

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 5, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 5, 2005 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 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. The Commissioner opened the meeting with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Scott Rehr, Executive Director of BCPS presented the Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative, which will be managed by Berks County Opportunity House, Berks Connection/Pretrial Services ("BCPS"), and Reading-Berks Conference of Churches. He indicated that this grant request has no "county match" involved and requested a Commissioners' letter of support regarding a grant application for the U.S. Department of Labor. Commissioner Gajewski indicated that this program would tie in nicely with the County's Community Corrections program. Mr. Rehr indicated that 90% of all prisoners will return to their community and the rate of recidivism is much less when they return to the community with job mentoring and job placement possibilities such as what this grant will provide the funds to achieve.

**III. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / REQUESTS:**

**Human Resources Director:**

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Human Resource recommendation as per list dated July 05, 2005. Beth Schiepan Director of Human Resources discussed the one position recommendation on today's agenda.

**Purchasing Department**

**Contract Coordinator:**

- A. Motion authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/ Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per listing dated July 05, 2005. Kelly Laubaugh presented this list of 27 contracts of which most were renewals.

**IV. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:**

- A. Adopt Resolution to approve County's Comprehensive Insurance Policy. Mike Malinowski, Berks County Risk Manager along with Jon Miles from Englebright Hambrick & Davies (E. H. & D.) presented the insurance renewal proposals which included the County's coverage for Property,

General Liability, Crime, Covered Bridges, Commercial Auto, Law Enforcement Liability, Public Officials Liability, Employment Practices Liability and an Umbrella Policy. Mr. Malinowski indicated that the county received quotes from St. Paul Travelers and the County Commissioners Association of PA All Lines Aggregate program and looked at several options to evaluate which was the best price for the best protection of the County. These options included various deductible amounts along with large self-insured retention limits. Following this detailed evaluation several changes from the current expiring policy were recommended. The first change was to increase the deductible amounts on the General Liability policy and Commercial Auto policy to \$50,000 from \$25,000, which will result in approximately \$149,000 in premium savings. Also recommended to the board was to increase the umbrella liability limit from 5 million dollars to 9 million dollars, which is comparable to most other Counties and Municipalities. The premium difference for the extra 4 million in coverage was estimated at \$3,900. No proposed changes to the Law Enforcement Liability, Public Officials Liability and Employment Practices Liability which all are written through National Casualty with a \$50,000 deductible. It was explained that the overall annual premium for the 2005 renewal comes to \$1,230,156. This is approximately 7% less than the premium paid by the County last year for these same lines of coverage and is approximately 12% under the budget prepared for these annual premiums. A 30 day binder for coverage was provided by EH&D in advance of the board's decision on the coverage proposal. Commissioner Gajewski objected to the timing for this decision on the coverage and felt like the board was being asked to rubber stamp the policies. John Miles from EH&D apologized to the board and explained that EH&D working with Mike Malinowski prepared this estimate following 3 months of effort to obtain competitive bids. It was also explained that the CCAP proposal only arrived late last week. Mr. Miles then explained that this insurance proposal is presented by the EH&D as the County's Insurance Brokers in a "decision ready" format rather than being handled at the department head level as had been the case in previous years. He indicated that if any board member had an interest in participating in the detailed review of various policies and options it would have been possible had the interest been made known to him in advance. Commissioner Schwank commended Mr. Malinowski for bringing this package to the board not only under budget but also with an estimated \$100,000 in savings. Commissioner Scott said he didn't agree with the rubber stamp comment by stating that this is no different from other decisions the board is asked to make. He suggested that as board members we need to either have confidence in those individuals hired to perform these kinds of tasks and make these kinds of recommendations to the board or they should be removed.

**Commissioner Schwank**

**Commissioner Gajewski**

- A. Adopt Resolution Authorizing execution of Application for County Aid MS-339 (Liquid Fuels) in the allocated amount not to exceed \$33,935.00 to for Upper Bern Township to replace the bridge on Mill Hill Road.
  
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing payment of invoices under the following Community Development Disbursement Vouchers:
  - 1. No. 1253-Property Rehabilitation Program-\$22,891.00
  - 2. No. 503-Home Grant Program-\$940.00
  - 3. No. 2145-S-Community Development Block Grant Program-\$22,411.83
  - 4. No. 2146- Community Development Block Grant Program-\$3,500.00
  
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing the posting of Crime Alert signs on certain County Vehicles. Commissioner Gajewski indicated that Sheriff Jozwiak will be in attendance at the Thursday Commissioners' meeting to discuss this proposal.

**Commissioner Scott**

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Terry L Styer, Chief Clerk