

**Commissioners' Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 22, 2004**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, January 22, 2004 at 10:30 AM 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 Judy Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioner Tom Gajewski, Commissioner Mark Scott, Solicitor Alan S. Miller, and Acting Chief Clerk William E. Dennis in attendance.

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

On motion by Commissioner Gajewski, seconded by Commissioner Scott, the minutes of the January 13, 2004 and January 15, 2004 Commissioners' meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Schwank read a proclamation regarding the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberty Fire Company. Mr. Frank Rierson accepted the proclamation along with Arlene Radishak and Chief Rehr.

Commissioner Schwank also introduced on the floor and read a proclamation regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reading Public Museum calling the Museum a treasure as regards the history of Reading and Berks County.

Commissioner Schwank introduced Mr. Hayden Wilbur and Karen Shughart of Atlantic Communications Group, Inc. who presented the Commissioners with a framed cover of "Life in Berks". The book presents a municipal profile of Berks County. Ten thousand copies were made and distributed throughout the County. Commissioner Scott encouraged those who read the book to patronize the sponsors, citing that the book was published at no cost to the County. Commissioner Schwank credited Marianne Sutton with an initial effort to publish such a document that proved to be the genesis for this publication.

Tom Schmoyer, from the Association of School Retirees, was introduced. The Association presented a mock check estimating the amount of tax dollars saved by the County through the volunteer efforts of that group. The estimate was based on 288,000 volunteer hours. Commissioner Schwank acknowledged the diverse examples of how people help the community and commented that the dollar amount written on the check did not match the true value of the Association's efforts.

On motion by Commissioner Gajewski, seconded by Commissioner Scott, with Commissioner Schwank concurring the following items listed under "Consent Agenda" were approved:

1. Adopt the following Resolutions:

- 37-04 A. Authorizing the issuance of a Tax Revenue and Anticipation Line of Credit Note, Series of 2004 in an aggregate principal amount of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00), as well as the taking of all steps necessary to effectuate such Note.
- 38-04 B. Authorizing the reappointment of Joseph Williams, 2650 Westview Drive, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, 19610, to the Berks County Planning Commission Board, for a four-year term.
- 39-04 C. Authorizing execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the County of Berks (Planning Commission) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, for funding not-to-exceed \$435,381.90 for the Schuylkill River Phase II Stormwater Management Plan.
- 40-04 D. Authorizing 2003 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$52,125.00; 2003 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$53,569.00; and 2004 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$963,787.00 per listing dated January 16, 2004.
- 41-04 E. Authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated 01/15/04.
- 42-04 F. Authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Commissioner, Chair, to execute a Letter of Intent to enter into a standard contract (TANF Youth Program) through the Berks County Employment & Training Office and Goodwill Industries of Mid-Eastern Pennsylvania.
- 43-04 G. Authorizing execution of a Disposal Capacity Agreement between the County of Berks, the Berks County Solid Waste Authority and the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority concerning the Rolling Hills Landfill.

2. Authorize payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:

- a. No. 2059 – Community Development Block Grant Program
- b. No. 1202 – Property Rehabilitation Program

### **Reports**

1. County Treasurer
2. County Controller

### **Agenda Items for Discussion**

1. Mike Setley, Concord Public Finance, addressed the Commissioners regarding the possible refinancing of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority 1999 Bond Issue. Mr. Setley also advised that Sovereign Bank was the prevailing bidder on the proposed TRAN action. Mr. Setley was authorized to proceed with both transactions when the proper conditions were present to proceed.
2. The Commissioners authorized execution of Certification to the State Tax Equalization Board, of a list of conveyances or transfers of real estate during the month of December 2003.

### **Citizen Comments/Business from the Floor**

Dorothy Reilly addressed the Commissioners encouraging public meetings at different locations and holding meetings at night. Commissioner Schwank asked that Ms. Reilly advise the Commissioners of topics ahead of time so that the Commissioners could gather information and discuss the issues properly at the meetings.

Ms. Reilly stated that a primary topic is the Patriot Act and she requested the Commissioners to take a position on its repeal. Commissioner Scott questioned the possibility of conducting a non-binding referendum to hear what the people of the County had to say on the subject.

Ms. Reilly also questioned the safety of our present voting machines and system in terms of producing a paper trail of voter actions.

Pat Pieja addressed the Commissioners regarding her support of repealing the Patriot Act, providing additional funding to the library system so as not to hold back purchases of books, promoting Pennsylvania and Berks products locally, citing Cabela's as an example of a local store not selling American products, and using lottery funds for more purposes than currently exist. Commissioner Scott responded by advising that the Library does have funds available from private donations and that Cabela's does in fact sell American products.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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William E. Dennis, Acting Chief Clerk