

Commissioners' Board Meeting May 10, 2007

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at 10:30 A.M. in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Today, May 10th, marks the 85th annual observance of Youth Day, a cooperative effort of the Berks County Intermediate Unit, the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and nearly 60 businesses and government agencies from across Berks County, for the purpose of providing young people of our community an opportunity to acquaint themselves with their future responsibilities as productive members of a democratic society, while stimulating public interest in the potential of youth.

Commissioner Chair Judith L. Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioner Thomas Gajewski and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq., and County Administrator William E. Dennis.

Commissioner Schwank introduced Student Commissioner Brooke Stewart from Tulpehocken High school who opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Presentation:

Scott Wolfe, President **Reading Hospital and Medical Center** attended to discuss emergency transport services and in particular, his request to the Commissioners that they designate PennStar as the "first due" air transport carrier in the event that a Berks County patient experiences traumatic injury. He said that air triage and ground transport emergency protocols need to be discussed and addressed and he proposed that the PennStar fleet would transport trauma patients to the closest and best hospital when that has been clinically determined. He said that it has been his experience that all of the 76 victims that were flown by MedEvac in 2006 were taken to the Lehigh Valley Hospital alleging that proper protocol was not being used which is why he was seeking the involvement of the County Commissioners. Commissioner Schwank said the Commissioners' boardroom was not the proper place for an argument over emergency medical services and stated further that "we are not medical experts."

Keith Micucci, Director of **Emergency Services and MedEvac at Lehigh Valley Hospital** Services, stated that it is their policy to transport patients to the nearest trauma center, unless the patient requests otherwise, and could not speak about these specific cases without checking the records. Commissioner Schwank suggested holding a future meeting with all parties involved in order to be sure that everyone is on the same page.

Craig Breneiser, Director of Berks County 911 Communications, described the Eastern PA EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Council and their mission which is to determine the best possible outcome for emergency medical services for the citizens of Eastern Pennsylvania. He also described the purpose the Council's Medcom communications system, explaining that they determine the dispatch of the helicopters based on distance from the trauma scene. He also stated that each and every air transport is looked at to be sure that correct protocol has been followed explaining that every emergency flight is analyzed for quality assurance and if needed, positive changes. He said that the EMS Council employs an Executive Director and support staff that conducts inspections, facilitates quality assurance programs and also assists other EMS organizations such as Communications Centers, in obtaining grants for equipment & training. He then described a series of procedural changes that have been implemented over the past several months as part of their ongoing commitment to quality improvement. Commissioner Scott then asked if the PennStar unit at the Reading Hospital was appointed by the county as 1st due, would the current issues be resolved? Mr. Breneiser responded no.

Commissioner Gajewski stated that there need to be additional meetings and they should be publicly aired. All involved at this meeting agreed that additional meetings and discussions should continue.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Scott made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski to approve the May 1, 2007 Commissioner workshop minutes and the May 3, 2007 Commissioners meeting minutes, all voted yes to approve.

Consent Agenda Items

- I. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 122.07 A. Resolution authorizing the execution of a grant application to the DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) as part of the Taxpayers Relief Act Transition Grant to Counties for a total of \$81,067. This grant application serves as a partial reimbursement to the County as a result of implementing Act 72 and Act 1 – Taxpayers Relief Act.
 - 123.07 B. Resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$359,020 per listing dated May 4, 2007.
 - 124.07 C. Recommendation to award and execute, as a result of Invitation to Bid #07-03-MB, a contract to provide all labor, materials and equipment for the installation of a Block Segmental Retaining Wall at the Berks County Fire Training Center. Awarded to: Pennaco Excavating, Inc. 63 South Hampton Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610, \$21,200.00

- 125.07 D. Resolution authorizing the execution of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Radiation Emergency Response Fund Grant Application and Agreement in the amount of \$20,732.00, for the period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.
 - 126.07 E. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated May 8, 2007.
 - 127.07 F. Resolution authorizing the execution of the Berks County Adult Mental Health Plan for fiscal year 2008/2009.
 - 128.07 G. Resolution to approve the first of the Municipal Land Protection program applications from Pike Township.
 - 129.07 H. Resolution supporting the Highlands Conservation Act.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated May 7, 2007.

Non Consent item:

- 130.07 I. Authorize utilization of a temporary agency for Commissioner Gajewski's Office for 5/21/07. Rate not to exceed \$15.50/hr. Budget 01-101.

Reports

- 1. County Treasurer – Nelson Long, CPA, read report.
- 2. County Controller – Sandy Graffius, Controller, read report.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk