

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, September 18, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 18, 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 presented by Administrator Bill Dennis

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2007 Appropriations in the amount of \$190,225. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.
- 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 September 14, 2007. Candy Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

Children and Youth Services

- A. Adopt Resolution approving execution of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families State Transition Grant (STG) Application FY 2007-08 in the amount of \$483,308.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated September 18, 2007 as presented by Beth Schiepan Director Berks County Human Resources. Commissioner Scott noted that the HR recommendations list includes a new position called Agriculture Coordinator. He noted that this new position was created by the current board of Berks County Commissioners in an effort to promote agricultural business development and the marketing of the agricultural industry and agriculture related business in the County of Berks. He said he was duly impressed with all of the candidates interviewed for this position but was particularly thrilled with Sheila Miller who he said will bring a broad array of experience and talent to this important new position and will surely be embraced by the farming community of which she is a vital advocate as well as a farmer raising Hereford Cattle on the Deitschland Farm in Tulpehocken Township. He said that along with Mrs. Miller's background as a State Representative (1992 to 2006) she was also Executive Director for the PA Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. In addition to her experience with the State Legislature, Sheila was the Editor of the Lancaster Farming Newspaper. He added that with the approximate \$42 million investment this county made towards the preservation of Agriculture this position was a wise decision.

Commissioner Schwank said she has extremely happy to see this position created noting it is a strong commitment to continuing farming as a viable industry that will be actively promoted as economic development in Berks County. She noted that many of the Ag. Land Preservation programs the county participates in has a direct relationship to Mrs. Miller's authorship while in the state legislature. She noted that this position will most likely be housed at the Agricultural Extension Office.

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

The Commissioner noted that she will be attending a State Planning Board meeting next Tuesday and will be unable to attend the Commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Gajewski

Commissioner Gajewski reported that he would be presenting a Proclamation to the Rehersberg Lions Club. He also updated on the NACo Prescription Drug Card savings for August.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott stated that based on his research, it appears as though this country's infrastructure needs and its required maintenance is out of pace with new construction and therefore the funds for upkeep on the existing and newly created roads and bridges is dwindling. He noted that many of the county's bridges are falling into a less than superior rating due to the increased traffic volume and weight rather than deterioration of the structures. He then suggested that the County Administrator arrange with STV Engineers for the preparation of a report that will prioritize maintenance and repairs for all of the County's 62 bridges. He also suggested that the County's Liquid Fuels funds should no longer be provided to municipalities but instead be placed into a type of sinking fund to set aside for these necessary bridge repairs.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:07 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk