

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

***I. CALL TO ORDER:***

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 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 Vice Chair Thomas Gajewski called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance; Commissioner Judith L. Schwank was attending the Spring Conference for CCAP (County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.) Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor, Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

***II. PRESENTATION:***

George Kovarie, Children and Youth Director presented a brochure and invited the Commissioners to attend the Operation Safe Kids seminar scheduled for April 21, 2006 in the Sheraton Hotel in Wyomissing. He then described a funding initiative underway to urge our state legislators to consider changing the funding method for State mandated child welfare responsibilities handed down to counties. He explained that no new funds are being requested, the request would be for the State to provide the Child Welfare dollars currently allocated to Counties to be paid on a quarterly basis up front rather than on a reimbursement basis.

***III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:***

***Budget Department:***

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$208,351 and 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$-517,635 per listing dated March 30, 2006.
- B. Adopt resolution-authorizing modification of Footnote (1) on page 16 of the 2006 Annual Budget concerning matching funds for the Berks Economic Partnership with no overall increase in the match ceiling. Solicitor Alan Miller explained the purpose of this footnote.

***Contract Submissions:***

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated March 27, 2006. Candace Noll presented the contracts.

**Emergency Management:**

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Radiation Emergency Response Fund Grant Application and Agreement in the amount of \$21,403.00, for the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. This annual program grant was presented by Jeff Weidner,
- B. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Agreement for the partial reimbursement of salary and benefits for the County's Emergency Management Coordinator and Clerical Assistant positions in the amount of \$51,976.00 for fiscal year 2006 (10/01/05 – 9/30/06). Bob Osika, EMA Director explained that this grant agreement was a follow up of a grant application approved at the January Commissioners meeting.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as list dated March 28, 2006. Marie Patestas, Human Resources Analyst presented the HR recommendations to the board.

**Office of Aging:**

- A. Adopt Resolution approving the Office of Aging Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) Grant Agreement for \$103,277 (no County Match) for the fiscal year 2006/2007. Kathy Frey, Director of Administration – Office of Aging introduced Margaret Simonton, Employment Planner for Career Link who discussed this program designed to provide on the job training and experience to older workers (over 55) who qualify for this economic assistance. She indicated that this grant would provide funding for 15 positions.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:****Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Commissioner Gajewski read a letter from U.S. Congressman Charles W. Dent regarding his support for the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- B. Commissioner Gajewski encouraged attendance at M.A.S.V. (Men Against Sexual Violence) Breakfast meeting hosted by the Domestic Abuse Prevention Council of Berks County on Thursday March 30, 2006 at the Wyndham Hotel in Reading.

**Commissioner Gajewski continued:**

- C. Commissioner Gajewski then announced and encouraged attendance at the first of several 2006 Berks County Forums on Crime scheduled for April 6, 2006 at the Muhlenberg High School from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. The topic of the meeting will be "Reducing Crime through Effective Community Policing"

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott explained in more detail the item on today's agenda regarding a footnote in the county's audit report for the Berks Economic Partnership (BEP). He said that the Commissioners approved funding to the BEP on a private dollar matching basis, thereby assuring those business entities that will receive immediate benefit from improvements in the economic development landscape of the county would help to fund the marketing effort provided by the BEP.
- B. Commissioner Scott then expressed his opinion regarding Federal Election requirement for multi lingual ballots. He read a letter from a California County official describing the financial impact his county has experienced by complying with this regulation.
- C. Commissioner Scott then suggested a possible change for the disposition of properties acquired by the A.D.D. (Acquisition, Demolition and Disposition) program in our Community Development Office. He suggested that (if law permits) the practice of giving the land from demolished buildings to neighboring property owners should be changed to allow the county an opportunity to sell or provide an indefinite lease of the parcel especially when the land falls into a plan for future community development.

**Solicitor**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution by Sandy Graffius, County Controller, of an Affidavit and Indemnification Agreement and Owner Claim Form, to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Treasury Department regarding unclaimed property of the County of Berks.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing approval of a project by Prospectus Associates, Inc., after public hearing, in accordance with certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Solicitor Alan Miller explained that while the County provides no funding nor any guarantee of funding for this project but IRS regulations requires the Commissioners to hold a hearing and approve the project in concept since the project that is requesting financing is planned to be located in Berks County, before it can move forward to acquire funding with the Maxatawny Township Municipal Authority.

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

John Morgan of Ruscombmanor Township expressed support for voter rights legislation and indicated that we need to assure that all citizens are included in the process.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk