

## **Commissioners' Board Meeting September 6, 2007**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 6, 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.

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Scott made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski to approve the August 28, 2007 Commissioner workshop minutes and the August 30, 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:
  - 254.07 A. Resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of 294,500, and 2007 Appropriations in the amount of \$61,000.
  - 255.07 B. 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.
  - 256.07 C. 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.

- 257.07 D. 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.
- 258.07 E. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated September 4, 2007.
- 259.07 F. 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.
- 260.07 G. 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. Amount is not to exceed \$7,800.00.
- 261.07 H. 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.

### **Reports**

1. County Treasurer –Chief Clerk Terry Styer read report for Nelson Long, CPA.
2. County Controller –Mark Hanson, Chief Deputy Controller, read report for Sandy Graffius, Controller.

### **Citizen Comment/Business From The Floor**

Robert Behling of RiverPlace Development Corp. informed the Commissioners that they are now planning to proceed with the grant application to the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) proposed for the RiverPlace Amphitheater Park with the city of Reading as the applicant based on a request by Commissioner Gajewski. Mr. Behling then requested the assistance of Ken Pick, Director of the Berks County Community Development Office to administer the grant agreement on behalf of RiverPlace. Mr. Pick stated that the grant program provides funds adequate to cover his administrative costs and if the County had plans for future ownership of the facility, it would make sense for his office to administer the grant.

*Citizen Comment continued:*

Commissioner Schwank noted that she would prefer that the County remain the applicant however Commissioner Gajewski reiterated his reasons for wanted to see the City become the applicant which was to assure that the source of grant funds currently allocated to the County will not be affected by this additional funding request to the same "pot" of money at the State. Commissioner Scott repeated his request of RiverPlace Corp. for a plan to cover the future maintenance and ownership of the Amphitheatre. He said he was concerned that the design and control of these projects were in the hands of RiverPlace Corp and not jointly with all potential involved parties such as the County Parks Department, County Planning Commission and the appropriate departments of the City. He repeated his objection to this "incremental" planning process where an application for a grant to cover construction of a facility is moving forward before there is an agreement or plan on the table for ownership and maintenance of that project. Mr. Behling answered that ownership has not been determined but discussions are ongoing and he assured the board that maintenance issues must be determined prior to the grant application being filed and ownership can be decided at a later date. Commissioner Scott insisted that specifics on ownership be answered before he can support what he described as a "well intentioned" project. Commissioner Schwank agreed to the City being the applicant in order for the project to move forward, and asked for a motion.

Commissioner Gajewski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Schwank that the grant application for the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) to be used towards the RiverPlace Amphitheater Park be completed, with the City of Reading as the applicant, and application assistance to be provided by the Berks County Community Development office. Commissioners Schwank and Gajewski voted yes, and Commissioner Scott voted no. Commissioner Scott noted for the record his concern for the budget impact and the impact to county taxpayers of the many requests for well intended projects such as several museums, changes to our Parks system such as the new Hay Creek Trail, discussions on forming a county health department in addition to the costs for prison expansion and related public safety expenses. He also expressed concern for what appears to be suburban and rural municipalities subsidizing the urban core of the County. Commissioner Gajewski reminded Commissioner Scott of the Community Development funds recently approved for Fleetwood, Boyertown and Hamburg. Commissioner Schwank disagreed with Commissioner Scott's position on the costs of the County Parks by saying they only represent 2% of the General Fund Budget. She said its one of the few direct benefits that law abiding citizens actually receive from their taxes as so much of it goes towards the prison and court related expenses.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk