

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, April 18, 2006**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 18, 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 C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor, Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

### **II. PRESENTATION:**

- The BCEAC (Berks County Environmental Advisory Council) unveiled the Berks County Children's Health Initiative. Presenting information on Children's Health Issues. Lori and Steve Wheeler; Craig Hafer and Carrie Fink unveiled the new Children's Health website and booklets.
  
- David Patti, Chair of Berks County Industrial Development Authority made an announcement regarding property in Bethel Township. He stated that the property had been sold by the Industrial Development Authority to the ProLogis for the purpose of building a distribution and manufacturing warehouse and suggested that this project could bring 2,5000 new jobs for Berks County. It was explained that the profit by the IDA as resulting of this sale, will go toward the purchase of non-aviation land at the Reading Regional Airport to be used for future industrial development purposes. Tom Mckeon, Director of Berks County Industrial Development Authority, Randall Haag, Chairman of Bethel Township Supervisors and Brian Eckert from the Pennsylvania DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) were also present to discuss.

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

#### **Administrator**

County Administrator William Dennis recognized the great work of our new Election Services Director and her staff for the progress and accomplishments they have made in preparation for the 2006 Primary Election. Debbie Olivieri, Director of Election Services and Elizabeth Briseno, Bi-Lingual Coordinator presented an Election Services Update. They stated that they have equipped voting machines with devices that will enable people with physical disabilities to cast their ballot and in addition, they have purchased signs that will help provide people with disabilities improved access polling places. Ms. Olivieri then stressed the need of at least 23 new poll workers indicating that they have an adequate number of Spanish interpreters they need for the primary elections.

**Agricultural Land Preservation**

Tami Hildebrand, Executive Director of the Ag Land Preservation Board presented the following Berks County farms that have been approved for easement purchase from the State Board meeting of December 15, 2005 totaling 391.90 acres and \$783,800 in total easement purchases (\$254,970 County Funds and \$528,830 State Funds) and from the February 16, 2006 State Board meeting 594.8 acres and \$1,179,600 in total easement purchase (\$669,588 County Funds and \$ 510,012 State Funds). She stated that this brings the total of 386 Berks County farms (representing 44,217 acres) preserved to date.

**Agricultural Land Preservation continued:****Farms approved at the December 15, 2005 State Agricultural Land Preservation Board Meeting:**

Gene & Cheryl Buck- Perry Township, 59.6 acres  
Neil & Doris Hoffman- Perry & Windsor Township, 108.8 acres  
Irene Eyer & Lillian Riegel- Tulpehocken Township, 137.8 acres  
Shalom Farm- Jefferson & Upper Tulpehocken Township, 85.7 acres

**Farms approved at the February 16, 2006 State Agricultural Land Preservation Board Meeting:**

Donald & Miriam Burkholder #1- Tulpehocken Township, 66.8 acres  
Donald & Miriam Burkholder #2- Tulpehocken Township, 162.9 acres  
Roy & Betty Hetrick- Jefferson Township, 120.9 acres  
Nicholas & Verna Kopicz- Centre Township, 53.5 acres  
Kenneth Leiby- Perry Township, 15.0 acres  
Mildred Wilhelm- Upper Tulpehocken & Bethel Township, 175.7 acres

**Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$38,069 as per listing. Robert Patrizio, Director of Budget & Finance presented the budget report.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing Deputy Chief Charles Broad as the Reading Police Department's representative to the to the 911-center Advisory Board and Mr. Gary Haag, Reading Communications Supervisor as the alternate.
- B. Adopt Resolution appointing the members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee of Berks County.

- C. Adopt Resolution re-appointing John Ernesto of Reading to the Berks County Convention Center Authority Board for a 4 year term ending 8/29/2010.

**Commissioner Schwank**

Commissioner Schwank reminded us to participate in the "Lets Pick It Up PA." This April 22, 2006. For more information please visit [www.co.berks.up.pa](http://www.co.berks.up.pa).

Commissioner Schwank also reminded us of the dates for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program that will be held on April 22, 2006 at the Exeter Township Municipal Building (Rt. 422 – Exeter Township) and on October 14, 2006 at the First Energy Stadium (Rt. 61 – Reading).

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Commissioner Gajewski read a letter of support from U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, for full funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Nicolle Schnovel (Slapikas), from Shillington, PA to a three- year term to the Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse for a term ending 02/01/2009.

**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION:**

- A. Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition to Reverend Sherry Lantz and members of the West Lawn United Methodist Church for their volunteer efforts in the Hurricane Katrina Disaster.
- B. Commissioner Gajewski will present and Earth Day Proclamation at the Center Park's Earth Day Celebration this Saturday.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk