

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 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 Schwank introduced John Kramer, Director of the Center for Community Leadership who said that during the spring of 2005, the Berks County Commissioners sponsored a series of four Juvenile Crime Forums. The objectives of the four sessions were to provide an opportunity for participants to become familiar with recent trends in and root causes of juvenile crime; to obtain information for recognizing and understanding major juvenile crimes; to learn about services and programs available to prevent juvenile crime and/or assist juvenile offenders in modifying their behavior and; to develop a local action plan for connecting youth with appropriate resources. The forums were held at four local high schools – Wyomissing, Governor Mifflin, Exeter, and Muhlenberg and were open to the public. Municipal and school officials, law enforcement officers, community representatives, local residents, and any one else concerned about recent trends in juvenile crime were encouraged to attend. Participants were also encouraged to invite other people from their community to be part of a team. Commissioner Schwank then explained that each team was evaluated as part of a competitive process to receive grants of \$1000 each as “seed money” to assist in the development of their plans and implementation of their strategies for addressing juvenile crime within their own communities. John Kramer introduced the following community representatives who presented the results and goals of their community organization.

- Dr. Eric L. Wolf of the Governor Mifflin Safe Communities Task Force
- Donna Tothoro of the Muhlenberg Community Partnership
- Dr. William E. Hartman of the Wyomissing Area Juvenile Crime Action Plan Team

Commissioner Schwank then thanked John Kramer, John McCormack, Director of the Berks County Youth Center and Laurie Hague, Deputy Director for Berks County Juvenile Probation for their involvement and assistance in the selection process for these grants. Commissioner Gajewski then added that Laurie Hague was to be commended for the success rate of another Juvenile program that has a 90% success rate for the Juveniles participating in the [Youth Aid Panel](#) program.

- Commissioner Schwank will be presenting a Proclamation on September 17, 2005 for Goggle Works Grand Opening.
- Ken Pick, Community Development Director and Tom McKeon, Economic Development Director announced that the County has been approved by HUD for a \$3.5M Section 108 Loan to the Berks County Industrial Development Authority for the acquisition and development of approximately 140 acres on six (6) parcels of developable “non-aviation land” at the Reading Regional Airport, most of which they indicated are located along Rte. #183. Commissioner Gajewski commended them on the success of this complex project and said that it will provide the ability for the Airport to capitalize on its assets, and become more self-sufficient. Commissioner Schwank stated that previous attempts to encourage economic development were due to “pad” ready sites and the lack of a theme for development plans. She said this project follows the Leak Go Forth report and will enable future developers to take advantage of the Rte #183 transportation upgrades.
- Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition to Matthew Polis for his work in restoring the American shad to the Schuylkill River. Mr. Polis was present to accept award.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$69,804.00 and appropriations in the total amount of \$82,480.00 per list dated September 9, 2005. Bob Patrizio presented the budget report.

County Administrator

- A. Adopt Resolution #305.05 to award an RFP to Management Partners Inc. for a comprehensive five-year financial planning services contract on behalf of the City of Reading and the County of Berks – 100% funded with a DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) Grant. Bill Dennis, County Administrator explained that the consultants will work with the county and the city to perform management audits for the purpose of determining efficiencies as well as providing assistance with long term financial forecasting for both entities.

County Administrator Continued:

Mr. Dennis indicated that there is room in the contract for additional evaluations on the operation of the Heim as well. Mark Scott made a motion to approve this contract as Resolution 205.05, Commissioner Schwank seconded the motion and called for the vote. Both Commissioners Scott and Schwank voted yes and Commissioner Gajewski voted no indicating that his preference for the consultant choice was Phoenix Management Inc.

Human Resources Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendation as per list dated September 13, 2005. Beth Schiepan, Director Human Resources reviewed the items on the agenda.

Purchasing Department**Contract Coordinator:**

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated September 12, 2005 as presented by Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator

Solicitor:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and the Berks County Industrial Development Authority effective November 1, 2005. Commissioner Scott stated his concern regarding the funding described in this Memorandum. He said that the County has been financially supportive to the IDA (Industrial Development Authority) such as the LEDA (Local Economic Development Assistance Funds) funds, which have been directed to their organization. He further stated his belief that this Authority (the IDA) is sitting on a large cash balance and therefore questioned the need for the county fund the personnel positions this agreement entails especially during these lean economic times. He also questioned the funding of the Berks Economic Partnership which he said was initially presented to the board as start up cost and their ultimate goal would be to operate on private or corporate funds.

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

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - 1. No. 1260-Property Rehabilitation Program-\$5,042.96
 - 2. No. 510-Home Grant Program-\$6,744.44
 - 3. No. 2160- Community Development Block Grant Program-\$7,581.51

- B. Adopt Resolution reappointing Robert Ludgate Jr. to a four-year term ending 12/31/07 the Berks County Planning Commission.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott stated that he attended a Zoning Hearing in Exeter Township at which the Township was hearing comments to allow public schools to be located in the Agriculture Preserve zone of the township. He said that the request was a conflict with the Berks County 20/20 Comprehensive Plan and hoped that the Township would not permit this change in zoning. He then complimented those same township officials for the "intelligent and gutsy" move to seize through eminent domain proceedings the Berks County Club property thereby preventing it from falling to a high-density development proposal. He ended by asking his colleagues to join him in his proposal to seize the Antietam Lake property thereby preserving it in perpetuity.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Cecilia Zuber, Berks County resident presented some ideas for improvement in public awareness regarding emergency management planning and suggested more authority be given to the American Red Cross organization.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk