

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, September 19, 2006**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 19, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (held from the September 14, 2006 meeting)**

Commissioner Gajewski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Scott to approve the September 5, 2006 Commissioner workshop minutes and the September 7, 2006 Commissioners meeting minutes, Both Commissioners Schwank and Gajewski all voted yes to approve with Commissioner Scott abstaining as he was not in attendance at either meeting.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$113,650 per listing dated September 15, 2006. 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 18, 2006. Candy Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

**Juvenile Probation**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Wegman's Catering, on behalf of Berks County Juvenile Probation for \$13.50 per person for approximately 100-120 people (with respect to a Volunteer Recognition Dinner to be held Thursday October 26, 2006 at 6:00 PM at the Berks County Agricultural Center Auditorium, honoring participants in the Juvenile Probation Community Youth Aid Panel Program. Total County cost for the Recognition Dinner is estimated to be \$648.00 and includes certificates, awards and other supplies. Laurie Hague, Assistant JPO Chief, presented the request and discussed what she described as a diversionary program designed to help Juvenile Offenders avoid a police record.

**Community Development**

- A. Adopt Resolution amending the County's 2006 CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) programs.
- FFY 2006 CDBG Program allocation of \$45,000 from Contingencies to Greenwich Township for a Road Improvement Project
  - FFY 2006 CDBG Program amendment to provide a \$750,000 loan to the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks for activities in the Penn Avenue Redevelopment Area of West Reading.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated September 19, 2006. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director, presented the recommendations.

**Parks**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank to execute a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources seeking a matching grant under the Community Conservation Partnerships Program to rehabilitate the Camp Joy Swimming Pool located in Bern Township. Total estimated cost of the project is \$463,736.00. Parks and Recreation Director Bill Semmel presented the request and explained that this represents the second submission to the DCNR as County's request from 2005 was turned down. He said that this delay has the potential for extending the time that the swimming pool will remain closed.

**Solicitor:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of the current invoice (\$7,216.00) as well as authorize Liberty Environmental Inc. ongoing services in the Granger Appeal (Conestoga Landfill) subject to approval of all services/invoices by the County Solicitor's Office.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Adopt Resolutions reappointing Glenn Yeager and Barry Rohrbach to the Berks County Redevelopment Authority for 2 year terms ending 12/31/2007.

**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Commissioner Schwank explained that the County's Local Redevelopment Authority of LRA (established as part of the requirements by the Department of Defense to acquire the Naval Reserve Center site on Kenhorst Blvd) received only one application representing two emergency shelter agencies in the County expressing an interest in the building. She indicated that the next LRA Committee will be meeting October 15<sup>th</sup> to review the application.
- B. Commissioner Schwank offered for discussion and heard no objection for the donation the many cartons of "The History and Government of Berks County, Pennsylvania" books to the Historical Society to be sold in Society bookstore.

**V. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES**

- A. Commissioner Schwank presented a Proclamation to Kevin Bieber, President of the Oley Valley Community Fair Association, and Dena Kauffman, Treasurer, on the occasion of the fair's 60<sup>th</sup> year. They both thanked the board and encouraged all to attend this year's fair which is scheduled for September 21 through the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

- A. Pete Archey – presented information regarding County Prescription discount card and Medicare enrollees. He read a letter in which he expressed concern for the County's plans to market the NACo Discount Prescription Card. He stressed that he is not opposed to the county's distribution of the card to citizens that could benefit from the discounts offered but his concern solely for the potential of confusion that may be created for "Medicare Seniors" as the State rolls out the Medicare Part D program. He encouraged the Commissioners to involve county organizations such as the Office of Aging and Apprise as well as himself to help provide language and information as this card is marketed to avoid any unintended confusion for the County's Senior population.

Commissioner Gajewski said that the NACo card program has marketing restrictions that member counties are required to follow and has asked a NACo representative for input and advice.

Commissioner Scott thanked Mr. Archey for attending and summarized his concern that the senior citizens should consider the use of a discount prescription card only as a last resort and suggested that some kind of printed disclosure should be included in the marketing of the county card.

Commissioner Schwank agreed with the above and stated further that this card is no different from any other discount prescription card currently marketed by numerous companies. She then suggested that a meeting be set up with Mr. Archey and other interested groups to assure that all issues are properly addressed.

Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director said that NACo's intended use of this card was to provide discounted prescriptions to citizens that were not eligible for health insurance and it should not be confused with any Medicare benefits.

- B. Mr. Trainer of Abilities in Motion asked for assistance with the Department of Community and Economic Development. The grant process is cumbersome and there is a current waiting list of 30 people waiting for help to make their homes accessible.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk