

Commissioners' Workshop Evening Meeting
Tuesday, August 24, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 24, 2004, at 7:00 PM in the Sinking Spring Borough Office located at 3940 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19608, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Mayor Clarence J. Noecker welcomed the citizens to Sinking Spring Borough and thanked the Commissioners for agreeing to bring the workshop meeting to their location. He then introduced other members of the Borough Council in attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Chair Judith L. Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioner Thomas Gajewski and Mark L. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis and Asst. Solicitor Heidi Masano and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

II. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:

Commissioner Gajewski read a Proclamation to announce the week of August 25 to September 1, 2004, as CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF WEEK and will present it at Cabela's since they have "served more Certified Angus Beef value added products than any other restaurant East of the Mississippi River."

John McCormick, Superintendent of the Berks County Youth Center, presented the newly developed Berks County Youth Center program known as P.R.E.P. (Priorities, Responsibilities, Enhancement Program.) John described this program as a model for Pennsylvania as he explained the three major facets of the program planned for each juvenile following detention and prior to returning to their homes. John indicated that the process begins with a Judge sentencing the youth to participate with his family in a court ordered counseling program; then as an effort to provide service to the crime victim, the youth is required to work in some type of community service and the third part involves assuring continuing education for the Juvenile. Commissioner Scott commended John and his staff for thinking "outside the box" for creative solutions to the ever-increasing youth population at the facility. The Commissioner asked John to describe the growth of the Youth Facility and its impact on the County budget from 19 years ago when John began his tenure as the Facility's Director. John stated that 19 years ago the County provided a Juvenile facility that housed 14 beds and no shelter care; with the jump to a 78 bed, 24 hour, seven day a week, juvenile detention facility (shelter care is contracted via private facilities.) In addition to the growth of Court Ordered detention, John described the State requirements which mandate much more strict professional staffing guidelines for the Juvenile population than compared to an adult prison.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Schwank

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
 - a. No. 2095- Community Development Block Grant Program
 - b. No. 470 – Home Grant Program
 - c. No. 471 – Home Grant Program
 - d. No. 1226 – Property Rehabilitation Program
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Edward McCann to sign On-The Job Training Contracts and Subsidized Employment Agreements per list attached to agenda and dated 8/19/04.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank, as Chair of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipients Release, Assignment and Closeout forms pursuant to the terms of WIA Grants numbered 015036031; 015034001; 015033001; 15024151; 015036034 totaling to \$668,693.00
- D. Commissioner Gajewski then announced that the County will be considering an ordinance at Thursday, August 26, 2004 Commissioners meeting which will provide a mechanism for swapping interest rates on existing bond issues thereby providing a potential for \$2,000,000 in unanticipated revenue for the County.

Commissioner Scott

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 budget Transfers in the amount of \$143,200 and 2004 Budget Appropriations in the amount of \$55,638 per listing dated, August 20, 2004. Bob Patrizio, Budget Director was present to discuss the budget appropriations and transfers.

Contract Coordinator:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated, August 20, 2004. Candace Noll was present to answer questions on the contracts as presented. There were no questions.

Purchasing Director:

- A. Motion to Award Invitation to Bid #04-06-RC, a one-year contract for the furnishing of incontinent pads to ATD-American Company with an office at 135 Greenwood Avenue, Wyncote, PA, 19095-1396 at their bid price of \$48.88 per dozen. Estimate annual expenditure is \$14,664.00 (300 dozen). Renee Carpenter, Purchasing Director was present to discuss bid results and the savings the County has accumulated utilizing several methods of bidding, negotiating State and NACO (National Association of Counties) contracts for better prices.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Chief Clerk Terry Styer then presented the Berks County Governmental Directory update.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

A discussion followed several questions from Sinking Spring Councilmen regarding regional policing and a meeting being organized by Commissioner Gajewski.

Commissioner Gajewski responded by describing the study process as well as grants that are available from the DCED (PA Department of Community and Economic Development and the PCCD (PA Coalition for Crime and Delinquency). A long discussion followed regarding regional policing and regional municipal cooperation in general. The general consensus of the Board of Commissioners was that regionalization of services was the way of the future once the optimal size of each organization that is formed via inter-municipal cooperation can be determined.

Commissioner Schwank then read a letter from a group of municipal officials serving on the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) Steering Committee who commended the County's Planning Commission staff and in particular Shannon Rossman for her efforts in coordinating 45 municipalities of the County to reach compliance with the law. (The 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments including the Phase II NPDES Storm Water Regulations.)

Commissioner Gajewski then read a prepared statement (attached to these minutes) responding to a newspaper article he felt criticized the County's recent cost saving efforts.

Commissioner Scott offered a suggestion to end quarterly payments of \$175,000 to the Berks Economic Partnership which currently employs three individuals and is sitting on a fund balance of \$900,000. He also suggested that the County re-examine all of the County grant funds that are provided to community Human Service Agency Organizations and consider instead utilizing those funds for existing County Human Service programs such as Children and Youth's "non-reimbursable" costs.

Commissioner Schwank also added that the county should assure that we are getting "our money's worth" and suggested that performance audits be considered to analyze the effectiveness of each department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.