

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 11, 2005**

***I. CALL TO ORDER:***

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 11, 2005, at 10:30 A.M. in the thirteenth floor Board Room 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 L. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor, Alan Miller, Esq. 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 presented a Certificate of Recognition to recognize Ed Michalik, PHD, Director of Berks County MH/MR program for Receiving his Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology from Immaculata University. The Board of Commissioners commended Dr. Michalik on this significant achievement.

Commissioner Schwank presented a Proclamation for Upper Tulpehocken Township Municipal Building dedication.

***III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:***

***Commissioner Schwank***

- A. Adopt Resolution approving the establishment of a Task Force to explore the creation of a Human Services Department or the County of Berks. Commissioner Schwank suggested that this process will help the board to examine the human services that the county provides either by mandate or choice. She stated that the county will restore fiscal integrity to this county government if we don't restructure human service delivery. She stated that the creation of a human services administrator position or human services department has been discussed in county government for at least six or seven years and for whatever reason the concept, while present in almost every third and second class county in the commonwealth, was never able to get off the ground. She added, "when you consider that at least 45% of the 2005 budget is allocated for human services it seems apparent that this cost should be managed in a more comprehensive way. In addition, we are losing the advantage of administrative as well as programmatic oversight not only within our own departments but also with the countless agencies we contract with to deliver human services. Perhaps even bigger than all of this is the opportunity through better coordination and the power of the dollars we allocate to drive human service delivery for more positive outcomes throughout the community.

**Commissioner Schwank continued:**

Most taxpayers would better understand the dollars we spend here if they knew that we are not only using them wisely but are truly making a difference. "She suggested that a Resolution be added to the Thursday, January 13, 2005 Commissioners' agenda to formally establish a committee or task force to review and expand on the concept and fully develop a proposal a plan to implement a human services department. This committee would consist of County Administrator Bill Dennis, MH/MR Director Dr. Ed Michalik, Human Resources Director Beth Schiepan, a Human Service department head within county government, Juvenile Probation Director Bruce Grim to represent the Court System, a social service agency leader and the County Commissioners.

Some initial concepts to consider:

1. Establish department/position on two or three year fixed term basis to review effectiveness.
2. Utilize staff that are already performing these tasks; reassign them to this function.
3. Employ HSDF funding for start-up funding to minimize impact on general fund

She ended her statement by adding, "while I am fully cognizant of the need to keep from growing county government simply stated I think we can maximize resources and achieve more positive outcomes by truly managing human service delivery." Commissioner Gajewski indicated that while he is reluctant to add new positions, if this concept can improve efficiencies, he would be willing to consider it. Commissioner Scott described his involvement with Human Service agencies, which he began as Assistant County Solicitor for Berks Children and Youth Agency. He said that while he will support his colleagues' establishment of this task force, much more needs to be done at all levels to assure that the funds spent on these clients actually succeeds in reforming behavior issues in children and adults. He described the numerous legal barriers that government agencies face such as HIPAA laws that restrict the ability for sharing information on the clients and their families in need of help, which then severely restricts the agency's ability to affect a change.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

A. Adopt Resolution ratifying payment of invoices on Monday, January 10, 2005 under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:

1. No. 2114-S Emergency Shelter Program - \$19,478.35
2. No. 2113 – Community Development Block Grant Program - \$135,086.73
3. No. 482 – HOME Grant Program - \$15,698.56
4. No. 2115-S State Emergency Shelter Program - \$2,979.75

**Commissioner Gajewski continued:**

- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Edward J. McCann, Director of Workforce Development, to sign On-The-Job Contract and Subsidized Employment Agreement per listing dated 1/7/05.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott updated the board regarding recent information on the Longswamp Township Zoning Amendment. Solicitor Alan Miller indicated that he and Special Counsel for the County, David Balmer would be meeting with several Longswamp Township officials including their Solicitor and Engineer to examine the facts of this case prior to providing a recommendation to the Commissioners regarding any possible litigation that may be available to them prior to the January 28, 2005 deadline for zoning appeals to be filed against the Township.

**IV. OTHER REQUESTS:**

**Purchasing Director**

- A. Adopt Resolution awarding, as a result of Invitation to Bid #04-16-RC, a one-year contract for the furnishing of office cleaning services for the 18 District Justice offices, CareerLink offices and the Library System offices.

The award for the District Justice offices and the Library System offices shall be made to Stubbs Inc., with an office at 613 North Third Street, Reading, PA, 19601 at their bid price of:

Library System	\$105.00/week
DJ Bentz	\$ 50.00/week
DJ Dougherty	\$ 46.00/week
DJ Gauby	\$ 53.00/week
DJ Greth	\$ 58.00/week
DJ Hall	\$ 40.00/week
DJ Hartman	\$ 56.00/week
DJ Kennedy	\$ 40.00/week
DJ Kowalski	\$ 50.00/week
DJ Lachina	\$ 40.00/week
DJ Leonardziak	\$ 48.00/week
DJ Mest	\$ 47.00/week
DJ Patton	\$ 62.00/week
DJ Scott	\$ 41.00/week
DJ Stitzel	\$ 60.00/week
DJ Stoudt	\$ 60.00/week
DJ Walley	\$ 45.00/week
DJ Xavios	\$ 50.00/week
DJ Young	\$ 53.00/week

The award for the CareerLink offices shall be made to Tridon Services Inc., with an office at 961 Marcon Blvd., Suite 108, Allentown, PA, 18109 at their bid price of \$482.00 per week.

As per the Invitation to Bid, the County may extend the contracts for up to two additional one-year terms provided that the vendors agree to hold the bid pricing fixed and firm.

**Solicitor:**

- A. Resolution ratifying, confirming and approving the execution of the Settlement Agreement in regard to a union grievance.

**Contract Coordinator:**

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated 1/7/05.

**Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$ 54,874.00 and 2005 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$1,500 and 2005 Appropriations in the amount \$ 762.00 per listing dated January 7, 2005.

**V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Numerous Longswamp Township and/or Brandywine School District residents attended the meeting and spoke on the topic of the Township's recent zoning amendment and what they considered to be a negative impact on the environment, and the school district, Among those requesting the county's assistance were Winfield Lease, Mark Calafati, Floyd Falcone, Kathy Belky, Robert Lawry, Brandywine School Board Director and Maryann Lantz, who indicated that she was representing four generations of her family who have been Longswamp Township property owners. Commissioner Scott noted that what ultimately may be the downfall to the Brandywine school is that they chose to locate the school next to Industrial zoned property which he feels the development could use as argument for providing residential growth next to an existing school.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk