

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 9, 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. ENACT ORDINANCE No. 2-06 summarized below:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AN INTEREST RATE MANAGEMENT PLAN; APPROVING THE FORM OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING INTEREST RATE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS RELATING TO ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES OF 1998, ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES OF 1999 AND ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION VARIABLE RATE DEMAND BONDS, SERIES OF 2002; APPROVING THE FORM OF AN INTEREST RATE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT RELATING TO ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SECOND SERIES OF 1992 AND ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SECOND SERIES OF 1993;

Mark Lundquist of Financial S&Lutions, Financial Advisor for the County, presented a brief explanation of the interest rate management plan approved by Ordinance #2 of 2006 by saying this plan will provide an investment opportunity for five of the County's outstanding bonds and projected a conservative estimate of debt service savings of \$5 - \$600,000 by the end of this year. Commissioner Scott noted that many municipalities across the state are also availing themselves of this "abnormal" opportunity in the financial market. Commissioner Gajewski commended Mr. Lunquist for bringing forward many examples financing savings opportunities to the attention of the Board.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Agricultural Land Preservation:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the application of a matching grant in the amount of \$12,000 to the PA Department of Agriculture's Land Conservation Assistance Grant Program to purchase software and hardware to train and automate staff's utilization of GIS programming capabilities. Tami Hildebrand, Executive Director of the Ag Land Preserve Board presented this request of matching funding to the Board. She presented the County match to be \$6,000.

Contract Submissions::

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated May 5, 2006. Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

Planning Commission:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of a grant amendment with the Department of Environmental Protection for an extension of time to complete the required changes in the Sacony Creek and Maiden Creek Stormwater Management Plans. Mike Leventry, Planner presented this request for a time extension explaining that the State DEP was the main cause for the delay in completing this plan.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the appointment of Carl Marks, Chief Operating Officer, Distributed System Services, 3020 Penn Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609, to the Berks County Workforce Investment Board for a two-year term ending June 30, 2008.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Chair of the Board, to execute TEFAP Inventory – Reimbursement Request Form for the period (January, February and March) FFY 2005-2006, in the amount of \$14,235.72 for distributing 129,415.64 pounds of food at \$.11 per pound and to authorize Margaret Bianca, Executive Director, Greater Berks Food Bank for apply for the funds on behalf of Berks County.
- B. Commissioner Schwank reported briefly on her recent week in Atlanta, Georgia at the invitation of the US Department of Defense for the purpose of learning more on the Base Realignment and Closure Process for the acquisition of Naval and Marine Reserve Center on Kenhorst Blvd. She explained that a requirement the county will need to first address is a public notice to determine the homeless needs of the area to determine if this federally owned building could provide for those needs. Commissioner Scott reported that it is unlikely as a recent newspaper article cited the numbers of homeless have decreased.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Commissioner Gajewski read a letter from Congressman Joe Pitts regarding the CDBG Funding program in the FY07 Federal Budget.

Commissioner Gajewski continued:

- B. Commissioner Gajewski then reminded everyone of the FALL FORUM: "Understanding Domestic Violence, Its Impact, and the Importance of the Community's Response" presented by the County and Center for Community Leadership, Albright College which he said is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2006 – 6:30 to 9:00 PM at the Wilson High School.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing Joseph Griffin of Oley, PA to the Berks County Planning Commission for a three year term ending 12/31/07

V. PROCLAMATIONS / CERTIFICATES

Moe Demsko, Security Guards Inc presented a tribute to Russell L. Dusenbury (1911 – 2006) former "Boot Black" (shoe shine man in the old courthouse) to his daughters and displayed a plaque depicting a newspaper article outlining their father, his history with county government and his special musical talents. Moe indicated that this tribute would now hang as a remembrance to Mr. Dusenbury in the Berks County Courthouse lobby in the same location of Russell's former shoe-shine stand.

Commissioner Gajewski then presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Russell Dusenbury Family members.

Commissioner Schwank presented a proclamation for **Nurses Week** to representatives from:

- ❖ **St. Joseph Medical Center:** Debra Starvarski, CNO and Vice President of Clinical Services; and Michele Jones, Director of Emergency and Critical Care Services;
- ❖ **Berks Heim:** Lori Reinhart, LPN and Donna M. Reber RN,C DON;
- ❖ **Reading Hospital:** Susan Teter, R.N. and Bucky Rudolph, Communications Director

Commissioner Gajewski presented a proclamation for **National Transportation Week** to Chris Stuhl, Past President of the Reading Traffic Club.

Commissioner Gajewski then presented a proclamation for **National Nursing Home week** (May 14 – 20). Accepting the proclamation on behalf of the Heim Staff and residents was Donna M. Reber RN,C DON.

PROCLAMATIONS CONTINUED:

Commissioner Schwank, on behalf of the board of Commissioners and joining with the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals presented a proclamation announcing May as Workforce Development Professionals Month; Ed McCann, Director of Workforce Development for Berks County and Chief Operating Officer for the Berks County Workforce Investment Board; as well as representatives from Reading Area Community College; Berks Career and Technology Center; ARBOR E&T LLC; Educational Data Systems Inc [EDSI]; Goodwill Industries Mid Eastern Pa; Pa Department of Labor and Industry- Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership; Berks County Assistance Office; Berks County Employment and Training; Berks County Workforce Investment Board were among those present for this proclamation.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

John Morgan questioned the letter from Congressman Pitts suggesting that it didn't sound reassuring that funding for the CDBG program would continue and reminded all that the net effect for the loss of those funds would be a rise in local real estate taxes.

Don Zeigler introduced himself as the new Civil Rights Coordinator for Abilities in Motion.

Commissioner Scott noted that the stocks for the Railroad industry are trending up as industry discovers the efficiencies derived from rail transportation especially in light of the current fuel cost spikes.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk