

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, August 14, 2007**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 14, 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, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

**II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Administrator:**

- A. Weekly Report, attached.

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$120,000 per listing dated August 10, 2007. Budget Director Bob Patrizio presented the transfer list.
- 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 August 13, 2007. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts.

**Community Development:**

- A. Adopt a Resolution granting \$750,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds to the Fleetwood Tannery Redevelopment Area which has been declared a blighted area as defined by the Pennsylvania Urban Redevelopment Law Act No. 385 of 1945, as amended. Ken Pick, Community Development Director, and Kathy Miller, Community Development Fiscal Officer, were present to discuss this project.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated August 14, 2007 were presented by Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director.

**Juvenile Probation:**

- A. Adopt Resolution to approve application for Grant-In-Aid funds from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for fiscal year 2007-2008. The grant amount is \$462,209.

**Mental Health/Mental Retardation:**

- A. Adopt a resolution for approval of the Integrated Children's Services Plan. Dr. Ed Michalik, MH/MR Program Administrator and Sheila Bressler, CASSP Coordinator, discussed this plan and the county's leadership in coordinating children's services long before it became a requirement.

**Parks and Recreation:**

Commissioner Gajewski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted yes to approve the following:

- 237.07 A. Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute a Grant Agreements with the PHMC (Pa Historical and Museum Commission) for a matching grant in the amount of \$16,742 to contract with John Milner Assoc. in association with Keast & Hood Company to provide consulting services in the development of a plan for restoration of the Gruber Wagon Works.

**Solicitor:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Purchasing Manager to execute Addendum A-3 to Blanket Consulting Agreement No. CA-3033-07 between the County of Berks and Keystone E-Sciences Group, Inc. to review Exide Corporation's supplemental RCRA permit application at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.

**Youth Center:**

Commissioner Gajewski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted yes to approve the following:

- 238.07 A. Resolution authorizing the Purchasing Manager to execute a contract Modification No. ACB-O-H 0006; HSCEOP-07-F-IG051 between the County of Berks, Youth Center and the ICE/Detention Management Detention IGSA's of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Washington, DC for the price adjustment to increase the rates for detention services at the Berks County Family Facility and the Juvenile Youth Center for the Contract period of 10/1/06 to 9/30/07. Ken Borkey, Youth Center Director attended the meeting to discuss the modification summarizing three points; 1- an increased bed rate; 2- establishes a new family bed rate for ICE families and 3 – allows the county to back bill to 10/06 for these charged to the estimated amount of \$1.1 million in revenue for the County. The Commissioners commended Mr. Borkey for his efforts in this negotiation process with the Federal Government.

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

Commissioner Schwank gave kudos to David Ruhf and residents of the Youth Center for their hard work at the Mini Grand Prix horse show.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

Commissioner Gajewski noted that Larry Kehl, Chairman of the Conservation District Board, has been named President of the State Conservation Commission.

**Commissioner Scott**

Commissioner Scott reported that the settlement for the County's Antietam Lake agreement is nearing completion.

In discussing two recent court filings regarding reassessment, Commissioner Scott noted that it would not be prudent to go through a county-wide reassessment at this time when the housing market is so volatile.

The Commissioner reported that he inspected the barn in Bethel that has been suggested for relocation from the IDA (Industrial Development Authority) property in Bethel Township to a new location for the future use as an Agriculture Museum. He noted that structurally the barn is not in as good a condition as he hoped and suggested that it could be prohibitively expensive to move and restore this barn so it needs to be determined if the costs of this project can be justified by the outcome.

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

Dave Baker, citizen of Reading, complained about the recent actions of a public official and the surrounding activities of a recent court challenge for the nominating petition of a Green Party candidate.

Christine Sadler, Esq.; 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Solicitor for the County said that while she would not address the methods of service used in this instance as noted by Mr. Baker, she did say that she had previously spoken at length to both Mr. Baker and the Green Party Candidate for Clerk of Courts, Jessica L. Ashman. She said that with the many nuances of the Elections Code, the process can be frustrating to those attempting to comply with this elections law and that she and Deb Olivieri, Election Services Director, have frequently provided assistance (not legal advice) to many candidates in an attempt to help them avoid similar court challenges to elections petitions as well as other code requirements. By way of example, she said simple things like signing nicknames or using ditto marks for same addresses by registered voters signing a candidate's petition could be seen by the courts as a fatal flaw negating those signatures. She also added that since the Judge has not ruled on this particular case, she was unable to discuss any additional details.

When asked by Commissioners Gajewski what the proper forum for this complain would be, she responded by saying that only the Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over the actions of other elected officials.

Commissioner Schwank indicated that since she has now returned as a member of the Election Board, she would look into the matter for Mr. Baker.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk