

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 28, 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 L. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$ 5,410.00 and 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount \$5,150.00 per listing dated February 24, 2006. Bob Patrizio presented this week's budget report.

Contract Submissions:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated February 24, 2006. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts and amendments.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as list dated February 24, 2006. Beth Schiepan presented the list of recommendations to the board.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution by Judith L. Schwank Chair, of the Lease Amendment with the U.S. Farm Services Agency for additional office space for the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the Berks County Agricultural Center.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipients Release, Assignment and Closeout forms pursuant to the terms of WIA Grants totaling to \$1,897,477.00.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution reappointing Ruby Lenovich to a three-year term ending on 12/31/08 to the MH/MR Advisory Board.

Additional Commissioner Comments

- A. Commissioner Gajewski commented on a news article in the Sunday, February 26, 2006 Reading Eagle newspaper. He said he would like it known that he will not sit around and wait for recommendations from the administration team. He said if he sees something that needs to be addressed he would address it. Commissioner Schwank stated that she was the one that was quoted and that her comment was specific to hearing what the administrative team recommends with regards to the County's Voluntary Severance program and other possible cost saving ideas.
- B. Commissioner Gajewski updated the board on the recent meeting with Controller Sandy Graffius, 1st Assistant Solicitor, Christine Sadler and himself at the Limerick Cemetery in Montgomery County regarding the discrepancy that exists between Berks County's records of county owned burial plots and the Cemetery's records of County owned burial plots. He suggested further investigation to determine who would have given the authorization to transfer lots. Commissioner Scott suggested that at some point the County may want to consider a compromise to avoid the time and cost of an investigation.
- C. Commissioner Scott commented generally regarding the County's requirement to fund a defined benefit pension plan for all county employees. He explained that a defined contribution (457 plan) is currently provided as a voluntary program for County Employees and that he was encouraged to learn that 618 or our approximately 2400 employees participate in it. He said that this type of pension plan is not permitted legislatively by counties to replace the more costly defined benefit program and hopes that employees continue to take advantage of this option for their retirement savings.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES

- Commissioner Gajewski will present a Proclamation naming March 4, 2006 as Reiffon Fire Company Day to be presented at their annual recognition and scholarship banquet on March 4, 2006.
- Commissioner Gajewski will present a Proclamation for the 67th Anniversary of Junior Achievement proclaiming March as Junior Achievement Month.

V. **CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Thomas Howe, citizen of Exeter Township expressed a complaint regarding the conduct by the Chairman of the Exeter Township Supervisors who he suggested is preventing members of the board of Supervisors from speaking and thereby preventing the township citizens from getting answers to their questions. Commissioner Scott stated that there might be some relief of the Citizens complaints found in the Sunshine Act. Commissioner Gajewski stated that no chairperson from any board may tell a member of their board not to speak.

In reference to the cemetery plot discussion, Mr. Howe said he felt they should go to Berks County Veterans.

There being no further business and following some general comments of the Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk