

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, October 31, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 31, 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. PRESENTATION

Controller Sandy Graffius and President Judge Arthur Grim presented the updated Berks County Constable's Manual. Both Controller Graffius and Judge Grim commended all the participants in this collaborative project and especially mentioned Deb Blanco and Susan Jones of the Controllers Office for compiling the many drafts that led to the final document. The Commissioners commended all the participants noting that this manual was a result of a collaborative project in which the County's Constables were involved throughout the entire process.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$67,974.00, and 2006 Appropriations in the amount of \$5,496,902, per listing dated October 27, 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 October 27, 2006. Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Jennifer Biehn, Deputy Director of Human Resources and Sue Schucker, Human Resource Generalist presented the Berks County Affirmative Action Plan Update for 2006-2007 and explained that the intent along with compliance with the law was to provide a diverse workforce as we increase in the County's Applicant pool. She said that the plan is not a quota system as the county's selection process is still based on individual qualifications.

Human Resource Director continued:

Ms. Schucker explained that at least 20 of the action items are aimed at internal employee promotions assuring a diverse and well qualified work force. Commission Scott said that while he will support this plan he noted that the preference shown to those "underrepresented" classes cannot be avoided in a plan such as this but emphasis for those underrepresented classes should be on education towards additional skill sets to be better equipped for improvements in employment. Commissioner Schwank said the plan wasn't put together "because we had to" it was the right thing to do.

- B. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated October 31, 2006.
Jennifer Biehn presented the one item on the list.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Adopt Resolution authorizing Rebecca Richards, Superintendent of Recreation Berks County Parks to sign a grant application for \$5,000 to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) on behalf of Berks County Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (BANA) to fund the Berks County Keystone Active Zoning Campaign.

Commissioner Schwank

Commissioner Schwank asked County Administrator Dennis to provide an update on the Communications Tower owned by MCI in Center Township. Mr. Dennis indicated that an agreement from MCI to sell the tower at its assessed value will enable the county to make it part of the County-Wide radio system and that the purchase agreement would appear on the Commissioners' meeting agenda in mid November.

Commissioner Schwank then discussed the recent crime report prepared by Morgan Quinto Press a research Company from Kansas that reflected poorly on the City of Reading for overall crime statistics. She said that regardless of whether we agree with the value of the statistics gathered for that report, it is the kind of information that can impact businesses exploring the Greater Reading Area and it is the very reason why the County's Law Enforcement Study is such an opportunity to look at things differently in the hopes of finding creative solutions. Commissioner Scott took issue with the reference of all citizens being part of Greater Reading. He said he doesn't believe that the entire county wishes to be defined as Greater Reading. Commissioner Gajewski said regardless to what we call ourselves, the county is continuing to work on the crime issue.

Commissioner Gajewski

Commissioner Gajewski requested support for the county to adopt a resolution to support HB 2915 which proposes to shift incarceration costs from counties to state. Commissioner Schwank indicated her support and said that the CCAP (County Commissioners Association) has been trying to get this legislation passed for many years. Commissioner Scott also indicated his support stating that the largest drain of County Real Estate Tax Revenue is directly tied to the expenses created by Crime (i.e. – Prison and all related Court Costs) and he pointed to the fact that all Berks County residents bear this burden if the Reading's crime rate regardless to where they live in Berks County.

Commissioner Scott

Adopt Resolution to appoint John C. Woodward, Wyomissing, PA, to the Reading Area Community College Board of trustees to complete the term of Cesar Lopez who resigned. Mr. Woodward's term will end 6/30/09.

V. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Commissioner Schwank presented a certificate of Recognition to Dorothy Miller, for serving 25 years as a volunteer at the Berks Heim, and for being recognized by the Pennsylvania Association of County Affiliated Homes as Volunteer of the Year. Mrs. Miller was joined at the podium by her husband Paul and by Heim Administrator, Jerry Fudeman and Volunteer Coordinator, Doris Evans.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk