



## Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, April 25, 2006

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. in the **Upper Tulpehocken Township** Municipal Building 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 C. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor, Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer. The Commissioner then thanked Linda Reed (Upper Tulpehocken Township Secretary) and her husband Barry Reed for making the building available to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Schwank announced that in recognition of NACo's (National Association of Counties) **National County Government Week** designation (April 24 through 29, 2006) with the theme of Protecting Our Communities, the county has provided an informative presentation depicting numerous County related protective services on the web site. She then thanked the Chief Clerk for preparing the presentation.

### **II. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

#### **Administrator:**

- A. Adopt a Resolution authorizing execution of a collective bargaining agreement by and between the County of Berks and District 1199P/SEIU representing the Berks County Home – Berks Heim Nurses for the period of January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2009. Bill Dennis reviewed this first time four-year contract with the Nurses union.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving Human Resource Recommendation as list dated April 25, 2006.

#### **Children and Youth Services:**

- A. Adopt a Resolution authorizing execution of Title IV-E Independent Living Program Certification of Executive Officers, for submission to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare-Independent Living Coordinator.

**Contract Submissions:**

- A. Adopt a Resolution awarding a three year contract as a result of Request for Proposal #05-12-KL to provide local dial tone, toll and long distance services and the services needed to provide voice network to the Courthouse, Services Center, the facilities located throughout the County to include Parks & Recreation areas and Magisterial District Justice Offices. (This contract will not include 911/emergency services, ISDN or data requirements.) The award shall be made to the following vendor:

D&E Communications  
24 E. Main Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522-0458  
\$390,924

Kelly Laubach Purchasing Manager described this new RFP, thanked everyone who worked with her on this project and announced that a conservative estimate of the expected savings to the County is \$250,000 per year. Kelly was commended for her efforts in this first-time RFP project.

**Mental Health / Mental Retardation:**

- A. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the execution of a Supplemental Grant Agreement with the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), approving 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 01/01/2006-03/31/2006, 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 No. 130.06** authorizing the execution of the Berks County Adult Mental Health Plan for fiscal year 2007/2008. Dr. Ed Michalik provided a thorough presentation of this plan including a breakdown of the expenses and funding sources of which he stated is 98.6% state and federal funds with only 1.4% County match. A motion to adopt Resolution 130.06 was made by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Gajewski and all vote yes to approve

**Office of Aging**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the Cooperative Grant Agreement between the Department of Aging and Berks County Office of Aging for Federal and State funding for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2011.

**Solicitor**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing an increase in the hourly rate of ReedSmith LLP to provide labor and employment legal services from \$230.00 to \$250.00 effective April 1st, 2006.

**III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Adopt a Resolution appointing John Masciotti, Lower Heidelberg Township Police Department as the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 71 alternate representative to the Berks County 9-1-1 Advisory Board.

**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Adopt Resolution appointing Charles Jones of Reading to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority filling a vacated term ending 12/31/06 for Jane Meeks who has resigned to become the Executive Director of the Authority.

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Commissioner Gajewski read a letter written to Senator Santorum from the Commissioners regarding the funding source planned for future CDBG funding from the Federal Government.

**Commissioner Scott**

- A. Commissioner Scott proposed in the form of a motion for the County to provide a letter of support for an Implementation Grant from Douglass Township submitted to the Schuylkill River Heritage Association. He explained that the township plans to build improvements and restorations at their new riverfront park on the north bank of the Schuylkill River. Commissioner Gajewski seconded the motion and all voted yes to send the letter.

**IV. CERTIFICATES**

Commissioner Gajewski will offer a Proclamation for the 100th anniversary of the Wernersville Public Library that will be presented on April 29, 2006.

*IV. CITIZEN COMMENT*

Gerald Egression, resident of Elverson Borough and farm operator in Upper Tulpehocken Township, stated his support on the Clean and Green program and the benefit it provides to many farmers across the State, but he questioned the impact on the County Tax Base that this preferred assessment program has on the County and how did the County plan to make up the gap from that loss prior to any tax revenue that might be generated by the numerous economic development projects recently unveiled throughout the County. Commissioner Gajewski responded in saying the real answer is that the state legislators need to develop meaningful tax reform and that the only real control the Commissioners have in dealing with loss of revenue is to control expenses. Commissioner Scott said that the county experienced the "hit" from the Clean and Green act years ago when it was first enacted. He stated his opinion that it is a small price to pay for the benefit of preserving the land. Discussion continued regarding the differing opinions on the location of economic development sites in the City of Reading versus other opinions supporting new industrial and economic development along the highway corridors such as the one along Rte 78 in Upper Tulpehocken and in the Morgantown area.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk