

Commissioners' Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, January 25 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 25 2005, at 10:30 A.M. in the thirteenth floor Board Room of the Berks County Services Centre, 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 L. Scott in attendance. Also present were County Administrator William E. Dennis, Solicitor Alan Miller, Esq. and Chief Clerk Terry Styer.

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

II. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:

Commissioner Schwank presented a proclamation on behalf of the Commissioners to Ron Rouse II for the Annual Greater Reading Martin Luther King Day Luncheon, "*Honoring Our Military Heroes – Past and Present.*"

Susanne Sharadin, Assistant Director of Berks Ag. Land Preservation program provided the commissioners with an update of the Centre Township Land Protection Easement Program that was started in 2002 and has successfully preserved 13 farms consisting of 985 acres.

David Phillips, Representative and former Township Supervisor from Centre Township discussed the many ways his community benefited from this program including the successful implementation of effective Agricultural Zoning for 10,000 acres in Centre Township as well as an increase of the Township's Ag. Security Area from 5,000 to 7,000 acres. He said that together with the Berks County Conservation Easement (ACE) Program and the Centre Township Land Protection Program, they successfully preserved in perpetuity 2,250 acres of farmland and natural resource areas. He ended by thanking the County Commissioners for their support.

Commissioner Schwank suggested that Centre Township's program and its efforts to bring their land use regulations in compliance with the County's Comprehensive Plan 2020, might be a model for future use of the County's Landfill Closure Trust funds. She suggested that the funds could be used to assist in preservation efforts in communities willing to implement effective land use planning consistent with the County's Comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Gajewski commended the officials in Centre Township for stepping up to the plate and helping the County's Agricultural Land Preservation funds to go further.

III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**Commissioner Schwank**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Judith L. Schwank, Commissioner, Chair, and Sandy Graffius, County Controller, to execute certification of appropriation funding for 2005 in the amount of \$4,421,422.00 for the purchase of Agricultural Easements under Act 43.

Tami Hildebrand explained the purpose of this certification, which will allow the County to draw down additional State funds for farmland preservation. She reported that in 2004 the 6 million dollar contribution from County Bond funds generated 3.7 million dollars in additional funds from the State, that assisted in the preservation of additional farmland in Berks County totaling to 38,608 acres at the end of 2004. Commissioner Scott asked about the county investment of conservation easements in Longswamp Township. Tami informed the board that three large farms have been preserved in the township to date at an estimated cost of \$600,000.

Commissioner Schwank then presented a Penn State white paper entitled Agriculture's Role in the Berks County Economy. The information provided data to support the important role the Agriculture Industry plays in the County's future economy and economic development.

Commissioner Gajewski

- A. Commissioner Gajewski asked Leigh Tallas, Director Berks Veterans Affairs to provide the board with an update on successful veterans claims handled by his department. Mr. Tallas commended his staff, which he described as second to none in their ability to provide aid the veterans and veteran's families in Berks County. Commissioner Gajewski commended Leigh for his effective advocacy for all of Berks County Veterans.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving an application to Penn DOT for Federal Bridge Funds reimbursement for the preliminary engineering project costs for the rehabilitation of the Buttonwood Street Bridge.
- C. Adopt Resolution appointing Sandra Krafczek, 7 Windsor Court, Reading PA 19606; and Lois C. Shultz, 5 Wendy Road; Greenfields, Reading PA 19601 to the Children and Youth Services Advisory Board to fill two vacant three year terms of which the terms are set to expire for both on 12/31/06.
- D. Adopt Resolution approving the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
1. No. #483 HOME Grant Program - \$249,871.74
 2. No. #2117 Community Development Block Grant Program - \$163,779.22

Commissioner Gajewski continued:

- E. Adopt Resolution approving an application to Pennsylvania DCED to study Police Regionalization possibilities from a countywide perspective.
- F. Adopt Resolution appointing Thomas W. Gajewski, Sr., to the Task Force on Community Corrections.

Commissioner Scott

- A. Adopt Resolution re-appointing Brian Engelhardt and Juanita Morales-Kremer as members of the Council on Chemical Abuse Advisory Board for and three-year terms expiring 2/1/08.
- B. Adopt Resolution approving the Office of Aging Nursing Home Transition Program for the period January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005. Nancy Everson, Deputy Director for Client Services and Kathy Frey, Deputy Director for Administration presented this new program in which Berks County will collaborate with Lancaster and Lebanon Counties and Abilities in Motion to implement the program goal which is to provide assistance to those able to return to their homes following a nursing home confinement.
- C. Commissioner Scott reported results from a public assistance study originally initiated by Commissioner Tim Reiver, that looks at the migration of citizens to Pennsylvania and evaluating by county the number of these new citizens receive public assistance by County.

IV. OTHER REQUESTS:**Budget Director:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$81,637 and 2005 Budget Transfers in the amount of \$2,000,000 and 2004 Budget Appropriations in the amount \$609,638 and 2005 Budget Appropriations in the amount \$ (111,625) per listing dated January 21, 2005. Kim Grinage, Deputy Director presented these transactions to the board.

Contract Coordinator/ Purchasing:

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated January 21, 2005.

Human Resource Director:

- A. Human Resource Recommendations as per list dated January 25, 2005.

Purchasing Director:

A. Adopt Resolution awarding contracts to the following based on a bid numbered ITB #04-12-KL for Medical Supplies:

Bound Tree Medical LLC
5200 Rings Road, Ste A
Dublin, OH 43017-
Estimated Annual
Expenditure: \$852.72

Manheim Medical Supply Inc.
13 N. Main Street
Manheim, PA 17545
Estimated Annual
Expenditure: \$116,417.30

Druzak Medical, Inc.
131 Pleasant Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Estimated Annual
Expenditure: \$17,640.20

McKesson Medical Surgical
Minnesota Supply Inc.
8121 10th Avenue North
Golden Valley, MN 55427
Estimated Annual
Expenditure: \$10,089.82

Gulf South Medical Supply
300 Hunter Lane, Suite 300
Middletown, PA 17057
Estimated Annual
Expenditure: \$80,086.73

Medline Industries Inc.
One Medline Place
Mundelein, IL 60060
Estimated Annual expenditure
\$13,639.23

As per the Invitation to Bid, the County may extend the contract for up to two additional one-year terms provided that the vendors agree to hold the bid pricing fixed and firm. Estimated annual expenditure (Total):
\$238,726.00

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Commissioner Schwank indicated for those citizens attending the meeting that the board is mindful of the appeal deadline for filing any legal action with Longswamp Zoning Hearing Board regarding a recent zoning amendment, however the decision for the County's position has not been made.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

James Troutman, Clerk of Courts asked about the balance of bond funds that remained for the Agricultural Preserve Program from the last bond issue in 1998. He was informed that of the 30 million in bond funds established for Agricultural Land Preservation, 6 million remained and if the funds budgeted in the 2005 budget were approved, only 1.5 million would remain for 2006 absent any additional sources.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk