

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 3, 2006**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, 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. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Budget Transfers in the amount of \$14,638.00 and Appropriations in the amount \$1,033,842.00 per listing on January 3, 2006. Bob Patrizio Budget Director presented the budget report.

**Contract Coordinator:**

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated December 29, 2005. Candy Noll, presented contract agenda.

**Emergency Management:**

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing the application of an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for the reimbursement of salary and benefits for EMA Operations and Training Officer and the EMA Deputy Coordinator for Administration and Planning for Federal fiscal year 2006 (10/01/05 – 9/30/06).
- B. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$3,171.00 (80% Federal Share) as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to be used towards the purchase and implementation of an EHS (Extremely Hazardous Substance) Emergency Plan Manager Module for the existing Tier II Manager program.

- C. Adopt resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement by and between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the County of Berks, in the amount of \$4,377.00 (80% Federal DOT Share) as part of the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) to conduct training activities to support the SOG (Special Operations Group) Hazardous Materials Technician training program within the County.-Bob Osika, Director of Emergency Management was present to discuss these three applications.

**Human Resources:**

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as per list dated January 3, 2006. Jennifer Biehn, Assistant Director of Human Resources presented recommendations.

**III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Jerry Johnson, Co-chair of Initiative for a Competitive Greater Reading was present at meeting to discuss the organization's report and request support and endorsement for the plan. He explained that this comprehensive economic plan is the result of collaborative efforts of government, business and community leaders to help build an action plan to help the "Greater Reading Area" and the county as a whole. He said the primary goals of this plan is to help to create an economically competitive region in the 21st century, strengthen the economic vitality of the overall regional business environment and attract and retain jobs. Commissioner Schwank requested that a resolution be drafted for Thursday's meeting for the County's endorsement. Detailed information including a copy of the documents related to this plan can be found on the [Berks County Community Foundation web page](#).
- B. Resolution designating Dr. Robert C. Ziegenfus as Chair of the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for the term of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 as per the recommendation of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. The Commissioner requested that the latest offer letter from the county to purchase the Antietam Lake property be posted on the County Web site. She also suggested that the Commissioners request Glen Knoblauch, Director of the County Planning Commission to devise a program to evaluate the use of open space funds as a result of the county's 2005 bond issue.
- B. Adopt Resolution reappointing Kathleen Weckerle to the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.

- C. Adopt Resolution reappointing Cathy Pilat to the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- D. Adopt Resolution reappointing Father Thomas Kuller to the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- E. Adopt Resolution reappointing Phil Rowe to the Berks Area Transportation Authority Board for a five-year term that will expire on 12/31/2012.
- F. Adopt Resolution reappointing Dr. Frederick H. Gaige to the Berks County Planning Commission Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- G. Adopt Resolution reappointing Dr. Mark Reuben to the Berks County Children and Youth Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- H. Adopt Resolution reappointing Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz to the Berks County Children and Youth Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- I. Adopt Resolution reappointing Susan L. Giachero to the Berks County Children and Youth Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.
- J. Adopt Resolution reappointing Joan Lewis to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board for a three-year term that will expire on 12/31/2008.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt resolution to set aside \$2 million from the 2002 bond issue for acquisition of additional office space for the County.
- 01.06 Resolution setting aside \$3 million from the 2002 bond issue for construction costs for a Community Corrections facility to begin in 2006 with a July 1, 2007 operational date.-  
Commissioner Gajewski made a motion seconded by Commissioner Scott with all voting yes to approve.
- B. Commissioner Gajewski then introduced two interns Hector Torres, a Business Management Major and Tarynn Meier, a Criminal Justice Major at Berks Technical Institute who are providing assistance to his office at no cost to the County.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing Jeanne Trivellini to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a four-year term to 3/10/2010.

**IV. OTHER REQUESTS:**

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

Mike Shorn, resident and former City Councilman of Reading was present to discuss the 2006 county budget. He feels that 36 million dollars to be set aside for conservation is commendable but too high of an amount. He feels that the money could be used for other issues. He also suggested a salary decrease of 2% across the board for the next 3 years and see how much that save the county. He also feels the county could save money if we could figure out another way to implement efficiencies into the jury selection process. The final point he discussed was the Antietam Lake hearing and final decision by Judge Schmehl. His main point was that he does not agree with the decision and feels that the Antietam Lake property should remain a city asset.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk