

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting Tuesday, February 26, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 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 Mark C. Scott called the meeting to order with Commissioner Christian Leinbach, and Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt in attendance. Also present were County Administrator, William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller Esq., and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

Commissioner Scott opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Robert Hardner, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Manager, and Kelly Laubach, Purchasing Manager, along with Controller Sandy Graffius, were present to discuss and request approval for the execution of a contract for a web-enabled ERP System known as **Oracle e-Business, Release 12**. They explained that the County's current financial system has been in place since 1991 and has significant functional and technical limitations causing many Departments to keep "shadow" systems to address these limitations. As a result financial transactions are entered twice; information is fragmented, untimely, and difficult to access.

They explained that a committee consisting of county financial management employees in various departments formed approximately one year ago and engaged the Government Finance Officers Association to assist with the process that resulted in a detailed Request for Proposal sent to nine (9) potential vendors that were evaluated and narrowed down to two: Lawson & Oracle.

As part of this final evaluation, the committee conducted detailed product demos with both vendors; held multiple Request for Clarification sessions; requested Best and Final Offers from both vendors, and based on all information gathered, elevated Oracle to contract negotiation phase. Bob Hardner pointed to the four main areas where the committee felt that this program was superior:

1. Flexible Chart of Accounts structure
2. Superior Procurement capabilities
3. Stronger Project & Grant Accounting functionality
4. Viewed as the better long-term solution

ERP Presentation continued:

He ended by summarizing the committee's goals to establish this County-wide financial management system with real-time, accurate, and easily accessible financial information, timely monthly and year-end financial close process; flexible Chart of Account and Budgeting structure that facilitates reporting and analytical capabilities including State and Federal regulatory reporting requirements; the ability to generate all applicable GASB 34 and CAFR reports; the ability to forecast financial results over a 5 year period and eliminate the need for Department "shadow" systems.

County Controller Sandy Graffius also discussed the need for a consultant for specific programmatic training and implementation to assist with the goal of specific budgetary close out reports. She suggested the reservation of \$37,500 in budget dollars for this project out of the total ERP budget.

- B. Special Projects Coordinator Carey Kaucher provided an update on the **Berks New Year's Eve Celebration** asking for the Commissioners' support, a Commissioner liaison to the planning committee and a commitment of \$10,000 towards the event. Commissioner Leinbach volunteered to serve on the committee

Budget Department:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing 2007 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$13,677.00, 2008 Budget Transfers in the amount of 6,243.00, 2007 Appropriations in the amount \$505.00, and 2008 Appropriations in the amount of \$109,935.00, per listing dated February 22, 2008. Budget Director Bob Patrizio presented the report.
- B. Adopt a resolution approving the execution of two contracts for software and implementation Services for an ERP System. As a result of Request for Proposal 60-13-KL, a contract for software applications and core technologies for a web-enabled ERP System known as **Oracle e-Business, Release 12** inclusive of support and Hosting and Application Services as follows with the following vendors:

DLT Solutions, Inc.

13861 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 400
Herndon, VA 20171-4661

- "On Demand" hosting services **\$920,664.00 (3yr. contract)**

AND

Strategic Information Solutions, Inc.

200 N. LaSalle, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60601

- Project implementation: **\$2,301,000.00**
- Oracle Software license, 3rd party software and one year of support **\$674,755.00**

- C. Motion authorizing Mark C. Scott as Chairman of the Board, to execute Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated February 25, 2008. Purchasing Manager Kelly Laubach presented the list of contracts.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Beth Schiepan, Human Resource Director, presented the February 26, 2008 list of Human Resource recommendations.

III. REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

County Administrator Bill Dennis presented his weekly report, attached.

IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Leinbach

- A. Commissioner Leinbach Discussed Senate Bill 9 “The Proof of Citizenship for Receipt of Public Benefits Act” suggesting that his colleagues review this proposed legislation.
- B. Commissioner Leinbach asked Barb Coffin, Administrator of the Berks Office of Aging advised to discuss the Economic Stimulus Package as it relates to tax filing for Senior Citizens – She advised that all Senior Citizens interested in benefiting from this program will need to file an annual tax return before they can apply. She offered the assistance of Apprise and her office to senior citizens in completing the forms.
- C. Commissioner Leinbach reported that the status of the alert-paging project is now projected for the Spring of 2008.
- D. Commissioner Leinbach discussed a request to hold the 2008 Berks County Victims Rights Rally at the County Services Center entrance. He said that the board was in support of the concept but suggested consideration for the use of the auditorium to provide the ability for citizens to receive more substantive information and to hold the rally outside in the rear of the Services Center so as to avoid congestion for those entering and exiting the Courthouse.
- E. Commissioner Leinbach echoed the commendations provided by Jessica Wright, Major General of the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for Berks County Veterans Affairs Director Janice Kingkinger and her staff for providing \$2.2 million in benefits for Berks County Veterans in 2007.

Commissioner Barnhardt

- A. Adopt a resolution re-appointing Maxi Shirey, Oley, PA, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board for a three year term ending 2/1/2011.
- B. Adopt a resolution re-appointing Nancy Sellers, Reading, PA, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board for a three year term ending 2/1/2011.
- C. Adopt a resolution re-appointing Thomas Schmoyer, Wernersville, PA, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Board for a three year term ending 2/1/2011.
- D. Adopt a resolution re-appointing Darlington Hoopes, Jr., Wyomissing, PA, to the Berks Community Action Program, Inc. (BCAP) Board for a second term.

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott along with his fellow Commissioners took strong issue with the editorial printed in today's Reading Eagle regarding the County's decision to hire legal counsel to represent the 80 citizens that were sued by Glen Gary Corp for essentially attending a Zoning Hearing Board meeting in Lower Heidelberg Township. Commissioner Scott reflected on the numerous times the county provided assistance to municipalities to defend their zoning and was confused by this paper taking issue with the county defending the citizen's right participate in a public process. He said that each member of the board swore an oath of office to support, defend and obey the constitution and that he is proud of the quick action taken on behalf of these citizens. Commissioner Leinbach said the whole idea that government should be open and accountable is based on fundamental right of free speech and the right of assembly. He said he was extremely disappointed in the paper for this editorial. Commissioner Barnhardt agreed and suggested the editorial staff should have done a better job of gathering the facts.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:59 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk