

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 6, 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 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$232,643.00, 2006 Appropriations in the amount of \$511.00 and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$782,690.00, per listing dated February 2, 2007. Robert Patrizio Budget Director presented the budget resolution and responded to questions
- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated February 5, 2007. Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts for approval.

Family Court Administration:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Chair to execute application for a continuation grant with the Office of Violence Against Women, on behalf of the Berks County Family Court Administrator to continue grant program from 9/1/07 through 8/31/09 with respect to the "Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program. Lisa Siciliano, and Lori Mentzer from Berks Family Court Administration presented this request.

Family Court Administration continued:

Mrs. Siciliano then introduced Rebecca Stubbs, Executive Director and Frederick Stubbs, Director of Operations of the Berks Advocates against Violence (BAAV) who expressed their gratitude for living in a community where protection of women is a top priority. Mrs. Siciliano explained that if this grant is awarded later this summer they will be returning to the Commissioners for approval of a grant agreement and an agreement with BAAV to become the recipient of the grant and facilitate the Safe Havens Center on behalf of the County. Commissioner Scott reminded all that acts of domestic violence don't always occur against the women, sometimes the abuser is the woman with the male being the victim. He then asked Mrs. Siciliano if the Center addresses those issues as well. She informed the board that 20% of Protection from Abuse filings are initiated by men against an abusive female partner.

Office of Aging:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution Amendment #1 of the Cooperative Grant Agreement between the Department of Aging and Berks County Office of Aging for Federal and State funding for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011. This amendment commits senior center "capital assistance" and "capacity building" grant funds to the Hispanic Center, Berks County Senior Citizens Council, and the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. No county dollars are required.

Solicitor:

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and the Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse, Inc. (COCA) concerning administrative procedures. George Vogel, Director of the COCA explained that this MOU simply formalizes the arrangement established between the County and COCA as the Berks County Single County Authority (SCA) for the last thirty years.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**Commissioner Schwank**

Commissioner Schwank requested the board to consider adopting a resolution initiating a letter of agreement with RACC (Reading Area Community College) President, Richard Kratz regarding the transfer of ownership of the Pennsylvania Railroad / Pedestrian bridge from the college to the County. She explained that this pedestrian bridge will then be part of the parks system and located within the proposed RiverPlace Development area. The Solicitor was asked to prepare a Resolution for Thursday's Commissioner meeting and that the agreement should include language specific to the necessary repairs and other details required prior to the County assuming ownership of the bridge.

Commissioner Gajewski

Commissioner Gajewski reported on a recent forum he organized with representatives from East Orange New Jersey and representatives from a company that created a crime detection system known as ShotSpotter. (According to their web site: The ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System utilizes patented technology to detect weapons-fire events over large, complex environments. ShotSpotter products range from systems for public safety agencies and 911 dispatch centers [which instantly identify, locate and give a visual of the location of a gunshot event in an urban area] to fully mobile, inter-networked wireless systems for the military that are capable of detecting and locating many types of weapon events in various challenging environments.) The Commissioner thanked all the municipal representatives who attended the demonstration and specifically thanked Albert Boscov, Vivian Stevenson, Hector Torres, Warden George Wagner, Deputy Warden Ann Brown and Shirley Ludwig for their help in getting this forum organized. Commissioner Gajewski reported that the ShotSpotter has received rave reviews from 16 major cities and in particular East Orange New Jersey where they reported a 57% reduction in crime including auto thefts with the last three years.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott reported on the Group Home in Exeter Township discussed last week at the Commissioners meeting. He indicated that Dr. Ed Michalik MR/MR Administrator discussed the citizen's complaints and hopefully resolved them with the Home's operator. The Commissioner then thanked Melanie Solon, Law Librarian for her assistance in some recent case law research and Commissioner Schwank for forwarding the proposed Ag. Coordinator Job Description for his review and input.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk

To: County Commissioners
From: County Administrator
Subject: Weekly Report
Date: 2/06/07

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

2007 HSDF Needs Assessment Survey

The last time a needs assessment was performed for HSDF was 1995, and thus a survey is well overdue. Results from the survey will allow the Board of Commissioners and related staff to accurately identify and fiscally plan for the changing needs of our community. The expense for this initiative will be paid for with 07 HSDF, state grant, community development and United Way funding. A needs assessment committee was formed to coordinate necessary activities (attached) and plans are in place for survey review and analysis. **Commissioner approval is requested so that we may proceed.**

Security Equipment

- Commissioner Schwank indicated support towards the Needs Assessment as discussed in the Administrator's report and stated further that this represents more than the HSDF funded agencies, it would provide information on all human service agency needs.

Steve Weber has advised that the State has approved an appropriation to support security equipment enhancements. AOPC will reimburse counties for the cost of magnetometers, x-ray machines, card key access systems and wireless duress alarms. We will be able to secure an additional magnetometer and x-ray machine which will go a long way in developing an improved security check process in the lobby of the Services Center. SGI and Purchasing are working on specifications for not only this purchase but a machine for the mailroom as well. Attached is the advisory letter from the State which requires the County to notify them of our intent by March 15, 2007. **Support for this opportunity is requested from the Commissioners so that the Court can proceed.**

- Commissioner Gajewski requested a meeting with the President Judge to discuss the board of Judges proposed cell phone policy changes for use of cell phones in the Courthouse and Services Center.

Reserve Center

I have a meeting with Garry Gontz on February 9, 2007 to review and prepare a federal grant application for funding to assist in the assessment and compilation of the Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Plans required by HUD.

- Commissioner Scott indicated that he wanted to participate in a tour scheduled for the GPU building site known as the Direct link building and was being evaluated for a

possible alternative site to the Naval Marine Center for the relocation of Countywide Communications.

Capital Improvement Program

We are adding an additional element regarding the documentation included in the capital improvement program. I have prepared a project status sheet that requires each department that receives capital funding to complete. The status sheet outlines in more detail a description of the project, funding sources, and most importantly timelines for all milestones related to the project from design to completion. This element will allow budget to more effectively follow and plan for expense draw downs. It is also an accountability measure regarding ability to execute. Finally, it is an excellent way of advising the Commissioners on status as well as keeping the public informed.

- Commissioner Scott requested that information be provided regarding the status of the County's financial advisor, Mark Lunquist of S&Lutions now that he is no longer affiliated with that corporation. He stated that the County enjoyed a professional working relationship with Mr. Lunquist and frequently benefited from his advice and ideas that ultimately saved the county millions in borrowing costs. Commissioner Schwank agreed that this should be the topic of a future Thursday afternoon budget meeting.