

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, February 27, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 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. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Mr. David Heiland, Director of Veterans Programs, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, presented a plaque to the Berks County Commissioners and to Janice Kingkinger, Director of Veterans Affairs in recognition for their continued support in assisting Berks County Veterans. Mr. Heiland gave special commendations to the Commissioners and noted that for years 2004, 2005 and 2006, Berks County led the State for the most compensation and benefits paid to its Service Veteran citizens. He said this is the first award of this kind ever presented to a Board of County Commissioners. Also in attendance from the Women Veterans of Berks County was Diane Price and Jim Lindsey from the Combined Veterans Counsel.

III. PRESENTATION

Christopher L. Neidert, Chief of Police Exeter Township Police Department, and Robert Flanagan, Chief of Muhlenberg Township Police Department, representing the Berks County Chiefs' of Police Association, presented a proposal to establish a County SERT (Special Emergency Response Team). Several members of the Berks County Chiefs' of Police Association, Berks County District Attorney, Mark Baldwin, and representatives from the Northeast Chester County SERT team (who have been providing training to Five Berks County Police officers representing several Berks County Police Departments) were in attendance to show their support for the Berks SERT. The proposed date for the Berks SERT team to begin was set for 2009, and along with support for this new crime fighting initiative, members of the Chiefs of Police Association asked the Commissioners to consider providing financial support towards special equipment and vehicles that will be needed to support this effort. Final estimates on the financial need will be presented to the Commissioners for additional discussion at the Thursday Commissioners' meeting.

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

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2006 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$27,268.00 and 2006 Appropriations in the amount \$9,243.00 per listing dated February 23, 2007. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the list.
- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated February 26, 2007. Candy Noll, Contract Coordinator presented the list of contracts.

Engineer / Parks Department:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing a contract to be awarded to R. J. Sell Excavating, Inc. 5957 Upper Ridge Road Pennsburg, PA 18073 not to exceed \$773,737.74 for the construction of the Union Canal Trail. Project contingent upon PennDot approval. Bill Westcott, P.E., and Bill Semmel, Director of Berks County Parks and Recreation, were in attendance to present the contract.

Family Court Administrator

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a Lease Agreement between Metropolitan Management Group, 1030 Reed Avenue, Ste 100, Wyomissing, PA and the County of Berks for offices space located at 777 Court Street, Reading, PA, for to the "Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program for a three (3) year term. Lori Mentzer attended the meeting to present the lease agreement which she described as having a county assignment clause for transferring this program to BAAV (Berks Advocates Against Violence) in the event a previously submitted grant application is approved.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution approving five new and amended HR Policies.
 - 1. Conducts and Ethics Policy
 - 2. Domestic Violence in the Workplace
 - 3. Severance Policy
 - 4. Telecommute Policy
 - 5. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Policy--Revised

Human Service Grants Coordinator:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the Assurance of Compliance Certificate with respect to the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP), and further authorizing Mary Henry-Moss, Human Service Grants Coordinator, the ability to distribute \$6,000 of HAP Funds to Easy Does It, Inc. for their Bridge Housing program in the Reading facility for the fiscal year 2006/2007. **Held from previous meeting.**

Solicitor:

- A. Resolution authorizing execution of the Fourth Amendment to Lease Agreement between 501 Crescent Partners, L.P. and the County of Berks, for office space used by Career Link, implementing a lump sum payment of \$94,101 to be paid to 501 Crescent Partners, L.P. for renovation costs and removes the amortization construction cost from the current lease. County will be reimbursed the full amount through a federal grant by forwarded funds.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Treasurer to transfer the February 2007 ARC payment estimated to be \$800,000.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Commissioner Schwank presented the 4th Annual Great Pennsylvania Cleanup and encouraged Berks County community organizations to get involved in the clean up day set for Saturday April 21, 2007 and further suggested that the county recognize all groups that participate in this challenge.
- B. Commissioner Schwank also encouraged the other Commissioners to submit their comments on the WMS review document for the new Ag. Coordinator position so this can be placed on the Salary Board agenda within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Commissioner Gajewski send he contacted Congressman Gerlach for his assistance in contacting the CDC (Center for Disease Control) to enlist their help for the Muhlenberg Township "cancer cluster" concern recently reported in the Reading Eagle.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Commissioner Scott reported on recent conversations with Steve Wheeler of the BEAC (Berks Environmental Advisory Council) regarding the EAC's coordination of a health survey to determine the best way to study the cancer rates in the Muhlenberg Township area.

- B. Commissioner Scott also reported on the results of information he gathered regarding the fees and costs charged by third parties in the County Employee 457 Deferred Compensation plan and found them to be much higher than expected. He indicated that the county may need to shop around for a better deal for employees.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk