

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, April 10, 2007**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 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 was not in attendance.

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

**II. PROCLAMATIONS**

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for Child Abuse Awareness Month. George Kovarie accepted it on behalf of Berks County Children and Youth Services. Mr. Kovarie commended his CYS Supervisors for their hard work, especially at night and on weekends and holidays. He also announced that there are still seats available for the April 20<sup>th</sup> Awareness Conference at the Sheraton in Reading. Mr. Kovarie noted Human Services Legislative Work Day in Harrisburg on May 22, and also commended Senator O'Pake for sponsoring Senate Bill 611, which will assist counties with current child welfare funding.

Commissioner Schwank presented a Proclamation for National Public-Safety Telecommunications Week. Craig Breneiser, County 911 director accepted the proclamation on behalf of his department. Mr. Breneiser also announced that the Berks 911 was awarded the President's Award for Excellence at the APCO Conference, in response to the county efforts during the Valentine's Day snow and ice storm and the ensuing traffic problems on I-78.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$40,000 per listing dated April 5, 2007. Bob Patrizio, 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 April 5, 2007. Kelly Laubauch, Purchasing Manager, presented the list of contracts.

**Solicitor:**

- A. Lease amendment for MDJ Office for Judge Book, 23-3-07, Tracy Barlet was present to discuss the lease extension pending the new office completion.

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

Commissioner Schwank noted the events posted so far for Clean Up PA Day, Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Commissioner suggested that the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Workshop meeting be cancelled in order for the Board to attend the Human Services Legislative Work Day in Harrisburg.

Commissioner Schwank noted that she convened a meeting with the Mayors of Reading and West Reading to discuss accidents on the bypass and the ensuing traffic problems that are the result. She said that dialogue included possible methods for coordinating the traffic needs including improved communication among municipalities and the possibility of computer signage to indicate alternate routes during the course of an accident or traffic incident.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

Commissioner Gajewski asked the board to consider financial assistance by hiring professional hydro geologists and geologists to provide expert testimony in the Richmond Township Quarry Zoning Hearing Board proceedings due to concerns for the Quarry operation affecting area water supplies and the effect the associated blasting would have on the foundations of neighboring homes and the concerns for the traffic impact to an already congested intersection at Rte. #222 and #662. Commissioner Scott indicated that he would support the hiring of special environmental legal counsel to provide an independent legal review of the case to determine the resources that may be needed and to advise if the County's intervening is appropriate since the Township has taken a neutral stance on the application. Commissioner Schwank agreed with a legal assessment and asked the County Solicitor to provide this initial opinion.

The Commissioner also presented a resolution for adoption at the next meeting, to allow sharing of criminal history information between County Departments such as Sheriff and Prison, as well as with local law enforcement, to eliminate duplication of efforts.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt Resolution 94.07 amending Senior Citizens Tax Deferral Program, to increase the maximum household income from \$15,000 to \$35,000. Sue Kissling, Director of the Berks County Tax Claim Bureau was present to discuss possible impacts to her department if this change is put in place.

V. **CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

John Morgan, citizen of Ruscombmanor Township, suggested that the income requirement for the Senior Citizens Tax Deferral Program be tied to the state income requirement so that it would automatically change with the state figure.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk