He explained that this plan proposed that with the extension of municipal waste disposal agreements at the existing area landfills, the capacity requirement for the County could be met. He then discussed the need for better reporting of recyclables in the County. It was proposed that the Authority hire a Recycling Coordinator charged with overseeing the County Recycling and reporting requirements. Commissioner Scott commended the Authority for completing a simple, affordable plan for the county with emphasis on recycling and household hazardous waste.

Commissioner Schwank suggested that the county begin efforts to evaluate the possibility of a County composting facility for yard waste recycling. She also commended the Authority for addressing incinerators in this plan. Commissioner Gajewski described the Lancaster incinerator as a clean operation. Commissioner Scott reminded the board that Lancaster County developed intermunicipal agreements to control the county's waste stream to the facility which is what makes that operation financially feasible. Mr. Clements added that only with rising prices and shrinking capacity for waste disposal would an incinerator appear to be an attractive investment for Berks County.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Commissioner Schwank made a motion to amend Resolution 413.04 to add an additional \$10,000 to the original request for a Grant Agreement between the County of Berks and the Department of State in the amount of \$15,000 under the Provisions of Title II of the Help American Vote Act of 2002 for financial assistance to accomplish all activities that are required by the Act. The motion to change this request to \$25,000 was seconded and approved unanimously. She then spoke briefly on the schedule of meetings established for a Voter Reform Task Force.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing application for County Aid from Colebrookdale Township in the amount of \$168,250 for the engineering and inspections related to the replacement of a bridge on Township Line Road over Swamp Creek. The estimated cost of the entire project is \$443,250.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving the Consultant Selection Procedures for the Buttonwood Street Bridge Rehabilitation.
- C. Adopt Resolution to reappoint James L. Mason, 1628 Sherwood Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610 to the Berks County Planning Commission for a four-year term ending 12/31/08.
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing Edward McCann to sign On-The Job Training Contracts and Subsidized Employment Agreements dated 11/05/04.
- E. Adopt Resolution amending the Berks County Property Rehabilitation Program.
- F. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - a. No. 2106 – Community Development Block Grant Program

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott described the leadership role Berks County has played in a number of environmental challenges with area landfills such as Pioneer Crossing, Conestoga Landfill and the Pottstown Landfill and commended the efforts made by the special counsel, Roades and Sinon, who were appointed to represent the county in these legal matters. He discussed the settlement agreement with BFI (Waste Management) that pays over \$167,000 per year to the County General Fund and together with the tipping fees received from the Landfill, a total of \$1,803,000 has been received and spent in the General Fund. He called for the county to set those funds aside as an environmental defense fund to be used for environmental related issues. Commissioner Gajewski questioned why the funds weren't set aside years ago when the settlement occurred? Administrator Bill Dennis indicated that he would provide an overview of the historical use of those funds for the board's future evaluation.

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:**Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 budget appropriations in the amount of \$2,632,685 per listing dated November 12, 2004.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness to First Assembly of God, Inc., Windsor Township, including any penalty and interest for the 2004 tax year.
- B. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness to Alvernia College, Reading, including any penalty and interest for the 2004 tax year and further authorizing a refund of \$644.82 for 2004 taxes paid.
- C. Resolution authorizing the advertising of a special meeting to be held December 6, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of considering a resolution fixing the salaries of certain elected officials.

Purchasing Director:

- A. Resolution authorizing the Appointment of a Representative to the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council.

Contract Coordinator:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated, November 12, 2004.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Commissioner Scott noted that the board held an executive session with Administrator Bill Dennis and Financial Advisor Mark Lundquist.

EAC Presentation:

Craig Hafer, Chairman of the Berks Environmental Advisory Committee and Suthida Chairatananuwat, Berks Information Systems, and several members of the Berks County EAC were present to unveil the new Berks Environmental Advisory Web site. Craig demonstrated this comprehensive site, which includes collaboration with the Reading Eagle Newspapers to allow visitors to view archived Environmental Information at no cost. Craig stated that this site represents the first EAC in Pennsylvania to integrate the PA DEP's efacts system within a separate website. He noted that the site also becomes the first website in the Nation to integrate the Olive news archive software within its site using the Reading Eagle archives. By working with the PA DEP and various federal agencies, the BCEAC creates a model for all other counties within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Nation to promote environmental education within their respective Counties. The website was made possible through the efforts of the Reading Eagle Company, the County of Berks, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the various agencies in the United States. The web address is : <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/eac/site/default.asp>

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.M.