

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 1, 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 Thomas Gajewski called the meeting to order with 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. Commissioner Schwank, Chair was not in attendance.

II. PRESENTATIONS:

Bill Koch, representative of the Berks County Conservancy thanked the Commissioners for approving a resolution to formally establish an Environmental Litigation / Protection fund. He also expressed appreciation for Craig Hafer and the members of the BEAC (Berks Environmental Advisory Council) for their success in formalizing the County's first environmental applications review process policy. He was then asked to provide an update on the New Years Celebration being held at the Sovereign Center. The sponsors for this event are the following:

- Redner's Market
- Reading Eagle
- City of Reading
- Sovereign Bank

Terry Styer, Chief Clerk read a letter from Commissioner Schwank, Chair explaining her absence at today's meeting. (The letter will be attached to these minutes)

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$12,339.00 and Budget Appropriations in the total amount of \$253,500.00 per list dated October 28, 2005. Bob Patrizio presented the budget appropriations.

Purchasing:

Contract Coordinator

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated October 28, 2005.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Chair of the Board, to execute The Emergency Food Assistance Program –TEFAP (Inventory – Reimbursement Request Form for the Fourth Quarter FFY 2004-2005, in the amount of \$12,350.73 for distributing 123,507.30 pounds of food at \$.10 per pound and to authorize Margaret Bianca, Executive Director, Greater Berks Food Bank for apply for the funds on behalf of Berks County.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the Medical Assistance Transportation Program Grant Allocation Agreement/Expenditure Plan by and between the County of Berks and the Department of Public Welfare in the adjusted amount of \$1,052,591.00.

Commissioner Schwank

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoice under the following Community Development Disbursement Voucher:
 - 1. No. 2169- Community Development Block Grant Program- \$61,535.84
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipients Release, Assignment and Close-Out forms pursuant to the terms of Contract No. 01504101 for funding to cover the Department of Public Welfare's share of costs for operating the Career-Link totaling \$31,835.00.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank to execute the Action Plan for FFY2006 for the Berks County's HUD funded Community Development Program Grants.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution reappointing Joseph M. Eways II, to the Berks County Industrial Development Authority for a five-year term to 12/31/2010.

Solicitor

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing appointment of John A. Goldstan, Esquire, as special counsel to the Berks County Office of Aging, and further authorize the County Solicitor to petition the Berks County Court of Common Pleas to approve the appointment.

Solicitor continued:

- B. Authorize execution of the Lease Amendment between the County of Berks and the Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for office space located in the Berks County Agricultural Center for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006.
- C. Authorize execution of two Indemnity Agreements with the City of Reading and the Borough of Wyomissing for use of their bucket trucks for use at the Gring's Mill Recreation Area for erection and removal of holiday lights. This resolution was moved by Mark Scott and seconded by Tom Gajewski all voted yes to approve.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- 370.05 10/27 Resolution authorizing a three-year commitment from the County Growing Greener Funds in the amount of 75,000.00 per year for three years, to the RiverPlace Development Corporation for their implementation of the RiverPlace Master Plan. *This item will be held pending written advisory letter from the State Ethics Commission.

Commissioner Scott said he heard from angry county citizens while he attended a recent public meeting held by the PADEP for the Conestoga Landfill's expansion plans. He continued his state objections to the settlement agreement recently approved by this board with Conestoga Landfill owners and specifically pointed to the language in the agreement that will include additional properties for property value reimbursement in which he alleges will take away the 1st amendment rights of those residents who agree to accept this financial contribution in that they will have to give up their rights file objections to the operation of the Conestoga Landfill. He then criticized BFI (Browning Ferris Industries-Conestoga Landfill owners) for claiming to be a good neighbor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk

