

**Commissioners' Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 31, 2005**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 31, 2005, at 10:30 A.M. 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 March 22, 2005 Workshop Meeting and the March 24, 2005 Commissioners' meeting were approved as published with a motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Schwank with Commissioner Gajewski abstaining from the vote as he was not present at those meetings. The motion carried.

**Consent Agenda Items**

1. Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve the following consent agenda including Ordinance 01-05 but to postpone Item 103 F. to obtain opinions from our Community and Economic Development Directors prior to voting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schwank and all voted yes to approve.
  - 98.05 A. Resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$3,398,951.00, also 2005 Appropriations in the total amount of \$4,800.00 per list dated March 31, 2005.
  - 99.05 B. Resolution authorizing the Director of Human Resources to develop a one-time Voluntary Severance Program to be offered to all full-time employees of the County of Berks during 2005.
  - 100.05 C. Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendations as per list dated March 29, 2005.
  - 101.05 D. Resolution expressing the County's support of the Reading Regional Airport Authority's negotiations with the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to acquire certain property adjacent to the Airport for the purpose of extending Runway 18/36.
  - 102.05 E. Resolution rescinding Resolution 139-04 expressing the County's approval of an election by Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Ganter to have property located at 1994 Highland Avenue designated in Cumru Township and further expressing that the County takes no position concerning the location of such property.
  - 103.5 F. Resolution terminating the County's participation in the Local Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) and the Residential Tax Abatement Program (RTAB) in accordance with City of Reading Ordinances 54-2004 and 55-2004. **Action postponed – no vote was taken.**

- 104.5 G. Resolution Authorizing the Chair, Judith Schwank to execute a document, Pursuant to the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Berks County Prison Society, Inc. (the "Corporation"), ratified by its membership at a special meeting on December 15, 2004 and subsequent notification filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State, the Corporation shall change its name to Berks Connections / Pretrial Services, effective April 1, 2005. No changes to the Corporation's operating policies or mission statement were voted upon or approved by its membership at the December 15, 2004 meeting.
- 105.5 H. Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
1. No. 2128-Community Development Block Grant funds - \$42,861.50
  2. No. 490-Home Grant Program - \$2,711.00
  3. No. 1240-Property Rehabilitation Program - \$136.00
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated March 25, 2005.
3. Enact Ordinance No. 1-05 summarized below:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AN INTEREST RATE MANAGEMENT PLAN; APPROVING THE FORM OF AN INTEREST RATE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT RELATING TO ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SECOND SERIES OF 1992 AND ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SECOND SERIES OF 1993;**

**Non Consent Agenda**

4. Commissioner Gajewski presented the following item for consideration. He asked Heather Burkhart, Vice Chair of the EAC (Environmental Advisory Council) to discuss this grant application for the board. She explained that Berks County's designation by the EPA as a Non-Attainment Area may not be clearly understood by most citizens. She explained that this grant will permit the County to purchase a "Haze Camera" which would be mounted on the County Services Center and will provide a live feed or view of the horizon that will tie into the EAC's website. Additional information, such as particulate matter levels, which is regularly monitored by the EPA, would provide detailed information to citizens regarding the outdoor air quality. Commissioner Gajewski stated that citizens with health concerns could be better equipped to decide if they should limit outdoor activity that day. Heather stated that this effort is the first step towards educating the public on the effects of outdoor burning and other pollution emitting elements that could affect our daily lives. Craig Hafer, EAC President indicated that only minor changes could help to pull the county out of the Non-Attainment status, which can ultimately have a positive effect on the progress of economic development.

At this time the resolution was approved by a motion made by Commissioner Gajewski, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted yes to approve.

- 106.05 I. Adopt Resolution authorizing the application for a grant of \$17,200.00 from the DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) for an environmental air quality device.

### Reports

1. County Treasurer- the Treasurer's report was submitted by Nelson Long, CPA and reviewed with the Board by County Administrator, Bill Dennis
2. County Controller – The Controller's report was presented by Deputy Controller, Mark Hanson.

### Agenda Items for Discussion

A memo submitted by the County Financial Advisor, R. Mark Lunquist described funding options available to the County as a result of the Interest Rate Management Agreements approved by Ordinance 01-05. The memo suggested three options that could serve in the best interests of the county. **1. Cash up-front at settlement; 2. No cash up-front and maximize the annual debt service relief; and 3. Combination of cash at settlement and annual debt service relief.** Following a discussion of the options Commissioner Gajewski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Schwank who then called for the vote on Option 1.- To receive the cash up-front. Both Commissioners Schwank and Gajewski voted yes with Commissioner Scott voting no. The motion carried. Commissioner Scott explained his preference was in agreement with the recommendation of Mr. Lunquist who favored the option for a combination of cash at settlement and the annual debt service relief. Mr. Lunquist indicated that as long as the cash received is used, as a fund balance rather than expenditure in this year's budget, it would serve the County as a long-term advantage. Commissioner Schwank agreed and felt that the intended use was to increase the fund balance and not as a cash infusion towards County expenditures.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk