

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, September 4, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 4, 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 was Solicitor Alan Miller Esq. County Administrator William E. Dennis and Chief Clerk Terry Styer did not attend the meeting

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

II. PRESENTATION

- A. Robert Behling, Executive Director of RiverPlace Development Corp., along with Ken Pick, Director of Community Development, requested that the County to be the applicant for a \$1,000,000 grant from Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) to be used towards the RiverPlace Amphitheater Park. It was also requested that Ken Pick of the Berks County Community Development Office administer grant. Commissioner Scott asked who would be responsible to operate and maintain the property upon completion. Per Mr. Behling, this has not yet been determined, but will be answered prior to completion of the grant application. Commissioner Schwank suggested convening a meeting of elected officials and department heads concerned to discuss and determine ongoing maintenance costs and responsibilities. Commissioner Gajewski asked if this grant, originally announced for the city, would diminish the county allocation of state funds. Mr. Pick will attempt to get an answer prior to the next board meeting. Commissioner Gajewski suggested that perhaps the City should be the applicant for the grant with the County assisting with the application process.

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 294,500, and 2007 Appropriations in the amount of \$74,460. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.

Court Administration

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of a Lease Extension Agreement between Township of South Heidelberg and the County of Berks for office space located at 68A Galen Hall Road, Wernersville, PA, for Magisterial District Court 23-1-01 for a one (1) year term beginning September 1, 2007 and ending August 31, 2008.
- B. Resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Berks and Gary Snyder, owner of office space leased by the County for District Justice Patton, whereby the County and Mr. Snyder agree to equally pay the amount of \$4,179.00 for repairs to the heating and cooling system.

Engineering

- A. Resolution authorizing the execution of an Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in an amount not to exceed \$6,386.85 for placing single yellow centerline traffic paint on the roads in Jefferson Township.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated September 4, 2007.

Human Services

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution and submission of Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) quarterly expenditure report for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2007-2008.

Solicitor

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of an Addendum to an agreement between the County of Berks and Spotts, Stevens & McCoy, Inc. (ICA-3030-07) to provide for additional services necessary to complete the survey of the Antietam Lake property.
- B. Resolution authorizing approval, after public hearing pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, of a project by Phoebe Berks Health Care Center financed through the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds by the Berks County Municipal Authority. Peter Edelman attended the meeting to discuss the project. Berks County Municipal Authority has held the public hearing.

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

Commissioner Schwank noted that part of the Settlement process of Antietam Lake is a signoff by condemnees, one of whom is the Earl Trust. She suggested that a meeting be convened of those involved with the Earl Trust (city, county, Berks County Conservancy) to work on settling the Trust. Commissioner Schwank will begin contacting those involved to schedule the meeting.

Commissioner Gajewski

Commissioner Gajewski referenced an article in a recent edition of the Reading Eagle, regarding Congress and the mortgage crisis. Congress has proposed providing money to help citizens, and a suggestion of tightening the credit requirements. He feels that there is a lack of regulation and an overzealous industry issuing mortgages to un-credit-worthy persons. He would like to see Congress legislate requirements so that the un-credit-worthy do not get authorized.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott referred back to Mr. Dennis' report about Penn Dot, noting an item on the report stating that safety inspection reports will not be released as they are not considered subject to disclosure under the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law.

V. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Dave Baker of Reading first publicly apologized for his angry outbursts after Judge Lash's ruling concerning Mr. Troutman's appeal of Ms. Ashman's election petitions. He then noted that he is concerned about the way the appeal was handled, that special favors may have been issued, and would like the county to look into it. Commissioner Schwank reminded him that she told him at the last meeting he attended that at the next Election Board meeting the issue would be addressed.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally O'Reilly, Assistant to Chief Clerk