

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 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 Thomas W. Gajewski, Sr., and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq. and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

II DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$22,358.00. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.
- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated September 11, 2006. Candy Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution to approve the Human Resource Recommendation list dated September 12, 2006. Beth Schiepan presented the recommendations.

Planning Commission:

- A. The following Open Space & Recreation Advisory Council **Grant Recommendations for 2007** were presented by Matthew McGough and Shannon Rossman, Berks County Planning Commission. Shannon explained that this program was initiated with the Counties 1994 Open Space and Recreation Plan:

- 1. **Hamburg Borough - \$25,000**
Schuylkill Canal & Riverside Recreation Initiative
(council recommends funding in the amount of \$25,000)

2. **Schuylkill River Greenway Association - \$25,000**
Thun Trail Gap Connections Project – Phase III: Birdsboro Area Trail Connections & Improvements (council recommends funding in the amount of \$25,000)
 3. **City of Reading - \$23,543**
Greater Reading Greenway Hub Connectors – includes four small projects to improve connections between the Schuylkill River Trail and the Neversink, Tulpehocken, and Wyomissing Trails, and to Schlegel Park (council recommends funding in the amount of \$23,543)
 4. **Upper Bern Township - \$25,000**
Shartlesville Community Park Annexation Project (council recommends funding in the amount of \$25,000)
 5. **Kutztown Borough – \$25,000**
Kutztown Borough Multipurpose Rink for street and roller hockey in the summer and ice skating and ice hockey in the winter (Council does not recommend funding the portion of the project associated with ice skating/hockey due to the lack of proven ability in other Berks County municipalities in maintaining such a facility for any length of time. Council recommends funding the Multipurpose Rink for street and roller hockey, only.)
- B. The following Open Space & Recreation Advisory Council : **Landfill Settlement (Environmental Defense Fund) Allocations for 2007** was presented by Matthew McGough and Shannon Rossman, Berks County Planning Commission
1. **Brecknock Township - \$100,000**
Brecknock Horseshoe Trail Conservation Easements – Phase I

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Approve an amendment to Resolution 296.06 establishing and appointing members to the Countywide Law Enforcement Study Committee to add the two additional members, one representing the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) of the Reading Police Department (Officer Troy Heiser) and a representative of the Hispanic Center (Jonathan Encarcion.) She also stated that the first meeting for this committee has been scheduled for September 25, 2006.

Commissioner Scott registered his objection to appointing someone based on ethnicity. Commissioner Schwank explained that Mr. Encarcion is a member of PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency) and as such, will have insight and perhaps an inside track to possible grants.

Commissioner Scott did agree that a member of both the Reading City FOP and the County FOP should be appointed and further suggested that if the Committee needed representation from the PCCD then, Mr. Encarciaon could serve in that capacity. He said if the Committee was going to be presented by ethnic groups, then more would be needed for complete representation. He also discouraged additional members that would make the committee unwieldy and that he believed the purpose of this committee was to provide technical expertise on the possible restructuring of police services in order to provide better police coverage county wide. Commissioner Schwank said she shared his concern but the matter of an unwieldy committee will come down to the Commissioners' ability to provide leadership to push the board's agenda.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt resolutions for the reappointments by Commissioner Gajewski of Lillie Foster and Lynn Millar to the Children & Youth Services Advisory Board for 2 year terms ending 12/31/2007.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott said that in reference to the Greater Reading Corridor Task Force, he believed that any discussions on the plans for the corridor should come from the municipalities to the Commissioners and not the other way around.

IV. PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Schwank presented a proclamation to the Reading Buccaneers Drum and Bugle Corps on the occasion of their 2nd consecutive World Championship win. Tom Moore, Director of Public Relations accepted on behalf of the Buccaneers.

V. CITIZEN COMMENT

Randi Peters representing Berks County Citizens for Sustainable Farming commented regarding the National Animal Identification System. Commissioner Schwank discussed the involvement of the county on this issue and read portions of a letter she had sent to Congressman Tim Holden who serves on the Agriculture Committee. Commissioner Scott said that although he believed that the bill was intended to protect Human Health issues of a catastrophic manner such as "Mad Cow" or Avian Flu epidemics in the farming community he agreed with the position of this group that the ID system as currently proposed should not be approved. He also suggested that this is a good example of what happens with well intended consumer protection agencies propose legislation that tends to favor larger corporations who are better equipped to deal with this kind of regulatory compliance requirements and will drive smaller farms and or companies out of business. Brian Moyer suggested that the board adopt a resolution opposing this legislation; John Bryan asked the board to use their influence with the State Legislature and to coordinate with other County Commissioners to educate them and prevent this legislation in Pennsylvania.

The Board indicated their unanimous support and would take their documents under advisement and that they would consider adopting a Resolution opposing this legislation.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk