

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 21, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 21, 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 in attendance. Commissioner Mark L. Scott was not at the meeting. Also present were County Administrator William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq. and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. The Commissioner opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**II. PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES:**

Commissioner Schwank will present a certificate of recognition in honor of the 40th year of the Senior Citizen's Council at their June 27th luncheon meeting.

Mathew Polis, member of the Berks Based Environmental Action Committee presented a request for a countywide municipal sewage sludge ordinance. Susan Ensinger and Brian Cunningham, group members also suggested that proper methods for the spreading of sewage sludge are not being used. Their concerns surrounded the odors and the potential for long-term soil and water contamination that could result from the application of too much of this waste product. The ordinance they proposed would model that of Exeter Township by levying a tipping fee to each ton of sludge deposited to off- set the cost of inspections, which they suggest could continue to be provided by the Berks County Conservation District (this was a previous practice in the County until the State ending the funding for that program earlier this year.) Commissioner Schwank reported that the proposed Growing Greener II Bill is has been described as having funds available for environmental monitoring such as this program. She said she agreed that the County should monitor these sludge applications practices in some manner and announced that a public meeting will be held scheduled by the Berks EAC (Environmental Advisory Committee) to discuss this topic and attempt to determine the best solutions for the County.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$12,150.00 per listing dated June 17, 2005. Bob Patrizio was asked by Commissioner Gajewski to report on the results of the voluntary severance plan. He indicated that preliminary figures suggest that the County could save \$1.8 million this year with the potential savings of \$40 million in savings over the next five (5) years. He cautioned that these numbers reflect the associated benefits costs in addition to the employees salaries and he said that the assumption for these dollar savings was that the individuals taking the severance would not be replaced.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the Human Services Development Fund (HSDF) Assurance of Compliance Certificate and approving the list of categorical cost centers for allocations of the HSDF program funds for the fiscal year 2005/2006. County Administrator Dennis indicated that these allocation distribution will be for 6 months – ending 12/31/05. Following this allocation period, the county will determine the best use of any future allocations based on the future of the continuation of this Federal Program.

**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute a grant application and agreement by and between the County of Berks (Emergency Management) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant covering the period July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$170,600. Bob Osika reported that year 2004 reported 80 Hazmat incidents, which was up from 58 in 2003. He stated that the majority of this reported incidents were the result of fuel spills on interstate 78. He also reported that the number of facilities reporting the storage of hazardous materials has shown a reduction from previous years, which he attributed to a loss of industrial facilities.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the County of Berks Hazardous Material Emergency Response Preparedness Assessment Update for 2004.
- C. Adopt Resolution approving the submission of an application to the PA Fish and Boat Commission for a Tulpehocken & Quittapahilla Creek Watershed Enhancement Grant for 50% cost of improvements at the Stonecliffe Recreation Area. Total project cost is estimated at \$21,692 (50% County match funds will originate from CDBG funds)

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Facilities Department to raze the County owned house and garage at the intersection of County Road and Hilltop Road.
- B. Adopt Resolution to appoint Brian G. Wlazelek to a three-year term ending 12/31/06 on the MH/MR Advisory Board.

- C. Adopt Resolution Authorizing execution of Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in the allocated amount not to exceed \$150,000 to for Washington Township to replace the bridge on Heydts Schoolhouse Road. Commissioner Schwank asked if this amount would enable the Township to complete this project since the county had previously committed 250,000 in 1999. Commissioner Gajewski stated that he spoke with the Township and was told that the additional \$150,000 will enable them to complete this project on time.
  
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
  - 1. No. 1251-Property Rehabilitation Program-\$7,808.00
  - 2. No. 501-Home Grant Program-\$3,691.00
  - 3. No. 2143-Community Development Block Grant Program-\$13,600.25

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Aging Block Grant revision for 2004-2005 and the 2005-2006 Block Grant application.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk