

## **Commissioners' Meeting Thursday, March 2, 2006**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 10:30 A.M. in the Board meeting room on the thirteenth floor 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 C. Scott in attendance. Also present were the County Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq., Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk and County Administrator William E. Dennis. Commissioner Schwank then opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Scott made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski with all voting yes to approve the February 21, 2006 workshop and February 23, 2006 Commissioners' meetings.

### ***Consent Agenda Items***

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Schwank and all voted yes to approve the items listed below:
  - 70.06 A. Resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$ 5,410.00 and 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount \$5,150.00 per listing dated February 24, 2006.
  - 71.06 B. Resolution authorizing Human Resource Recommendations as list dated February 28, 2006.
  - 72.06 C. Resolution authorizing execution by Judith L. Schwank Chair, of the Lease Amendment with the U.S. Farm Services Agency for additional office space for the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the Berks County Agricultural Center.
  - 73.06 D. Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipients Release, Assignment and Closeout forms pursuant to the terms of WIA Grants totaling to \$1,897,477.00.
  - 74.06 E. Resolution reappointing Ruby Lenovich to a three-year term ending on 12/31/08 to the MH/MR Advisory Board
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated February 24, 2006

**Reports:**

1. County Treasurer – Nelson Long, CPA presented his weekly report
2. County Controller – Sandy Graffius presented her weekly report

**Business from the Floor:**

Commissioner Gajewski provided an update on the Federal Budget discussions regarding the continued Human Services funding cuts to the Commonwealth and the impact it would ultimately have on the County's operating budget.

Commissioner Scott indicated that the County lost the appeal with the Environmental Hearing Board against PADEP's (Department of Environmental Protection) approval of the Pioneer Crossing Landfill's proposed expansion. He stated that the county may want to consider appealing to the Commonwealth Supreme Court especially in light of the recent a recent Supreme Court decision for "Eagle Environmental vs. PADEP" where the harms benefits analysis became an issue.

The Commissioners then discussed a recent article submitted to them by the County's Financial Advisor regarding the pending fiscal crisis for government funded pension plans and the hope that legislation would change to permit Counties to replace the required defined benefit employee pension plans to a more manageable defined contribution plan.

Commissioner Schwank informed the board that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has agreed to serve as the sponsoring agency for the County's application to acquire the Naval Marine Center on Kenhorst Boulevard. She stated that other than the cost for rehabilitation of the structure the County's hope is that this acquisition will be at no cost or minimal cost to the County.

**Certificate of Recognition:**

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition for Trooper Ray Albert on his retirement from the PA State Police

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk