

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, January 24, 2006**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 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 C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor, Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer.

**II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Budget Transfers in the amount of \$ 187,104.00 and Appropriations in the amount \$ 20,617.00 per listing dated January 20, 2006. Bob Patrizio Budget Director presented the report.

**Contract Submissions:**

- A. Adopt Resolution awarding a contract as a result of Invitation to Bid #05-13-KL, a contract to supply and install a closed circuit television system upgrade for the ICE Family Facility located in Berks County to the following vendor for **\$59,977.83.**

PSX  
708 Terminal Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Kelly Laubach, Senior Buyer presented the contract with John McCormack, Director of the Youth Center and ICE facility indicating that this cost is 100% reimbursable from the Immigration Service.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as list dated January 24, 2006. Jennifer Biehn, Assistant Human Resource Director and Bob Osika, Director of Emergency Management presented the list of recommendations to the board.

**Pension Board:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the County Treasurer to make six (6) \$800,000.00 monthly retirement fund contributions to the Berks County Retirement Fund to the end of June 2006.

**III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Adopt Resolution designating Berks Area Reading Transportation Authority as Coordinator of the Services under Section 130 and 1312 (b) of the Public Transportation Law. Dennis Louwse, Executive Director of BARTA was present to explain that this designation will allow BARTA to apply for \$230,000.00 in Federal Funds with no County match required. He explained that BARTA would utilize these funds for improvements to the BARTA Shared Ride Program.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Commissioner, Chair, and Sandy Graffius, County Controller, to execute certification of appropriation funding for 2006 in the amount of \$8,125,493.00 for the purchase of Agricultural Easements under Act 43 – the Agricultural Area Security Law, as amended. The total funding amount requested is comprised of \$1 million from the 1999 Bond balance and & 7 million from the \$36 million line of credit approved on December 20, 2005 by the Commissioners, as well as the interest collected from the Clean and Green Rollback Tax Penalties and donations to the Adopt-An-Acre Program in 2005. Tami Hildebrand, Executive Director of Ag. Land Preservation explained that the State's Growing Greener II Fund is expected to total \$100 million the opportunity for dollar for dollar match exists. She stated that due to this increased state funding opportunity and the backlog of over 200 applications for farmland easements, the Berks County Ag Land Preserve Board is requesting County Certification for \$8 million (\$4 million more than in 2005). Commissioner Schwank reminded her fellow Commissioners that the Ag Land Preserve board initiated a new review process to include the additional scrutiny of easement applications by the County Planning Commission when the applicant's property is located in a proposed growth area of the county.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing the submission of a final report for the expenditure of federal monies under various waiver agreements through contracts between SAM, Inc. and providers of mental retardation services for the period 04/01/2005-06/30/2005, with allocation of funds and resulting contracts reviewed and approved by the MH/MR Administrator, ensuring appropriate oversight as recommended by legal counsel. Ed Michalik, MH/MR Program Administrator presented this report to the board.

**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Adopt resolution appointing Jared Isaacs, of Boyertown, PA 19512 to the to the 911-center Advisory Board as an at-large member.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt Resolution to set aside \$2 million in total from the 1998 and/or 2002 Bond issues for the purpose of acquisition, expansion or rehabilitation of existing space to accommodate future needs for space by the county. Dale Derr, District Court Administrator informed the board that more court space is needed to accommodate additional judges and their staff as well as a need for funds to implement a satellite office for Juvenile Probation. James Strohecker, Facilities Department Project Engineer said that he would like to earmark funds for the cost of the old Berks Heim main building's reclassification of office space. Commissioner Schwank stated that the capital funds are set-aside for this matter and does not feel additional action by the board is needed. Commissioner Gajewski stated that earmarking these funds does not commit us to specific projects it just assures these funds are reserved for this purpose in general. Commissioner Scott stated that the largest growth area of County Government has been in the courts. He said would oppose any expansion plans, with the exception of courts departments if they were planned for downtown Reading locations. He stated his desire to see "non-court related" departments be relocated outside of city to the Ag Services building area in Bern Township to alleviate traffic congestion and parking issues for our citizens. Commissioner Schwank stated that she has some concerns about the impact this move could have on Bern Township. County Administrator, Bill Dennis stated that there are a number of issues such as the storage of archives and voting machines that were not part of the original space study that will need to be address.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Tom Gajewski to sign any and all papers necessary for the use of facilities within the Muhlenberg High School on April 6th, 2006 in order for the county, in conjunction with the Center for Local Government to hold an anti-crime forum on community policing. There shall be no cost to the county for this use.

**IV. OTHER REQUESTS:**

Commissioner Schwank asked Jim Strohecker to discuss his evaluation of the County Services Center building being able to display a large outdoor art poster by artist Keith Haring whose work will be on exhibit at the Reading Museum. Commissioner Gajewski stated that approval of this request would establish a precedent for use of the services center for advertising. Commissioner Scott said this is a public building and some constituents may be offended by this artist's previous work. He encouraged everyone to visit Mr. Haring's web site for additional information. He stated that he would not support the use of a taxpayer funded building to promote this exhibit.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,