

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 17, 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 Commissioners 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. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$76,385.00 and 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$14,242 per listing dated October 13, 2006. Bob Patrizio reported on the budget appropriations and transfers.
- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated October 13, 2006. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts for approval.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated October 16, 2006 – Beth Schiepan presented the list of recommendations to the board and briefly discussed some changes in the Fair Labor Standards Act that applies to the utilization of interns.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving Compression Adjustments dated October 10, 2006.

Engineering

- A. Adopt Resolution to authorize the execution of an Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in an amount not to exceed \$19,460.00 and subject to a \$19,460.00 contribution by the Township of Alsace to rebuild the historic, retaining wall on Skyline Drive.

Engineering continued:

- B. Adopt Resolution to authorize the execution of an Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in an amount not to exceed \$116,550.00 and subject to a *\$116,500.00 contribution by the Township of Lower Alsace (*subject to fund raising efforts by Pagoda Skyline Inc.) to rebuild the historic, retaining wall on Skyline Drive.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Commissioner Schwank discussed a request by Lloyd Hopkins, Jr. Chair of the Agricultural Coordinator Committee for Berks County Community Foundation for the creation of a Berks County Agricultural Coordinator. She suggested that the Budget Director provide a placeholder in the county's 2007 proposed budget for this position.
- B. Commissioner Schwank reported the annual Berks County Farm Tour and suggested that while this county has done a good job at helping to preserve agricultural land, more needs to be done to preserve the farmer. She suggested that the county should play more of an active roll in promoting local farm markets and supporting the local agri-business economy so farming can remain a financially viable option for our residents.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing Betty J. McDonough, 209 Garfield Road, Bernville PA 19506 to the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for a 3 year term ending 2/1/09. Ms. McDonough replaces Susan Sanders, whose term expired.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott then asked Beth Schiepan to answer some specific allegations made as part of a negative political campaign ad against former HR and Interim County Administrator Hal Baker. Beth verified that Mr. Baker was appointed by the Commissioners to serve as interim County Administrator prior to the County's hiring of the Current Administrator. She also stated that the Commissioners set the salary for his temporary appointment at the minimum established rate. The Commissioner stated that he was interested in correcting what he described as a defamation of the character of former County Human Resource Director, Hal Baker.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk