

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 19, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 19, 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. The Commissioner opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Corrie Crupi from Pagoda Skyline discussed the volunteer clean up program for Skyline Drive. She indicated that the volunteers have participated in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the cleanup and Commissioner Gajewski is organizing a Phase 3. Corrie announced a clean up day scheduled for Saturday at 8 AM this Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. Commissioner Gajewski complemented the volunteers for their dedication to Skyline Drive.

Commissioner Gajewski presented, on behalf of the board of Commissioners, a Proclamation for the 10th Anniversary of WFMZ. Mike Reinert, Senior Sales Executive from WFMZ accepted the Proclamation and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Commissioner Schwank presented a proclamation for the fourth Monday in September as Family Day-A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children. The proclamation will be mailed out to The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$684,460.00 per list dated July 8, 2005 Bob Patrizio presented this budget request which included a transfer of funds to cover the purchase of Mobile Computer Terminals for the County's Municipal Police Departments. Bob Patrizio explained that previously the county had committed to the purchase of laptop computers for Municipal Police Departments and this appropriate of funds was to upgrade these computers. Commissioner Schwank credited the Police Chief's Association for securing Homeland Security Funds to assist in the original purchase.

**Human Resources Director:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendation as per list dated July 19, 2005. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director discussed the two H.R recommendations on today's agenda.

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

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated July 15, 2005.

Mark Poserina, Director of Domestic presented the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement in which the county will be able to secure a (5) year agreement with the State Department of Welfare, which provides 66% reimbursement funding for Domestic Relations operations, as well as establishing the performance factors required to earn performance incentives. The Contract enables the County to recover approximately 80% of its costs for the Domestic Relations Office through direct expense reimbursements of 66%, performance incentives of approximately \$700,000 annually, and other case processing fees of approximately \$500,000 annually. The County is required to match approximately 20% of the program operations. Commissioner Gajewski commended Mark for his department's successful reporting record.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:****Commissioner Schwank**

Commissioner Schwank noted that the Berks Conflicts Resolution Task Force submitted a proposal as a follow up from last week's request for administrative assistance from the County. She summarized their request by saying that they are looking for a Commissioner Representative to sit on the Task Force as well as clerical assistance for meetings, announcements and phone messages estimated to be approximately 10 hours per month. She indicated that this administrative position, which may or may not be a county employee, is proposed for meeting notification, agenda preparation electronic mail notifications and receiving phone calls regarding up coming meetings. The intent of this involvement, as she described is not for enforcement, nor to serve as a complaint forum for the general public. She indicated that all discrimination related complaints should continue to be filed with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Agency. The focus of this Berks County Task Force continues to be with communication and education on the issues of the reduction of discrimination incidents in the future.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in the allocated amount not to exceed \$130,000 to Amity Township for the construction of a box culvert along Monocracy Hill Road. Bill Westcott, P.E. indicated that the township has encountered additional costs to this project that was previously awarded \$130,000 in 2000. With this approval the County Aid approved for this project totals \$260,000.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
  - 1. No. 1254-Property Rehabilitation Program-\$6,621.00
  - 2. No. 504-Home Grant Program-\$11,221.00
  - 3. No. 2147-S-Emergency Shelter Program-\$22,411.83
  - 4. No. 2148- Community Development Block Grant Program-\$42,413.90

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt Resolution approving the Office of Aging Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) Grant Agreement for \$103,287 (no County Match) for the fiscal year 2005/2006.
- B. Resolution to appoint Dean Sheaffer to fill the unexpired term until 6/30/2009. of Rev. Evelyn Aurand (who resigned) on the Reading Area Community College Board of Trustees. Commissioner Scott commended the years of service the Reverend Aurand provided to the Board of Trustees over the years.

**V. REPORTS OF SOLICITOR:**

- A. Adopt a Resolution authorizing execution of an ATM Lease Agreement between the County of Berks and Sovereign Bank for an automated teller machine in the lobby of the of the Berks County Courthouse. Nelson Long, CPA and Treasurer of Berks County reported that he had obtained three proposals from area banks involving amounts of \$1,500 per month for maintenance fee, no cost to the current proposed offer from Sovereign Bank to provide an ATM (cash only – no deposits) at no charge with an 25% share of the Revenues resulting from the use of the machine. Faith Phillips of Court Administration indicated that it is believed that this would greatly enhance the collection of fines and costs needs on a 24 hour basis.

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

Marianne Ciarlone, citizen of Berks County expressed concern regarding any task force or group that proposes to replace the now disbanded Reading/Berks Human Relations Council. She made some disparaging remarks about that organization as well as a former member. She suggested that any task force meetings similar to those held by the Human Relations Council should be transparent and open to the public. She even suggested the use of web cameras and recording devices for the discussions. The discussion prompted several questions by the Commissioners where she related her personal experience with the disbanded organization. Commissioner Schwank stated that the task force is not a clone of the Human Relations Council and was not established with the task of enforcement. She agreed that perhaps abuses have occurred in the past by the formal Human Relations Council, however she strongly believes that racism in the County needs to be addressed. She encouraged Ms. Ciarlone to attend one of the task force meetings to form her own opinion.

Commissioner Schwank then discussed a recent news article on the cost of produce and promoted the local farm market stands and displayed a map of [farm markets](#) produced by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service and the [Wine Trail](#) guide as two useful brochures to aid citizens in discovering the local farm vendors in their own neighborhoods. Commissioner Scott encouraged citizens to call the Commissioners Office at 478-6100 to obtain copies of these maps for them selves.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk