

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 1, 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:

Carol Meeker, Donor Resources Representative of the Miller-Keystone Blood Center recognized Carey Kaucher, Berks Employee Volunteer Coordinator for the 2004 Berks Employee Blood Drive.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the County of Berks to execute the Family Center/Fatherhood Renewal Application 2005/2006 in the amount of \$159,930.00.
- B. Adopt Resolution certifying the Historical Society of Berks County as the official County Historical Society and further, awarding a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the 2005 General Fund budget.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Appointment of to appoint Norman Wilikofsky 1933 Palm Street, Reading, PA 19604 to fill the unexpired term to 1/5/09 of Frederick K. Hatt, Esq. who resigned from the Berks Municipal Authority.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$5,937.00 (80% Federal Share) as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to conduct training activities to support the SOG Hazardous Materials Technician training program within the County.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$4,472.00 (80% Federal Share) as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to update the County's 1995 Commodity (transported hazardous materials) Flow Study (CFS).

Bob Osika presented the grant agreements and described the training and planning programs for the County.

On the matter of tax reform, Commissioner Schwank then proposed to contact Representative Dennis Leh requesting his office to arrange a meeting in Harrisburg between the Commissioners and the Berks County State Delegation to discuss Tax Reform Initiatives. She suggested a tentative date of March 15, 2005.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - 1. No. 2119 -Community Development Block Grant funds - \$92,228.20
 - 2. No. 2118-S Emergency Shelter Program - \$ 318.60
 - 3. No. 484 – Home Grant Program - \$ 8,207.00

- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing On-The-Job Training contracts and subsidized employment agreements as per list dated 1/21/05.

- C. Commissioner Gajewski proposed setting aside up to \$5,000.00 from Berks County Growing Greener funds for the hiring of an environmental consultant to review the Cabot Industries, Inc. plant wide applicability limit air permit application and further to solicit requests for proposals from potential consultants.

Craig Hafer, Chairman of the Berks Environmental Advisory Committee discussed the need for the commitment of funds towards projects such as this one. He suggested that due to the fact that Berks County is in a non-attainment status for air quality, it is important to assure that these applications are thoroughly reviewed so that it can be determined whether or not the project could have a negative impact on the County's air quality. The Commissioners agreed that the funding of these application reviews would continue on a case-by-case basis as recommended by the EAC.

Commissioner Scott supported this proposal but noted his frustration over that fact that the County would not have to fund these environmental consultant reviews if the DEP was doing an effective job with environmental reviews on the County's behalf. He also suggested that the Cabot site was located on the border of Montgomery County who should also be interested in this application as they are downwind of this facility.

Commissioner Scott

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$6,878.00 and 2004 Budget Appropriations in the total amount of \$278,659.00 per list dated January 28, 2005.

Contract Coordinator-Purchasing Department:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated 1/28/05.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as list dated February 1, 2005.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Kathy Duffy, resident from Longswamp Township expressed her desire for County participation in the zoning appeal and additional hope that the County could use this as a catalyst to promote citizen involvement and awareness in other communities. Solicitor Miller was asked to respond on the status of the County at this point and he commended attorney Steve Price who filed the appeal on behalf of the citizens. He added that he would not have anything to add except resources if the County makes the decision to participate in this appeal.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk