

**COUNTY OF BERKS**  
**COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2006**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 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***

**Institute for the Advancement of Children's Environmental Health** - Craig Hafer, Chairman, and Lori Wheeler, Interim Director of the Institute for the Advancement of Children's Environmental Health, Kutztown University, along with Gavin Biebuyck, discussed in detail the Institute's mission to broaden the understanding of the differences between a child and an adult and how to create solutions to protect children from environmental harms via education, outreach and research. In addition these representatives requested that the Commissioner's consider amending a County Resolution that approved the use of a \$100,000 legal settlement from the Conestoga Landfill (as a result of air permit violations with the DEP) to be transferred beginning in 2008 to the Kutztown University Foundation for the specific purpose of investing in air monitoring equipment and research to improve the County's knowledge of its air quality and to encourage research at the Institute on how ambient air pollution impacts the children of Berks County. Commissioner Schwank indicated that she was supportive but wished to take a closer look at the Institute's proposed long range budgets. Commissioner Gajewski said he felt the institute was a good concept but was concerned about breaking the commitment made to the municipalities for open space funding with those funds. Mr. Biebuyck suggested that an air monitor could be installed near the landfill for a more immediate benefit of those surrounding communities. Commissioner Scott said that this project is a better use of those settlement funds rather the open space grants however he expressed an interest in seeing that this investment be tied to measurable goals and outcomes. He also suggested that this arrangement be approved through a formalized contract or agreement rather than a resolution which could be amended by a future board of Commissioners. Commissioner Schwank thanked the group for their sincerity and persistence and suggested that the kind of information and research data that could be derived from these monitors would be helpful in making sound decisions that would be based on factual data and not conjecture, regarding not only industrial but also our area agricultural practices.

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

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$635,754 per listing dated November 9, 2006. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing, as a result of Invitation to Bid #06-12-MB, a one year contract to M.D. Brown Co. 239 Schuyler Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704 for health care supplies at the Heim \$42,760.00
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing, as a result of Invitation to Bid #06-12-MB, a one year contract to ATD-American Co. 135 Greenwood Ave. Wynecote, PA for health care supplies at the Heim 19095-1396 for \$12,657.60.

Maria Ballas, Buyer recommended awarding contracts for these two proposals.

- D. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated November 13, 2006. Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

**Career Link**

- A. Adopt Resolution that Judith L. Schwank, Chair of the Berks County Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign the "Grant Recipient's Release, Grant Recipient's Assignment of Refunds, Rebates, and Credits, and WIA Grant Closeout Tax Certification" for the WIA Grant for Berks County Employment and Training Office on behalf of the applicant. Grant amount totals \$284,240.00.

**Court Administration**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of a three year lease (beginning December 1, 2006 and ending November 30, 2009 with an option to renew for one additional three year period) with Metropolitan Management Group for office space to be used for the County Supervised Visitation program consisting of approximately 3400 square feet located on the ground floor at 777 Court Street, Berkshire Towers, Reading for an annual amount not to exceed \$2,700 per month. Lisa A. Siciliano, Family Court Administrator, explained that this lease contains language that will allow the county to give the building owner 60 days notice to end the lease if funding for this Program ends.

**Community Development**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank to execute the Berks County Action Plan for FFY2007. Kathy Miller, Community Development, presented this request and asked for approval at this meeting. Following a review of the plan, Commissioner Schwank made a motion to approve the following resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes.

- 329.06** A. Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chair of the Board to execute the County's Action Plan and related contracts for FFY2007 and indicating approval by the Board of Commissioners, and further providing such assurances, certifications and supplemental or revised data which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development request in conjunction with the Plan.

**Human Resource Director**

- A. Beth Schiepan presented the Human Resource Recommendations as per list dated November 14, 2006. Commissioner Schwank asked if a policy could be considered that would establish a more efficient approval procedure for personnel temp agency contracts.

**Mental Health /Mental Retardation**

- A. Resolution authorizing appointment of Lawrence Tabas, Esq. of Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell, Hippel, LLC., as special counsel to the HealthChoices program effective October 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 and further authorizing execution of an independent contractor agreement for such services as well as for the solicitor's office to petition the Berks County Court of Common Pleas for approval of such appointment. Dr. Ed Michalik was present to discuss this appointment.

**Solicitor**

- A. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2003 - \$827.81; 2004 - \$205.76 and 2005 - \$204.05 to the City of Reading for property situate in the City of Reading at 422 S. 6th Street, Reading (PIN 06-5307-64-42-9574).
- B. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2006 to the Daniel Boone Area School District for property situate at 556 Monocacy Creek Road, Amity Township (PIN 24-5354-14-44--946).
- C. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the 2005 to SAM for property situate 19 North 6th Street, Reading (PIN 07-5307-83-80-4485-X01).

- D. Resolution authorizing execution of the Lease Amendment between the County of Berks and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, for office space situate at the Berks County Agricultural Center, beginning January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 at a monthly rent of \$4,044.38.
- E. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Berks County Solicitor's Office to advertise a special meeting to be held Wednesday, November 29, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commissioners' Boardroom, Berks County Services Center, 633 Court Street, 13th Floor, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601 for the purposes of considering a resolution fixing the salaries of certain elected officials.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Commissioner Schwank presented a letter for board signature to Senator Michael O'Pake and Representative David Argall to request State Police assistance in traffic control in the construction area of Rt. 78 between Hamburg and Lenhartsville which she stated experienced three traffic fatalities last week.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt Resolution reappointing Heather Burkhart, Shillington PA 19607, to a 3 year term on the Environmental Advisory Council, term to end 6/11/09.

**V. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES**

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Veteran's Day Proclamation to the Combined Veterans Association, on behalf of all Berks County Veterans.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk