

**Commissioners' Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2005**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 10:30 A. M. 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 Gajewski, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark Scott in attendance. Commissioner Judith L. Schwank was unable to attend today's meeting. Also present were the Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq., County Administrator William E. Dennis. Commissioner Gajewski then opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 4, 2005 Workshop Meeting and October 6, 2005 Commissioner's Meeting were approved with a motion made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski, and all voted yes.

**Consent Agenda Items**

A motion was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all voted yes to approve the consent agenda. Following that vote a motion was made, seconded and approved to rescind approval; discuss and revote on certain items in Resolution 350.05 the Human Resources Recommendations. Following a discussion with County Coroner Dr. Bybel and learning that these positions were not presented as a need within this office nor ability to fund within the existing department's budget, the Commissioners agreed to approve the HR recommendations items 1 – 3 but remove items 4 and 5 involving the unpaid interns in the Coroners office from the original approval:

- 348.05 A. Resolution authorizing 2005 Budget Transfer in the total amount of \$1,194,675.00 per list dated October 7, 2005.
  
- 349.05 B. Resolution authorizing the Human Resource Director to sign contracts with **Capital Blue Cross, Keystone Health Plan Central and Pharmacare** to provide administrative and pharmacy benefit services to the County of Berks for a period beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2008 with an option for 2009 and 2010 for the administration of the County's Self-Insured Healthcare plan. This also includes the signing of a contract with **HealthTrak/Harris Health Trends** for delivery of a Disease Management Program which includes the administration of a Health Risk Assessment for each employee. Total cost for three years is \$2,010,113. Approval to be conditioned up the County's final review of contract documents. There was a lengthy discussion with Beth Schiepan, H.R. Director regarding the differences between the Capital Blue Cross plan verses the High Mark proposal where it was ultimately decided that the Capital Plan was financial the best choice.\*See specific comments below.

- 350.05 C. Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendation as per list dated October 11, 2005 and amended at this meeting removing items 4 and 5 from the approval.
- 351.05 D. Resolution appointing new members of the Workforce Investment Board.
- 352.05 E. Resolution re-appointing existing members of the Workforce Investment Board.
- 353.05 F. Resolution authorizing two on-the-job training contracts and subsidized employment agreements with **SMT Technologies** and **Labor Staffing**.
- 354.05 G. Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
1. No. 1264-Property Rehabilitation Program-\$23,729.00
  2. No. 2164- Community Development Block Grant Program- \$133,613.80

\*Commissioner Gajewski said that he strongly resented the way Capitol Blue Cross handled their bid. He noted that if the Blues hadn't combined the savings from the prefunded program that will end on 12/31/05, that the Blues quote would have been more expensive and Highmark would have been less expensive. He also noted that Riverside was specifically instructed by the commissioners to tell the blues that the pre-fund settlement was NOT to be combined with contract costs going forward. He also pointed out that Blue Cross came in at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour with a change last year that would have required an additional payment of \$750k. Because of that last minute change, the county changed its position and went with full coverage instead of self-insurance (the dollar difference was not that significant.) Commissioner Gajewski indicated that he would be watching Blue Cross very carefully for the way they service the county in the future.

Beth Schiepan indicated that the prefunded program ended on 12/31/2004. Capital Blue Cross was instructed by Bill Dennis and Mark Morgan not to tie the prefund into the renewal. She stated that Capital's fees were higher than Highmark when the prefund was kept out of the settlement. However, once they factored in the prefund and the fact that they had put in a penalty in the current contract (which we were unaware of) for leaving Capital prior to the end of two years which amounted to \$1,000,000, they essentially handcuffed us in our decision making based purely on finances. There was absolutely no way at that point that Highmark could compete with their rates. Capital wanted to tie us up for five years and we said no - we would agree to a three year contract with the option for years four and five. They did play a shell game with moving money around between ASO retention adjustment and required retention fees. No matter how you looked at it, it came out to the same amount of money.

### Reports

1. County Treasurer Nelson Long, CPA presented the weekly Treasurer's report.
2. County Controller, Sandy Graffius presented the weekly Controllers' report

**Public Comment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk