

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 1, 2004**

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

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 1, 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 Thomas Gajewski and Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Also present were Chief Clerk, Terry L. Styer, County Administrator, William E. Dennis and Solicitor Alan Miller.

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 June 1, 2004 Meeting:

***II. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:***

- A. Commissioner Schwank recognized The **BERKS COUNTY AGGIES** - Lori Dietrich, Mimi Todd, Matthew Kurczewski and Tim Krenitsky; from the Adult Probation Department who represented the Berks County Employees Volunteer Council in the Berks County Easter Seals Office Olympix. on Wednesday, May 26th at the First Energy Stadium. Carey Kaucher introduced the team and informed the audience that they placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of a total of 88 teams to raise funds for the Easter Seals.

***III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:***

***Commissioner Schwank***

- A. Commissioner Schwank introduced Mark Lunquist, the County's financial advisor, who discussed County's current employee's pension plan liability. Mr. Lunquist stated that the actuarial report prepared for the County by the Hay Group indicates that Berks, like most counties across the state, will need a sizable increase in this year's pension plan contribution from 6.8 million in 2003 to a 7.5 million contribution in 2004. He described a method for stabilizing the contribution that involves bond financing. He indicated that a draft resolution will be forwarded to the County Solicitor for review and possible adoption by the Commissioners which would authorize him to proceed with a bond financing concept to present to the board.

**Pension Fund discussion continued:** Commissioner Scott spoke favorably about this concept and supported a method that could eliminate ARC impacts. Mr. Lunquist agreed that he would like to propose this project while bond cost rates are so low (estimated 5%) while taking advantage of market conditions that over the course of the last 70 years have provided an average 11% return on investments. He added that this financing concept could help to stabilize the County's required contribution in a pre-determined manner, suggesting several years in advance rather than the unpredictable pension contribution requirements that are usually determined by the Pension Plan Actuaries and announced late into the budget season.

Nelson Long, County Treasurer suggested that the Resolution dealing with ARC contributions will need to be reviewed for June through November payment. Solicitor Miller indicated that was a separate issue from the above bond financial project and will be addressed at a future meeting.

***Commissioner Gajewski***

- A. Approve reappointment of Honorable Thomas Xavios of 1800 Bern Street Reading, PA 19604, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601, to the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for a three-year term, appointment to expire 2/1/2007.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Commissioner Schwank, as Chairman of the Board, to execute Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Grant Recipients Release, Assignment and Close-Out forms pursuant to the terms of WIA Grant No. 015013362 in the amount of \$187,690.

***Commissioner Scott***

- A. Adopt Resolutions authorizing a Cooperative Grant Application (\$7,079,308) and the PDA Over 60 Waiver Program (\$597,702) to the Commonwealth of PA Department of Aging for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2006 on behalf of the Berks County Office of Aging. Kathy Frey, Director of Administration will be present.

***IV. OTHER REQUESTS:***

***Budget Director:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the total aggregate amount of \$ 65,850 per listing dated June 3, 2004.

***Contract Coordinator:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated May 27, 2004.

***Purchasing Director***

- A. Award Invitation to Bid #04-04-RC awarding a one-year contract for the furnishing of No. 2 Fuel Oil: (Estimated total expenditure under the contract is \$44,910)
  - 1. **Transport truck deliveries:** Farm & Home Oil Company with an office at 3115 State Road, Box 389, Telford, PA, 18969 **\$0.0450 per gallon** over the weekly OPIS PADD 1 Report, Sinking Spring, High Sulfur #2 column, Average Rack price.
  - 2. **Tank wagon deliveries:** Richland Partners LLC, d/b/a Leffler Energy with an office at 225 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 278, Richland, PA, 17087 **for at their bid price of \$0.0990** per gallon over the weekly OPIS PADD 1 Report, Sinking Spring, High Sulfur #2 column, Average Rack price.

***Solicitor:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the establishment of a new account at Wachovia Bank for Health Choices (Restricted Claim Account).

***V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:***

- A. There was a discussion among the board regarding the appointments to the Berks County Environmental Advisory Council. The bylaws of the organization stipulate that six (6) members be appointed by the County Commissioners individually (with each Commissioner nominating two (2) individuals) and the seventh member appointed by the Board jointly. It was decided that the board would bring their names for appointment at the June 8<sup>th</sup> workshop meeting.
- B. Commissioner Schwank suggested that arrangements be made for an update of the County's Black Fly and West Nile Virus suppression program at an upcoming Commissioners' meeting.

***VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR***

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L. Styer, Chief Clerk