

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 30, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 30, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant County Solicitor Christine Sadler, Esq. The Commissioner opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**II. PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES:**

- John McCormack, Director of the Berks County Youth Center provided a presentation of the Berks County (PREP) Priorities, Responsibilities, Enhancement, Program Apiaries construction project. Operations Director, Matt Lerch and Youth Center staff member Paul Engel, to help educate the residents on an interesting and environmentally friendly project, started the apiaries project. Other successful PREP projects include City and County Park clean-ups, landscaping, stream stabilization and all are projects being worked on by these juveniles in order to teach them to help revitalize the community and improve the quality of life. John McCormack and Dan Brown were present at the meeting and discussed how this program allows young adults to give back to the community. Dan Brennan said their main goal is changing behavior of the young adults involved in the Priorities, Responsibilities, Enhancement, Program.
- Commissioner Schwank, presented a proclamation proclaiming September 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> 2005 as Thunder in the Valley Days. Mark Malizzi, President and Bruce Crotzer, Vice President were present to accept proclamation. Mark Malizzi was present and invited the community to participate in the food collection campaign. Which will be held September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005 to help break the worlds record for total of cans collected. He also provided us with their web site, which is [www.thunderoutreach.com](http://www.thunderoutreach.com).
- Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for the Taste of hamburg-er Festival for Hamburg Borough. Sandy Christman was present and invited us to come out to Hamburg on September 23,2005 for Hamburger Day.
- Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for Slovak Catholic Sokol Day celebrating their 100th anniversary for the workshop on Tuesday, 8/30 -Andrea Tadlock was present to accept the proclamation.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$6,000.00 and appropriations in the total amount of \$6,733.00 per list dated August 26,2005. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director presented the budget report.

**Human Resources Director:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendation as per list dated August 30, 2005. Jennifer Biehn, H.R. Assistant Director, presented the list of HR recommendations.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving revised Salary Board procedure. Jennifer Biehn, H.R. Assistant Director, was present and was asked by Commissioner Gajewski if this could be removed off the agenda and discussed at next Tuesday's Salary Board Meeting. Commissioner Schwank agreed with his request.

**Purchasing Department**

**Contract Coordinator:**

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated August 29, 2005. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Commissioner Schwank proposed for discussion and adoption by this board, a resolution to re-establish the review and confirmation process for the Farmland Preservation Boards' Easement Purchases at future Commissioners meetings. In addition to the Commissioner meeting discussions, she also discussed a possible solution to avoid future easement purchases from being located within a proposed growth area of the county as depicted on the County Comprehensive Plan Future Growth Area Map which would involve the review of applications located in growth areas jointly by the County Planning Commission and the Agricultural Preservation Board.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing the use of 3 meeting rooms on the NW corner of the first floor of the Services Center for the Protection From Abuse Office.-Lisa Siciliano, Deputy Family Court Administrator was present and discussed the need to move location.

Commissioner Gajewski continued:

One reason given is that there is not enough room to service the current clients. Also there are security issues and she feels by moving the location next to the security area it would decrease the security issue.

- B. Commissioner Gajewski indicated that the board has been evaluating two discount prescription card programs proposed for the benefit of all county residents. One plan was developed by Luzerne County and one developed by NACo (National Association of Counties) The Commissioner explained that if approved by the board, Berks County could make free prescription drug discount cards available to all citizens of the county regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage. He indicated that these cards could ultimate provide a savings of 20% off of the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

Mike Malinowski, Risk and Safety Manager for the County briefly described the various options of the two programs he evaluated for the board. He indicated that his support for the NACo program was due to the greater number of Pharmacies that would be available to citizens in a 20-mile radius of Reading.

Commissioner Schwank said that she favored the NACo plan as she reflected on the total dollar savings estimated in other areas such as Maryland and Virginia. She also reminded the board of public relations and advertising restrictions that the NACo program requires the county to adhere to.

- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing a Contract Administration, G701 Change Order, by and between the County of Berks (Berks Heim), the Architect (L. Robert Kimball & Associates), and the Contractor (Ray Angelini, Inc.), in the amount of \$31,279.00 to provide material and labor for the installation of light bollards at the employee entrance walkway at the new County Home. Jim Strohecker, Facilities was present to discuss the change order.
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
1. No. 1259-Property Rehabilitation Program-\$6,592.00
  2. No. 508-Home Grant Program-\$16,704.00
  3. No. 2156-S-Emergency Shelter Program-\$7,657.36
  4. No. 2157- Community Development Block Grant Program-\$128,713.12

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a grant application by and between the County of Berks (District Attorney) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for 60% State funding in the amount of \$85,479 and 40% paid by the County of Berks, that amount being \$57,166.00 for the Victim of Juvenile Offenders covering the period 1/1/06 - 12/31/06. Bruce Grim, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer was present and just confirmed that this grant is something that is done annually.

**Solicitor**

- A. First Assistant County Solicitor Christine Sadler Esq explained that the Commonwealth's 2005 Title II, Section 261 grant, BERKS County has been awarded a total grant of \$5,215.75. These funds are proposed to be used as follows:
- Making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, and exits and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities.-\$3,058.15
  - Providing the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) to individuals with the full range of disabilities as for other voters.-\$1,078.80
  - Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with the full range of disabilities in elections for Federal office.-\$539.40
  - Providing individuals with the full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.-\$539.40

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

Joan Falcon of the Brandywine Heights Taxpayer's Association, was present at the Commissioner's meeting to clear up some misconception we might have about the PA Caucus Plan due to comments made at the previous Commissioner's meeting. She would like us to know that under this plan, tax will not be added to our prescription drugs, gasoline, doctor's visits, etc. She indicated that no plan is perfect but this is the plan she supports because it would eliminate school real estate tax and that is her main goal. She feels that if they do eliminate school real-estate taxes then the residents of Berks County and surrounding areas will be able to afford to buy a new house, and the residents with their mortgages paid off will be able to keep their homes instead of losing their homes because they are unable to pay their taxes.

She also provided the Commissioner's Office with a sign up sheet for the bus trip being held Monday, October 24, 2005 to support the Commonwealth Caucus Plan. She also encourages taxpayers to come out to this event. If you would need more information please log on to <http://www.commonwealthcaucus.org>

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dalila Garcia, Assistant to Chief Clerk