

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, January 18, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2005, 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 Gajewski and Commissioner Mark L. 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 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:

Commissioner Schwank presented a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the board that she will present at a ceremony on January 20, 2005 to Mr. Albert Boscov as a "Champion of the Arts" for his significant contributions to Berks County Arts programs and organizations.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing re-appointment of Thomas Schmoyer, Nancy Sellers and Maxi Shirey to the Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for three-year terms expiring February 2, 2008.
- B. Approve motion authorizing the utilization of temporary agency for an Office Support III position - Emergency Management Agency, effective 1/21/05 while department recruits for a replacement for Jane Mountz who retired effective 1/11/05. Rate not to exceed \$16.50/hour. Cost Containment approved this request.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - 1. No. 2116- Community Development Block Grant funds - \$172,690.31
- B. Adopt Resolution approving application to the DCED (Pennsylvania Community and Economic Development) ESG (Emergency Shelter Grants) program on behalf of homeless shelter agencies in Berks County in the amount of \$291,400.00

Commissioner Gajewski continued:

- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing the re-appointment of Brian Clements, to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for a five-year term expiring 12/31/09.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judy Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute a Highway Safety Project Grant (No. 403-226-A) extending the termination date from February 28, 2005 to September 30, 2005 by and between the County of Berks and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering, with respect to the Berks County 403 Criminal Justice Project (DUI Initiatives). All other terms and conditions of the existing Grant Agreement remain the same.

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$30,895 and 2005 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,000,000 and 2004 Appropriations in the amount \$969,163 and 2005 Appropriations in the amount of \$26,077 per listing dated January 14, 2005.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Human Resource recommendations as per list dated January 18, 2005

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Numerous Longswamp Township and/or Brandywine Heights School District residents attended the meeting and spoke on the topic of the Township's recent zoning amendment and thanked the Commissioners for their interest and involvement. Joan Falcone, Robert Tersha, Elaine Falcone, Winfield Lease, Maryann Lantz and Mike Sachs (also a Brandywine School Board Director) provided comments. County Solicitor Allen Miller, Esq. announced that the Longswamp Township Officials have scheduled a public meeting for Thursday January 20, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. to discuss the rezoning issues. He also informed the board that Attorney David Balmer, Esq. is expected to provide written opinion to the Commissioners regarding the County's options in this Longswamp Township rezoning decision later this week.

Commissioner Scott again stated his position that the County should file a legal challenge to the Longswamp Township's recent zoning decision.

Commissioner Schwank asked the citizens in attendance if the township had adopted any Agriculture Zoning in the Township. Mr. Tersha, a Longswamp Farm owner, said he had approached the Township for years urging them to adopt strict Ag. Zoning – if for no other reason than as a courtesy for the existing preserved farms in the township. Commissioner Schwank encouraged all municipalities to continue to consider joint planning activities despite this example. She continued by saying the County needs to be vigilant and stay involved with municipalities encouraging them to adopt a balanced mix of land uses that will protect agriculture while allowing planned growth and development.

Commissioner Gajewski stated that this is an example of the need to assure all farm easement applications be reviewed to assure consistence with existing land use plans by the County Planning Commission.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk