

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting Thursday, January 25, 2007**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 25, 2007 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.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Scott made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski to approve the January 16, 2007 Commissioners' workshop minutes and the January 18, 2007 Commissioners' meeting minutes, all voted yes to approve.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

1. Following a request for public comments on the items listed below, a motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted unanimously to approve the Ordinance 1-07 and the remaining items listed below:
2. Enact Ordinance 1-07 as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS CREATING A TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING PLAN AS AUTHORIZED BY ACT 113 OF 1990, TITLED THE "PENNSYLVANIA TAX INCREMENTAL FINANCING ACT," FOR THE BOROUGH OF WEST READING, AND THE WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT; ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES OF AND CREATING A TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT; PROVIDING A DISTRICT NAME; CONTAINING FINDINGS REGARDING THE TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT AND THE PUBLIC PURPOSES OF THE PROJECT; APPROVING A PROJECT PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY WITHIN THE TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT; AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A TAX INCREMENT FUND AND PROVIDING THAT THE REVENUES RECEIVED IN SUCH FUND SHALL BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PROJECT; APPLYING TAX INCREMENT REVENUES; DESIGNATING THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS AS THE COORDINATING BODY TO ARRANGE FOR PROJECT PLANNING, FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION;

TIF ORDINANCE CONTINUED:

REQUESTING OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST READING AND THE WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT TO UNDERTAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT PLAN; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTION OF TAX INCREMENT REVENUES; AUTHORIZING A COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR PAYMENT OF PROJECT COSTS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT, SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE TERMS OF THE ORDINANCE.

- 26.07 A. Resolution nominating Brian Boyer as a Public Director to the Berks County Conservation District, replacing John G. Smith, who resigned. Mr. Boyer's term will end 12/31/2007.
- 27.07 B. Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Chair to execute an agreement extension between the County of Berks and Security Guards Inc. of Wyomissing, PA for the provision of trained and supervised security guards at selected County Facilities for a one year term continuing from February 28, 2007 to February 28, 2008.
- 28.07 C. Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Commissioner, Chair, and Sandy Graffius, County Controller, to execute certification of appropriation funding for 2007 in the amount of \$8,174,327.00 for the purchase of Agricultural Easements under Act 43 –the Agricultural Area Security Law, as amended. The total funding amount requested is comprised of \$8 million from the line of credit approved on December 20, 2005 by the Commissioners, as well as the interest collected from the Clean and Green Rollback Tax Penalties and donations to the ACE Program in 2006.
- 29.07 D. Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$63,864.00, 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$27,706.00, 2006 Appropriations in the amount of \$13,919.00, and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$3,053.00 per listing dated January 19, 2007.
- 30.07 E. Adopt Resolution Authorizing the execution of grant amendments to the PDA Waiver program, Tobacco /Bridge Program and Senior Community Services Employment program updating Appendix F-1 representing changes to the Commonwealth travel rates.
- 31.07 F. Adopt Resolution ratifying and confirming the 2/21/06 transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Retirement Fund in the amount of \$55,968.02 for the reimbursement of the Retirement Fund's transactional fees and expenses and including a \$1,000.00 Benefit contribution to the Retirement Fund.

- 32.07 G. Adopt Resolution authorizing the County Treasurer to execute the January 2007 ARC payment.
- 33.07 H. Adopt Resolution authorizing the County of Berks to execute the Family Center/Fatherhood Renewal Application 2007/2008.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated January 22, 2007.

**Reports**

1. County Treasurer – Nelson Long, CPA, presented his weekly report.
2. County Controller – Sandy Graffius, Controller, presented her weekly report.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

George Kovarie, Director of Berks County Children and Youth Agency discussed the recent federal funding issues surrounding the Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF) which is a Bureau of County and Youth Programs is the Pennsylvania State agency for child welfare and Title IV-E funded juvenile justice services and the office from which his agency draws funding. Mr. Kovarie suggested that the county may want to consider requesting our State Legislators go back to the concept of block grant “forward” funding to prevent what many counties are now discovering that the reimbursement of State funds they based their 2007 budgets on will fall short. He stated that Act 30 requires that by November 1 of each year the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) is required to submit to the Governor a child welfare needs based budget and the child welfare needs of each county and over the past two fiscal years, the Department of Public Welfare has not submitted a timely budget that adequately reflects the needs of each county. He stated that the children we serve in the child welfare system depend upon an adequately funded system that protects them from the furtherance of abuse and neglect and when the counties face an inadequately State funded child welfare system it creates county budget shortfalls who are then faced with a decision to either cut services or pay a disproportionate share of County revenue to make up for the shortfall of State revenue. He said since Federal Title IV-E revenue has been declining, the State budget will require more State revenue to support the mandated services to children. The board asked Mr. Kovarie to draft a letter for the board to send to the State Legislators that attempts to explain impact to counties this complex funding process causes and ask that they identify methods such as reverting to block grant funding (forward funding) to provide counties with the assurances they need to continue providing these necessary services.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk