

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, June 26, 2007**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 26, 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 Vice Chair Thomas W. Gajewski, Sr. called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Judith L. Schwank was not in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

### **II. PRESENTATION**

Jeremy Fogel, President of Ironwood Property Group who in partnership with The Goldenburg Group, stated that they are proposing to develop a retail shopping center within the proposed Exeter Township TIF District along Rt. #422. He said the proposed retail development (shopping center) is planned to be built on approximately 44 acres of what is described as underutilized properties and designated on July 12, 2006 by the Berks County Planning Commission as a Redevelopment Area. He then reminded the board of the approximate 10 year history of this area and the gap in funding caused mainly by the required infrastructure improvement that would be needed for these commercial uses until this plan, as currently presented, was devised. He said this "creative financing" structure will not only provide funding to improve the roadway for this development, it will provide roadway and intersection improvements for the entire area surrounding this property. Mr. Fogel also suggested that this TIF development will likely encourage adjacent properties to begin other development and or redevelopment projects and cited one example on an adjacent tract that falls outside of the proposed TIF. He said that this property, when developed, could generate approximately \$92,000 in Real Estate Taxes per year and because it will fall outside of the TIF, those taxes will be paid directly to the County, Township and School District. He explained that the funds provided by the TIF will only be used for the road improvements. Mr. Fogel said that following the vote of the Commissioners, the Township is expected to approve this plan and adopt the Exeter Township TIF District. Commissioner Scott spoke favorably about this proposal in that it not only proposes economic development projects, but the public will benefit directly from the improved roadway conditions that this project will fund and may have never happened noting that the PennDOT's long range plan seems to focus its funding projects on the Rte #222 Corridor with no funds allocated for needed improvements in this region. He then described the "But For" letter that Commissioner Gajewski asked could be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Patricia Kutz presented information on a program known as **Berks Enduring Freedom** consisting of a group of local citizens dedicated to sending care packages to our service men and women. Funds needed for postage and volunteers are needed to get the next shipment scheduled for overseas shipment. She said that for more information on where and how to contribute funds and/or to volunteer the web site is [www.berksenduringfreedom.com](http://www.berksenduringfreedom.com) or please call 610-944-0748.

### **III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS:**

#### **Administrator:**

- A. Bill Dennis presented his weekly report as attached.

#### **Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$58,000 and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$137,300 per listing dated 6/22/07.
- 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 June 25, 2006

#### **Emergency Management:**

- A. Adopt a resolution approving the County of Berks Hazardous Material Emergency Response Preparedness Assessment Update For Calendar Year 2006. James Major, Jr. Emergency Planner / SARA Coordinator Berks County Emergency Management will present the update.

#### **Facilities:**

- A. Adopt a resolution awarding a contract for the replacement of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street steps to the Berks County Government Services Center to Bertolet Construction Corporation, Wernersville, PA for an amount not to exceed, \$116,100.

#### **Human Resource Director:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated 6/25/07. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director presented the three recommendations.

#### **MH/MR Program:**

- A. Adopt a resolution approving the execution of The Mental Retardation Stage 1 Plan for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Dr. Ed Michalik presented this plan for approval.

***IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:***

***Commissioner Gajewski***

Commissioner Gajewski reminded everyone about the trash initiative undertaken by **Crime Alert, Berks County**. He announced that a tip line has been established for anonymous reporting 877-373-9913 with a possible reward of up to \$5,000.

***Commissioner Scott***

Commissioner Scott reported on some of the comments submitted by citizens as part of the 2007 Berks County Human Services Needs Assessment.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk