

Commissioners' Board Meeting
Thursday, June 3, 2004

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, June 3, 2004 at 10:30 AM 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 Mark Scott, Commissioner Thomas Gajewski, Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, Solicitor Alan S. Miller and County Administrator, William E. Dennis present

1. A motion was made by Commissioner Gajewski, seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted yes to approve the May 25, 2004 and May 27, 2004 Commissioners' Meetings as published.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski, and all voted yes to amend to amend the May 6, 2004 minutes of the Berks County Board of Commissioners to reflect that Ordinance 03-04, as amended which authorized the incurrence of lease rental debt, principal amount not to exceed \$9,625,000 in connection with the Reading Regional Airport Authority's Airport Revenue Bonds Series of 2004, was properly enacted by a unanimous vote of the board.
3. On motion by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski the consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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| 285.04 | A | Reappointment of Honorable Thomas Xavios of 1800 Bern Street Reading, PA 19604, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for a three-year term, appointment to expire 2/1/2007. |
| 286.04 | B | Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipients Release, Assignment and Close-Out forms pursuant to the terms of WIA Grant No. 015013362 in the amount of \$187,690. |
| 287.04 | C | Resolution authorizing a Cooperative Grant Application (\$7,079,308) to the Commonwealth of PA Department of Aging for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006 on behalf of the Berks County Office of Aging |
| 288.04 | D | Resolution authorizing an agreement for the PDA Over 60 Waiver Program (\$597,702) to the Commonwealth of PA Department of Aging for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006 on behalf of the Berks County Office of Aging. |

- 289.04 E Resolution authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated May 27, 2004.
 - 290.04 F Resolution authorizing the establishment of a new account at Wachovia Bank for Health Choices (Restricted Claim Account).
 - 291.04 G Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$ 65,850 per listing dated June 3, 2004.
2. Award a one-year contract for the furnishing of No. 2 Fuel Oil: (Estimated total expenditure under the contract is \$44,910)
- A. **Transport truck deliveries:** Farm & Home Oil Company with an office at 3115 State Road, Box 389, Telford, PA, 18969 **\$0.0450 per gallon** over the weekly OPIS PADD 1 Report, Sinking Spring, High Sulfur #2 column, Average Rack price.
 - B. **Tank wagon deliveries.** Richland Partners LLC, d/b/a Leffler Energy with an office at 225 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 278, Richland, PA, 17087 **for at their bid price of \$0.0990** per gallon over the weekly OPIS PADD 1 Report, Sinking Spring, High Sulfur #2 column, Average Rack price.

Reports

The County Controller and County Treasurer presented their weekly reports.

Citizen Comment/Business From The Floor

Controller Graffius encouraged the Commissioners to consider adoption of the revised travel policy. Christine Sadler, Assistant County Solicitor indicated that the draft policy was still under review and recommended to the Commissioners that they hold on its adoption until all the issues are resolved.

Linda Banizeski, citizen from Alsace Township questioned the Commissioners on the logic of funding pension obligations by creating more debt via a bond financing plan as was described at last Tuesday's Commissioners' Workshop meeting. She expressed frustration regarding her family's struggle with recent real estate tax increases from the county and her local school district as well as the losses suffered from the stock market decline.

Commissioner Scott thanked Mrs. Banizeski for her comments and noted that the Pension Board meetings, where these funding issues are discussed, are open to the public. He explained that the County is required, by statute, to fund this defined benefit pension plan that was established for County Employees.

Commissioner Scott continued: He said he supports the concept of borrowing funds to smooth out the pension fund payments to keep the fund actuarially sound. He indicated that he did not always support the 24 cost of living increases that have been approved by the Retirement Board over the years but supports this concept of financing the County's Pension Plan obligation as he felt it would accomplish the mutual goals of avoiding tax increases due to the required pension obligations yet diminish potential pension shortfalls in the future.

Commissioner Gajewski agreed with Commissioner Scott and expressed that citizens may not speak out about this issue, due to a lack of complete understanding of the Pension Plan requirements placed on the County. He continued by saying that we need to look at the historical trends of the market for the past 70 years which he indicated was showing an average of 11% gains and compare that potential earning power against the projected cost of the bond project of 5%.

Commissioner Schwank commended her colleagues for explaining to the audience the nuances of a complex financing tool.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk