

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, October 3, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 3, 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 W. Gajewski, Sr., and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller 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. PUBLIC HEARING- October 5, 2006:

Peter T. Edelman, Esq of Stevens and Lee requested the Commissioners to hold a hearing on October 5, 2006, to take comments and adopt a resolution approving a financing project by the Cumberland County Municipal Authority of a project for the benefit of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, The Lutheran Home at Topton, Pennsylvania, Lutheran Services Northeast, The Lutheran Welfare Services of Northeast Pennsylvania, Inc. Tressler Lutheran Services and Hospice Saint John (Collectively the "Obligated Group") which project consists generally, of the funding of various capital improvements at the facilities of the obligated group. Mr. Edelman explained that this project will not result in any obligation by the County of Berks but according to IRS regulations the County in which the project being financed is located must approve it. He indicated that this financing, if approved, will provide approximately 8.5 million dollars for the Diakon Lutheran Home in Topton.

III. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Commissioner Schwank presented a Certificate of Recognition to Fred Fisher, Accounts Payable Supervisor, upon his Retirement.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$448,813, and 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$21,403, per listing dated September 29, 2006. The budget report was presented by Robert Patrizio, Budget Director.

- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated 10/2/06. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts.

Children and Youth

- A. Adopt Resolution approving execution of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families State Transition Grant (STG) Application FY 2006-07 in the amount of \$1,087,442. In the absence of the CYS director, Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, explained this one time funding grant was intended to provide funds as a result of the loss of TANF funding.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Per the July 11, 2005 order of certification by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board, authorize amendment of the collective bargaining agreement between Pennsylvania Social Services Union, Local 668, Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO and County of Berks effective January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007. Jennifer Biehn, Deputy Director for Human Resources presented this contract.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Liberty Environmental Consultants and with Susan Legros, Esq. Stevens and Lee regarding continued consultation on the Cabot Supermetals Air Permit Application- Request submitted by the Berks County Environmental Advisory Council. Commissioner Scott said that since the Cabot Supermetals Plan is located on the boundary between Montgomery and Berks Counties he would draft a letter to the Montgomery County Commissioner to request their participation in this permit review process.

Commissioner Gajewski

Commissioner Gajewski said he sent a letter to Berks' State Delegation regarding SB 1333 regarding the funding methods for Children and Youth programs utilized by the State.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Commissioner Schwank discussed the Countywide Law Enforcement Study committee's recent meeting and felt that the outcome was much more positive than what was reported in the newspaper. She also reported that a survey was sent to all committee members and will be forwarded by John Kramer to the municipalities.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Commissioner Scott said that he wants to see the committee move expeditiously to hire an unbiased professional consultant, preferably one outside of this area, to move this study forward instead of having members of the committee become caught up with conversations of a broad based forum. He also said that its premature to assume a countywide force will be formed nor did he believe that any decision regarding participation of the municipalities will be made that doesn't provide them with an opt out provision

Commissioner Gajewski said that at a recent city Crime Forum meeting it was announced that Reading is expected to receive \$750,000 in state funds and a \$1,000,000 in federal funds towards crime efforts. He expressed concern for the municipalities on the outer ring of the city, that successful crime initiatives in the city will force the criminals to the suburbs. He suggested that the funding should be used in the region.

VI. PROCLAMATIONS / CERTIFICATES

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week to Todd Jaeger, City of Reading Fire Marshall, and Fire Chief William H. Rehr.

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for Polish American Week to Dorothy Gajewski and Florence Pasko of the Polish American Heritage Assn.

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Proclamation for Columbus Day to Robert Patrizio representing the Italian American Community.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk