

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 13, 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, and Solicitor Alan Miller Esq. Chief Clerk Terry Styer was not in attendance.

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

II. PRESENTATION

Berks Environmental Advisory Council's (BEAC) presentation on Cancer Cluster Study – Steve Wheeler, BEAC Chairman and Craig Hafer, BEAC Member and Chairman of the Institute for the Advancement of Children's Environmental Health. BCEAC believes that there are numerous environmental concerns in the area. Dr. Torosian, Cancer Center Director at Reading Hospital and Medical Center agreed that a study is warranted and feels that the firm selected is highly qualified. He has also agreed to take a leadership role on the committee leading the study. BCEAC is recommending Sciences International to perform the study at a cost of \$43,500, with the monies coming from the Environmental Defense Fund suggesting that this equates to \$.40 per citizen. Mr. Hafer has also been in contact with Senator O'Pake both for support and grant funds.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Administrator:

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

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$43,425.00 and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$36,380.00, per listing dated March 9, 2007.
- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated March 12, 2007.

Emergency Management:

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Agreement for the partial reimbursement of salary and benefits for the County's Emergency Management Coordinator and Clerical Assistant positions in the amount of \$68,901.00 for fiscal year 2007 (10/01/06 – 9/30/07).

Human Resource Director:

- 58.07 A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated March 6, 2007. **(Held from last meeting) To be voted on at next meeting.**
- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated March 13, 2007.

Solicitor

- 56.07 B. Resolution authorizing advertisement of Ordinance number 2 of 2007 approving certain real estate tax abatement in certain blighted areas of the Borough of Wyomissing known as the Wyomissing Square Abatement Area pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act for adoption on March 22, 2007. **(Held from last meeting) A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted unanimously to approve.**
- A. Resolution authorizing execution of a Settlement Agreement between the County of Berks and Granger Electric of Morgantown, LLC concerning a project at the Conestoga Landfill.
- B. Solicitor Miller also noted that compensation should be finalized shortly for Antietam Lake. He is expecting a letter from our Special Counsel which will outline the steps we need to take for completion.

Youth Center/Immigration Family Shelter

- A. Adopt Resolution to modify contract for increased office space for Immigration Customs Enforcement personnel. Added square footage is 1,593 for a cost of \$38,343.51 per year of revenue to the Youth Center enterprise fund. **The Board, at the request of County Administrator Bill Dennis, will table this item until after they meet with ICE personnel from Philadelphia.**

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. President Judge Grim attended the meeting to present the proposed Cell Phone Policy for the Courthouse and Services Center. He noted that the number of cell phones held by the security guards has escalated from 2000 in 2004 to over 28,000 in 2006. The proposed policy, after discussion, is as follows:

Effective March 30, 2007, persons may enter the Berks County Courthouse or Services Center with their cell phones. All cell phones must be kept in the vibrate mode inside the Courthouse and Services Center. Phone calls are not permitted to be made or taken within the courtrooms but are allowed outside the courtrooms and in public areas in the Courthouse and Services Center.

No cell phone cameras are allowed to be used anywhere in the Courthouse or Services Center, except as specifically authorized by the President Judge and the County Commissioners or their joint designees.

Any failure to comply with any of these provisions will result in the confiscation of the cell phone by a court or county official, sheriff, or security guard. All seized items will be donated to charity or destroyed.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution re-appointing David K. Esser to a 4 year term (expiring 3/10/2010) on the Berks County Parks & Recreation Board.
- B. Commissioner Schwank noted that she will be attending a conference on Immigration: Rights, Responsibilities, and Realities, sponsored by the Conflict Resolution Task Force, at Kutztown University on Thursday, March 15th.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution re-appointing Dr. Kelley Kenney, Sinking Spring PA, to a three year term (expiring on 12/31/09) on the Berks County Mental Health/ Mental Retardation Advisory Board.
- B. Adopt Resolution re-appointing Fred Stubbs, Reading PA, to a three year term (expiring on 12/31/09) on the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board.
- C. Adopt Resolution re-appointing Dr. Brian G. Wlazelek, Blandon, PA, to a three year term (expiring on 12/31/09) on the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board.

- D. Adopt Resolution appointing David C. Naugle, Wyomissing, PA to a three year term (expiring on 2/1/2010) on the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board, replacing Tom Xavios whose term has expired.

Commissioner Scott

V. PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Gajewski presented a proclamation to Shane Keller, Mayor of West Reading on the occasion of the 100th birthday of West Reading on March 17, 2007. George Tindall, Borough Manager also attended the meeting.

Commissioner Schwank noted that West Reading will be highlighted on Around Berks on BCTV tonight at 7 PM.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Jim Troutman, Clerk of Courts complimented the BCEAC on their presentation. He also commented on the proposed Cell Phone Policy, stating that he does not dispute barring cell phones in places where the Judge has authority, but has a problem with them being barred in public areas such as the lunch room.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally O'Reilly, Assistant to Chief Clerk

To: County Commissioners
From: County Administrator
Subject: Weekly Report
Date: 3/13/07

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

Antietam Property/Parks and Recreation

On Monday, March 12th I met with Bill Semmel, Lower Alsace Township and the Water Authority to discuss security for the Antietam Property. I have also invited SGI to attend to provide recommendations. The Water Authority has provided a good deal of maintenance to the property and we will also use this opportunity to discuss future efforts.

Staff has discussed with the Commissioners the need to survey the entire North Campus property. As the County has acquired property and built on the 800 plus acres located in Bern Township, coupled with inadequate surveys from the beginning, proper mapping and planning has become problematic both for the County and the Township. Facilities staff has investigated the scope of what is needed and we are finding that the cost may not be as prohibitive as originally thought. I have directed staff to develop the scope for an RFP and plan to have this project included in our FY08 capital budget.

Sewer Plant

I have outlined an analysis of the North Campus Sewer Plant to Facilities. They will review the current contract with Miller Environmental as well as all other issues related to the operation of the plant, including capacity, planning, equipment, manpower, etc. One part of the analysis is the investigation on whether or not the plant can be operated more cost effectively by using our own staffing. With the additions that have been made and will be made at the North Campus it is important to review and map out our future years regarding the plant's operation.

Juror Space

Courts has asked us to begin discussions on the possibility of additional space for jurors. They have advised that they believe that the current location on the second floor has reached its limit. The consensus of thought a few years ago was the relocation to the first floor where the wellness center is currently located as well as the adjoining space now utilized by the PFA offices. It would appear at this point that it is better to leave the juror assembly area on the second floor and expand. We will discuss this and other options and report to the Commissioners. The meeting is March 14th at 11:00 a.m. in the Facilities 16th floor conference room.