

Commissioners' Board Meeting
Thursday, December 2, 2004

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 10:50 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 Miller, and County Administrator, William E. Dennis.

The Commissioners' Meeting Minutes for the November 16, 2004 Commissioners' Workshop Meeting and November 18, 2004 Commissioner's Meeting were approved as published with a motion made by Commissioner Scott seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve.

Consent Agenda

1. Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve the following consent agenda that was seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve.
 - 461.04 A. Adopt Resolution approving and ratifying a Project Modification Request for subgrant #2004-WS-ST-14621 by and between the County of Berks (District Attorney) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), with respect to funding an additional amount of \$35,000.00 for a total project cost of \$90,250.00 and entitled Gang Reduction/Anti-Violence Initiative covering the project period 07/01/2004 – 06/30/2005.
 - 462.04 B. Adopt Resolution amending the contract between the Department of Public Welfare and the County of Berks for the HealthChoices Program.
 - 463.04 C. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$216,213 and Appropriations in the amount \$377,713 per listing dated November 24, 2004.
 - 464.04 D. Adopt Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2004 to the Reading Parking Authority for property situate at 201 Washington Street (ID #06-5307-82-60-3962).
 - 465.04 E. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2004 to the City of Reading for properties situate at 424/426 Penn Street (ID #04530783705051), 428 Penn Street (ID #04530783706024) and 450 Penn Street (ID #045306277797952).
 - 466.04 F. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2004 to the Mt. Penn Fire Company #1 for property situate on St. Lawrence Avenue, St. Lawrence Borough (ID #8I532605181083).
 - 467.04 G. Resolution authorizing tax forgiveness including any interest and

penalty for all outstanding County taxes for the year 2004 to the Bernville Borough Authority for property situate at Garfield Road, Borough of Bernville (ID #29445000738637).

- 468.04 H. Resolution authorizing the Budget Director and County Administrator to provide written authorization to pay bills and execute vouchers when due in the absence of two (2) County Commissioners.
- 469.04 I. Resolution authorizing execution of a Lease Agreement between the County of Berks and Citadel Broadcasting Company, Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, 18002-5096, for antenna space on the Berks County Services Center.
- 470.04 J. Resolution Awarding Request for Proposal #04-11-KL , a one-year contract for the furnishing of auditing services to Reinsel & Company LLP with an office at 1330 Broadcasting Road, P.O. Box 7008, Wyomissing, PA 19610-6008 at their cost proposal of \$62,000.00. The awarded contract will allow for the County to extend the contract for two successive one-year terms.
2. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated, November 23, 2004.

Reports

1. County Treasurer, Nelson Long, CPA presented his weekly report.
2. Deputy Controller presented two weekly reports on behalf of Controller, Sandy Graffius.

Public Comment:

Dorothy Reilly County resident, asked how much of the local tax increase as currently proposed, is due to funding cutbacks at the Federal Government level. Bob Patrizio Budget Director responded by explaining that the Federal Government continues to shift the burden of funding to the State who mandates the services be provided by the counties, who then must make up the funding shortfall via the local Real Estate Tax. He explained that the TANF Fund (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), which provides a very significant funding stream to our child service agencies, has only been extended by the Federal Government until March 2005, so the County has to plan for this budget shortfall to continue to provide these mandated services. A discussion on Social Security and funding for the elderly followed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to an Election Board meeting 11:15 PM.