

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 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. PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES:

Commissioner Gajewski presented a Certificate of Recognition to Barbara Waller, President of Centre Park Association for the work they have performed on behalf of their community and the Centre Park Historic District. Ms. Waller and Mr. Mike Lauter discussed the association's Artifacts Bank which is operated by the Centre Park Historic District for the purpose of encouraging and enabling the adaptable re-use of rescued architectural building materials for residents of the City of Reading. Items donated to the Artifacts Bank from building demolition, restoration or rehab projects are sold to owners of older properties at a nominal charge. Proceeds benefit the Centre Park Historic District. The Artifacts Bank is operated entirely by volunteers. The Bank is open the first Sunday of every month from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at 705 North Fifth St. Special sales are held each Spring and Fall. Special appointments can also be arranged by calling 610-375-7860. For more information about this organization please visit their web site at <http://www.centrepark.org/>

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt a resolution approving 2005 Transfers totaling to \$5,000.00, and 2005 Appropriations totaling to \$5,000.00 per list dated May 6, 2005.

Human Resources Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendation as per list dated May 10, 2005.

Purchasing Department

Bid award:

- A. Adopt Resolution approving, as a result of Invitation to Bid #05-07-RC, a contract for the supply, delivery and installation of resident room furniture (bedside cabinet, dresser, wardrobe) for the new nursing home facility.

Bid award continued:

The award shall be made to Almon Co. d/b/a Claflin Contract Furnishings with an office at PO Box 7830, Warwick, Rhode Island, 02887 at their total bid price of \$448,140.00. Budget Code: 22-802-04-101-00. Renee Carpenter, Purchasing Director indicated that the county saved approximately \$9,000.00 by rejecting and re-bidding this purchase of furniture. She also explained that the vendor will design the wood stain on the new pieces to coordinate with what will be used of the Heim's existing furniture.

Contract Coordinator:

- B. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated May 6, 2005.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a contract to Ambient Air Quality Services (AAQS), Lincoln University, PA to review the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) Air Quality Permit application in relation to the construction of an electric generating facility using various waste products at United Corestack in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 from the Growing Greener Fund. Commissioner Scott suggested that our Purchasing Director become involved in the review of the recommended consultants to assure competitive pricing for the County.
- B. Adopt Resolution ratifying, confirming and approving execution by the Board of County Commissioners of the HAVA Quarterly Working Capital Request and Performance Report to the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Commissions, and Elections & Legislation.

Commissioner Schwank

- A. Adopt Resolution approving the Fire Training Center's proposed fee schedule. Robert Osika, Emergency Management Director discussed the fee schedule and answered questions.
- B. Adopt Resolution in support of the ACRE (Agricultural, communities and Rural Environment Initiative) program. Commissioner Schwank stated this statewide initiative is intended to benefit local government and local farmers by helping to balance the legitimate business interests of agriculture with the environmental and community concerns of local citizens and elected leader by serving to resolve the issues that occur when the non-farm community meets production agriculture.

Commissioner Scott indicated that he holds mixed feelings about this initiative and believe that the PSATS (Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors) also has some reservations. He said further qualifications and distinctive descriptions for what defines "normal" farming operations needs to be added to the proposed program guidelines. He also expressed reservations over creating another state bureau instead of utilizing established board to handle these disputes such as the State's Environmental Hearing Board. He also expressed strong concern over the impartiality of this Ag. Review Board that would be established at the state level to hear appeals of local agricultural related zoning cases. Commissioner Gajewski indicated what appealed to him was the prospect of providing mediation for these zoning disputes helping the farmer avoid the costs of legal appeals.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a Recycling Grant Agreement with the DEP for an "In-Vessel" food composting system for the Prison. Total cost not to exceed \$159,108.00 (DEP – Grant amount of \$143,197.00 with a County match of \$15,911.00.) Deputy Warden, Ann Brown indicated that with this grant and the purchase of this equipment the Prison could increase the composting potential to include the food waste of the Heim and the Youth Center and because it is a contained unit, would substantially reduce any odors. Commissioner Gajewski indicated that the Warden' suggested a potential savings on this project of removing food products from the waste stream and utilizing the compost as fertilizer on County property was conservatively estimated to be \$4,500.00 per year.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of a contract on behalf of the Berks County Employment & Training Office, as a result of a Request for Proposals 05-02-AF for a Web Based, "off-the-shelf" Performance Tracking/Case Management software system with LA Works, 5200 Irwindale Avenue, Irwindale, CA 91706; in an amount not to exceed \$107,600.00 (Federal funds – no County match required). Alan Fineman Administrative Unit Supervisor, Berks County Employment & Training Officer indicated that this software package will replace an aging system purchased in 1995 and is no longer supported.
- C. Adopt Resolution to appoint Lillie Foster to fill an unexpired term till 12/31/05 on the Children and Youth Services Advisory Board.

- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
1. No. 2137-Community Development Block Grant funds - \$52,547.25
 2. No. 1245- Property Rehabilitation Program - \$4,500.00

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt resolution authorizing the allocation and expenditure of federal monies under various waiver agreements through contracts between SAM, Inc., and providers of mental retardation services (for the period 04/01/2004-06/30/2004), with allocation of funds and resulting contracts reviewed and approved by the MH/MR Administrator, ensuring appropriate oversight as recommended by legal counsel.
- B. Adopt resolution authorizing the allocation and expenditure of federal monies under various waiver agreements through contracts between SAM, Inc., and providers of mental retardation services (for the period 10/01/2004-03/31/2005), with allocation of funds and resulting contracts reviewed and approved by the MH/MR Administrator, ensuring appropriate oversight as recommended by legal counsel.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Commissioner Gajewski discussed the responses received from several Counties supporting Berks County's drive for support of the Blue Print for Tax Fairness.

Commissioner Scott noted several points that needed to be made regarding recent newspaper coverage of the purchase offers for the City of Reading's Antietam Lake property. He read from the Greth Letter of Intent to purchase the lake property for \$5 million and reminded everyone that the offer is predicated on several points that will have to occur well into the future such as obtaining proper zoning approvals from Lower Alsace Township (a municipality that has publicly gone on notice opposing development of this tract and in favor of preservation) and conditioned upon the reasonable cost for improvements and utilities. He said that only cash offer at this point is from the County. He then suggested that in to prevent this project from dragging out another four years, the county should consider initiation of the eminent domain process pursuant to the open space condemnation law. Commissioner Schwank stated that she was encouraged to learn that the Mayor has now stated that preservation is more valuable to the community than development. She also mentioned that the Board of Lower Alsace Township is considering borrowing the funds to assist with the County's offer to City. She indicated that the potential for a regional park exists in all these communities.

Commissioner Gajewski also noted that Mt. Penn is interested in lending support by providing help with future maintenance of the parcel. He indicated that he preferred a more amicable solution to eminent domain and the cost that an appointed Board of View could ultimately add to the cost of the property.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:45A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk