

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, April 3, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 3, 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 Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. County Administrator, William E. Dennis did not attend the meeting.

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

II. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Commissioner Gajewski presented Certificates of Recognition to Assistant Coach Bill Faller and the State Champion Central Catholic Cardinals Basketball team.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS:

County Administrator

The weekly report is attached.

Budget Department:

- A. Resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$9,900, and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$285,087, per listing dated March 30, 2007. Kim Grinage, Deputy Budget Director, presented the report.
- B. Motion authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated March 30, 2007. Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator, presented the list of contracts.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated April 3, 2007. Craig Stott, Assistant Human Resource Director, presented the report.

Parks and Recreation

- A. Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank to execute a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources seeking a matching grant under the Community Conservation Partnerships Program to rehabilitate the Stonecliffe Recreation Area. Total estimated cost of the project is \$480,000.00. Bill Semmel, Parks Director, presented the application.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing the County Administrator and Office of the Controller for the purpose of requesting and receiving "read-only" access to checking and savings accounts held for the County of Berks.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Resolution requesting and urging Congress to amend necessary federal regulation to allow federal financial participation for medical benefits to incarcerated individuals until convicted and sentenced to secure detention.
- B. Resolution authorizing the filing of corporate resolutions authorizing transfer of funds, telephone and wire transfer agreement and authorized representative exhibit by and between the County of Berks and National Penn Bank, relative to the County of Berks Election Funds account.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Resolution appointing Rev. Monsignor John B. McCann, STL, MSW, Douglassville, PA to complete the unexpired three year term (expiring on 12/31/08) of Rev. Thomas Kuller, who resigned, on the Berks County Mental Health/ Mental Retardation Advisory Board.
- B. Resolution authorizing endorsement and support for "Let's Pick It Up Day" on Saturday April 21, 2006. Commissioner Schwank presented her annual photographic depiction of some of Berks County problem areas for littering and trash. She then encouraged everyone to participate in this year's campaign which is a statewide effort to remove litter and trash from Pennsylvania roadways, parks, forests, riverbanks, neighborhoods, and open spaces. She noted that there are currently five groups in Berks County already participating and that more information can be found on their web site at: <http://www.greatpacleanup.org> Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority discussed several additional programs designed to accommodate special trash disposal including the COALS project (Clean up Our American Lands and Streams) and the County's Household Hazardous Waste and the Electronic Waste collection locations and dates and mentioned that the detailed information is posted on the County web site.

Commissioner Gajewski**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott commented on the legality of circulating petitions for which pages have been stapled or taped together, which is allowed by Berks County Election Services. Upon contacting the State, he was told that the state does not allow stapled or taped petitions, but that counties were allowed to make their own determinations.
- B. Commissioner Scott noted that he is in favor of doing a hydrogeology study in Richmond Township in light of the proposed expansion of the Lehigh Cement mine, and the effects on the watershed in the township. Commissioner Gajewski noted that he is also in favor of the study. Commissioner Schwank suggested contacting the Reading Water Authority for involvement as well.
- C. Commissioner Scott is awaiting a proposal from a local firm to provide a county employee benefit program known as a "deferred compensation plan" that he hopes will provide an additional option with lower administrative fees for all County employees.

V. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Victoria Kintzer representing Adopt-An-Acre Inc. after two years has finally received its 501 C-3 status as a non-profit able to obtain donations to help provide educational information and encourage private and corporate sector donations which they hope will compliment the existing State and County Agriculture Preservation Program. Current Adopt-an-Acre board members include, Clyde Myers, Craig Dirks, Dan Brennan, Donald Duncan, Sheila Miller, Tara Ebling, Larry Smeltz and Victoria Kintzer.

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: 4/2/07

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

Reminders

NACo County Government Week April 23rd-April 27th
Bring Your Daughter/Son to Work Day April 26th

Antietam – Repair of Dam

Bob Carl, Bill Semmel and Bob Patrizio and I met last week to discuss the above project. Preliminary sketches have been done by Schnaubel that include three options for repair. Bob Carl is to obtain cost estimates for those three options. We will then bring those estimates and a recommendation to the Commissioners. Design and bidding will probably take the remainder of the year so we are probably looking at the project being completed this time next year. We are also fine tuning the budget for not only this project but for the acquisition and necessary first improvements to the property. Alan Miller and I are reviewing the compliance checklist for the projected DCNR grants.

Relocation of Communicatons/EMA

Brian Gottschall, Jeff Weidner, Craig Breneiser and I met yesterday at the DirectLink site to discuss with their facilities staff water/sewer/electric capabilities and a possible garage location. We are proceeding with a concept drawing for Commissioners review along with cost estimates.

Governor's Report on I-78

Although the immediate reaction to the report is one of disappointment, staff is reviewing this report in detail to determine if there are any improvements that we can make to insure more effective support for occurrences such as these. Particularly disappointing is the lack of acknowledgement of the agencies and individuals who performed well.

Archivist Position

Interviews have been performed and a selection will be recommended on next week's HR agenda. It is planned that the employee will begin work by the end of April.

Elections

Please note the last day to register is April 16th. Staff has been conducting interpreter training, in fact the Department of Justice attended a class. Ballot preparation continues but cannot be finalized until a Justice of the Supreme Court issue is decided upon by the courts.