

## **Commissioners' Meeting Thursday, June 8, 2006**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 8, 2006 at 10:40 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 Thomas Gajewski and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were the County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq., County Administrator William E. Dennis, and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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 Gajewski and all voted yes to approve the May 30, 2006 Commissioners' workshop meeting minutes and the June 01, 2006 noting that Commissioner Schwank was not present for the June 1, 2006 meeting.

### ***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, including Resolution 174.06 that was part of the non-consent items and approved separately.
  - 166.06 A. Resolution authorizes the submission of a budget revision for the Berks County Office of Aging to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging for the 05/06 fiscal year.
  - 167.06 B. Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$40,000.00 and 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$15,370.00 per listing dated June 2, 2006.
  - 168.06 C. Resolution approving Human Resource Recommendations as list dated June 6, 2006.
  - 169.06 D. Resolution authorizes the execution of a collective bargaining agreement between the County of Berks and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, District Council 88, Local 462, effective January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008.

- 170.06 E. Resolution authorizing execution of the Reciprocal Agreement between the County of Berks, through its Berks County Emergency Management Agency ("BCEMA"), and the Township of Spring, through the Township of Spring Volunteer Fire Department ("TSVFD"), for storage and use of BCEMA's emergency rescue equipment by TSVFD who agree assist first responders in the mitigation of emergencies as more fully detailed in the Reciprocal Agreement.
- 171.06 F. Resolution appointing of Marlowe Graff, citizen of Kutztown, PA to the Berks Area Reading Transportation Authority Board to an unexpired five-year term ending 06/06/2007.
- 172.06 G. Resolution authorizes the execution of a letter of engagement with Susan P. LeGros, Esq. of Stevens and Lee as special counsel to the County of Berks for the provision of additional consultation services with regard to the Cabot Industries environmental issues in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.
- 173.06 H. Resolution authorizes the payment to Exeter Township of fifty percent (50%) of the cost of a feasibility study dated April 26, 2006 for biosolids drying facility at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- 174.06 I. Resolution authorizing Judith Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute a grant application and agreement by and between the County of Berks (Emergency Management) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant covering the period July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 in the amount of \$180,000.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated June 5, 2006.

### **Reports**

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

### **Commissioner's Comments:**

Commissioner Scott discussed his thoughts on the re-assessment for the County of Berks by suggesting that until we see any final results from the state legislature on tax reform and until what he described as the current volatile real estate market trends to a more stable environment, the timing for a reassessment would not be appropriate. His main concern was that the major investment of taxpayer funds that it would take to equalize the property values throughout the county (via a re-assessment process) might be short lived.

The board then discussed the window of opportunity that property owners have to file appeals with the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals by completing an appeal form and filing in a timely manner.

The appeal form can be obtained at the forms section of the Assessment Office website as well as in the Assessment Office, which is located within the Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Third Floor, Reading, PA 19601. The Commissioners explained that the appeal period to file begins July 1, 2006 with a deadline to file on August 15, 2006. It was discussed that to be successful in filing for a reduction of assessed valuation, the property owner must be able to demonstrate that their assessment is in excess of market value. Current market value can best be demonstrated by an appraisal within the past 12 months by a qualified appraiser or documented sales of similar properties (at least 3) within the last 18 months and if the property was purchased within the past 12 months, a settlement sheet and the agreement of sale and the builder's contract will be required at your hearing.

**Citizen Comment/Business From The Floor**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk