

Commissioners' Board Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2004

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, May 20, 2004 at 10:30 AM 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 Chair Judith L. Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark Scott, Commissioner Thomas Gajewski, Chief Clerk Terry L. Styer, Solicitor Alan S. Miller and County Administrator, William E. Dennis present

On motion by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Schwank, the minutes for May 11, 2004 and May 13, 2004 were approved with Commissioner Gajewski abstaining from the vote as he was not present at the meetings:

Commissioner Schwank presented a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the County Commissioners to Alfred D. Bachetti for being chosen Granger of the Year by the Alleghenyville Grange #2065.

At this time Commissioner Schwank recognized Honorable Arthur E. Grim, President Judge of Berks County. Judge Grim presented a draft letter for the Commissioners' to approve and send to Senators Michael O'Pake and Brightbill supporting the addition of one Judgeship for the Berks County Court of Common Pleas which would bring the total to 13 judges. Judge Grim presented data supporting the need for the additional Court and compared information he had gathered from neighboring Counties. He suggested that the existing space allocated for the courtrooms could be "retro-fitted to accommodate the additional Judges chambers. In the proposed budget numbers the President Judge stated that the estimated funds for the initial start up in 2006 is expected to be \$900,000 with additional annual costs projected at \$600,000.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation to Judge Grim for his thorough presentation with each indicating their support. Commissioner Schwank said that the board would be reviewing the draft letter and proposing a final version for the Commissioners' Workshop meeting on Tuesday, May 25th.

Ken Pick, Berks County Community Development Director, and Adam Mukerji, Reading Community Development Director described the *CD Week Contest* which was held to showcase six (6) local Community Development projects to show citizens how these Federal Dollars are applied to our Community Development program. Ken then and asked each Commissioner and Readings' Mayor McMahon were asked to draw a name and announce the winners of four prizes.

First place – 2 season tickets to the Reading Royals

Second – 2 box seats for the Reading Phillies

Third – A Reading Royals Jersey

Forth – \$100.00 event Gift Certificate tickets for the Sovereign Center

On motion by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Schwank, the consent agenda was approved unanimously, with the exception of Item 244.04 in which Commissioner Scott voted no and reiterated his previous objection to this Resolution which would authorize the County of Berks (Berks County Affordable Housing Trust Fund) to provide \$10,000 for the Downtown Revitalization Plan, and would serve as a match for a \$100,000 downtown revitalization grant. Commissioner Scott continued to reaffirm 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 stated his belief that this support is of greater or equal value to funding revitalization efforts, and both should be funded.

Consent Agenda – approved

- 244-04 A. Authorizing the County of Berks (Berks County Affordable Housing Trust Fund) to provide \$10,000.00 for the Downtown Revitalization Plan.
- 260-04 B. Authorizing the County of Berks to execute the Family Center/Fatherhood Renewal Application 2004/2005 in the amount of \$138,030.00.
- 261-04 C. Authorizing the reappointment of Captain Francis Drexler, 815 Washington Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for a three-year term, appointment to expire 2/1/2007.
- 262-04 D. Authorizing the execution of the Berks County MH/MR Mental Health Plan for Fiscal Year 2005/2006.
- 263-04 E. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 6/7/03 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 21710).
- 264-04 F. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 6/1/02 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 21710).
- 265-04 G. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a female child born 2/8/87 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the rate of \$20.00 per day Maintenance, including physical and mental health care, and \$500.00 legal cost plus filing fees (Case Number 7204).

- 266-04 H. Authorizing subsidized adoption of a male child born 4/9/03 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 22689).
 - 267-04 I. Authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a female child born 5/29/04, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 5/29/04 through 5/29/05 in the form of Purchased Care from Bethany Children's Home at the per diem rate of \$115.00 to allow for completion of high school.
 - 268-04 J. Authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a female child born 5/22/04, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 5/22/04 through 5/22/05 in the form of Purchased Care from Bradley Center (MA paid per diem rate) to allow for completion of high school.
 - 269-04 K. Authorizing subsidized permanent legal custodianship of a female child born 4/19/89 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the per diem rate of \$21.00. (Case Number 15617).
 - 270-04 L. Authorizing subsidized permanent legal custodianship of a female child born 4/1/89 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the per diem rate of \$12.00. (Case Number 12351).
 - 271-04 M. Authorizing subsidized permanent legal custodianship of a female child born 10/17/87 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the per diem rate of \$12.00. (Case Number 12351).
 - 272-04 N. Authorizing subsidized permanent legal custodianship of a male child born 8/29/91 on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, at the per diem rate of \$21.00. (Case Number 93).
 - 273-04 O. Authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated May 14, 2004.
2. Authorize execution of Certification to the State Tax Equalization Board, of a list of conveyances or transfers of real estate during the month of April 2004.

3. Change Order Requests for the renovation of the INS facilities, in the total amount of \$5,565.65:
 - a. Change Order Request No. GC-5, General Construction; Amount \$1,520.71. Life Skills Rm. F10 Patch and paint room.
 - b. Change Order Request No. GC-7, General Construction; Amount \$3,915.24. Replace exterior door F38/A and new frame and hardware.
 - c. Change Order Request No. P-2, Plumbing Construction; Amount (\$389.00). Rm. F41-Delete cutting floor, Rm. F10 new sanitary vent.
 - d. Change Order Request No. E-3, Electrical Construction; Amount \$518.70. Dining Rm. F10-Increase fixtures by 4 and install U lamps.

Reports

The County Controller and County Treasurer presented their weekly reports.

Agenda Items for Discussion

Citizen Comment/Business From The Floor

Clerk of Courts James Troutman presented additional comments regarding the impact the additional judgeship for Berks County would have on the Clerk of Courts office.

Keith Stamm, School Board Director from the Reading School District discussed the negative financial impact the influx of illegal aliens are having on the school district.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk