

## **Commissioners' Workshop Meeting July 25, 2006**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 25, 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Thomas W. Gajewski, Sr. was not in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq. and First Assistant Solicitor, Christine Sadler Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

Commissioner Schwank opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **II. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

A. Commissioner Schwank presented a certificate of recognition to Leigh Tallas, upon his retirement as Director of Berks County Department of Veterans Affairs. Frank Presock of the Combined Veterans Council thanked Leigh for his valuable service to Berks County Veterans and their families. He said that thanks to the efforts of Mr. Tallas and his staff, Berks County Veterans have received over 36 million dollars in benefits and that Berks County is ranked Number #1 in the Commonwealth and he hoped for the same success in the next Director. Commissioner Scott also paid commendations to Leigh Tallas reflecting on his numerous awards and benefits he brought to the Berks County Veterans. Commissioner Schwank then described the process that County Administrator has recently engaged in with this department head as well as the Facilities Director in which he involved the staff of each department and in this instance the various Veterans Organizations to weigh in with their thoughts to assure that the county selects the most competent individuals to fill these important positions.

### **III. PRESENTATION**

A. Pete Archey, a volunteer advocate for senior citizens announced a series of meetings by the Berks County Senior Citizens Council are scheduled at Senior Centers throughout the county. He explained that the meetings are intended to assist seniors with the coordination of Medicare Part D with Pace and Pace Net prescription programs.

**IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:****Budget Department:**

- A. Adopt a Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$51,300.00. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.
- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated July 24, 2006. Candace Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts to the board.

**Human Resource Director:**

- A. The Human Resource Recommendations list dated July 25, 2006 was presented by Jennifer Beihn, Deputy Human Resources Director.

**Human Services:**

- A. Adopt Resolution to invoice the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$12,455.94 for reimbursement to the Food Bank for distributing 113,235.86 pounds of food for April, May, and June 2006.

**Solicitor**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of any and all documents between the County of Berks and Limerick Garden of Memories, Limerick, Pennsylvania, pursuant to the terms and conditions of Resolution No. 156-06, subject to the review and approval by the County Solicitor's Office. First Assistant Solicitor Christine Sadler indicated that this resolution would provide authorization to process the applicants and all related documents by the Solicitor's office.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Adopt Resolution for the joint appointment of Rebecca Wingenroth to the Industrial Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of office vacated by David Patti to 12/31/09.
- B. Adopt Resolution that Judith L. Schwank, Chair of the Berks County Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign the "Grant Recipient's Release, Grant Recipient's Assignment of Refunds, Rebates, and Credits, and WIA Grant Closeout Tax Certification" for the WIA Grant for Berks County Employment and Training Office on behalf of the applicant.
- C. Adopt Resolution appointing of Connie M. Bashore, James Como, John DeVere, P. Michael Ehlerman, Jonathan Encarnacion, Modesto Fiume, William G. Hornberger, Jr., Albert Kramer, Gary Rightmire, and G. Fred Shaeff, Jr., to the Berks County Workforce Investment Board for 3 year terms expiring June 30, 2009.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schwank, seconded by Commissioner Scott to approve by unanimous yet vote the following resolution as requested by Duane Rashlich, Director of the Berks County Assessment Office.

- 223.06 Resolution authorizing the Berks County Assessment Office to place ads in 6 local newspapers to notify citizens of assessment appeals process. Not to exceed \$2500.00.

**Commissioner Schwank**

A motion made by Commissioner Scott and seconded by Commissioner Schwank to approve the following resolution by unanimous vote noting that

- 224.06 A. Resolution authorizing a \$400 contribution from the General Fund to assist in the printing of an updated brochure for Berks County Food and Fiber System.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott read an e-mail from a County resident regarding the malodorous smells at a hog farm in the vicinity of his home. The Commissioner noted that the Commonwealth Court struck down a decision regarding a zoning set back requirement for a Richmond Township farm, stating that the Nutrient Management Act preempts township regulations regarding manure storage facilities taking away the local municipalities ability to effectively regulate operations that may now be permitted to operate to the detriment to their neighbors.

Commissioner Schwank noted that this and other farm related concerns point to the subject of her planned testimony scheduled for Thursday before U.S House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and research Subcommittee. She said the 2007 Farm Bill should include the technical assistance funds needed to help small and large farmers such as this one to operate in a manner that does not harm the environment.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk