

Commissioners' Board Meeting August 31, 2006

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, August 31, 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 Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, First Assistant County Solicitor Christine Sadler, Esq., and County Administrator William E. Dennis.

Commissioner Schwank 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 to approve the August 22, 2006 Commissioner workshop minutes and the August 24, 2006 Commissioners meeting minutes, all voted yes to approve.

Consent Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Gajewski, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 262.06 A. Resolution to award, as a result of Invitation to Bid #06-09-MB (Re-Bid), a one year contract to supply and deliver via transport truck #2 fuel oil (estimated 50,000 gal.) for \$117,335.00 for use in heating at the Ag Center to:
 - ISObunkers, LLC
 - 5353 E. Princess Anne Road, Suite F
 - Norfolk, VA 23502
 - 263.06 B. Resolution to award, as a result of Invitation to Bid #06-10-MB a one year contract to supply and deliver Uniforms for the Sheriff's Deputies totaling \$38,656.50 to:
 - Atlantic Tactical
 - 772 Corporate Circle
 - New Cumberland, PA 17070
 - 264.06 C. Resolution approving the execution of a Grant Agreement commencing 1/1/07 to 12/31/08 for Victim/Witness Assistance funds in the amount of \$386,506.00 with between the County of Berks and the PCCD (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency)

- 265.06 D. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated August 29, 2006.
- 266.06 E. Resolution authorizing the execution of the Program Management Agreement for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – a five year program with the Federal Government running through September 30, 2011.
- 267.06 F. Resolution authorizing the execution of the State Food Purchase Program Plan of Operation for Berks County for State Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007; the State Purchase Option Request for Waiver, for FY2006 – 2007.

Program Director, Peg Bianca attended the meeting to answer questions on the TEFAP and the State Food Purchase programs and agencies in the county that distribute food to low income individuals. She compared the amount of food managed by this county in comparison to other surrounding counties and described the Kids Café program designed to children from low income households and expressed disappointment that they are only able to reach 10% of that population. She said 18,000 Berks County children are eligible and only 1,500 participate. She took issue with the suggestion that this program is a draw for low income citizens to Berks County but agreed that there may be occasional abuse of the system by certain recipients as with any social service agency. She explained that each person is required to complete a “self declaration of need” form and she monitors each distribution center, collects the forms and reports the information to the Department of Agriculture. She said the program is audited two times a year by the Department and many of the distribution centers are manned by volunteers. She said that the average distribution of 50lbs of food per person per year isn't enough to draw people to this area. Commissioner Schwank suggested that the issue of substance abuse and the low cost of housing are contributing factors to the problem. Commissioner Scott summed up by saying that he supports the feeding of needy people and appreciates all that Peg and the many agencies provided for this need are following the established regulations, but suggested that these regulations such as the declaration form recipients are required to sign should include language to require recipients to be legal residents and that violations should result in penalties.

- 268.06 G. Adopt Resolution approving Parts Two and Three of Natural Land, Farmland and Open Space Conservation Program. (Parts Two and Three are the Municipal Land Protection Program and the Private Conservation Organization Grants.)
- 269.06 H. Adopt Resolution appointing the members of the Countywide Law Enforcement Study Committee.

Commissioner Gajweski suggested that a second Borough Mayor be selected to serve as the alternate to Mayor Stanko of Wyomissing. He also questioned whether the proposed legal representative was serving as a Solicitor. Commissioner Schwank indicated that Mr. Hatt was intending to serve as a volunteer.

Police Study committee continued:

The board agreed that any costs incurred by this committee will need prior approval by the board of commissioners. Commissioner Scott said that this committee should function as a "top down" organization, meaning that the Commissioners are responsible for the appointments and the expenditures of the committee. He then questioned the need for a facilitator. Commissioner Gajewski suggested that the committee define the mission and suggested that an RFP may not be necessary. Commissioner Schwank indicated her agreement with Commissioner Scott in stating that this is a Commissioners' initiative but she supported the use of John Kramer as a group facilitator due to his experience in local governments as well as his contacts with numerous criminal justice education agencies which would prove valuable when the County issues an RFP for consultants.

Commissioner Gajewski said that he would provide information on some short term aids such as inter-municipal agreements

2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated August 25, 2006.

Reports

1. County Treasurer – Bill Dennis, County Administrator, read report.
2. County Controller – Sandy Graffius, Controller, read report.

Non Consent Agenda Items

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below:
 - 270.06 I. Ratify and Confirm execution of a grant agreement dated June 26, 2006 between the County of Berks and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for \$46,085.00 in Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program funds for both the Jefferson, Penn, Bernville Area Comprehensive Plan, and the Oley, Alsace, Ruscombmanor Comprehensive Plan.
 - 271.06 J. Authorize utilization of temporary agency for Fiscal Technician at BCCYS, effective 9/1/06 until January 4, 2007. Rate not to exceed \$15.50 per hour.

Public Comment

Robert Quinter, resident from Exeter Township and Exeter School Board member said that citizens he has spoken with are overwhelmingly in support of a county wide police department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk