

Commissioners' Board Meeting
Thursday, September 30, 2004

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, September 30, 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 Thomas Gajewski and Commissioner Mark Scott in attendance. Also present were the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, Solicitor Alan S. Miller and County Administrator, William E. Dennis.

The Commissioners' Meeting Minutes for the September 21, 2004 Commissioners' Workshop Meeting and the September 23, 2004 Commissioners' Meeting were approved as published with a motion made by Commissioner Scott seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve.

Commissioner Gajewski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Scott and all voted yes to approve the following Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda

1. Authorizing consent agenda items:
 - 407.04 A. Resolution authorizing Pass-through funding contracts between the County, The Berks County Prison Society and the Council on Chemical Abuse.
 - 408.04 B. Resolution authorizing a Contract Administration, G701 Change Order No 4, by and between the County of Berks, the Engineer (Elliot Leboeuf & Associates), and the General Contractor (R. S. Mowery and Sons, Inc.), for the new Live Fire Training Prop, in the amount of \$281,025.62; and for a Contract Administration, G701 Change Order No 2, by and between the County of Berks, the Engineer (Elliot Leboeuf & Associates), and the Electrical Contractor (The Warko Group) for the new Live Fire Training Prop, in the amount of \$3,340.00.
 - 409.04 C. 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 Grant numbered 015029101.
 - 410.04 D. Resolution Authorizing execution of Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in the allocated amount of \$165,000 for the Township of North Heidelberg to replace the damaged and deteriorating Heidel Road Bridge.
 - 411.04 E. Resolution authorizing the Fiscal year 2004/2005 HealthChoices Capitation Rates.

- 412.04 F. Resolution authorizing 2004 budget transfers in the amount of \$749,589 per listing dated September 23, 2004 and budget appropriations in the amount of \$185,510.
2. Motion authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
1. No. 2101 – Community Development Block Grant Program
 2. No. 475 – HOME Grant Program
 3. No. 1230 – Property Rehabilitation Program
3. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated, September 23, 2004

Reports

The County's Deputy Controller, Mark Hanson and County Treasurer, Nelson Long, CPA provided their weekly reports to the board.

Agenda Items for Discussion

Kurt Bellman, Elections Director provided the Commissioners with a status report on the successful volunteer coordination effort currently underway in the County Elections office to help with the high volume of voter registration applications received during the last month. He also reported on an upcoming voter registration project with the residents of the Heim (County Nursing Home) and for those eligible to register (non-felons) in the County Prison. He indicated that the State will be providing four (4) read-only terminals for information look up in the SURE system and four (4) additional phone lines to allow volunteers to handle the calls while the authorized staff inputs the data into the SURE system. Kurt commended his new assistant Christopher Winters and expressed appreciation for his dedication and hard work. He then announced that he has established an interactive e-mail address to help with the number of questions from the citizens and hopefully cut down on the phone calls to his office.

Commissioner Schwank said she hoped that we've seen an end to what the county experienced in 2000 with long lines and extended hours at the polls. Kurt Bellman assured the board that every precinct that needed additional voting machines would have them. He expressed confidence that those issues will not occur with this election.

Commissioner Gajewski expressed appreciation to Scott Rehr of the Prison Society and George Wagner, Warden for follow up efforts made to address concerns expressed by Carlos Zayas, regarding the need to make voter registration forms available to non-felon prisoners at the Berks County prison.

There was a discussion regarding the responsibilities and powers of the Elections Board in reference to fraudulent registrants. Kurt Bellman discussed the Election Board's powers to subpoena and hold hearings of those individuals that appear in violation of the law.

Citizen Comment/Business From The Floor

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 11:23 A.M.