

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, August 10, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 10, 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 L. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis and Solicitor Alan Miller and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

II. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for **German-American Day** Accepting the Proclamation was Jim Lemp of the Liederkrantz and Sam Dewald of the Evergeen Country Club.

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for the 141st anniversary of the **Bethany Children's Home**. Accepting the Proclamation was John Henning, Executive Director of Bethany Children's Home.

Commissioner Schwank presented a Certificate of Recognition to **William G. Koch Sr., CPA** as the 2004 recipient of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accounts (PICPA), Distinguished Public Service Award. Mr. Koch Sr. thanked the Board and his son who nominated him for this prestigious award.

Bob Osika, Berks County Emergency Management Coordinator, updated the Board on the activities following the recent flood in Birdsboro. Bob indicated that numerous areas have been declared a disaster area for the purpose of releasing state and federal emergency dollars, however the Birdsboro area was not part of that Emergency Declaration. He indicated that he contacted the County's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators for assessments of damage in their communities and thus far received 55 of 74 reporting no damage; 6 municipalities reported damage from the storm including damage estimates for Robeson Township at \$737,000 and for \$1 million for Birdsboro. Bob then discussed a plan for the County to apply for State funding to assist with a Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will help to eliminate or reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural and technological hazards.

Leigh Tallas, Director of Veterans Affairs reported to the Commissioners on the anticipated cost of changes in the Veterans' Grave Markers as per the request by William A. Yurvati at the June 10, 2004 Commissioner's meeting. Leigh presented his idea for a new style of marker that could be cast for \$1,000 with approximately \$6.00 cost per marker, designed to discourage theft.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement and designating the Greater Berks Food Bank as the lead agency for the County of Berks to participate in the State Food Purchase Program for the 2004-2005-program year.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute a Grant Application (J8 04-47-1) by and between the County of Berks (District Attorney) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for renewal of the project entitled "Berks County Sobriety Checkpoint and Expanded DUI/Underage Drinking Enforcement Program" for the period 9/1/04 – 8/31/05.
- C. Adopt Resolution re-appointing members of the Berks County Workforce Investment Board (terms expired June 30, 2004.)

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Berks County Board of Commissioners or their authorized designee, to enter into Contracts of Sale of Agricultural Conservation Easements for County easement purchases, and to execute the Certification of County funds when applicable to a state easement purchase; with the following property owners:

Name/Township	County Share	State Share
Harvey C. and Dorothy L. Oxenreider North Heidelberg Township 38.4 acres (\$2,000 per acre) Perpetual/ 5 yr installment purchase	\$76,800 (principal only)	\$0.00
Elvin Z. and Verna S. Brubaker Bethel Township 125 acres (\$2,000 per acre w state share) Perpetual/ lump sum purchase	\$200,000	\$50,000
Elmer L. and Anna G. Bross Bethel and Tulpehocken 202 acres (\$ 1,400 per acre w state share) Perpetual/ 2 yr installment purchase	\$227,608	\$56,901
David L. and Robin Phillips Center Township 96.5 acres (\$2,000 per acre w state share) Perpetual/ 2 yr installment purchase	\$155,332	\$38,834

Tami Hildebrand, Director of Agricultural Land Preservation, was present with maps depicting the location of the proposed easements in relation to existing preserved farms, showing the area zoning and identifying that the proposed easements are within compliance with the County Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing changes to the County's CDBG Program as advertised.
- B. Authorize payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - 1. No. 2092-S - Emergency Shelter Program
 - 2. No. 2093 - Community Development Block Grant Program
 - 3. No. 2094 - Community Development Block Grant Program
 - 4. No. 468 – Home Grant Program
 - 5. No. 469 – Home Grant Program
 - 6. No. 1224 – Property Rehabilitation Program
 - 7. No. 1225 – Property Rehabilitation Program

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Assurances of compliance/Review with respect to the BCCYS 2004-2005 Implementation Plan and the FY 2005-2006 Needs Based Plan and Budget Estimate.
- B. Commissioner Scott informed the Board that he would be drafting a Resolution for the Thursday Commissioners' meeting that would propose to officially appoint him as a County Representative and voting member of the Pottstown Landfill Closure Committee and to appoint Michelle Kircher to serve as his alternate.

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 budget appropriations in the amount of \$725,173 per listing dated, August 5, 2004.

Contract Coordinator:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated, August 5 2004.

Facilities & Operations:

- A. Bill Westcott, County Engineer presented a Change Order Request for the renovation of the INS facilities, in the total amount of \$ 1,687.15:
 - 1. Change Order Request No. GC-005 to remove and reinstall windows in two rooms.

Purchasing

- A. Award Invitation to Bid #04-09-RC, a one-year contract for the furnishing of 17 treatment carts for use by Berks Heim and 4 medication carts for use by Berks County Prison to Artromick International with an office at 4800 Hilton Corporate Drive, Columbus, Ohio, 43232 at their bid price of \$1,259.65 per treatment cart and \$1,368.48 per medication cart plus \$100.00 shipping per cart. Candice Noll, Contract Coordinator presented this proposed bid award.

Solicitor

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing controlled goose hunt at Kaercher Creek Park, Berks County, on September 1,2,6,9,13,16,20, and 23, 2004.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the tax forgiveness, including interest and penalty, for all outstanding county taxes concerning the following properties owned by Reading Redevelopment Authority in the area now known as the Buttonwood Gateway Urban Redevelopment Area Area:

409 Huyett Street, Reading
416 Tulpehocken Street, Reading

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Commissioner Scott presented for consideration the hiring of a consultant by the county to be used for review of the environmental land use permits such as Air Quality Permits or Solid Waste permits in which the county is copied for review purposes. He explained that in order to appropriately comment on these technical permit applications, an expert review by someone experienced in the appropriate environmental field is needed. He stated the County needs to review these permit applications and be able to apprise DEP in the beginning of the permitting process rather than appealing decisions by the State or other agencies after the permit has been granted.

Commissioner Schwank agreed with Commissioner Scott but added that Craig Hafer, Chairman of the Berks Environmental Advisory Committee is involved in discussions with the Planning Commission and the Conservation District to discuss future options for this same permit review process. She suggested that this may result in recommendations for the hiring of a consultant.

Commissioner Scott then read an Editorial from the August 1, 2004 *Philadelphia Inquirer* regarding the Editors theory regarding whether government funding of Economic Development whether through subsidies or permit initiatives, really successfully stimulates economic development in a community.

Controller Sandy Graffius and Treasurer Nelson Long presented their respective reports from last week to the Commissioners

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Maryann Sutton, Prothonotary recognized one of her employees named Linda Schultz who recently retired from 28 years of service to the Prothonotary's office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.