

Commissioners' Board Meeting **Thursday, January 05, 2006**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 5, 2006 at 10:30 A.M. in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor 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 the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq., and County Administrator William E. Dennis. Commissioner Schwank then opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

The approval of the December 20, 2005 Workshop/Meeting minutes were postponed.

Resolutions and Contracts:

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted unanimously approve the Resolutions and Contracts listed below with the exception of the following: Resolution 18.06 was withdrawn for a future meeting; Resolution 08.06 where Commissioner Gajewski was the only no vote; and Resolution 02.06 which was approved unanimously following a long discussion*
 - 02.06 A. Resolution authorizing endorsement of the ICGR (Initiative for a Competitive Greater Reading Report).
 - 03.06 B. Resolution authorizing Budget Transfers in the amount of \$14,638.00 and Appropriations in the amount \$1,033,842.00 per listing on January 3, 2006.
 - 04.06 C. Resolution authorizing the application of an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for the reimbursement of salary and benefits for EMA Operations and Training Officer and the EMA Deputy Coordinator for Administration and Planning for Federal fiscal year 2006 (10/01/05 – 9/30/06).
 - 05.06 D. Resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$3,171.00 (80% Federal Share) as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to be used towards the purchase and implementation of an EHS (Extremely Hazardous Substance) Emergency Plan Manager Module for the existing Tier II Manager program.

- 06.06 E. Resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$4,377.00 (80% Federal DOT Share) as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to conduct training activities to support the SOG (Special Operations Group) Hazardous Materials Technician training program within the County.
- 07.06 F. Human Resource Recommendations as list dated December 28, 2005.
- 08.06 G. Resolution designating Dr. Robert C. Ziegenfus as Chair of the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for the term of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.
- 09.06 H. Resolution reappointing Kathleen Weckerle to the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- 10.06 I. Resolution reappointing Cathy Pilat to the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- 11.06 J. Resolution reappointing Father Thomas Kuller to the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008
- 12.06 K. Resolution reappointing Phil Rowe to the Berks Area Transportation Authority Board for a five-year term that will expire on 12/31/2012.
- 13.06 L. Resolution reappointing Dr. Frederick H. Gaige to the Berks County Planning Commission Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- 14.06 M. Resolution reappointing Dr. Mark Reuben to the Berks County Children and Youth Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- 15.06 N. Resolution reappointing Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz to the Berks County Children and Youth Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- 16.06 O. Resolution reappointing Susan L. Giachero to the Berks County Children and Youth Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.

- 17.06 P. Resolution reappointing Joan Lewis to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- 18.06 Q. Resolution to set aside \$2 million from the 2002 bond issue for acquisition of additional office space for the County.-postponed vote until January 10, 2006.
- 19.06 R. Resolution appointing Jeanne Trivellini to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a four-year term to 3/10/2010.

*Prior to the vote on Resolution 02.06 A. Commissioner Gajewski made a motion to amend the Resolution to include language stating that the endorsement of this report by the Commissioners would not indicate endorsement towards the name Greater Reading nor would it imply a county commitment of future funding. Commissioner Scott said that conceptually he was in agreement with Commissioner Gajewski however he disagreed with the need to amend as the Commissioners endorsement of this report does not reflect any commitment of future funding nor does it agree to any "branding" or naming of the area of this study. Commissioner Schwank agreed that this plan does not assert any request for additional funding nor any effort to change the name of Berks to Greater Reading. She added that the plan simply lays out economic development strategies for the Greater Reading and Berks County areas. Commissioner Gajewski asked for the record that his colleagues join him in stating neither financial commitment nor support for Greater Reading, as a "brand" for this area would be the result of adding their endorsement towards this plan as submitted. Commissioner Schwank suggested that the issue of branding can be discussed with the team working on the future of a brand name for the area involved in the study. Commissioner Scott stated that there are positives and negatives with associating a study with the City of Reading but he would not second this motion to amend the resolution again stating that he felt no amendment was necessary. Commissioner Schwank suggested requesting the team selected to discuss the future branding issue be present at a Commissioners' meeting to discuss the matter further. Hearing no additional comments, the Chair called for a vote on the Resolution as originally proposed, all voted yes to approve the resolution as written noting that Commissioners Scott and Gajewski stated that endorsing this resolution is not a County endorsement of the name nor a commitment to future funding.

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated December 29, 2005.

Citizen Comment/Business From The Floor

Kathy Duffy, citizen from the Brandywine Heights School District urged the Commissioners to become involved in the illegal immigration issue and how the cost of providing services impacts Berks County. She expressed frustration at the level of taxes she is paying for services that are received by illegal aliens and their families. Her suggestion was to form a Commission of retired professionals to study how this issue impacts the county taxpayers.

Bill Reed citizen from Berks County asked the Commissioners to get involved in what he described as an exodus of books that are currently being removed from the Berks Law Library due to a transition to an electronic system with a connection to West Law on-line research information.

Reports

1. County Treasurer – Nelson Long, CPA
2. County Controller – Sandy Graffius

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk