

Commissioners' Board Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 2007

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 4, 2006, at 10:30 A.M. in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor 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 Gajewski and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq., and County Administrator William E. Dennis.

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

Reorganization

There was some discussion on reorganization of Board of Commissioners for 2007 session. Solicitor Miller informed the board that according to County Code, reorganization is only mandated every four years following the County Commissioners elections. Commissioner Gajewski asked for more time to review.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the December 19, 2007, Commissioner workshop minutes and the December 21, 2007, Commissioners meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting in order for Commissioner Gajewski to double check that all pertinent comments were included.

Consent Agenda Items

- I. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below, with the exception of Resolutions 03.07 and 10.07, which were deferred to a future meeting:
 - 1.07 A. Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$438,600, and 2006 Appropriations in the amount of \$456,083.
 - 2.07 B. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated January 2, 2007.
 - 3.07 C. Resolution authorizing the execution of the final draft of an HR "Intern" Policy. **This item was deferred to a future meeting in order to review changes submitted by the Solicitor for the Controller's Office.**
 - 4.07 D. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2006 in the amount of \$22.19 to the Berks County Conservancy for property situate on approximately .020 acre lot at 133 Schuylkill Avenue, in the City of Reading (Property ID# 06-5307-73-51-5401).

- 5.07 E. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the years 2006 in the amount of \$13.87 to the Berks County Conservancy for property situate .10 acres adjoining other Conservancy property in the City of Reading on Neversink Mountain (Property ID # 16-5316-39-36-3911).
- 6.07 F. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2006 in the amount of \$59.64 to the Berks County Conservancy for 16.420 acre tract of land situate in Lower Heidelberg Township (Property ID # 49-4368-04-60-2221).
- 7.07 G. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2006 in the amount of \$43.00 to the Berks County Conservancy for .31 acre adjoining other Conservancy property in the City of Reading on Neversink Mountain (Property ID #16-5316-39-37-4041).
- 8.07 H. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2006 to New First Baptist Church of Birdsboro for property situate at 200 N. Mill Street, Birdsboro (Property ID # 31-5344-09-25-0365) and 216 N. Mill Street, Birdsboro (Property ID # 31-5344-09-25-0463).
- 9.07 I. Resolution appointing Noel Karasin of Birdsboro, PA to the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Council for a four year term to 8/31/2010.
- 10.07 J. Adopt Resolution appointing Judith L. Schwank to the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a three year term to 12/31/2009. She replaces Mark C. Scott as the Commissioner Chair on the Board. **This item was deferred to a future meeting pending the outcome of the reorganization discussion.**
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated December 28, 2006.

Reports

1. County Treasurer – Nelson Long, CPA, read report.
2. County Controller – Pam Santos, Senior Governmental Accountant, read report for the Controller.

General Comment

Commissioner Scott commented on County's ADD program. (The Acquisition, Demolition Disposition program operated by the County Redevelopment Authority buys vacant deteriorated properties in Reading, demolishes the buildings, and then transfers the vacant lots to a new owner.) and specifically addressed the proposed 60 unit townhouse development planned for Tulpehocken and Miltimore Streets, which he described as "one of the worst sections of the city." He advised not to rush into residential development until further plans for Riverplace and the Greater Reading Corridor are finalized as this may change the value of the aforementioned property and thus change the development plans for the area. Commissioner Gajewski suggested that the financing structure for this project may preclude any changes in the proposed redevelopment of that tract.

A citizen of Reading asked about the meetings for the NACo prescription drug card and suggested that meetings be held in the City and in the evening. Commissioner Gajewski commented that the Senior Citizens Center on 9th Street was not available for the date required, and that the representative coming from Washington, DC limited the times to hold the meetings to daytime. More meetings may be added at a later date.

Commissioner Schwank noted the change in leadership in the State House of Representatives. She indicated that many she spoke to in Harrisburg have a positive impression of Speaker O'Brien. She is hopeful that this will be good for Berks County.

It was agreed to include an addition agenda item "Report by the County Administrator" at the Commissioners Tuesday meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:03 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk