

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 8, 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 Chair Judith L. Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioner Thomas Gajewski and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Chief Clerk, Terry L. Styer, County Administrator, William E. Dennis and Solicitor Alan Miller.

Commissioner Schwank read a statement of condolence for the families as she commented on the recent deaths of our 40th President of the United States Ronald Reagan at the age of 93 and of Reading City Police Patrolman, Michael H. Wise II at the age of 32, who was killed in the line of duty. Both Commissioners' Gajewski and Scott commented on the loss of our former President and expressed sympathy to the family of the Police Officer Wise who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting his community. Following their comments was a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:

The following Proclamations and Certificates of Recognition were presented and approved by the Board:

Commissioner Schwank presented a Proclamation on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners for the **39th Annual Boyertown Sidewalk Expo Day**. Accepting the proclamation on behalf of the Borough of Boyertown, was Mayor Marianne V. Derry. Mayor Derry spoke briefly about Boyertown's Sidewalk Expo and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Commissioner Gajewski presented Certificates of Recognition for the following individuals:

Gwen Switzer - Berks County's 2004 Dairy Princess

Pamela Gockley - Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business award recipient and founder and CEO of PAJobs.com

Rosemarie LaManna - Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business award recipient and owner of an Advance Personnel Services and Advance Medical Staffing & Home Health Care.

Carolyn Helms - Pennsylvania Best 50 Women in Business award recipient and owner of the Bell Tower Salon and Spa which employees approximately 45 people.

Commissioner Gajewski then presented Certificates of Recognition from the Board of Commissioners for the following 2004 TALKLINE service award recipients

- **Mary Ann Mengel** - 2004 Berks TALKLINE Volunteer of the Year Award Winner
- **Met Ed/First Energy** – Represented by Mary Beth Smialek- 2004 Berks TALKLINE Corporate Award Winner
- **Leadership Berks** – Represented by Michael Mizak, Leadership Lancaster Board Director and Kathy Burket, Leadership Lancaster Executive Director -2004 Berks TALKLINE Not for Profit Award Winner

The Board of Commissioners then discussed and approved the following items for listing at the June 10, 2004 Commissioners Meeting:

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution approving the 2004 Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Policy. Tom McPhillips Jr., Assistant Director of Human Resources explained that this document is the result of review and recommended changes made by County's Personnel Policy and Development Committee to the existing travel policy. He indicated that copies of the policy had been provided to all bargaining units of the County.
- B. Adopt Resolution Appointing Craig Hafer, 8 Kane Road, Morgantown, PA 19543 to the Environmental Advisory Council for a three- year term beginning June 11, 2004.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute grant application and agreement by and between the County of Berks (Emergency Management) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant covering the period July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005 in the amount of \$149,380. Bob Osika, Berks County Emergency Management Coordinator explained that this matching grant represents the funds needed to reimburse the County for materials used in the County's Hazardous Materials cleanup activities.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving the Berks County Emergency Operations Plan - Bob Osika, Berks County Emergency Management Coordinator presented a Power Point summary showing the essential elements of the 2004 plan which he stated fulfills a requirement from the County's 2003 Emergency Management Performance Grant.

- C. Adopt Resolution Appointing Dr. David L. Kantner, 121 Miller Drive, Sinking Spring, PA 19608 to the Environmental Advisory Council for a three- year term beginning June 11, 2004.
- D. Adopt Resolution Appointing Tom Power, 80 Pine Swamp Road, Kempton PA 19529 to the Environmental Advisory Council for a three-year term beginning June 11, 2004.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution Appointing Thomas J. Gombar of One Longview Drive, Birdsboro, PA 19508 to the Environmental Advisory Council for a three-year term beginning June 11, 2004.
- B. Adopt Resolution Appointing Heather Burkhart of 102 North Sterley Street, Shillington, PA 19607 to the Environmental Advisory Council a two-year term beginning June 11, 2004.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the Berks County Homeownership Incentive Program (BCHIP). Ken Pick, Berks County Community Development Director will be present.
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - 1-No. 2081– Community Development Block Grant Program
 - 2-No. 1218 – Property Rehabilitation Program
 - 3-No. 463 – Home Grant Program
 - 4-No. 2080-S – Emergency Shelter Program

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the Berks County MH/MR Mental Retardation Plan for fiscal year 2005/2006.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Saint Benedict Church and all related documents with respect to a Volunteer Recognition Luncheon to be held August 21, 2004 honoring participants in the Juvenile Probation Community Youth Aid Panel Program, at a total estimated cost to the County of \$836.00
- C. Adopt Resolution to approve appointment of John W. Smith, 1121 Whitfield Blvd., Reading, PA 19609 to the Library System Board Advisory Board for a three-year term, beginning July 1, 2004.

- D. Adopt Resolution Appointing Stephen A. Wheeler, PO Box 501, Boyertown, PA 19512 to the Environmental Advisory Council for a three-year term beginning June 11, 2004.
- E. Adopt Resolution Appointing Martha B. Coyle, 1113 Butternut Road, Glen Mills, PA 19342-9511 to the Environmental Advisory Council for a three-year term beginning June 11, 2004.

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$ 22,000 and transfers in the amount of \$100,000 per listing dated June 4, 2004.

Contract Coordinator:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated June 4, 2004.

Facilities & Operations:

- A. Bill Wescot. County Engineer reviewed the change Order Requests for the renovation of the INS facilities, in the total amount of \$997.88:
 - 1. Change Order Request No. GC-8, General Construction; Amount \$1,489.88 to remove and dispose asbestos material from above ceiling.
 - 2. Change Order Request No. PC-3, Plumbing Contractor; Amount (\$492.00) to eliminate a 6 inch valve replacement from Change Order P-001.

Solicitor:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Chief Clerk to execute tax refund reports to the County Treasurer for the issuance of mandated tax refunds.
- B. Adopt Resolution initiating the pursuit of a financing program for the funding of all or a portion of the actuarially determined unfunded liability of the County Pension Plan. Mark Lunquist, Finance Advisor for the County, read a prepared statement that he hoped would clear up some of the confusion that followed the last Commissioners' Workshop meeting from his presentation regarding a possible bond issue for financing the current deficit of the County Pension Fund.

Mr. Lunquist explained that his proposal was a direct result of the Pension Board's direction to the County Administrator and the County Financial Advisory to review the current state of the pension plan and evaluate all options and alternatives that the County could consider with respect to the current funding shortfall of pension obligations. He indicated that only after careful review and consideration as well as public discussion on the options available to the county, will the Commissioners be asked to make a commitment. Commissioner Scott added by saying that this financing concept is not new. He said reported that it was actually first proposed by last year's financial advisor, Mike Setley.

- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of \$609,411.67 to the County pension Plan for the Actuarially determined ARC contribution for May 2004 and to further authorize the Berks County Treasurer to make any and all estimated ARC contributions throughout the remainder of 2004 as determined by the County's Treasurer.
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L.Schwank,, Chair, to execute the transportation Enhancement Program Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement. William Semmel, Executive Director of Parks & Recreation, presented this Federal-Aid Reimbursement Agreement which is proposed to fund the Union Canal-Blue Marsh Connector Trail project.
- E. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L.Schwank,, Chair, to execute the Settlement Agreement between the Teamsters Local 429 and the County of Berks.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50AM.