

Commissioners' Board Meeting
Thursday, December 9, 2004

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 9, 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 Thomas Gajewski and Commissioner Mark Scott in attendance. Also present were the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, Solicitor Alan Miller, and County Administrator, William E. Dennis.

The Commissioners' Meeting Minutes for the November 30, 2004 Commissioners' Workshop Meeting and December 2, 2004 Commissioner's Meeting were approved as published with a motion made by Commissioner Gajewski seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted yes to approve.

Consent Agenda

1. Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve the following consent agenda that was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve with a decision to hold on Resolution 479.04 until next week's agenda.
 - 472.04 A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of the 2005 Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) Application by and between the County of Berks (District Attorney) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding in the amount of \$21,849.00 (Federal Funds - \$19,664.00, Local Matching Funds - \$2,185.00) covering the project period 4/1/05 to 3/31/06. Mike Natole, D.A.'s Office was present to request an amendment to this resolution presented at Tuesday's work session to add additional grant funds from as a result of the City's PAL program waiving their share for the county.
 - 473.04 B. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of the 2005 Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) Application by and between the County of Berks (Chief Public Defender) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding in the amount of \$21,849.00 (Federal Funds - \$19,664.00, Local Matching Funds - \$2,185.00) covering the project period 4/1/05 to 3/31/06. Glenn Welsh, Chief Public Defender was present to request an amendment to this resolution presented at Tuesday's work to add additional grant funds session as a result of the City's PAL program waiving their share for the county.
 - 474.04 C. Adopt Resolution re- appointing Russell L. Swinehart, 24 Lisa Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608 to the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/07.

- 475.04 D. Adopt Resolution Adopt Resolution re- appointing Mary Brooke, Brooke Estates, 252 Haycreek Road, Birdsboro, PA 19508 to the Berks Housing Authority Board for a 5 year term expiring 12/31/09.
- 476.04 E. Resolution authorizing execution of an Amendment to Lease between Bern Partners, L.P., 1420 Clarion Street, Reading, Pennsylvania 19601, and the County of Berks for office space for District Justice Thomas Gauby (23-3-05).
- 477.04 F. Resolution authorizing the Berks County Solicitor's Office to advertise Ordinance No. 5 providing for the Rules and Regulations Governing the Use of the Berks County Park System and Providing Penalties for Violation of the Same, to be enacted at the meeting on December 23, 2004.
- 478.04 G. Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$961,816 and Appropriations in the amount \$285,591 per listing dated December 3, 2004.
- 479.04 H. Resolution approving the Human Resource Policy recommendations:
- Sick Time Donation Policy
 - Tobacco/Smoking Policy
 - Human Resources Record Retention Policy
 - Fair Labor Standards Act Guidelines, Overtime, and Compensatory Time Policy
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated December 6, 2004.

Reports

1. County Treasurer, Nelson Long, CPA presented his weekly report.
2. Deputy Controller presented the weekly reports on behalf of Controller, Sandy Graffius.

Public Comment:

Jim Troutman, Clerk of Courts, suggested changes to the Sick Time Donation Policy to allow those employees that must undergo treatments such as chemotherapy but chose not to take the full ten days off to become eligible recipients of this donation policy. Jennifer Beihn, Deputy Director of Human Resources discussed this as well as the other policies currently presented and it was decided to table the decision until next week's Commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Scott updated the board on his investigation of possible reductions in contributions to the employee pension plan. He informed the board that those reductions may be possible as future contributions but you cannot go back on previous agreements with employees and retirees and it would require legislative change at the State level. Commissioner Schwank suggested that the CCAP Solicitor be contacted on this and possibly lobbying for the reduction.

Cecelia Zuber, Citizen of Berks County commended Commissioner Scott on his position regarding his suggestion for an evaluation of the disproportionate share of low-income citizens requiring the increase government services to be provided to those citizens in Berks County. She stated further that taxes were never designed to give people a free ride and she reminded everyone that the money the government takes for taxes is likely to decrease the amount those citizens would contribute as charitable donations to worthy organizations who help the same needy citizens our taxes are paying for.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to an Election Board meeting at 11:30 A.M.