

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, October 2, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 2, 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. PRESENTATION

Carey Kaucher, Berks County Special Projects Coordinator and Mary Henry-Moss, Human Service Grants Coordinator presented the following winners of the **raffle for the Needs Assessment Survey**: Roy Miller - Caesar's Pocono Resort; JoAnne Diaz - 4 Pack of New Year's Eve buttons and Bruce Wanner - 8 Pack Reading Phillies Deck Party. It was reported that the tabulation results of this survey were anticipated in the coming months.

Clyde Myers, Sheila Miller and Sandy Kauffman of the **Berks County Farm Museum Action Committee** presented their report regarding the cost, time line for relocation, funding sources and site for reconstruction of the 140 year old Merkey barn located in Bethel Township. Commissioner Schwank first introduced Sheila Miller stating that in addition to being a member of this committee, Mrs. Miller was appointed to the position of Berks County's Agricultural Coordinator. Mrs. Miller thanked the Commissioners for creating this new position and congratulated the board for taking the step to move the farming community forward. She then provided an outline of the proposed plan and introduced Sandy Kauffman, President of the Andulhea Heritage Center together with Clyde Myers and Dr. Robert Reynolds, Executive Director of the PA German Cultural Heritage Center who described the barn as an excellent example of a Pennsylvania German bank barn an one of the best he has ever seen of this size. He also mentioned that for several years it was the site of the annual gathering of the Brethren Church congregations in Pennsylvania. The ultimate goal of the Committee is that the barn be dismantled and become part of the PA German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University with the ultimate hope that a foundation be formed to develop the rebuilt barn as a farm museum and educational center.

Tom McKeon, Executive Director of the Berks Industrial Development Authority, owners of the tract of land on which this barn is erected indicated that the IDA is anxious to move forward on the development of this tract and would be willing to contribute funds slightly higher than the what the IDA would have spent to demolish the structure but it would not be close to the \$40 - \$60,000 that has been estimated. He did mention that the project would be eligible for Community Development Block Grant Funds. He then invited the committee to his office for further discussion of the project.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

County Administrator:

- A. Weekly Report presented

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$240,801 and 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$31,733 per listing dated September 28, 2007. Bob Patrizio presented the report for approval.
- 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 28, 2007. Candace Noll presented the list of contracts for approval.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Beth Schiepan, HR Director presented the list of Human Resource recommendations as well as a new Military Leave policy update and requested their approval for the Thursday Commissioners' meeting.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt a resolution appointing James Gilmartin of Hamburg, PA to the existing five year term of Leigh Tallas that expires on 1/2/09 on the Berks County Municipal Authority.
- B. Adopt a resolution authorizing the acquisition and condemnation of easements for the Hay Creek Trail. Commissioner Schwank provided some additional maps and information to the board regarding this trail's location within an existing proposed conservation area known as the Schuylkill Highlands.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt a resolution appointing Charles Seidel of Windsor PA to a an existing three year term of Edward Hartman (deceased) that expires on 12/31/09 for on the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

Commissioner Gajewski

The Commissioner reported on responses received from legislators regarding the transportation funding issue for BARTA.

Commissioner Scott

V. ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk