

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2005**

***I. CALL TO ORDER:***

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 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. PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES***

- A. Commissioner Schwank presented on behalf of the board, a Child Abuse Prevention flag to George Kovarie, Director of Berks County Children and Youth Services, which will be placed on the flagpole outside the County Services building for the month of April. The Commissioner then recognized Christine Earl a 35 year employee working as a caseworker for Berks Children and Youth in recognition for her years of service to the Community.

***III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:***

***Budget Director:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$75,000.00, and 2005 Budget Appropriations in the total amount of \$1,422.00 per list dated April 07, 2005.

***Human Resources Director:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing a Voluntary Severance Plan to all full-time employees consisting of two-weeks of pay for every full year of service with a minimum payout of 3 weeks and a maximum payout of 52 weeks. The package will be offered to employees on April 18th Countywide and employees will have 45 days to make a decision and a 7 day revocation period. Separation dates will be established by the Department Head but in no case will be later than December 31, 2005.

***Purchasing Department***

***Contract Coordinator***

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated April 4, 2005.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of a letter of intent to purchase the City of Reading's Antietam Lake property (consisting of 560 acres) by the Board of Commissioners to the City of Reading. Commissioner Schwank read the letter of intent, which offers from the Berks County Growing Greener Fund, \$2.5 million up front and a reservation of \$1 million dollars for the purpose of providing necessary repairs to the Antietam Lake Dam. The offer states that in the event repairs to the Dam are equal to or less than the \$1 million dollars, the County will pay all such costs of repair, in the event the repairs exceed \$1 million, the County will pay the first one million with the remaining cost being paid by the City or other third parties. The letter indicates that the offer shall remain open for 30 days to enter into a formal agreement of sale. Commissioner Gajewski made a motion to amend this offer to 2.8 million leaving \$700,000 for the dam repairs as he explained this would keep the offer the same as the previous bid in 2001. The motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Scott informed the board that the original offer he drafted in 2001 included a \$500,000 reduction for potential costs in repair of the dam, so in essence that offer was really \$2.3 million up front so the current \$2.5 million being offered is higher than in 2001.

Mayor Tom McMahon thanked the Commissioners for the offer. He indicated that he has received a great deal of support from the community regarding the County's ownership and preservation of this City owned property.

Commissioner Scott suggested that the city should remember that the Greth development offer has contingencies such as what could possibly be a protracted period of time that it may take the developer to obtain all needed approvals before proceeding. He reminded the City that the County offer is immediate.

Commissioner Gajewski indicated that while attending a Lower Alsace Township meeting, he learned that the Greth's proposed development (if they were to purchase the Dam property from the city) would have an immediate 2 million dollar impact on the school district and district taxpayers in addition to an increase in traffic congestion for this municipality. At this time, Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve **Resolution 107.05**, which was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve the \$2.5 million currently on the table

- B. Resolution authorizing execution of the HAVA (Help America to Vote Act) Grant application. Kurt Bellman, Elections Director described the funding allocations proposed as part of this application which include voting machine upgrades and other improvements to assure HAVA compliance for the county

*Commissioner Schwank*

- A. Adoption Resolution authorizing execution of an addendum to contract between the County of Berks and Schnabel Engineering North LLC in the amount of \$7,000.00 to evaluate alternatives and opinions of costs for the rehabilitation of Antietam Dam (funds to be expended from Growing Greener) Due to the urgent nature of this project and the pending offer of purchase to the City, Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve **Resolution Number 108.05** as described above, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve.

*Commissioner Scott*

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute continuation of Subgrant No. 03-DA-ST-14420 by and between the County of Berks (Adult Probation) and the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency, with respect to funding in the amount of \$271,378.00 (100% state funding) for "Phase II – RIP (Restrictive Intermediate Punishment) – Level 3 & 4 Offenders," covering the period 7/1/05 – 6/30/06. Nancy Xavios from Adult Probation will be attending the meeting to present the continuation of this subgrant.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS***Schedule of evening meetings for 2005*

- **Tuesday April 12, 2005** Work session scheduled for 10:30 A.M. will now be held at 7:00 P.M. in the Boscov's Court area of the **Fairgrounds Square Mall**, 3050 North Fifth Street Highway, Reading, PA 19605.
- **Thursday June 23, 2005** Commissioners' meeting scheduled for 10:30 A.M. will now be held at 7:00 PM in the **Colebrookdale Township Municipal building** at 765 W. Philadelphia Avenue, Boyertown, PA 19512.
- **Thursday September 29, 2005** Commissioners' meeting scheduled for 10:30 A.M. will be held at 7:00 PM in the **Caernarvon Township Municipal building** at 3226 Main Street, Morgantown, PA 19543.
- **Thursday November 3, 2005** Commissioners' meeting scheduled for 10:30 A.M. will be held at 7:00 PM in the **Robesonia Borough Office** at 75 South Brooke Street, Robesonia PA 19551

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Commissioner Gajewski read some informative news from a CCAP (County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania) newsletter regarding the federal governments efforts to restore the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. The Commissioner then spoke of the legacy and positive impact to the world and the great contributions to mankind made by the late Pope John Paul II.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk