

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 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. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$2,102,556.00 and appropriations in the total amount of \$68,122.00 per list dated December 9, 2005. Bob Patrizio Budget Director, presented this week's budget transactions to the board.

Human Resources Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendation as per list dated December 13, 2005. Beth Schiepan Human Resource Director discussed the list of recommendations.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Commissioner Schwank discussed a previously tabled funding request awaiting a written response from the State Ethics Commission regarding any conflict of interest that might be presented by the fact that two of the three County Commissioners also sit on the Board of RiverPlace Development. The decision advised that the only way the members could vote was if the abstentions that were legally required by the Ethics Code, prevented any action from the required majority, which in this case it did. Both Commissioners Schwank and Gajewski announced both verbally and in writing that they are members of the RiverPlace Development. Following that disclosure, Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve the funding request as listed below and on **Resolution 418.05**, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve this three year commitment from the County Growing Greener Funds in the total amount of \$75,000.00 per year to the RiverPlace Development Corporation for their implementation of the RiverPlace Master Plan to be applied as follows:

Resolution 418.05 continued:

\$25,000.00- Art & Community Landscapes Project (matches \$50,000.00 federal grant and \$25,000.00 City Redevelopment Authority grant)

\$25,000.00- Riverfront Visitor Way finding Signage (matches \$25,000 Heritage Area grant)

\$10,000.00-Children's Museum (match for state and corporate grants and in-kind work)

\$5,000.00-Catalyst Fund-project design work (matches \$50,000.00 in local contributions)

\$10,000.00-Administration and project management.

\$75,000.00

B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the obligation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant funds received by the County of Berks as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of State.

C. Adopt Resolution authorizing appointments to the new 9-1-1 Advisory Board. Craig Breneiser, Director of Communications was present to discuss this new advisory board and recommended that the appointments be made as submitted by the nominating committees at Thursday's meeting as their first meeting is set for January 5, 2006.

Commissioner Schwank

Commissioner Gajewski

A. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:

1. No. 2175- Community Development Block Grant Program-\$194,355.06
2. No. 1270 – Property Rehabilitation Program-\$19,945.00

B. Commissioner Gajewski announced that he would bring an RFP request to the Thursday Commissioner meeting for approval to seek bids on an Energy Performance Evaluation on certain County owned buildings.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott then presented a request by Judge Leiberman who had requested the County to consider rescinding an approved Voluntary Severance package that was requested and approved for his law clerk. The Commissioner indicated that this employee was willing to forgo the severance payment from the County in order to stay on for an additional 6 months to help the Judge complete some difficult cases.

Beth Schiepan Human Resources Director discouraged the board from considering this request as all VSP participants were made aware of the deadline for rescinding their decision and some of came back requesting extensions, only to be turned down. Commissioners Schwank and Gajewski expressed understanding for the Judge's situation but the concern for jeopardizing the entire Voluntary Severance Program prevented them from supporting this request.

Commissioner Scott then presented his comments regarding the request from the Reading Museum to hang a mural on the county government services center By Artist Keith Haring. He is concerned that some of this artist's work is not appropriate for all audiences and reiterated his concern over the use of a taxpayer funded building for the display of artwork such as with this proposal.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of the Met-Ed Easement to install an additional utility pole at the North Campus, Bern Township.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk