

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, July 12, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 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. The Commissioner opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. PRESENTATIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES:

- A. Commissioner Gajewski presented Certificates of Recognition to the recipients of the 2005 Chamber of Commerce Awards as follows.

Non-Profit Organization - Berks County Conservancy. Kim Murphy, Executive Director accepted the certificate

Business Person / Large Business - Victor H. Hammel of J.C. Erlich accepted the certificate

Partner in Education - Sovereign Bank, Dick Ehst accepted the certificate on behalf of the bank

Large Business - East Penn Manufacturing - Robert Flicker, Delight Breidegam, Daniel Langdon, Chris Pruitt, and Sally Miksiewicz attended to accept the certificate

- B. Joe Liciardello, a counterterrorism intelligence officer with the U.S. Department of Justice and member of the **Reading/Berks Conflict Resolution Task Force** presented a request for the County to consider sponsorship for the Task Force with either an existing department or agency or the creation of a new one. Mr. Liciardello explained that this Task Force is very dedicated to the issues of Human Relations including the unfortunate appearance of hate groups in the Berks County area and holds a membership of some very talented individuals that are prepared to assist the county and continue in their efforts with conflict resolution on Human Relations issues. He explained the problem is that they need a "home" and he said they have a need for practical resources such as 10 hours per month of administrative help for scheduling meetings, preparing agendas and meeting minutes etc. Three other members of the Task Force, Dr. John Bakken, Student Services Director of the Boyertown Area School District, Jennifer Schlegel, Co-Chairperson, Boyertown Unity Coalition and Chief Robert Flanagan, Muhlenberg Township Police Department were also in attendance to request the County's direction and support.

Task Force discussion continued:

Commissioner Scott reflected on some negative history experienced by several individuals involved with claims filed against them by what was then known as the Berks Human Relations Council. He encouraged that whatever direction the County chooses to take with this initiative, it is critical that individual civil rights are protected and that the county avoids the potential for duplicating services already provided by the State and Federal Human Relations Commissions. Commissioner Schwank stated that this is definitely a quality of life issue that will have a negative affect on economic development if these issues of hate groups and discrimination are not adequately addressed within our community. Mr. Liciardello agreed with both comments and added that it isn't enough to just provide educational forums; the community needs to be involved with reporting and investigation of incidents. Commissioner Gajewski asked for a specific figure and Mr. Liciardello suggested that 10 hours per month of administrative assistance is what they have estimated. Commissioner Schwank indicated that the Commissioners would consider this request and contact the Task Force in the near future.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfers in the total amount of \$31,000 and 2005 Budget Appropriations in the total amount of \$2,852 per list dated July 8, 2005. Robert Patrizio discussed the budget transfers on the agenda.

Human Resources Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendation as per list dated July 12, 2005. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director presented the request.

Purchasing Department:**Bid award:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing a one year contract, as a result of Invitation to Bid #05-10-RC, the supply and deliver via tank wagon, #2 fuel oil for use in heating to and for members of the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council (BCCPC) of which the County of Berks is a member. The award shall be made to the following vendor:
Richland Partners, LLC d/b/a Leffler Energy
225 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 278
Richland, PA 17087
for **\$99,246.32** (The County's portion is an estimated 29,140 gallons with an estimated annual expenditure of \$48,812.41.)

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank, Chair to execute the **Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement**, effective through September 30, 2008 and the **Federal Annual Certification Report** on behalf of the District Attorney's office.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement and designating the Greater Berks Food Bank as the lead agency for the County of Berks to participate in the State Food Purchase Program for the 2005-2006-program year as well as the execution of a Waiver for the 50% contribution requirement.

Commissioner Schwank

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement between the County and the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) acting on behalf of a consortia of Workforce Investment Boards in the State and to commit an annual contribution of \$10,000 for products and services as listed in Exhibit A, and to execute Intergovernmental Agreements with the City of Reading and other Municipalities in the County as described in Exhibit B of the Agreement.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing the posting of Crime Alert signs on certain County Vehicles. Commissioner Gajewski reviewed the list of County Vehicles he proposed for display of this sign and indicated that he would provide a full report prior to the vote for Thursday.

Commissioner Scott

V. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Matt Polis – citizen from Berks County and representative of the Albany Township Environmental Action Committee attended to once again encourage the board to adopt the sewage sludge ordinance presented at the June 21, 2005 meeting.

Eric Simms, Kirby Powel and Peggy Kershner, citizens from Exeter Township were present to discuss the Crosstown Connector construction project, which was originally planned to build a direct connection between PA Rte. 562 and #422 in Exeter Township and St. Lawrence Borough. They expressed concern over what appears to be lack of comprehensive planning in the area of the traffic studies and cost for this project.

Crosstown Connector continued:

They suggested that the County holds with key with funding and could place requirements on the funding stream to include a more comprehensive traffic study for the area. The Commissioners all mentioned that they met with Alan Piper, Traffic Planner with the Berks County Planning Commission regarding options available to the county at this point. They also agreed that no matter what the solution is for this specific project, traffic congestion in this area is likely to be an issue. Commissioner Scott said that more forward thinking efforts with regard to how population trends are affecting the whole Exeter Township area need to be examined. He also said that the municipalities should be responsible for the cost of any traffic study performed for this project. The Commissioners said they would continue to monitor this project and thanked the Exeter Township residents and encouraged them to stay involved and continue communicating their concerns.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:18 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk