

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting August 15, 2006**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 15, 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 Thomas W. Gajewski, Sr. called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Solicitor Alan Miller Esq. and First Assistant Solicitor, Christine Sadler Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. Commissioner Judith L. Schwank and County Administrator William Dennis were attending the Annual Conference of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

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

### **II. PRESENTATION**

Berks County Solid Waste Authority Executive Director Jane Meeks and WBLF Acquisition Company, LLC, presented a Disposal Capacity Agreement for the Western Berks Landfill with the WBLF Acquisition Company, LLC. She explained that this agreement would contain a County host fee that includes an escalator clause (similar to the County's agreement with BFI and their operation of the Conestoga Landfill.) She indicated that the approval of this Disposal Capacity Agreement would also amend of the Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan to include this previously municipally owned landfill to become part of the disposal capacity for the County. Commissioner Scott expressed reservation about the proposed additional capacity the new owners would be seeking since he reported the County of Berks generates 1,000 tons per day of waste and the existing disposal capacity with other area landfills appears to be adequate.

Peter T. Edelman, Esq. presented a request for adoption of an Ordinance authorizing the execution of a Guarantee Agreement for a Line of Credit by the Berks County Industrial Development Authority with Fulton Bank. He said that approval of this guarantee will allow the Industrial Development Authority to obtain a lower interest rate on a one year renewable line of credit enabling the Authority to move quickly on acquisition of viable industrial sites in the county and providing better opportunities for increased economic "industrial" revitalization in Berks County.

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

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$143,034.00 and 2006 Appropriations in the amount of 900,000 per listing dated August 11, 2006. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as per list dated August 15, 2006.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Beth Schiepan to sign the revised CCAP UC Trust Agreement. Beth Schiepan was present to discuss both items.

**Juvenile Probation**

- A. Adopt Resolution to approve application for Grant-In-Aid funds from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for fiscal year 2006-2007.

**Purchasing**

- A. Authorized Execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated August 14, 2006.
- 249.06** B. Resolution authorizing, as a result of Invitation to Bid #06-07-MB, a one year contract to supply and deliver #6 fuel oil for use in heating at the Boiler Plant. Estimated contract amount is \$1,321,830.00. Commissioner Scott made a motion to adopt this resolution. Commissioner Gajewski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Solicitor**

- A. Adopt Resolution execution of an agreement between the County of Berks and the Bern Township Municipal Authority for the regional use of County sewer facilities. Bill Westcott, Engineer for the County presented the details of this request.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the appointment of five (5) members and alternates to the Berks County Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals in accordance with Ordinance 01-06 dated January 19, 2006. Jamie Passon, Planner with the Berks County Planning Commission explained that a steering committee was formed to devise this list of professional engineers to volunteer on this Appeals Board. He also explained that the process requires each participating municipality to pay an annual fee to the County of \$200 and further, that the appeals application contains a fee schedule intended to cover the county costs for each appeal heard.

**Workforce Investment Board**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipients Release, Assignment and Closeout forms pursuant to the terms of the following Workforce Investment Act Grants totaling to \$2,311,975.00.

**Workforce Investment Board continued:**

- ❖ 015044255-This was a special grant to help RACC buy equipment for their new technology center.
- ❖ 015054155-This was a special grant to help RACC buy equipment for their new technology center.
- ❖ 015054001- WIA Dislocated Worker grant to provide training and placement services to individuals laid-off from jobs.
- ❖ 015053001-WIA Adult grant to provide training and placement services to low-income individuals.
- ❖ 015053301-WIA Youth to provide training and placement services to economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth.
- ❖ 015046131- State funding to provide targeted individual's entrepreneurial training.
- ❖ 01543301- WIA Youth to provide training and placement services to economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth
- ❖ 015056031-State Training Activities-to provide stipends to individuals while attending training

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

Commissioner Gajewski reported that the County received a letter from U.S. Congressman, Tim Holden and the National Park Service, stating that the National Park Service does not need to sign off on repairs to the Gruber Wagon Works but offered technical assistance to the repair efforts on this building listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

John Morgan of Ruscombmanor Township offered comments in response to Mayor McMahon's Crime Forum held on August 14<sup>th</sup> by suggesting that people coming to the city to buy drugs are as much a part of the problem as those selling them. He added that additional meetings are not needed as City Council meets every Monday evening, and the County Commissioners meet on Tuesday and Thursday. He encouraged citizens to attend these meetings to become better informed and especially become involved in their community. Although it was stated at the forum that no new laws are needed, Mr. Morgan disagreed by suggesting that the state legislature needs to enact laws to allow county-wide police forces. He feels that we also need some "common sense" gun safety laws as a child is killed by gunfire every 3 hours in the US alone. He said that a law limiting gun purchases to one per month is a good one, and that the assault weapon ban should be reinstated.

Commissioner Gajewski expressed concern over the lack of follow up in the past and hopes that these discussions will result in meaningful and effective ways to deal with crime in and outside of the city.

Commissioner Scott mentioned the book "Crime Fighter", by Jack Maple. He stated that this is a good read about fighting crime, and addressed issues like the effectiveness for the deployment of police officers with innovative uses of information technology such as the crime mapping.

Commissioner Scott also lauded the efforts of Crime Alert Berks County, as a worthwhile and cost effective program, working with a miniscule budget. He would like to see the business community give more support to Crime Alert, perhaps organizing a fundraising event for them.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk