

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, January 30, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, 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. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

County Administrator

- A. Bill Dennis, County Administrator, presented his weekly report (attached.)

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$28,400.00, 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$20,000.00, and 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$234,320.00 per listing dated January 26, 2007. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated January 29, 2007.

Human Services

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Chair of the Board, to execute TEFAP Inventory – Reimbursement Request Form for the period (October, November, and December) FFY 2006-2007, in the amount of \$11,722.75 for distributing 106,570.47 pounds of food at \$.11 per pound and to authorize Margaret Bianca, Executive Director, Greater Berks Food Bank for apply for the funds on behalf of Berks County.

Parks and Recreation

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution by Judith L. Schwank, Chair, of a grant agreement between the Berks County Department of Parks and Recreation with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for \$10,000; \$5,000 goes to the county for The Parks Department Summer Concert Series and the Holiday Lights program expenses and the remaining \$5,000 is re-granted to the Berks Arts Council. The grant is for activities that occur between 1/01/07 and 12/31/07.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Retirement Fund in the amount of \$74,991.60 for the reimbursement of the Retirement Fund's transactional fees and expenses and including a \$1,000.00 Benefit contribution to the Retirement Fund.

Commissioner Schwank**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Commissioner Gajewski announced the dates for the annual Hazardous Household Waste Recycling Days for 2007—April 11th at Exeter Township Municipal Building, and October 14th at First Energy Stadium. He also announced the County's first Electronic Recycling Dates—April 21st at Exeter Township Building and October 27th at First Energy Stadium.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott commended Human Resources staff for the development of the Supervisory Academy for County employees hired to work in a capacity of Supervision of other staff. He said the Academy represents an investment to help employees to achieve better performances and to avoid costly employment related litigation. He also expressed his appreciation for Barb Crossley who recently left her job in the Solicitor's office to accept a new position as the Berks County Court Collections Improvement Manger. He commended Barbs the skills and professional demeanor as well as her efficiencies in managing the bail forfeiture funds due to the county.

Commissioner Scott continued:

- B. Commissioner Scott read a letter from an Exeter Township resident to the Exeter Township Supervisors regarding a Group Home that was located in his neighborhood. This letter was in response to an article in the paper regarding the attempted rape of a Group Home worker in a neighboring township suggesting that some of the residents of these homes may not be appropriate for this kind of environment and certainly not something the citizens in a residentially zoned district should have to be exposed to. Commissioner Scott questioned why the Home was permitted to bring "deep-end" clients from other counties to live in this particular Home that may ultimately translate into additional human service program costs funded by Berks County taxpayers that would be needed to care for people brought in from other communities.

Commissioner Gajewski indicated that the Group Home concept was a result of the Federal Government's decision to "de-institutionalize" our mentally and physically handicapped citizens. He also suggested that the management of the Group Homes individually should be questioned not the Homes themselves.

IV. PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for WEEU's 75th Anniversary. Dave Kline, General Manager, Charlie Adams and Jo Painter, radio personalities, and Len Carmen, newscaster, accepted the proclamation document which highlighted the 75 years of this locally owned radio station. The Commissioner noted that WEEU is the oldest, continuously operating radio station with its original call letters in Reading Pennsylvania. Historical data provided to the County by WEEU indicates that the first real amateur radio license in Reading was issued to Horace Good and Harold O. Landis on December 9, 1913 and that date is considered the "birth" of broadcasting in the city and it began in the living room of Landis' home at 341 North Front Street in Reading.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk

To: County Commissioners
From: County Administrator
Subject: Weekly Report
Date: 1/30/07

The following summarizes some of my activities of the week and advises of future considerations:

2007 Assessment Book/Tax Duplicate

Attached is a chart comparing the 2007 appraised values to that of 2006. Assessed values increased 3% from last year, which again tells us that real estate tax revenue will continue to be relatively flat. Comparing these values with our budget estimate shows that we were only \$35,000/\$50,000 off in our revenue projection but even that is to the good. Duane Rashlich will be present at the Commissioners meeting to answer any questions.

Archives

Staff is finishing up plans for the relocation of archives to the Berks Heim Main Building. We hope to have the necessary permits from Bern Township by the end of February with final completion and moving of documents by the end of June. Attached is a floor plan showing how the existing rooms will be utilized. The overall project budget is \$250,000 which will cover shelving, installation and moving expenses. The row officers have also agreed to fund a archivist position at a total cost of \$50,000. A job description has been developed and will be coming to the salary board. It is recommended that this position report to Julie Rinehart, Library Director, who has been working closely with the row officers in identifying duties and functions of this position.

Reserve Center

On Thursday, January 25, 2007 a tour was conducted at the Reserve Center to inspect the buildings (mechanical, roofing, etc). Representatives of the County, Mary's Shelter, Berks Women in Crisis, and the City were present. During the tour, a set of detailed drawings were found so we now have good information from which to draw estimates.