

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, December 19, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 19, 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. CALL TO ORDER- 10:30 A.M.

Observe a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, led by Judith L. Schwank, Commissioner, Chair.

III. PRESENTATION

Commissioner Schwank presented a proclamation recognizing State Representative Sheila Miller, 129th District for her life long commitment to agricultural land preservation in Pennsylvania and Berks County. In addition to her accomplishments with Agricultural preservation, Commissioner Gajewski recognized Representative Miller for her efforts in facilitating grants that paved the way for the Wyomissing Community Partnership and her work in Harrisburg for this County's Veterans. He also reflected on Representative Miller's successful efforts to expedite the funding necessary for the completion of the Rt. #222 corridor on time.

IV. 2007 BUDGET

Resolution No. 371.06 - Authorizing adoption of the 2007 County of Berks Budget and further setting the 2007 millage rate at 6.935. County Administrator Dennis presented the 2007 budget along with the amendments proposed. Commissioner Schwank said that despite the balanced budget, the board continues to meet each week in budget discussions and while attempts are made to hold the line on the position control, she noted that of the 38 proposed new positions, 26 of them relate directly to "corrections" facilities. She then discussed the only proposed position directly related to a Commissioner Initiative which was the Agricultural Coordinator. Commissioner Gajewski discussed the success in reducing the number of county positions from the Voluntary Severance package offered last year by the County. He said that of the 149 county employees taking the offer only 50 needed to be backfilled with a long term estimated savings of \$20 million dollars.

2007 Budget continued:

Commissioner Gajewski then discussed his appreciation for the support of the new Community Corrections initiative which he said is strictly designed to reduce criminal recidivism. He credited a number of employee efforts for the successes achieved in this budget but reflected on the continued need for our state legislature to pass meaningful county tax reform.

Commissioner Scott said that the cost of government drops out of behaviors of citizens of the County and their failure to educate themselves, failure to obey the law and failure to plan for emergencies and future needs. He pointed to the percentage of General Fund expenses for the Courts at 26% and 31% for public safety activities as evidence. He then announced a December 12, 2006 8AM executive session held by the Commissioners for the purpose of discussion law enforcement related personnel issues.

At this time the Commissioner Gajewski made a motion to approve the 2007 County Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott who then asked to provide additional comment prior to the vote and proceeded to read a prepared letter outlining a Disclosure of Conflict as required by the PA State Ethics Act and will be attached to these minutes regarding his membership on the board of the BEP (Berks Economic Partnership). A discussion followed and the vote tabled until Thursday's Commissioners meeting for the Solicitor to determine if the Ethics Act requires the other two Commissioners to act similarly due to their memberships on other county related boards of directors.

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

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$200,913 and 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$854,403 per listing dated December 15, 2006. Robert Patrizio Budget Director presented this report.
- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated December 15, 2006. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts.

Redevelopment Authority

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing advertisement of an Ordinance to establish the Penn Avenue TIF District. Ken Pick indicated that the two taxing entities, Wyomissing School District and West Reading Borough had both approved and endorsed the Tax Increment Financing District. He said he would work with the County Solicitor on the text of the ordinance and schedule it for adoption in January of 2007.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Adopt Resolutions authorizing the execution of the final drafts of eight (8) HR Policy's submitted for review December 4, 2006. Jennifer Biehn, Deputy HR Director, and Susan Schucker, HR Generalist, described the following draft policies and policy revisions and recommended them to the Commissioners' consideration:
- Revised Employee Assistance Program Policy
 - Revised Sick Time Donation Policy
 - Revised Equal Employment Opportunity Policy
 - Revised Employee Classification Policy
 - Position Description Policy – NEW
 - Critical Incident Policy – NEW
 - Fraud and Other Similar Irregularities Policy – NEW
 - Intern Policy – NEW

Public Defender / District Attorney

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the FY 2006 JABG (Juvenile Accountability Block Grant) Application by and between the County of Berks (Chief Public Defender) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding in the amount of \$29,087 (Federal Funds - \$26,178, Local Matching Funds - \$2,909.) covering the project period 4/1/07 to 3/31/08.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the FY 2006 JABG (Juvenile Accountability Block Grant) Application by and between the County of Berks (District Attorney) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding in the amount of \$29,087 (Federal Funds - \$26,178, Local Matching Funds - \$2,909.) covering the project period 4/1/07 to 3/31/08.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing Joseph Griffin Oley, PA 19547 as a Planning Commission representative to the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee filling the term to 12/31/08 for William Baer, who resigned.
- B. Resolution authorizing the execution of the Human Services Development Fund (HSDF) Assurance of Compliance and to further authorize Mary Henry-Moss, Human Service Grants Coordinator to create a new categorical cost center to include the Visiting Nurses organization known as Advantage Home Care and to allocate \$28,922 for the fiscal year 2006/2007 to that cost center.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution reappointing Joseph Williams to the Berks County Planning Commission Board of Directors for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing Dennis Essig, Bernville PA to the Ag Land Preservation Board for a three (3) year term to 12/31/09 replacing Sheila Miller whose term expires 12/31/06.
- B. Resolution authorizing the execution of an Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in an amount not to exceed \$20,090.00 and subject to a \$20,090.00 contribution by the City of Reading to rebuild the historic, retaining wall on Skyline Drive.
- C. Resolution authorizing the execution of an Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in an amount not to exceed \$5,907.50 in additional funding for the Myer Drive bridge emergency repairs in Bethel Township

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution reappointing Mark Braun, Reading, PA to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board of Directors for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2008.
- B. Adopt Resolution reappointing Sherry Cameron, Mohrsville, PA to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board of Directors for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- C. Adopt Resolution reappointing Pamela Hathaway, Reading, PA to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board of Directors for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- D. Adopt Resolution reappointing Melissa Kreps, Wyomissing, PA to the Berks County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board of Directors for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- E. Adopt Resolution reappointing John A. Fielding, Mt. Penn, PA to the Berks County Housing Advisory for a 5 year term expiring 12/31/2011.
- F. Adopt Resolution reappointing Mark C. Scott to the Berks County Planning Commission for a 4 year term expiring 12/31/2010.
- G. Adopt Resolution reappointing Pellegrino J. Orlando, Fleetwood, PA to the Berks County Redevelopment Authority for a 5 year term expiring 12/31/2011.

Commissioner Scott continued:

- H. Adopt Resolution reappointing Clemson Page, Reading, PA to the Reading Public Library Board for a 5 year term expiring 12/31/2011.
- I. Adopt Resolution reappointing David S. Sobotka, Kutztown, PA to the Berks County Municipal Authority for a 5 year term expiring 12/31/2011.
- J. Adopt Resolution reappointing Helen Barsky, Womelsdorf, PA to the Berks County MH/MR Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- K. Adopt Resolution reappointing Edward Chastka, Wyomissing, PA to the Berks County MH/MR Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- L. Adopt Resolution reappointing Arthur E. Grim, Reading, PA to the Berks County MH/MR Advisory Board for a 3 year term expiring 12/31/2009.
- M. Adopt Resolution reappointing Robert Moore, Reading, PA to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a 4 year term expiring 3/10/2007.
- N. Adopt Resolution reappointing Robert Showalter, Sinking Spring, PA to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Board for a 4 year term expiring 3/10/2007.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk