

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, August 28, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 28, 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. PRESENTATION

- A. Judd Meinhart, Teen-Dream Program Coordinator, spoke about the success of the Curfew Center during the first seven weeks of its eleven weeks of service this year. Commissioner Scott commended Commissioner Schwank for aiding the Center by locating funds to open the center this summer—a year ahead of schedule.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Administrator:

- A. Bill Dennis' weekly report is attached.

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$965,348.
- 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 24, 2007. Candy Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated August 28, 2007. HR Director Beth Schiepan presented the recommendations.

Parks

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution by Judith L. Schwank, Chair, of a grant agreement between the Berks County Department of Parks and Recreation with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for \$10,000; \$5,000 goes to the county for The Parks Department Summer Concert Series and the remaining \$5,000 is re-granted to the Berks Arts Council for their annual programs. The grant is for activities that occur between 1/01/08 and 12/31/08.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Schwank

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Commissioner Gajewski reported that County citizens have saved approximately \$28,000 since January with the Prescription Drug Card. Savings have been increasing monthly.
- B. Commissioner Gajewski noted that an unexpected benefit has arisen from the Anti-Dumping Campaign. A grant available from the Solid Waste Authority requires such a campaign, making over half of the municipalities in the County eligible to apply.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott noted that the zoning approval for the race track in Union Township is not what he envisioned for this agricultural preservation zone. The township is considering an appeal of the approval, and the commissioner would like to give \$25,000 to aid with the appeal, as was done previously to aid with legal costs for the original hearings. Therefore, Commissioner Scott made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to the following resolution:

- 250.07 A. Resolution authorizing Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) from the Berks Environmental Defense Fund shall be tendered to Union Township for the restricted purpose of defraying legal expenses only if Union Township files an appeal to the ruling regarding the proposed racetrack.
- B. Commissioner Scott mentioned that he has been approached by advocacy groups to support railroad freight systems/infrastructure. He noted that the rail industry is growing again and is more fuel efficient than truck traffic.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk