

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, July 11, 2006**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Gajewski was out of town but phoned into the meeting for a vote \*see below. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, First Assistant Solicitor, Christine Sadler Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

**II. STAFF RECOGNITION**

President Judge Arthur Grim presented a Proclamation announcing for Probation and Parole Officers Week July 16 – July 22, 2006

**III. PRESENTATION**

Berks County Controller Sandra Graffius provided an update of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Constable Fee increase (per Senate Bill 303 of 2006); also present to discuss the change was Constable Tom Impink, Regional Director of the PA State Constable Association (PSCA)

**IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Adult Probation and Parole:**

- A. Adopt Resolution approving execution of a Contract Agreement, by and between the County of Berks (Adult Probation) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, in connection with the reimbursement of 2005-2006 County Supervision Fees; Contract ID – 06-05/06-SF, (PA Bureau of Probation and Parole Act 35 program). Nancy Xavios, Director of Berks County Adult Probation and Parole, was present to discuss this agreement.

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$88,500 and 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$10,000 per listing dated July 7, 2006. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director presented the report.

**Community Development:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing amendments to the County's Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

**Engineering:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of Penn Dot form MS340 Application to encumber an additional \$150,000 in County Liquid Fuels Funds for the rehabilitation of the County Owned Weidner's Bridge Project number 05-06000-01.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. The list of Human Resource Recommendations dated July 11, 2006 were reviewed with two items approved as follows:
- 204.06 A. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Sarah "Sally" O'Reilly, Office Support III – Chief Clerk, effective 7/12/06. Rate of \$25,216/annually. Band = \$25,000 (minimum); \$40,625 (midpoint); \$56,250 (maximum). Replacement for Dalila Garcia who transferred. **Cost Containment has approved a Request to Fill a Position form for this position.** Budget 01-101.
- 205.06 B. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Robert A. Carl, Director – Facilities and Operations, effective 8/7/06. Rate of \$92,000/annually. Band = \$52,000 (minimum); \$84,500 (midpoint); \$117,000 (maximum). Replacement for Scott Adams who resigned. Budget 01-104.

\*Prior to a call for a vote on this Resolution Commissioner Gajewski, who was unable to attend the meeting but requested he phone in his vote was then contacted. The Commissioner indicated that he was not in support of hiring a Facilities Director saying that he felt it to be a waste of taxpayer money as the supervisors in that department have successfully managed the department for over a year without a director. He specifically commended Jim Strohecker, Project Engineer for his project management skills. Commissioner Scott indicated his support for this position by saying that with over \$100 million in physical assets the County needs a person with knowledge and experience to manage all of it. Commissioner Schwank agreed with the excellent teamwork provided by the members of the Facilities department during the absence of a Director, but agreed with Commissioner Scott that the importance and magnitude of the projects this department is responsible for needs someone with strong management skills to see that projects, such as the space management and energy savings initiatives, are completed. At this time the Chair called for the motion, which was made by Commissioner Scott and seconded by Commissioner Schwank to approve Resolution 205.06. Both Commissioners voted yes with Commissioner Gajewski voting no. (Commissioner Gajewski's July 8, 2006 memo is attached to these minutes) The resolution was approved.

**MH/MR**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of the HealthChoices Behavioral Health Agreement contract between the County of Berks and the Commonwealth of PA, Department of Public Welfare for a term commencing on October 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2009. Dr. Ed Michalik MH/MR Administrator presented the agreement to the board.

**Parks Department**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of PA Department of Transportation Highway Occupancy Agreement #0506002 for the Union Canal-Blue March connector trail project.

**Solicitor:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing acceptance of a proposal from Bellairs Real Estate to perform an appraisal of the Antietam Lake property required by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at a price not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).
- B. Adopt Resolution appointing John Goldstan, Esq. as special counsel to the Berks County Office of Aging effective July 1, 2006 at an amount not to exceed thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000.00) for the first year of the engagement and further authorizing the Solicitor's Office to petition the Berks County Court of Common Pleas for approval of such appointment.

**Workforce Investment Board**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing an amendment to an office lease between the County of Berks and Ted K. Goropoulos of Reading for a building located at 501 Crescent Avenue, Reading (Career Link), among several items, extending an additional Five (5) years beginning September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2011. John Moser, Contract Administration and Monitoring Team Manager, Workforce Investment Board attended the meeting to present this lease amendment for approval. Administrator Bill Dennis commended the team that negotiated this lease agreement.

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

- A. Commissioner Schwank announced a meeting scheduled for July 17, 2006 at 7 PM at the Berks Agricultural Center to hold a discussion on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) proposed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She indicated that this proposed system could have far reaching impacts to the agricultural community.

**Commissioner Schwank continued:**

The Commissioners introduced Sarah Reese, Chair of the Equine Council who summarized the three basic points proposed as part of this new US Department of Agriculture initiative as registering all farms and properties where animals are kept; assure that each animal is tagged and reports are prepared for the movement of animals from location to location. Commissioner Schwank indicated that this proposed Federal Policy seems more attuned to the "large herd" mid-west states so the burden it may create for PA Farmers could be such that it may drive them out of business.

- B. Commissioner Schwank described discussions regarding the Earl Trust properties with the Mayor involving various properties (in the Antietam Lake area) that would be better suited for City ownership due to maintenance issues. Commissioner Scott suggested that other "county" parcels could possibly be traded.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott referenced a letter sent to the County by Attorney Robert P. Grim who is requesting financial support in a zoning dispute before the Maxatawny Township Board of Supervisors regarding a Conditional Use Application of Gambone Development Company who is proposing a Walmart Shopping Center in an area previously planned as an ideal location for an Industrial Park. He suggested that the county provide funding from the Environmental Defense fund not to exceed \$5,000 for professional traffic engineer and \$4,500 for the land development specialist. Commissioner Schwank indicated her support to add this request as a resolution on the Thursday meeting.
- B. Commissioner Scott then suggested future consideration for financial support for Robesonia, Wernersville, North Heidelberg and Heidelberg Townships who are defending their Communities Joint Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances against the State Attorney General's Office.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk