

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, December 12, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 10:40 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

Albert Boscov, Our City Reading, Inc., presented the plan for the Goggle Works Apartments which as he described as upscale, two-bedroom apartments planned for attracting middle to upper-class young professionals to live in downtown Reading. He asked the board to consider some kind of property tax deferral program to allow this project to proceed within its projected budget. The Commissioners requested the County Solicitor to investigate the legal requirements for pursuing this kind of "tax reduction" development which is proposed to be built at the corner of Second and Washington Streets.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of 53,633 and 2006 Appropriations in the amount of \$700,981. 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 December 11, 2006. Candy Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

Council on Chemical Abuse

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Amendment # 3 to a grant agreement, between the Berks SCA (Single County Authority) and the Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP) requesting an additional \$52,243 in 2006 federal funds for the "Ecstasy and other Club Drugs Project." George Vogel, Executive Director of Council on Chemical Abuse, attended the meeting for questions.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated December 12, 2006.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing forgiveness and refund of the 2006 taxes of the Harmony Christian Fellowship Church in an amount of \$3,014.16.
- B. Resolution authorizing execution of a letter to the Children's Home of Reading consenting to an increase in its line of credit with Wachovia Bank and ratifying the Subordination Agreement dated April 30, 2002.
- C. Resolution authorizing execution of an Agreement of Understanding with Riverplace Development Corporation concerning the placement of signage for the Port of Reading Heritage Trail.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing, effective February 1, 2007, the Berks Heim private pay per diem rate increase from \$225 per day to \$230 per day plus an additional \$5 per day for ancillary services (Laundry, barber/beauty shop services [except color and permanents], medical supplies and therapies) Pharmaceutical drug costs that are not covered by private insurance will be billed separately. Jerry Fudeman, Berks Heim Administrator presented and discussed this proposed annual review and increase to private pay residents.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution reappointing Josephina Miller, Morgantown, PA, to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- B. Adopt Resolution reappointing Joan Notter, Reading, PA to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- C. Adopt Resolution reappointing Howard Body, Boyertown, PA, to the Berks County Industrial Development Authority Board for a 5 year term expiring 12/31/2011.
- D. Adopt Resolution appointing Douglas P. Rauch, Esq., Wyomissing, PA, to the Berks County Planning Commission to replace Frederick Gaige who resigned. This term will expire 12/31/08.

Commissioner Schwank continued:

- E. Adopt Resolution reappointing DiAnn Black, Mohrsville, PA to the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- F. Adopt Resolution reappointing Dr. S. Ronald Miller to the Reading Regional Airport Authority Board for a 5 year term ending December 31, 2010.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Commissioner Gajewski announced two meeting dates January 8, 2007 and a snow date of January 15, 2007 at area locations for citizens to receive information on the county's discount prescription drug card. He indicated that decisions on the design of the card and distribution locations remain decisions needed by the board of Commissioners. Commissioner Schwank said she was surprised to learn of these meetings today as well as articles in several local newspapers about a program that she described as having been a board (Board of Commissioners) initiative. She also expressed concern that these cards should be in the hands of our citizens by now. She requested that she and Commissioner Scott be better apprised of this project and the meetings proposed for discussion with citizens but first would like to provide input on the card design and distribution choices as soon as possible. Commissioner Gajewski indicated that he has arranged for a NACo and Caremark representative to attend a future meeting to answer questions.
- B. Commissioner Gajewski then reported on a trip he made to East Orange, New Jersey, to learn more about a program involving the use of a crime deterrent program called "Shot Spotter" and suggested inviting representatives from their department meet with the Commissioners regarding this program.
- C. The Commissioner announced that Dale Egan, owner of Lee Myles Transmission, is moving his Transmission operation from Cumru Township to the former Duran Paint building in the City saying he was pleased to see the reuse of existing buildings.

Commissioner Scott**V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Carey Kaucher, Special Projects Coordinator provided an update on the 2006 New Year's Eve Celebration which he said would be expanded this year to include three locations full of activities including the Sovereign Center, the Wachovia Bank lobby, Christ Episcopal church and the Goggle Works Center for the Arts. He said the cost of admission for all events is \$10.00 with Children under 4 feet tall - free.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Morgan of Ruscombanor Township asked about whether the Recorder of Deeds office has now complied with the court order regarding the back log of deeds for recording. Administrator Dennis indicated that she hasn't used all the overtime that was proposed and understood that the office has complied but also offered to ask her for an update.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11.45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk