

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 11, 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. in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, 1st Assistant Solicitor Christine Sadler, Esq. and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. Commissioner Mark C. Scott and Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq. did not attend the meeting.

Commissioner Schwank opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/REQUESTS:

Administrator:

- A. Weekly Report, attached.

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$144,010, and 2007 Appropriations in the amount of (\$76,826). Bob Patrizio, Budget Director, presented the report.
- B. 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 September 7, 2007. Candy Noll, Contract Coordinator, presented the list of contracts.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations per list dated September 11, 2007.
- B. Jennifer Biehn Deputy HR Director discussed the County's Affirmative Action Plan for 2007-2008 stating that no major changes to last year's plan are expected with the possible exception of creating a diversity council and participating in additional community reach out initiatives.

Juvenile Probation

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with Wegman's Catering, on behalf of Berks County Juvenile Probation for \$15.00 per person for approximately 100-120 people (with respect to a Volunteer Recognition Dinner to be held Tuesday, October 30, 2005 at 6:00 PM at the Berks County Agricultural Center Auditorium, honoring participants in the Juvenile Probation Community Youth Aid Panel Program. Total County cost for the Recognition Dinner is estimated to be \$1,010.00, and includes certificates, awards and other supplies. Laurie Hague attended the meeting to discuss the dinner.

Open Space and Recreation Advisory Council

- A. The following six (6) recommendations for Open Space and Recreation Advisory Council (OSRAC) Grants for 2008 were presented by Matt McGough, Planner with the Berks County Planning Commission who explained that these six from eleven submitted requests were recommended for a funding total of \$122,000.
1. Natural Lands Trust - \$25,000
French Creek State Park, Sheeder/Yelenoc Acquisition – preservation of these properties to add to French Creek State Park (OSRAC recommends funding in the amount of \$25,000)
 2. Blue Mountain Wildlife, Inc. - \$12,000
Therman Madeira Switchback Trail 2007 Improvements Project – Phase I: creating 230 feet of new trail; Phase II: grooming Kernsville Dam Monument parking lot, Wetlands Trail, and Therman Madeira Trail (OSRAC recommends funding in the amount of \$12,000)
 3. Schuylkill River Greenway Association - \$25,000
Thun Trail Gap Connections Project – Phase IV: Trailhead Development and Landscaping for Morlatton, RACC, Union Township, and Brentwood Trailheads (OSRAC recommends funding in the amount of \$25,000)
 4. Maiden Creek Watershed Association - \$18,000
Saony Creek Trail Phase II – connector to Phase I between the Saony Creek and the school district complex and athletic fields, buffers plantings (OSRAC recommends funding in the amount of \$18,000)
 5. Brecknock Township – \$25,000
Brecknock Horseshoe Trail Conservation Easements Phase II (OSRAC recommends funding in the amount of \$25,000)
 6. City of Reading - \$17,000
Angelica Creek Bank Stabilization Project – restore approximately 700 feet of Angelica Creek including bank stabilization, grading, and tree planting (OSRAC recommends funding in the amount of \$17,000)
- B. Landfill Grant (Environmental Defense Fund) Amendment RGA-2938-07. Brecknock Township is requesting an amendment to expand the scope of work for the original project. Brecknock Township's original cost estimates turned out to be high and they were able to acquire additional easements for the initial phase of work. Therefore, they would like to expand their original proposal to include these additional easements.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Commissioner Schwank noted that she received a letter from Rep. Santoni regarding the cleanup of the Felix Dam area. The Department of Environmental Protection has arranged with the Army Corps of Engineers to begin work this fall.
- B. Commissioner Schwank reported that the Commissioners have received a copy of a proposal from Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to conduct a study of policing in the County. A copy of the proposal will be sent to all Countywide Law Enforcement Study Committee members as well as all county police chiefs. She also mentioned that The Governor's Center for Local Government Services (Department of Community and Economic Development) may be interested in providing funds for the study.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Commissioner Gajewski announced that Stop Dumping on Berks will be highlighted on BCTV's Local Government in Berks, hosted by John Kramer, tonight at 8 PM.
- B. Commissioner Gajewski reported that information sessions will be held for anyone interested in mentoring inmates from the Community Corrections Center. Greater Reading Conference of Churches is sponsoring the sessions which will be held: September 19th at 7 PM at Nativity Lutheran Church, 1501 N 13th Street, September 29th at 10 AM at St. Catherine's RC Church, Exeter Township, October 13th at 10 AM at St. Mary's in Kutztown, October 27th at 10 AM at St. Peter's RC Church on South 5th Street in Reading, October 29th at 7 PM at Glad Tidings in West Lawn, November 3rd at 10 AM at First Century Church on South 10th Street in Reading.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk