

Commissioners' Board Meeting May 24, 2007

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 24, 2007, 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, 1st Assistant Solicitor Christine Sadler, Esq., and County Administrator William E. Dennis. County Solicitor Alan Miller was not in attendance.

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 May 17, 2007 Commissioners meeting minutes, all voted yes to approve.

Departmental Reports

County Administrator

Bill Dennis presented his weekly report, attached.

Commissioner Scott asked 1st Assistant Solicitor Sadler whether or not there had been any election complaints submitted in writing to Election Services, and what the procedure is if one is received. Ms. Sadler replied that to her knowledge none had been received as yet and that Election Services would turn the complaint over to the Board of Elections who would, in turn, submit the complaint to the District Attorney as needed. She did reiterate that any complaints need to be submitted in writing to Election Services, and if someone wanted to go straight to the DA, they were free to do so. Commissioner Scott also expressed concerns about voter intimidation at polls and he feels the need to improve education for candidates and their poll workers, in order to learn what is and is not permitted. Commissioner Schwank agreed that complaints need to be received in writing to be acted on appropriately, and suggested an information session for all candidates be held before the next election.

Controller Graffius noted that 945 checks were written for poll workers. This initiative to pay the poll workers on Election Day was a success.

Consent Agenda Items

- I. A motion was made by Commissioner Gajewski, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted unanimously to approve the items listed below, with the exception of Resolution 143.07, which is being held for further review:
 - 138.07 A. Resolution authorizing the execution of an Agreement between the County of Berks, Adult Probation Department and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole **Supervision Fund I.D. No.: 06-06-07/08SF** for the period 7/1/07 - 6/30/12.
 - 139.07 B. Resolution authorizing the execution of an Agreement between the County of Berks, Adult Probation Department and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole **Grant-In-Aid Funds I.D. No.: 06-07/08-CP** for the period 7/1/07 - 6/30/12. Nancy Xavios will attend to discuss the two agreements.
 - 140.07 C. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$28,050 per listing dated May 18, 2007.
 - 141.07 D. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute a grant application and agreement by and between the County of Berks (Emergency Management) and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant covering the period July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
 - 142.07 E. Adopt Resolution for Human Resource Recommendations per list dated May 24, 2007.
 - 143.07 F. Adopt Resolution approving the finalized drafts of the Employee Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement Policy Revision. **Held for further review.** Clerk of Courts Jim Troutman questioned whether or not an employee would be reimbursed for a one-time expense if it is under the \$50 requirement. Policy committee will look into how to handle these one time expenses and submit the revised policy for approval.

- 144.07 G. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness of the following parcels and tax years, including all penalties and interest:
1. 401 S. 6th Street, .090 lot, City of Reading (PIN #02-5306-35-87-4973), 2006 County taxes.
 2. 422 S. 6th Street, .110 lot, City of Reading (PIN #02-5306-35-87-3709), 2006 County taxes.
 3. 400 S. 6th Street, .500 lot, City of Reading (PIN #01-5306-35-87-3900), 2005 & 2006 County taxes.
 4. 33 N. Main Street, .240 acres, Lot 1, 33 N. Main Street, Union Township, 2005 and 2006 County taxes.
- 145.07 H. Resolution authorizing adoption of a policy concerning employee participation in the County Pension Plan.
- 146.07 I. Resolution authorizing a Settlement Agreement between the County of Berks, Berks County Board of Inspectors (f/k/a the Berks County Prison Board) and the Central Pennsylvania Teamsters Health and Welfare Fund regarding a grievance arbitration award.
- 147.07 J. Resolution authorizing execution by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement between the County of Berks and the Reading School District concerning the possession of firearms by members of the Juvenile Probation Officers.
- 148.07 K. Resolution appointing Patricia Blackwell, Wyomissing, PA, to the Children & Youth Services Advisory Board to fill the expired term formerly held by Cathleen Palm. Term will end 6/8/09.
- 149.07 L. Resolution encouraging citizens to report illegally dumped trash announcing an added incentive of tip of up to \$5,000 from Crime Alert Berks County.
- 150.07 M. Resolution urging our legislators to pass H.B. 1286 which would provide a COLA increase of 3% for MH/MR, CYS, Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Long Term Care.
2. Motion authorizing Judith L. Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated May 21, 2007.

Reports

1. County Treasurer –County Administrator Bill Dennis read report for Nelson Long, CPA.
2. County Controller – Mark Hanson, Chief Deputy Controller, read report. Controller Graffius who arrived later, noted that the pension reports will be distributed with the next payroll.

Reports of Commissioners*Commissioner Schwank:*

- Reported on the Legislative Work Day on Tuesday, May 22, commending George Kovarie of Children and Youth Services, George Vogel of Council on Chemical Abuse, Joe Cirulli and Mark Boyer from the Youth Center, and Barbara Coffin of Office of Aging for a well orchestrated lobbying day.
- Reported on an email that all Commissioners received from Congressman Holden's office regarding a meeting to be held on May 30th at noon at City Council Chambers for a follow-up with the EPA to discuss the Exide cleanup.
- Noted that she received correspondence from Craig Hafer of BCEAC regarding a consultant contract (to review the DEP Permit application for the Western Berks Landfill expansion) where he suggested that the Harms Benefit analysis be removed from the contract, therefore saving approximately \$1000.
- Commissioner Schwank noted that she would like to convene a meeting mid June to discuss the Ag coordinator resumes that have been submitted.

Commissioner Gajewski:

- Noted that a response was received from Rep. David Argall regarding Senate Bill 611. Rep. Argall specifically mentioned that he will be supporting the bill when it comes to the House floor for vote.
- Reported that there is a meeting scheduled in Richmond Township in mid June about the quarry expansion. He is awaiting a proposal from Chris Hartman for the County's evaluation of the area, which should arrive in the next few days.

Commissioner Scott:

- Reported on a recent conference he attended on May 22nd, titled Agriculture's Trend toward Innovative and Niche Farming Conference and held in Montgomery County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk