

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 31, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 31, 2005 at 10:30 A.M. 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. PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES:**

- A. 2005 Community Development Contest: The contest was created as a public awareness campaign designed to highlight the Berks County projects funded with CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. Ken Pick, Berks County Community Development Director, and Adam Mukerji, Reading Community Development Director provided the names of contest entrants to the Berks County Commissioners and Mayor Tom McMahon who then drew the following winners in this year's contest entries. Grand Prize winner – Timothy Clark, Wyomissing; (winner of Reading Royals season tickets; Traci Figueroa, Reading; (winner of 30 Reading Phillies tickets) Johnny Barnett, Rehrersburg; (winner of Reading Royals jersey) and Robert Levan, Womelsdorf; (winner of \$100.00 gift certificate)
- B. Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition to family members of Chief Master Sgt. Richard L. Etchberger (deceased) for his bravery and heroism while participating in a top-secret mission for the United States during the Vietnam War. The circumstances surrounding Chief Etchberger's mission were so sensitive that it was not until 1982 that the details of his mission were released. For his heroism and valor, Chief Etchberger posthumously received the Air Force's highest honor, the Air Force Cross. Chief Etchberger was recently honored by his hometown, Hamburg, with a memorial to his extraordinary bravery.
- C. Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition to Craig Wes Fisher for bringing his "Having Fun With Music" program to the youth of Berks County. Craig is continuing his father's musical legacy by his work in schools in Berks and six other counties sharing his love of music.
- D. Commissioner Schwank presented a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to the members of Berks County's Environmental Advisory Council for proactively addressing environmental issues critical to the future of the welfare and well being of all current and future Berks County residents.

**EAC Presentations continued:**

Commissioner Schwank described the EAC's numerous accomplishments in just one year of existence including the EAC Website - <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/eac/site/default.asp> as well the application review policy that is on this week's agenda for approval. Craig Hafer, Chairman; Heather Burkhart, Vice Chairman; Tom Power, Secretary were present to accept the certificates and express appreciation to the Commissioners for creating and then providing the support necessary for this committee to accomplish what they have.

- E. Craig Breneiser, Director of the Berks County Communications Center presented the Berks County Wireless Phase II 9-1-1 plan. Mr. Breneiser stated that Communications Center, under the guidance of Deputy Director Daphne Miller, has been working to bring "Wireless Phase II 9-1-1" capabilities to Berks County. He explained that Phase II allows the location of a wireless caller to be displayed on a computer-generated map, generally within a few feet of his location. In February, Deputy Director Miller notified wireless carriers serving Berks County to begin the Phase II process in accordance with state regulations. Nextel was the first to complete Phase II last month, and Verizon Wireless followed a week later. He indicated that other carriers will be initiating Phase II over the next 2-3 months. He said that it took less than a week before the benefits of Phase II paid off for the first time. In a motor vehicle accident remarkably similar to the one in Bern Township last December, another individual lost control of his vehicle, left the road and struck a tree. While he was uninjured, he had no idea of his location. However, the Center telecommunicator who received the call identified the location on the Phase II-generated computer map as List and Angora Roads atop Mt. Penn, and police were on the scene exactly nine-minutes following receipt of the 9-1-1 call. Craig ended by saying that it will take some time for everyone with a wireless telephone to realize the full potential of Phase II (because they are using older equipment that is not Phase II compliant), you can be pleased that Berks County is again showing itself as a leader in public-safety by being one of the first counties in the state (not to mention the country) to implement Phase II technology.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:****Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt a resolution approving 2005 Transfers totaling to \$16,114.00 and 2005 Appropriations totaling to \$28,973.00 as per list dated May 27, 2005. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director presented these requests

**Purchasing Department*****Contract Coordinator:***

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated May 26, 2005. Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts to the board.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Adopt Resolution approving and ratifying a Project Modification Request for subgrant #2005-WS-ST-15712 by and between the County of Berks (District Attorney) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding of \$56,250.00 (75%) for a total project cost of \$75,000.00 and entitled Gang Reduction/Anti-Violence Initiative covering the project period 07/01/2005 – 06/30/2006.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving the Environmental Advisory Committee's Application Review Policy. Craig Hafer Chairman of the EAC, informed the board that Berks County is the first County to attempt to institutionalize this process of public evaluation and comment on environmental applications filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). He explained that the applications review committee will review all applications filed in the county every two weeks at public meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 PM and the applications review committee meets the 4th Wednesday at 10 A.M. in the Agricultural Center at 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533. When the committee determines that an application deserves additional scrutiny, they will present a request to the Commissioners to hire professional environmental consultants to provide a more detailed review and possible comment on the proposed project or application. County Solicitor, Alan Miller said he supported this concept as it helps Berks County to "get in the game early." Commissioner Schwank stated that the EAC has already been able to advise companies to develop and apply for grants to improve their environmental stewardship efforts. Commissioner Gajewski added that its important to be pro-active and this effort will hopefully reduce costs to the county such as with an after-the-fact approach that some litigation causes. He also commended the board of the EAC as the members have a wide range of expertise and professional backgrounds that will enhance services provided to Berks County. Commissioner Scott noted that the County has experienced a "colorful history" with the PADEP's reviews of landfill permits. He said that accepting the reality of the PADEP, hiring environmental consultants to perform these technical reviews on behalf of the County by is a good investment.

**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing William Evans to the fill unexpired term till 12/31/06 of Gregory Hartman (who resigned) on the Berks County Solid Waste Authority.
- B. Adopt Resolution to reappoint Robert W. Jones to fill a three-year term to June 1, 2008 on the Berks County Library Board of Directors.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Radiation Emergency Response Fund in the amount of \$21,455.00, for period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt Resolution awarding a contract to operate a summer work experience and assessment program for special needs youth in partnership with the Pennsylvania CareerLink ~ Berks County to the following service provider: the Reading School District, The amount of the proposed contract budget is \$130,000. The budget figure is contingent upon receipt of TANF youth funding allocations for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2005.
- B. Adopt Resolution amending certain 2004 and 2005 CDBG awards.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
  - 1. No. 2140-S-Community Emergency Shelter Program - \$1,800.00
  - 2. No. 2141-Community Development Block Grant Program- \$41,426.81
  - 3. No. 1248-Property Rehabilitation Program-\$16,227.40
  - 4. No. 498-Home Grant Program-\$4,851.00

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing amendment of a contract between the County of Berks Mental Health/Mental Retardation program and Service Management Inc. for an increase to the Early Intervention Funding program from the current contract of \$43,311,931.64 to \$43,773,180.64. (100% DPW funding)

***V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS***

Commissioner Gajewski commended Ed and his staff in the MH/MR program for their success in with State funding for the Community Corrections Facility. Mr. Michalik indicated that the funding will most likely exceed \$1 million noting that approximately 20% of all inmates suffer from some type of mental illness.

***VI. CITIZEN COMMENT***

Scott Kreider resident from Hamburg, complained about the proposed cut back in bus service with the Barta Transportation Authority. He indicated that they have proposed a 70% cutback in the line that runs to Cabella's Store on Rte. #61. He reported that many county citizens depend on those routes for employment related transportation to and from the City of Reading. Commissioner Scott added that the new Ashley Furniture distribution center will be another draw for rider-ship. He was encouraged to write letters to the Barta board in addition to the letter submitted by the County.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk