

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 15, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at the new Bucks County 911 Center, 911 Freedom Way, Ivyland, PA, immediately following a ribbon cutting ceremony. In attendance were Commissioner James F. Cawley, Chairman, Commissioner Charles H. Martin and Commissioner Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia. Commissioner Cawley opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Commissioner Cawley announced that the meeting will be recorded to allow audio playback on the County's website.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Cawley welcomed everyone and stated that the meeting, held at the new 911 and Emergency Operations Center, is a celebration of the County's ongoing commitment to public safety.

Commissioner Cawley introduced elected officials present at the meeting: Pennsylvania State Representatives Paul Clymer, Bernie O'Neill, Scott Petri and Kathy Watson, as well as Larry Glick representing Congressman Patrick Murphy's office and Al Sutter representing Senator Tommy Tomlinson's office. He also acknowledged Ivyland Borough Councilman, Al DiGideo, former County Commissioner, Sandra Miller, Pennsylvania Bureau EMS Director, Joe Schmider, and Bureau of 911 Programs Director for PEMA, Rob Wentzel.

Commissioner Cawley recognized County elected officials who were present: Edward "Duke" Donnelly, Sheriff, Ed Gudknecht, Recorder of Deeds, Mary Smithson, Clerk of Courts and Bill Snyder, Treasurer.

He also acknowledged Police Chiefs from the following municipalities: Bill Wegman of Lower Southampton Township, Nick Rosato of Ivyland, and Steve White of Doylestown Township.

PROCLAMATIONS

The Commissioners proclaimed October 18 and 19, 2008, as "BUCKS COUNTY COVERED BRIDGES FESTIVAL DAYS" throughout the County of Bucks. The Commissioners applauded the Bucks County Covered Bridges Society for its commitment to the promotion, preservation and protection of covered bridges and wished them a successful festival. Bucks County Covered Bridge Society members Wayne Siefert and Bill Wilson received the proclamation, thanked the Commissioners for supporting their commitment to the bridges and invited everyone to attend the festival.

The Commissioners proclaimed October 23 through 31, 2008, as "RED RIBBON WEEK" throughout the County of Bucks and October 25 and 26, 2008, as "PUMPKINFEST" which is the official commemoration of Red Ribbon Week in Bucks County. The Commissioners applauded those who remain drug free and encouraged the public to support the event. The Honorable Donald Nasshorn, Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, received the proclamation and presented a poster displaying the artistry of pumpkin carving at the festival. He invited everyone to participate in the event and in turn, support programs and services that help people with substance addictions.

COMMENDATIONS

The Commissioners commended the performance of Officer Roy Hendricks, Bucks County Security Division, who went beyond the call of duty on September 18, 2008, when he secured an uncontrolled moving vehicle that was dragging the feet of Ms. Filomena Nico. The Commissioners recognized that his courageous and selfless actions prevented a potentially serious collision and saved the woman's life, thereby setting a positive example for others. Ms. Nico also presented Mr. Hendricks with a fruit basket as a token of appreciation.

The Commissioners recognized the service of various Bucks County STRIKE Teams, who mobilized to provide aid for the devastating effects of Hurricane Gustav. The Commissioners, along with John Dougherty, Emergency Management, Harris Gubernick, Corrections, and Larry Glick representing the office of Congressman Patrick Murphy, recognized members of the following squads who were deployed: Bensalem Rescue Squad, Bucks County Rescue Squad, Central Bucks Rescue Squad, Second Alarmers, St. Luke's EMS, Tri-Hampton Rescue Squad and the Warminster Ambulance Squad. Jeryl Degideo, Bucks County Emergency Health Director, praised the volunteers for their work and spoke about their mission to assist with evacuations of hospitals and nursing homes. Mrs. Degideo, along with the Commissioners, commended the willingness and contributions of the STRIKE Teams for the safety they provide to the citizens of Bucks County.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation to the Northampton and Warminster Fire Departments for their assistance during the construction of the new 911 Center, which exemplified admirable teamwork.

PRESENTATIONS

The Commissioners presented a plaque of certification to Debbie Peacock, a Bucks County employee who earned an Emergency Management State Certification from PEMA.

Pennsylvania State Representative Kathy Watson presented a \$50,000 check representing a state grant for a public safety initiative to the Commissioners along with Harris Gubernick, Corrections, and Harry McCann, Police Training, and spoke about the project’s mission statement and its worthiness.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items

Madeline Rawley, a Doylestown resident, spoke on item 3a and asked for a final number of registered voters in Bucks County, the number of voting machines that will be in use on Election Day and how many machines will be reserved for the replacement of malfunctioning machines. Deena Dean, Board of Elections, provided a detailed breakdown of all the figures requested by Ms. Rawley, noting that Bucks County has a total of 444,761 registered voters.

Pennsylvania State Representative Paul Clymer commented on a state directive concerning the presence of political memorabilia within polling places on Election Day. He expressed his opposition to the ruling due to concerns of distractions and issues associated with changing the election code, and encouraged the Commissioners to oppose it as well. Glenn Hains, Solicitor, stated he is aware of the issue and will discuss it with Ms. Dean, and also spoke of the possibility of guidance coming from a Commonwealth Court case.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Ellis-Marseglia corrected the spelling of a name listed on page 13 of the Minutes.

Upon motion of Ms. Ellis-Marseglia, seconded by Mr. Martin, with the vote being 3-0, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2008 were approved, with the above correction noted.

DISCUSSION/AGENDA RELATED ITEMS

Ms. Ellis-Marseglia asked about a request for Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority representatives to speak at a meeting and expressed disappointment that they have not yet done so. Mr. Sanko explained that scheduling conflicts have prevented their appearance but he, along with Commission Cawley, provided assurances that representatives will attend an upcoming meeting. Mr. Martin suggested that answers could be garnered in a timely fashion by forwarding questions to the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority prior to their appearance at a meeting.

Rich Harvey, Agricultural Land Preservation, spoke on item 1a.

Joe Funk, Human Services, spoke on item 4d, and provided a breakdown of the funding. Mr. Cawley commended the performance of Fonta Reilly, Grants Coordinator, whose efforts were responsible for the award of this grant.

David Sanko, COO, spoke on item 5a, and explained the allocation of revenue earned from the provision of services and affirmed that the facility’s first priority will be for the training of Bucks County personnel.

Harris Gubernick, Corrections, spoke on item 6b.

Bill Mitchell, Parks & Recreation, spoke on item 9a, and elaborated on the process of formalizing the current special-use permit in response to the Commissioners’ questions.

Joe Bush, Public Works, spoke on item 10c.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Ellis-Marseglia, with the vote being 3-0, the following Resolutions were approved:

RESOLVED, that the Bucks County Board of Commissioners upon the recommendation of the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, approve the following:

	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>		<u>WITH</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1.	AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION	a.	Edna Geissing and Arlene Landes Yothers Quakertown, PA	Approve purchase of 86.67-acre conservation easement on Geissing farm on Rosedale Rd. in Milford Township. (TMP 23-5-78 and 23-5-97)	\$249,176. (+ settlement charges and adjustments)
2.	AREA AGENCY ON AGING	a.	Bristol Township Senior Citizens Levittown, PA	Approve contract to provide recreational and educational programs. 7/1/08 – 6/30/09	\$65,196.**

		b.	Pennsylvania Department of Aging Harrisburg, PA	Approve amendment to Co-operative Agreement to increase block grant allocation for FY 08/09.	\$513,803. (Revenue)
3.	BOARD OF ELECTIONS	a.	Electec, Inc. Mt. Holly, NJ	Approve rental of 80 additional voting machines for 2008 General Election. 10/7/08 – 12/15/08	\$28,000.*
4.	CHILDREN & YOUTH	a.	American Red Cross Levittown, PA	Approve contract to provide food, clothing and shelter services. 7/1/08 – 6/30/09	\$243,360.**
		b.	Network of Victim Assistance, Inc. Jamison, PA	Approve contract for Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program. 10/1/08 – 9/30/11	\$380,615.
		c.	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA and Elizabeth A. Jacques.	Approve Agreement for Child Welfare Education for Leadership Program. 9/30/08 – graduation	
		d.	U.S. Dept. of Justice – Office of Violence Against Women Washington, DC	Approve Federal Safe Havens grant award to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange options for families. 10/1/08 – 9/30/11	\$398,715. (Revenue)
5.	COMMISSIONERS	a.	Bucks County Community College Newtown, PA	Approve Management Agreement for the Public Safety Training Center at Doylestown. 1/1/09 – 12/31/09	\$550,000.**
6.	CORRECTIONS	a.	ADT Advanced Integration Norristown, PA	Approve contract for emergency repairs to security system at jail. 9/30/08 – 12/31/08	\$25,955.36
		b.	R.W. Powitz Associates, P.C. Old Saybrook, CT	Approve contract to provide forensic consulting services to Youth Center and Corrections. 1/1/08 – 12/31/08	\$15,000.**
7.	JUVENILE PROBATION	a.	Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Bucks County, Inc. Jamison, PA	Approve contract to provide counseling services to juveniles and families. 7/1/08 – 6/30/09	\$200,000.**
		b.	Timothy Munsch, MS, CAC and Teri Kistler, LSW Hellertown, PA	Approve contract to provide individual and group counseling services. 7/1/08 – 6/30/09	\$12,000.**
		c.	NOVA Jamison, PA	Approve contract to provide counseling for victims of juvenile offenders. 7/1/08 – 6/30/09	\$50,000.
8.	NESHAMINY MANOR	a.	Delcrest Medical Services Ivyland, PA	Approve contract increase for routine maintenance and repair to resident wheelchairs. 11/1/07 – 10/31/08	\$5,000.**
		b.	Delcrest Medical Services Ivyland, PA	Approve contract increase to purchase medical and surgical supplies for residents. 1/1/08 – 12/31/08	\$6,000.**
		c.	Delcrest Medical Services Ivyland, PA	Approve contract to purchase wound care supplies for residents. 1/22/02 – 1/21/09	\$23,000.**
		d.	Scott Kendal Bohr Blue Bell, PA	Approve contract to provide pastoral services to residents. 1/1/08 – 10/31/08	\$13,700.**

9.	PARKS & RECREATION	a.	Paul D. and Kim A. Havis Erwinna, PA	Approve acquisition of 23.079 acres adjacent to Bucks County Horse Park in Nockamixon Twp. in lieu of condemnation. (T.M.P. 30-011-217 and 30-011-216)	\$640,000.** (+ insurance/ settlement costs)
10.	PUBLIC WORKS	a.	Engines, Inc. Northampton, PA	Approve contract increase for repairs to generators. 1/1/08 – 12/31/10	\$15,000.**
		b.	Nimaris Construction, L.P. Bath, PA	Approve contract for repairs to Uhlerstown Covered Bridge in Tinicum Township.	\$195,378.*
		c.	Penn Environmental & Remediation, Inc. Hatfield, PA	Approve contract for emergency construction of a drip irrigation treatment system at Hidden Valley Landfill.	\$281,500.
		d.	Premium Excavating Morrisville, PA	Approve contract decrease; no underground tanks or wells found during demolition.	[\$4,000.]
11.	TREASURER	a.	Pennsylvania Game Commission Harrisburg, PA	Approve contract to implement new equipment to issue hunting licenses/permits. 12/1/08 – open	\$20,700. (Revenue)
12.	OTHER CIVICS	a.	Fire Professionals Aiding Children	Approve Payment	\$4,500.

*Unit Cost/Estimated for operational purposes only.

**Unit Cost/Not to exceed

II. MISCELLANEOUS

Upon motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Ellis-Marseglia, with the vote being 3-0, the following Resolutions were approved:

Approve Ordinance No. 134 Authorizing and Directing Incurring of Electoral and Nonelectoral Debt through issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an aggregate principal amount of \$69,900,000 for the purposes of providing funds for the construction of certain county facilities and various other projects and improvements, as well as providing funds to refund certain of the County's previously issued and outstanding General Obligation Bonds.

AND the proper officers are authorized to execute all documents necessary to carry this Resolution into effect.

Brian Hessenthaler, Finance, explained the action that the county will be taking and spoke about the current market situation and the flexibility that the ordinance provides. He gave a detailed breakdown of where the money will be appropriated in response to Ms. Ellis-Marseglia's request, highlighting that the two main projects to receive funding will be open space and the county parking garage.

Lynn Bush, Planning Commission, provided details of the comprehensive open space "green" plan which is being updated through grant funding. She said the Planning Commission has been developing a work program to incorporate components of the comprehensive plan and Ms. Bush invited the Commissioners to visit the Planning Commission to view progress that has occurred.

Mr. Hains recognized the presence of the bond council who were present and available to answer questions.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Upon motion of Ms. Ellis-Marseglia, seconded by Mr. Martin, with the vote as follows, 3-0, the following Resolution was adopted:

Adjustment #09-015-0 Board of Elections

Additional funds needed for General Election due to high voter turnout expected.

Adjustment #09-016-0 Area Agency on Aging

Truing up major classes based on Jan - June actuals vs. the approved state plan.

Adjustment #09-017-0 Children & Youth

Anticipated 2008 expenses related to the Safe Havens Grant.

Adjustment # 09-018-0 Public Works/Liquid Fuels

To cover repairs to Bridge #203, Uhlerstown Road, Tinicum Township.

Adjustment # 09-019-0 B.C. Transport

Adjust 2008 pass thru grant for BC Transport, Inc.

AND the proper officers are authorized to execute all documents necessary to carry this Resolution into effect.

PERSONNEL LIST

Upon motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Ellis-Marseglia, with the vote being 3-0, the following Resolutions were approved:

APPOINTMENTS

	NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	DATE*	REMARKS
1.	Benjamin M. Bonzanto J.R.#23	Corrections Officer Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	09/29/08	15.75 PH
2.	Anne M. Camac J.R.#14	Nursing Assistant Unit 03	NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk	10/15/08	13.89 PH
3.	Chanel Y. Carroll J.R. #14	Nursing Assistant Unit 03	NM Nursing 24.0 hrs/wk	09/30/08	13.89 PH
4.	Crystal A. Chest J.R.#14	Nursing Assistant Unit 03	NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk	10/15/08	13.89 PH
5.	Susan Cooper J.R.#63	Registrar Unit 03	Board of Voter Registration 17.5 hrs/wk	09/27/08	11.48 PH
6.	Eric T. Dance J.R.#16	LPN Unit 33	NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk	10/14/08	22.57 PH
7.	Luke J. Devlin J.R. #23	Corrections Officer Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	09/29/08	15.75 PH
8.	Henchon Edouard J.R. #13	Nursing Assistant Unit 03	NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk	09/30/08	13.89 PH
9.	Shahedah Y. Floyd J.R. #14	Nursing Assistant Unit 03	NM Nursing 24.0 hrs/wk	09/30/08	13.89 PH
10.	Sean F. Furlong J.R. #23	Corrections Officer Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	09/29/08	15.75 PH
11.	Richard Gorman J.R. #23	Corrections Officer Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	09/29/08	15.75 PH
12.	Jay Lagana J.R. #23	Corrections Officer Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	09/29/08	15.75 PH
13.	Germaine A. Mancke J.R.#63	Registrar Unit 03	Board of Voter Registration 17.5 hrs/wk	09/29/08	11.48 PH
14.	Rafael Martinez J.R. #23	Corrections Officer Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	09/29/08	15.75 PH
15.	Michael Mattera J.R.#21	Food Service Attendant Unit 03	NM Dietary 24.0 hrs/wk	10/03/08	12.01 PH
16.	Gilberte Noel J.R.#15	Nursing Assistant(Pool) Unit 03	NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk	09/17/08	15.02 PH
17.	Kate B. Otter J.R.#63	Registrar Unit 03	Board of Voter Registration 17.5 hrs/wk	09/27/08	11.48 PH
18.	Edna K. Rider J.R.#76	Seasonal Help (FH) Unit 00	Parks & Recreation 18.0 hrs/wk	09/03/08	7.97 PH
19.	Samantha A. Schuster J.R.#63	Registrar Unit 03	Board of Voter Registration 17.5 hrs/wk	09/15/08	11.48 PH
20.	James J. Sewell J.R.#23	Corrections Officer Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	09/29/08	15.75 PH

REHIRE

	NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	DATE*	REMARKS
21.	Kathleen M. Hodder Sep date 6/20/08	Acting Per Diem Superintendent Unit 00	MCCC 40.0 hrs/wk	10/18/08	38.61 PH

PROMOTION

NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	DATE*	REMARKS
22. Jeffery L. Contino	Community Corrections Officer Unit 01 To Community Corrections Manager Unit 00	MCCC 40.0 hrs/wk To MCCC 40.0 hrs/wk	10/18/08 04/18/09	26.57 PH To 63,050.00 PA To 65,000.00 PA
23. Joseph C. Funk	Dep Dir Health and Human Services Unit 00 To To Health & Human Services Director Unit 88	Human Services 40.0 hrs/wk To Human Services 40.0 hrs/wk	10/15/08	81,537.08 PA To 95,026.85 PA
24. David M. Galione	Counselor Unit 01 To Community Corrections Manager Unit 00	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk To MCCC 40.0 hrs/wk	10/18/08 04/18/09	22.86 PH To 63,050.00 PA To 65,000.00 PA
25. Kierin A. Martin	Counselor Unit 01 To Records Officer Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk To Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	10/11/08	22.86 PH To 22.14 PH
26. Linden M. McGilloway	Corrections Officer Unit 01 To Counselor Unit 01	Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk To Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	10/11/08	20.69 PH To 22.86 PH
27. Marie Monaghan J.R.#81	Resource Specialist Unit 46 To Planner Unit 04	Planning 40.0 hrs/wk To Planning 40.0 hrs/wk	11/17/08	21.04 PH To 23.02 PH

POSITION CHANGE

NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	DATE*	REMARKS
28. Dennis R. Forsyth	Superintendent Operations Unit 00 To Superintendent Operations Unit 00	911 Emergency Response 40.0 hrs/wk To 911 Emergency Response 40.0 hrs/wk	09/13/08	65,110.96 PA To 65,110.96 PA

TRANSFER

NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	DATE*	REMARKS
29. John J. Baranyi	Corrections Officer Unit 01 To Corrections Officer Unit 01	MCCC 40.0 hrs/wk To Corrections 40.0 hrs/wk	10/25/08	20.69 PH To 20.69 PH
30. Diane L. Wolfinger J.R.#36	Buyer Unit 03 To Judicial Clerk Unit 05	Purchasing 40.0 hrs/wk To District Courts 40.0 hrs/wk	10/11/08	18.87 PH To 16.96 PH

PER DIEM TO PERM

NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	DATE*	REMARKS
31. Beth R. Diamond	Nursing Assistant Unit 03 To Nursing Assistant Unit 03	NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk To NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk	09/13/08	13.49 PH To 15.31 PH
32. Taheniyath Imrana	Nursing Assistant Unit 03 To Nursing Assistant Unit 03	NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk To NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk	09/27/08	13.49 PH To 15.31 PH

33.	Ian G. McGuire	Food Service Attendant Unit 03 To Food Service Attendant Unit 03	NM Dietary 40.0 hrs/wk To NM Dietary 40.0 hrs/wk	10/11/08	12.01 PH To 14.08 PH
34.	Virginia M. Miller	LPN(Pool) Unit 31 To LPN Unit 33	NM Nursing 20.0 hrs/wk To NM Nursing 40.0 hrs/wk	09/27/08	26.26 PH To 22.57 PH
35.	Colin Rath	Dispatcher Trainee Unit 03 To Dispatcher I Unit 03	911 Emergency Response 30.0 hrs/wk To 911 Emergency Response 40.0 hrs/wk	09/15/08	13.05 PH To 20.25 PH

END TEMP ASSIGNMENT

NAME	TITLE	DEPARTMENT	DATE*	REMARKS
36. Joseph C. Funk	Acting Health & Human Services Dir Unit 88 To Dep Dir Health and Human Services Unit 00	Human Services 40.0 hrs/wk To Human Services 40.0 hrs/wk	10/14/08	88,282.66 PA To 81,537.88 PA

+eligible for 50 cents/hour bonus if completes season

*estimated date

**Never Started

AND the proper officers are authorized to execute all documents necessary to carry this Resolution into effect.

Ms. Ellis-Marseglia inquired about a memo regarding job postings, to which Mr. Cawley suggested speaking to the Director of Human Resources, Carmen Thome, after the meeting.

Mr. Cawley commended Joe Funk for his hard work while serving as Acting Director of Health and Human Services.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Upon motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Cawley, with the vote as follows, 2-0, a Resolution was adopted to approve the following Appointments: (Miss Ellis-Marseglia was not present at the time of the vote)

Library Board

Mary Ann Beltz – reappointment, term expires 10/16/11

Roberta Forest – reappointment, term expires 10/16/11

Open Space Review Board

Anthony Belfield – reappointment, term expires 11/5/09

George Dranginis – reappointment, term expires 11/5/09

Dr. Joshua Feldstein – reappointment, term expires 11/5/09

Frederick S. Groshens – reappointment, term expires 11/5/09

Marilyn Jacobson – reappointment, term expires 11/5/09

Robert Moffett, Esq. – reappointment, term expires 11/5/09

Hon. William Hart Rufe, III – reappointment, term expires 11/5/09

Andrew L. Warren – reappointment, term expires 11/5/09

AND the proper officers are authorized to execute all documents necessary to carry this Resolution into effect.

MISCELLANEOUS

David M. Sanko, Chief Operating Officer, reported on the following matters:

Yesterday, Brian Duke, Director, Area Agency on Aging, participated in a conference call to discuss the “Stay Warm PA” project, a partnership between the Commonwealth and Public Utility Commission to encourage people to turn down thermostats, seal off unused rooms and weatherize in an effort to save money on energy bills. Additionally, the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program has received more federal funding which has made it possible to raise income eligibility limits and increase the amount of money available for families in need.

State Revenue – Mr. Sanko referenced state revenue projections he announced at the previous meeting as well as the associated implications of the state budget deficit on county funding. Since that time, it has been estimated that the deficit has increased to \$2.5 – 3 billion, which could result in a \$20 million reduction of funding allotted to Bucks County.

State Budget – Mr. Sanko explained that the increased state budget deficit forces Bucks County to face two competing philosophies of government spending – to increase taxes and continue spending or to contain spending without a tax increases. He stated that the current objective of Bucks County’s budget will be to keep taxes at current levels.

Ms. Ellis-Marseglia asked for an update from Vitor Vicente, Community & Business Development, concerning recommendations for heating assistance to citizens. Mr. Sanko responded, stating that the “Warm Pennsylvania” conference call revealed a series of new recommendations that need to be incorporated into the project and will be forthcoming.

PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL

Madeline Rawley, a Doylestown resident, spoke regarding potential long lines on Election Day and measures to ensure efficiency in the voting process, which include the possibility of renting additional machines, familiarizing voters with the ballot and hiring additional poll workers. Deena Dean, Board of Elections, provided a response and added that she also intends to discuss these issues with the Solicitor’s Office.

Sandy Schiff, a Doylestown resident, inquired about an agenda item from the previous Commissioner’s meeting and asked for additional clarification as the discussion on the audio playback was unclear. Ms. Dean responded that she did not have the information immediately available but would address it with Ms. Schiff later.

Mr. Martin asked Ms. Dean about circulating information concerning acceptable forms of ID for first-time voters on Election Day. Ms. Dean spoke of a press release, among other measures, that will disseminate the information.

Patrick Flannigan, a Newtown resident, asked about the status of a petition for a dog park which he forwarded to the Commissioners. The Commissioners thanked him and expressed their support for the project, but said a suitable location must first be identified. Bill Mitchell, Parks & Recreation, stated that a potential location has been discussed but there are additional issues that must be resolved before the project can move forward.

Connie Fewless, a Langhorne resident, suggested that a public sample ballot would increase the efficiency of the voting process and asked if one has been made available to the local newspapers. Ms. Dean identified some logistical problems that would occur with the publication of a sample ballot, but explained that a proclamation will be published listing information such as candidate names, polling locations and ballot referenda. Mr. Cawley suggested that the Office of Public Information work in coordination with local newspapers on this issue.

Nick Rafferty, Fire Marshal, thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of the Fire (“PAC”) Professionals Aiding Children program and expressed his appreciation on behalf of everyone involved.

Joe Schmider, a Bedminster resident and Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of EMS, thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Fire PAC Program and stressed the positive difference this program makes in young lives. He also thanked the Commissioners for their support of Emergency Services in Pennsylvania and their recognition of the EMS STRIKE teams this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next public meeting of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., at the Newtown Theater, 120 North State Street, Newtown, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Cawley, with the vote being 2-0, the meeting was adjourned.
(Miss Ellis-Marseglia was not present at the time of the vote)

Approved:

BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BY:

James F. Cawley, Esq.
Chairman

Charles H. Martin
Commissioner

Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia
Commissioner

David M. Sanko, County Chief Clerk

