

Pre-Commissioners' Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, at 10:30 AM, in the thirteenth floor Board Room of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public. Commissioner Tom Gajewski called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Acting Chief Clerk William E. Dennis and Solicitor Alan Miller.

Commissioner Gajewski advised that Commissioner Schwank would be unable to attend, having been asked by the Governor to attend meetings in Harrisburg related to the state budget.

The Board of Commissioners discussed and approved the following items for listing at the February 5, 2004 Meeting:

II. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Authorize refund of 2002 and 2003 County Property Taxes at the request of the Board of Assessment Appeals (attached list).
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Mark A. Wolfskill, 1501 North Church Street, Robesonia, Pennsylvania, 19551, to the Berks County Conservation District Board, for a four-year term, as Conservation District Farmer Director.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing the reappointment of John G. Smith, 116 Spook Lane, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, 19522, to the Berks County Conservation District Board, for a four-year term, as Conservation District Public Director.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Planning and Training Grant Agreement in the amount of \$81,422.00, with a 25% advance, for planning and training activities.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution regarding Support for the Rebuilding of the Felix Dam in Muhlenberg Township.

- B. Authorize payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - No. 2062 – Community Development Block Grant Program
 - No. 455 – HOME Grant Program
 - No. 1204 – Property Rehabilitation Program
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing the increase in parking reimbursement for UNPAID County Interns from \$59.00/month to the prevailing monthly fee for use of the Reading Parking Authority, Penn-Court lot.
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipient's Release and Grant Recipient's Assignment of Refunds, Rebates and Credits pursuant to the terms of WIA Grant No. 015024053 and in consideration of the sum of \$118,000.00.
- E. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipient's Release and Grant Recipient's Assignment of Refunds, Rebates and Credits pursuant to the terms of WIA Grant No. 015023301 and in consideration of the sum of \$706,380.00.
- F. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipient's Release and Grant Recipient's Assignment of Refunds, Rebates and Credits pursuant to the terms of WIA Grant No. 015023011 and in consideration of the sum of \$446,463.00.
- G. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipient's Release and Grant Recipient's Assignment of Refunds, Rebates and Credits pursuant to the terms of WIA Grant No. 015024011 and in consideration of the sum of \$593,209.00.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 05/11/01 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$30.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 16293).
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 03/19/91 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal

regulations, at the rate of \$16.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 19007).

- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 09/10/92 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$16.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 19007).
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 03/28/02 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$10.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 373).
- E. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 11/11/01 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$10.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 22576).
- F. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 03/06/03 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$10.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 373).
- G. Adopt Resolution authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a female child born 2/21/86, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 2/21/04 through 6/30/04 in the form of Purchased Care from Open Door CY, Inc.-Kindship Foster Home at the per diem rate of \$64.00 to allow for completion of high school.
- H. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized permanent legal custodianship of a male child born 4/24/89 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the per diem rate of \$21.00. (Case Number 130).
- I. Adopt Resolution authorizing the reappointment of Russell C. Englehart, 132 Southeast Drive, Hamburg, Pennsylvania, 19526, to the Berks County Board of Assessment Appeals, for a four-year term.

III. OTHER REQUESTS:***Budget Director:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2003 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$60,000.00; and 2004 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$351,158.00 per listing dated February 2, 2004.

Contract Coordinator:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated 01/30/04.

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:

Mike Setley, Concord Public Finance, was present to request a Board of County Commissioners guarantee on a bond issue designed to finance new capital and extend the current bond issue relative to the Berks County Airport. The purpose of this funding is to enhance the facilities and thereby keep the airport commercially viable. The intent is to develop an industrial park, the revenue from which will be used to pay debt service on the bond. The County will be a creditor of the airport and will have remedies as such.

The existing debt of the airport is \$3.5 Million that goes to the year 2018. The planned bond issue will add \$2 Million. Commissioner Gajewski questioned if the improvements would encourage additional service. In response it was stated that it was unlikely that a major carrier would be added, but corporate aviation could increase. Commissioner Scott stated his support calling the project one of great potential with a small investment.

Mr. Setley advised that no action was needed at this point.

Citizens were present to discuss the request for Commissioners' support of Felix Dam improvements. Robert Smith advised that it was his understanding that the State has decided that this project is not viable. He asserted that within ten years the Association would be asking for financial assistance to maintain the dam. He believed that taxes should not support only a few residents. Mr. Smith asked that the matter be tabled until the Commissioners can learn more on the matter.

Chari Towne addressed the Board, stating that she believed in a free flowing river and that this river should be restored to that condition. She asked that the cost benefit information be made public and that the matter be tabled until more information could be obtained relative to the long-term benefit of this project.

James Hartman advised that he had reservations regarding replacing the dam, primarily because of safety issues. He also asked for the matter to be tabled until further information could be obtained.

Augustus Dorman, a member of the Felix Dam Association, reminded the Board that the Association was not asking for funding. It was his understanding that the fish ladder proposed would cost \$1 Million, the rolled concrete dam would cost \$1 Million, and that Muhlenberg Township was agreeable to accepting maintenance of the dam.

Commissioner Scott advised that it was his intent to oppose a resolution supporting the Felix Dam improvements because it would harm natural recreation, the river should remain a river, it runs counter to environmental policies, it has negative financial implications and because there are better options.

Commissioner Gajewski encouraged all those in attendance to attend the Commissioners meeting set for Thursday.

Election Director Kurt Bellman requested permission to make a short presentation to the Board at Thursday meeting so as to publicly discuss the issue of security of voting machines. He added that much has been debated regarding security and he wished to dispel the concern of citizens.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Dennis, Acting Chief Clerk