

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 21, 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 Styer.

II. STAFF RECOGNITION

Sheriff Jozwiak presented the **Gallantry Star Award** to the following officers who are members of the Fugitive Task Force in recognition for their arrest of a person who is a major threat to the community.

James Gresh, Assistant Chief Deputy Sheriff

Juan Munoz, Deputy Sheriff

Brian Hicks, Deputy United States Marshal

Timothy Flickinger, Pennsylvania State Police Officer

Sheriff Jozwiak explained that these task force members successfully arrested 3 (three) men who fled to Allentown and barricaded themselves in an Allentown apartment. He explained that the Fugitive Task Force began in 1983 in Philadelphia with a goal of capturing individuals who may have a federal, state, or local warrant and have fled the area. Also present to express appreciation to these officers were Gary Schovlen, U.S. Marshall Eastern District Pennsylvania and Lieutenant Joseph Reed of the Pennsylvania State Police.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

County Administrator:

- A. Discussion for the relocation of the Veteran's Affairs office from the Berks Leisure Park to the Berks Heim Main Building. - County Administrator, William E. Dennis presented the plan for renovating the office proposed for the lower level office area (previously the Berks Heim Human Resources office) He explained that the move is planned for July of 2006. He stated that the estimated \$7,500 in external cost as currently proposed for this project is part of the 2006 Capital Plan and that the current Veteran's Affairs office space might be considered for future use by the Parks Department.

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2005 appropriations in the amount \$6,000.00 and 2006 appropriations in the amount \$ 604,800.00 per listing March 17, 2006. Robert Patrizio Budget Director presented the budget report to the Commissioners.

Contract Submissions:

- A. Motion authorizing the execution of the list of contract agreements/ amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated March 20, 2006. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts and amendments.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as list dated March 21, 2006. Beth Schiepan presented the list of recommendations to the board.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Day Care Plan agreement authorizing execution of a grant agreement between the County of Berks (Berks County Intermediate Unit) and the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare, regarding childcare services in the amount of \$8,986,319.00 for fiscal year July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. Joanne Reinheimer, CCIS (Child Care Information System) Day Care Program Director attended the meeting to discuss this program which she said has been in place in Berks County since 1971. She stated that the program successfully provided services to approximately 1,100 families and 5,000 children in 2005.
- B. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of Lease Agreement between the City of Reading and County of Berks for a certain tract of land situate in Lower Alsace Township, 619 Skyline Drive, Berks County, to construct, install and maintain communications and related equipment, effective March 20, 2006 and ending on March 29, 2056. County Administrator, William E. Dennis was present to explain this lease and stated that City Council has already approved the lease agreement.

Commissioner Schwank**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Larry E. Kehl, from Fleetwood, PA to a four- year term on to the Berks County Conservation District as a Farmer Director for a term ending 12/31/09.

Commissioner Gajewski continued:

- B. Adopt resolution appointing M. Scot Case of Reading, PA to a term ending 6/11/07 on the Berks Environmental Advisory Committee.
- C. Commissioner Gajewski informed the board that Limerick Garden of Memories Cemetery is now willing provide an additional 535 spaces in addition to the 228 plots to assure the Berks County Veterans will have a right to use a total of 830 spaces. He provided the board with a memo outlining several decisions that will need to be made by the board regarding the distribution of these plots for Berks County veterans and their spouses. He then thanked Sandy Graffius, County Controller and Christine M. Sadler, 1st assistant solicitor for their help in this project. Controller Graffius and Commissioners Schwank and Scott commended Commissioner Gajewski for his tenacity in bringing this beneficial project to a successful close.

Commissioner Scott**V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- A. Commissioner Schwank expressed her concerns with regard to open burning in the County due to the lack of rain and the addition of strong winds; the potential for fires is at a critical point.
- B. Commissioner Scott read letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that indicated they have completed a two-year study at 54 active landfills within the Commonwealth testing for radioactive materials in leachate and found no immediate or long-term threat to the public's health and safety or the environment. He then compared a information on the presence of tritium found at Berks County Landfills and reported that the Conestoga Landfill by comparison appears to have a "thousand" times higher readings for this type of radiation. The Commissioner suggested that the County may want to consider employing a radiation expert for an analysis of this information. Commissioner Schwank suggested that the County contact Conestoga landfill and request that they end the process of utilizing leachate with high levels of tritium to as a dust control method on the landfill's roadways until more is known on the health effects from this process.

VI. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES

- A. Commissioner Schwank announced that she would be presenting a proclamation recognizing the month of March as an observance and celebration of International DeMOLAY Month. DeMOLAY is a fraternity for young men. Built upon the ideals of brotherhood, fidelity and toleration.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:23 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk