

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 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:

Adult Probation and Parole:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of and approval for the submission of an Intermediate Punishment Plan, in accordance with Act 2000-41, to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, pursuant to the 2006-2007 grant funding cycle.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute Continuation of Subgrant No. 16840 by and between the County of Berks (Adult Probation) and the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency, with respect to funding in the amount of \$361,378.00 for "Phase II – RIP – Level 3 & 4 Offenders," covering the period 7/1/06 – 06/30/07.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute Continuation of Subgrant No. 16688 by and between the County of Berks (Adult Probation) and the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency, with respect to funding in the amount of \$557,880.00 for "Phase I – RIP – Level 2 & 3 Offenders," covering the period 7/1/06 – 06/30/09.
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chairman of the Board to execute an agreement between the County and Berks Connections/Pretrial Services for \$39,000 as part of the PCCD Sub grant No. 16688 for a term beginning July 1, 2006 through July 1, 2009.

Nancy Xavios, Chief Probation/Parole Officer presented resolutions A-D and discussed the related programs with the Commissioners.

Contract Submissions:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated March 13, 2006. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts and amendments.

Community Development:

- A. Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) presentation for Penn Avenue Redevelopment project – Ken Pick, Community Development Director and Edward F. Geubtner, a Bucks County consultant discussed and proposed a resolution to consider participation in the establishment of a Tax Increment Financing District along Penn Avenue in the borough of West Reading.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as list dated March 14, 2006. Beth Schiepan presented the list of recommendations to the board.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

- A. Adopt Resolution re-appointing the following members of the Berks County Open Space and Recreation Advisory Council to a four-year term ending 5/01/08:

Voting Members:

Helen Olena – Member of the public, retired DEP

Arlene Chase – Member of the public, Longswamp Recreation Board

John Felix - Member of the public, Oley Township resident

Linda Ingram – Program Coordinator, Nolde State Forest (DCNR), Robeson Township Recreation Board

David Esser – Berks County Parks and Recreation Board, Albany Township resident

Leon Mazurie – Member of public, Spring Township Parks Manager

Barry Shollenberger – Member of public, Blue Mountain Wildlife, Northern Berks County

Non-Voting Members:

Matthew McGough – Berks County Planning Commission Staff

Shannon L. Rossman – Berks County Planning Commission Staff

Bill Semmel – Berks County Parks and Recreation Staff.

Commissioner Schwank suggested additional citizens should be appointed to this board. Commissioner Mark Scott stated that more representatives are needed from the western part of Berks County.

- B. Adopt Resolution appointing Robin F. Koch and William C. Baer as new voting members from the Planning Commission to the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Council replacing Lloyd Hopkins and Harry Nelson to a term ending on 5/01/08.
- C. Adopt Resolution opposing the Federal Government's proposed \$1 billion reduction in the CDBG Program for FY 2007. Ken Pick, Community Development Director presented resolution to Commissioners. These types of funds are used for sewers, water, and libraries from our federal tax dollars. Commissioner Gajewski will draft letter of support.
- D. Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank Chair of the Board, to execute an amended TEFAP Inventory – Reimbursement Request Form for the Third Quarter (October, November, and December) FFY 2005-2006, in the additional amount of \$1,247.69 at \$.11 per pound for the additional 12,353.90 pounds distributed during the FFY first quarter 2005/2006 and to authorize Margaret M. Bianca, Executive Director, Greater Berks Food Bank for apply for the funds on behalf of Berks County.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution supporting the Reading Airport's solicitation for passenger service restoration. Commissioner Schwank stated that by supporting this item all that it will cost the county is a letter of support and a resolution.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution in support of the Schuylkill Valley Metro Rail Line. Commissioner Gajewski stated that the Metro's funding commitment might be reduced by the Federal Government at any time but reminded everyone that the cost of road improvements needed without the rail line would be forced on local governments' taxpayers to fund.
- B. Adopt Resolution appointing Rick Schartle of Wyomissing and Deputy Fire Chief of Spring Township to the 911 Center Advisory Board as an At-Large member.
- C. Commissioner Gajewski then read an article regarding the looming financial crisis with regards to defined benefit pensions; and a letter from the PA DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) updating the Commissioner on the status of three Regional Policy study requests from municipalities in Berks County.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing James A. Murray of Muhlenberg Township to the 911 Center Advisory Board as an At-Large member.

- B. Commissioner Scott then discussed the issue currently before the County Retirement Fund Board regarding the requested cost of living increase for existing County Retirees, which if approved would amount to \$5 million impact to County Taxpayers.
- C. Commissioner Scott suggested a few edits to the proposed Metro Rail line resolution and discussed the fact that while he supports the concept of the line, it could generate an approximate 1/3 mill tax increase to Berks County Citizens and suggested that the other counties the line would pass through should also be involved.

Commissioner Schwank commended several local fire companies for taking the initiative for looking into the concept of regionalization. She then stated that the Retirement Board is investigating other options to the requested cost of living increase for retirees. She also stated that in reference to transportation issues, Berks County did not actively lobby for the transportation issues in the past and that has to change. She said "we need to stay at the table and accept that there may be costs involved."

There being no further business and following some general comments of the Commissioners, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk