

## **Commissioners' Meeting Thursday, April 6, 2006**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, April 6, 2006 at 10:30 A.M. in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Thomas W. Gajewski Sr. was not present at this meeting. Also present were the County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq., Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk and County Administrator William E. Dennis.

Commissioner Schwank opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Scott made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Schwank with all voting yes to approve the and March 30, 2006 Commissioners' meeting minutes and to postpone the approval of the March 28<sup>th</sup> workshop meeting minutes as Commissioner Schwank was at the CCAP convention and Commissioner Gajewski was not present at this meeting to vote.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, and seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve the items listed below.
  - 110.06 A. Resolution Commissioner Schwank will present Berks County Let's Pick it up PA Day.
  - 111.06 B. Resolution authorizing 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$21,701.00 per listing March 31, 2006.
  - 112.06 C. Resolution authorizing Dr. Edward Michalik, MH/MR Administrator to forward a letter of intent indicating the County of Berks' interest in entering into a contract for the HealthChoices Program, with the Department of Public Welfare, for the period beginning October 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009."
  - 113.06 D. Resolution authorizes execution of a DCED grant agreement by and between the County of Berks (Office of Aging) and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the Community Revitalization Assistance Program.

- 114.06 E. Resolution supporting a request to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to name a previously unnamed tributary of the Mill Creek in Tilden and Upper Bern Townships to Wolf Run.
- 115.06 F. Resolution authorizing an amendment to a contract dated September 9, 2004 with Liberty Environmental Consultants to provide additional services to the Berks Environmental Advisory Committee's review of an Air Quality Permit application (Liberty Proposal No. P050296 dated December 12, 2005 attached to this resolution), and further authorizes payment of \$2,921.25 as additional payment for such services.
- 116.06 G. Resolution authorizing Berks County environmental counsel Rhoads & Sinon, LLP to file an appeal of the Granger Permit No. 06-05103 before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board on or before the expiration of thirty (30) days after the April 1, 2006 advertisement of said Permit in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

**Reports:**

1. County Treasurer – Nelson Long, CPA presented the Treasurer's Report for
2. County Controller – Sandy Graffius, presented her weekly Controller's report.

**Public Comment:**

Clerk of Courts Jim Troutman expressed frustration over the need for this County be so involved in the oversight of work that the PA Department of Environmental Protection should be doing to protect the citizens and the environment. He then commended the Commissioners for their scrutiny and involvement in these matters as well as their continued effort towards good environmental stewardship on behalf of Berks County.

Commissioner Scott said that he believes the county's involvement and oversight of permits issued by the State may force the State and Federal environmental permitting agencies to be more circumspect as the review request come before them. He used as an example the permit for Granger Energy at Conestoga Landfill, where the project of creating energy from methane is promoted as a benefit when the state is currently is such heavy production of electricity, we are exporting it to other localities outside of the state borders. He said to increase the noxious emissions of this facility to produce electricity not shown to be a need and there by creating a more difficult environment for citizens and creating future restrictions on the emissions of economic development projects that could, in the future provide higher paying jobs to the Counties citizens seems counterproductive.

Commissioner Schwank agreed the Commissioner adding that perhaps the State and Federal Governments should pay more attention to over all automobile emissions rather

these individual applications for job creating industries. In reference to this Granger Energy project she indicated that following the research provided by the BEAC and Liberty Environmental Consultants, we have learned that once this project is complete, the Noxious Emissions produced by this facility will make it one of the top five pollutants in the County.

Commissioner Scott then mentioned the recent trend seen in several municipalities where both private and public schools are attempting to locate new structures in Agricultural Preservation Zones of the Township. He explained that this school and the needed infrastructure (Public sewer and water) that will follow tends to opens the door to additional land development that was not part of the municipal comprehensive plan. The first example was Exeter Township and under current consideration is an application with the Hamburg School District applying for a new school building to be located in the Agricultural zone of Upper Bern Township. Commission Schwank suggested that the county should do more to pull the entities together in the planning process much earlier.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:13 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk