

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 11, 2004, at 10:30 AM, 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 Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Acting Chief Clerk William E. Dennis and Solicitor Alan Miller. Commissioner Gajewski was on vacation the week of May 10, 2004 and absent for this meeting.

Commissioner Schwank followed with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Board of Commissioners discussed and approved the following items for listing at the May 13, 2004 Meeting:

I. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Adopt Proclamation regarding *Nurses Day at Berks Heim*, May 19, 2004. Commissioner Schwank explained that the proclamation would be presented at an upcoming Berks Heim event.
- B. Adopt Proclamation regarding *National Transportation Week*, May 9, 2004 through May 16, 2004. Christopher Stullwell was in attendance to accept the proclamation. He explained that trucking companies and manufacturing companies have been meeting since 1934 as the Reading Traffic Club to learn more about the business of each company.

II. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the County of Berks (Berks County Affordable Housing Trust Fund) to provide \$10,000.00 for the Downtown Revitalization Plan. Ken Pick explained that the \$10,000.00 was a match for a \$100,000 downtown revitalization grant. He further explained that a consultant would recommend the exact downtown area of study. Commissioner Scott called the proposal necessarily vague with the usual bureaucratic language. Citing the previous \$12 million grant to build the Civic Center and the subsequent failure to revitalize downtown, he questioned if the new proposal will recommend the same high costs with the same results. He added that more detail was needed on downtown revitalization goals, urban renewal efforts and a citywide strategic action plan. Commissioner Schwank responded by saying that she had discussed

this effort with the Mayor and the goals that he expressed seemed reasonable to her.

Commissioner Scott reaffirmed his reluctance to support this request in light of his efforts to have the County financially supporting the study of the impact of illegal alien students on the Reading School Board's budget. He believes that this support is of greater or equal value to funding revitalization efforts, and both should be funded.

- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of entitlement grants by and between the County of Berks (Community Development) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the federal Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program, and the federal Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program) for the following contracts:
 - a. Contract #B-04-UC-42-0003 in the amount of \$3,257,000.00;
 - b. Contract #S-04-UC-42-0002 in the amount of \$121,589.00; and
 - c. Contract #M-04-UC-42-0206 in the amount of \$794,075.00.
- C. Authorize refund of 2002 and 2003 County Property Taxes at the request of the Board of Assessment Appeals (attached list).

Commissioner Schwank

Commissioner Gajewski

Commissioner Scott

- A. Authorize Certification of Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the period 7/1/03 through 3/31/04.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 8/19/01 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$10.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 6387).
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 5/3/97 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$11.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 14841).

- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 5/3/94 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$16.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 14841).
- E. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 3/9/02 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$0.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 19717).
- F. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 1/9/03 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$0.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 8555).
- G. Adopt Resolution authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 12/3/94 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$16.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 17078).
- H. Adopt Resolution authorizing an increase in Maintenance subsidy from \$10.00 per day to \$20.00 per day for a male child born 11/24/02 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations (Case Number 22151).

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:

Budget Director:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$20,026.00 per listing dated May 10, 2004.

Contract Coordinator:

Controller:

- A. Obtain Commissioner Approval for Unauthorized Purchases. None were reported.

Engineer:

- A. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Berks County Director of Facilities and Operations to execute all change orders for the Berks County Fire Training Center Project in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Contract Documents in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 with the understanding that any change orders in excess of such amount must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing a Contract Administration, G701 Change Order, by and between the County of Berks (Berks Heim), the Architect (L. Robert Kimball & Associates), and the Contractor (The Quandel Group, Inc.), to provide excavation and site work for the installation of an upgrade to the electrical service to be installed by Met-Ed for the Berks Heim project, in the amount of \$45,000.00.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Construction Manager, for pre-construction services for schematic design for the County of Berks Jail Expansion and Renovation Project, between The County of Berks and Shoemaker/Burkey in the amount of \$19,740.

Solicitor:

- 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 01/01/04 – 03/31/03), 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 execution of an Amendment to Agreement between County of Berks and Community Care Behavioral Health Organization, Contract No. CMC 531099 (Amendment No. 3).

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schwank congratulated the Gosselin family for birth of sextuplets. She also congratulated the Reading Royals for reaching the semi-finals of their playoffs. The Commissioner also advised that she had written a letter to Secretary Wolf regarding a number of issues important to local farming. She referred to the decision by Monsanto to drop their program of genetically modified wheat production.

Commissioner Scott discussed the effect new manufacturing standards are having on local small produce businesses. The standards are requiring technology and

investment, which is driving many small players out of business. He used as an example the jar of sauerkraut from the Wilcox farms that they can no longer produce and market.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Respectfully Submitted,

William E. Dennis, Acting Chief Clerk