

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 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, County 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 Gajewski presented a Proclamation for Suicide Prevention Week. Edward Michalick, MH/MR Administrator III, and Michele Weber-Ruano, MH/MR Deputy Administrator were present to accept proclamation.
- ❖ Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition to Barbara Adams on 9/6/05 for her selection as the Berks Women's Network 2005 Beacon Award winner. Barbara Adams was present to accept certificate.
- ❖ Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition for Mary's Shelter acknowledging their Tenth Anniversary. Christine Folk, Director and Jess Cwiklinski were present to accept the Certificate.
- ❖ Commissioner Schwank presented a Proclamation to proclaim the month of September as National Preparedness Month. Bob Osika, Berks County EMA Director and Adrian Grieve, Director of American Red Cross was present to accept Proclamation. Adrian Grieve, Director of American Red Cross also commented that they as an organization are sending people down to the "Gulph States" to provide assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina He said that the volunteers will have to deal with many challenges such as lack of communications and being prohibited from entering certain areas because they are unsafe. Adrian indicated that during the recent Holiday weekend the Berks County Red Cross Chapter has collected over \$70,000 in cash donations while the National Organization collected over \$400 million. He indicated that these funds will shelter and feed the victims immediately but long term they are also looking for temporary and permanent homes for the hurricane victims who are now homeless. He finished by stating that this will be a long, slow process of recovery for those states. Bob Osika, Berks County EMA Director also discussed how we should all have a home plan, a preparedness kit. Examples are having food and water ready. Have a meeting place to meet up also having a contact list of phone numbers. Examples of this can be found on the EMA web site at <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/ema>

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

- A. Adopt a resolution approving 2005 Appropriations totaling \$105,536.00 per list dated September 2, 2005. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director presented the budget report.

Purchasing Department**Contract Coordinator:**

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated September 1, 2005 Candace Noll presented the list of contracts.

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

- A. Adopt Resolution 298-05 recommending an easement application confirmation process by the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Commissioner Scott made the motion that was seconded by Commissioner Schwank and a discussion regarding the establishment of a ranking requirement to prevent easements from being located within planned growth areas was brought up by Commissioner Gajewski. Commissioner Schwank indicated that the process is currently under discussion but she wanted to re-establish the practice of the presentation of easement applications at the Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Scott commented that this resolution would only provide additional public notice for selection of farms and easements and doesn't change the ranking system currently in place. When the Chair called for a vote Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Schwank voted yes with Commissioner Gajewski voting no, the motion carried.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing William Baer, Laureldale, PA 19605 to the Planning Commission to a term ending 12/31/05 replacing Harry S. Nelson, effective 9/16/05.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
1. No. 509-Home Grant Program-\$400.00
 2. No. 2158-S-Emergency Shelter Program-\$10,387.84
 3. No. 2159- Community Development Block Grant Program-\$33,123.79

Commissioner Gajewski continued:

- C. Adopt Resolution approving the Open Space & Recreation Advisory Council's recommendations for the 2006 Open Space and Recreation grants. Matthew McGough presented list of recommendations including the following:
1. **West Reading Borough – \$25,000**
Riverfront Land Acquisition and Park Development – land to build the West Side Boardwalk, West Reading Waterfront Park (council recommends funding in the amount of \$16,250)
 2. **District Township - \$25,000 requested**
Gordon Park Natural Area – passive recreation area
(Council recommends funding in the amount of \$16,250)
 3. **Berks County Conservancy - \$25,000 requested**
Neversink Mountain 18th St. Acquisition – “The Aristide Property”
(Council recommends funding in the amount of \$20,000)
 4. **Amity Township - \$3,500 requested**
Monacacy Hill – The placement of educational signage
(Council recommends funding in the amount of \$3,500)
 5. **Kutztown Borough - \$25,000 requested**
Saucony Creek Trail Project Phase I – restoration of eroded stream bank (Council recommends funding in the amount of \$20,000)
 6. **Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area - \$25,000 requested**
Thun Trail Gap Connections Project – Phase II: Brentwood Drive to Hazel Street (second year of approved four-year project)
- Total funding requested: \$203,500**
Total funding recommended: \$101,000

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing John Cleek, Shillington PA 19605 to the Berks County Assessment Appeals Board to a term ending December 31, 2007 replacing Russ Englehart who resigned.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Commissioner Gajewski suggested that the Commissioners send letters to the State and Federal Government to request consideration for the temporary suspension of the liquid fuels tax. Commissioner Schwank stated her support and suggested the County adopt a resolution. Commissioner Scott understood that the Governor has been advised against this approach, as it would only serve to widen the state budget deficit.

Commissioner Schwank offered to serve as contact to NACo (National Association of Counties) who is working with HUD (Housing and Urban

Development) as the search for available land to locate temporary shelters for the victims of the hurricane.

Commissioner Scott reminded his colleagues that there is currently a federal response issue with this disaster and while we all want to provide assistance we also need to assure the County Tax payers that we are not placing more of a burden on them again for the lacking of the federal government.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Stefan Kosikowski discussed a recent meeting held at the Berks Agricultural Center to discuss the application of bio-solids on area farmland. He stated his objection to services offered by members of the Berks County Conservation District who own farms currently receiving bio-solids on their farms due to the potential conflict of interest.

Commissioner Gajewski indicated that the County requested the State to restore funding to the state budget to provide for inspections and soil testing of the bio-solid operations in the State.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk